



February 2014

Studies, Legislative Issues In the Offing

Dear League Members,

Welcome to the new year. If the Utah political landscape of December was anything to go by, 2014 should be an exciting year. January will certainly be one such month for the League.



First, we will see the publishing of the much-anticipated Prison Study. The Prison Relocation Study Committee has worked long hours, gone to countless meetings and taken the time to visit prisons of the state — all this to provide you with as much information as they can so that we can contemplate the consensus questions. Reaching consensus on very weighty issues may be difficult, but I am confident that the consensus at the end will be worth the effort. Read more about the Prison Relocation Study in this edition of *The Voter* and check with your local League for details on meetings regarding this study.

Speaking of League studies, I am so pleased with the consensus reached in the Education Finance Study. You can read more about that consensus study in this edition and be sure to visit the League website to read the updated Impact on Issues. This consensus brought changes to the education and taxation positions. Thank you to all committee members for their the hard work.

The 2014 General Session of the Utah State Legislature will start on January 27. According to Utah Data Points, during the 2013 General Session a total of 748 bills were introduced and 524 were passed out of the Legislature. (See more at: <http://utahdatapoints.com/2013/03/how-quickly-were-bills-passed-in-2013>.) In a 45-day session, this amounts to more than 16 bills per day. Of course it isn't as orderly as all that and our Legislative Action Corps is wonderful at keeping up with the madness that this breezy session offers up each year. But don't forget that you can get involved yourself either by joining the Leg Corps or simply by attending one of the legislative orientation courses offered to learn how to follow from home. Look for the Legislative Priorities of the LWWUT in this edition, as well as the dates of the orientations. Also, keep an eye out for action

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Legislative Priorities for 2014

EDUCATION

Support increased basic program funding and increasing equity in education funding.

Support contracting transparency, demonstrated success and measurable goals in public education funding programs.

Support specialized funding for preschool and focused early education programs.

Monitor governance--partisan school board elections, and ultimate authority for higher education and public education.

Refine and improve school and student evaluations in both public and charter schools.

VOTING

Advocate for same day registration.

Monitor all bills regarding voters and voter turnout.

Support direct election of the president, in particular National Popular Vote.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Watch for piecemeal attacks on the citizen's right to government information.

Support Legislation that adds greater transparency to the legislative process.

Advocate for campaign finance reform.

TAXATION

Oppose reinstatement of sales tax on food.

PRIORITIES continued on next page

..PRESIDENT continued

alerts in your email box when legislation comes up that we think you might want to take action on.

January will be a very stimulating month in the Utah League. Enjoy it all and I challenge you to bring at least one friend to a League event this month. Don't keep the League a secret.

Jenn Gonnely
Co-President
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..PRIORITIES continued

Support increase and broadening of severance tax on non-renewable resources.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Energy

- Support energy efficiency.
- Support renewable energy.
- Support reduction in fossil fuel use and emissions.

Federal Lands

- Oppose transferring federal lands to state control.
- Support enlarging wilderness and designating national monuments.

Environment

- Oppose measures to weaken the public trust doctrine.
- Oppose weakening of agency boards and public participation.

Water

- Oppose new major water diversions.
- Oppose dedication of state taxes to water projects.

AIR

- Support state efforts to restore clean air.
- Support restoration of funds to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Division of Air Quality.

HEALTH

- Oppose waiver requests that seek to avoid federal Medicaid guidelines.
- Advocate for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- Support Medicaid expansion.

IMMIGRATION

- Oppose efforts of the state to infringe on federal immigration policy.

SOCIAL POLICY

- Oppose action to dismantle affirmative action.
- Oppose attacks on reproductive rights, sex education in schools, and equality and personal freedom.
- Watch for attacks on affirmative action, reproductive rights, equality, sex education and personal freedom that might appear in the guise of religious freedom.

**Utah League
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Prison Questions Go Beyond Costs

by Kathryn Fitzgerald

The League's Prison Relocation Study Committee, along with the Prison Relocation and Development Authority (PRADA), established by S.B. 72 in the 2013 Legislature, has learned that the questions surrounding relocation reach far beyond the monetary costs of such a project. Because the questions are so complex, PRADA has not reached a recommendation to present to the 2014 Legislature. The time is now for League to make a difference.

The Utah State League study on the proposed relocation of the Draper state prison is the subject of the Salt Lake League's unit meetings the last week of January (see listing at the end of this *Voter* for times and places.) You should already have received your copy by mail or email. Consensus will be taken on which issues Leaguers believe should receive priority in deciding whether to move the prison.

But first, you might ask why we should care where the prison is. As long as the bad guys are safely far away and treated humanely, what difference does it make? The answer lies in one little-considered statistic: 95 percent of all inmates are released and returned to society. What happens to those inmates while in prison and how that prepares them for re-entry to society affects us all. Another startling statistic: more than 50 percent of all inmates at any given time are recidivists, often people who are returned to prison for a parole violation rather than committing a new crime.

Here are some of the questions that arise in making the relocation decision:

How would moving the prison to a remote location affect the ability of corrections staff, professional staff and volunteers to provide programs and treatment that can help prevent recidivism? The League study summarizes the evidence given at PRADA meetings by people who provide these services. What design needs must be addressed when rebuilding a prison? For instance, how are accommodations for the following needs and populations designed into the structure?

Classrooms, space for job programs, treatment facilities, medical needs
Space for various prison populations that need to be separated:
females, geriatric inmates, sex offenders, those with very low
intelligence (who may be preyed upon by others), substance abusers,
rival gang members, those with mental illness, the very violent.

How would a remote location affect transportation costs for court appearances, consultation with counsel, and medical transfers?

How would a remote location affect the ability to retain family ties, which research has shown to be one of the biggest factors in recidivism? How would it affect transitional programs to a home location?

Read the study, or as much of it as you can, for expansion of these issues, and then come to unit meetings to add your voice to the discussion. Be thinking about where you think League should go next in regard to corrections issues.

See you at unit meetings!

Prison Relocation Study Available

Read the League's
study online at:
lwvutah.org

The Legislature, the League, KCPW and You

by Sandy Peck

The Utah Legislature 2014 General Session begins January 27. As is their wont, League members will be following developments there on priority issues we have studied, including education funding, prison relocation, air quality, water supply, energy choices, health care and voting rights.

The most fun and interesting way to keep track of your legislators is to go up to the Capitol and sit in on committee and floor sessions with the League Lobby Corps. Upcoming League orientations in 130 Capitol Building at noon on Monday, January 27, and the 4th floor of the Main Salt Lake City Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday January 22, would be good places to learn more about how to do this. And even if you can't observe in person, you can "sit in" [online](#) at the audio-video link on the legislature's website, le.utah.gov.

Listen to the League on KCPW (88.3 and 105.3 FM and kcpw.org).

League members have been working with KCPW for many years, providing daily 8:35 a.m. previews of what's up on Capitol Hill. Be sure to tune in. And if you fancy being a League communicaster, recording previews with KCPW host Kara Hetrick, do let me know at sandypeck@xmission.com.

Meanwhile, check out some new KCPW programs we are finding helpful for extra background on legislative issues:

Utah Week in Review: *Salt Lake Tribune* reporter Jennifer Napier-Pearce and a rotating panel of the state's journalists talk in depth about what's happening in Utah and why. (Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. and rebroadcast Sundays at 8 a.m.)

Both Sides of the Aisle: Lively half-hour weekly debates over politics, policy and current issues, featuring House Majority Whip Greg Hughes on the right, Utah Sen. and Democratic Party Chair Jim Dabakis on the left, and moderator in the middle Natalie Gochnour. She's chief economist and senior adviser to the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and associate dean at the University of Utah's School of Business. (Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. and rebroadcast Saturdays 6:30 a.m.)

Hinckley Institute Radio Hour: Rebroadcasts of Hinckley Forums at the University of Utah Institute of Politics broaden our understanding of a wide range of social and political issues. (Wednesdays at 10 a.m.)

And — About You: On a personal note, let me urge you to use the information you gather about issues, plus your own concerns, to contact your own legislators and make a difference. Legislators pay special attention to their constituents. As a longtime League Lobby Corps member, I have found this so interesting and rewarding. You can find out who your legislators are and how to contact them on the [legislative website](#). Try it!



Check out the forums offered by the Hinckley Institute of Politics:

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/>

LWVUT Supports YWCA in ‘Real Women Run’ Event

by Tina Hose, LWV Office Manager

On Saturday January 11, the YWCA presented a daylong training event



encouraging women to become engaged in their communities by running for elected public office and/or serving on community boards and commissions.

In the keynote speech, former Gov. Olene Walker won the audience with a conversational style that made listeners feel as if they were her confidential friends. Discussing her path to elected office, she admitted that it wasn’t until at least five people asked her to run that she had the courage to pursue office. When she finally agreed to run, she quickly filed the paperwork and comically, it was only then that she looked up her legislative boundaries.

Having seven children didn’t hurt either because eas candidate Walker walked her neighborhood, people would say, “Mom, it’s Nina’s mom,” or “Mom, it’s Steven’s Mom.” She was first identified as a mother and then as a candidate.

For women running for office, Gov. Walker advised considering all the issues to “determine first where you stand...know your concerns and listen carefully to neighbors and friends... and be open to others before taking your final stand.”

The keynote was followed by a *Women in Utah Politics* panel featuring former State Sen. Carlene Walker, former political candidate Jose Valdez, State Sen. Pat Jones and recently elected Cedar City Mayor Maile Wilson. Moderator Nineveh Dinha, Fox News anchor and reporter, asked the panel to respond to a variety of questions including each panelists’ motivation for running, the difference between men and women in the political arena, barriers and challenges to running for political office.



During lunch, each of the event speakers and panelists shared a table with a small group of attendees, giving everyone the opportunity to network informally and personally. After lunch, breakout sessions were held on topics such as serving on boards and commissions as a springboard to running for office, successful campaign financing and fundraising, campaign management and field organization and using social and traditional media resources.

Real Women Run Close to LWVUT

The LWVUT continues to serve in a consultative and supportive role as the YWCA’s Real Women Run project moves into the future. See www.realwomenrun.org for other leadership development training opportunities.



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UP railroad bridge threatening Great Salt Lake

by Ann O'Connell

The health of the Great Salt Lake requires that some part of the original natural circulation between the two arms of the lake be maintained, but the Union Pacific railroad bridge makes that difficult. The bridge, running from Promontory Point to the west side of the lake, allows for a more direct route for the railroad, and yet has had a deleterious effect on the lake. The salt content of north arm of the lake, north of the bridge, is increasing; the salt content of the south arm, the one most of us see, is declining.

Brine shrimp depend upon a certain salt balance in the water. The brine shrimp harvesting and mineral extraction industries and the birds that eat the shrimp are at risk when the south arm (really the biggest part of the lake) does not have enough salt, which unfortunately comes mostly from the north arm.

Historically, both the Salt Lake and Utah Leagues have acted to protect the lake. We recently joined others (represented by Western Resource Advocates) to ask the Army Corps of Engineers to require a stringent permit for bridge reconstruction. Union Pacific has known since 2011 if not before that the bridge was in trouble and it has long been known that the culverts in the structure that were supposed to provide adequate circulation between the two parts of the lake were not doing the job. The ACOE did not require the permit we requested then and the railroad has procrastinated. Now, evidently, they are facing an emergency.

Our comment letter was sent to the Utah Division of Water Quality. UDW issued the permit in question on December 16, 2013, but is taking comments thereon until January 15, 2014.

We are requesting monitoring, mitigation, and a bond among other suggestions. Known as "Friends" in the comment letter, we are the Friends of Great Salt Lake, Utah Waterfowl Association, Western Wildlife Conservancy, Utah Airboat Association, and Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, LWVSL, LWVUT, Bridgerland Audubon, Wasatch Audubon, and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment.

If Everyone Votes ...

Read this compelling story, "If Everyone Votes Yes, Is It Democracy?" in the *New Yorker* questioning the meaning of democracy:

<http://nyr.kr/1eXYep3>

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I N T E R N E T

New Education Positions Adopted

by Angie Abram, Study Committee member

As you know, the League finished its Funding Utah Education Study this fall. Thanks to many dedicated local leagues and great individual participation, we have also now completed education funding issue consensus meetings in November and December. Education funding has many components and competing elements, making these discussions complex and difficult. Congratulations to everyone who studied and gave input in the meetings.

The study committee received consensus reports from five local leagues and 10 discussion groups which represented many different interesting and educated opinions on improving Utah education. After receiving those excellent reports, the study committee recommended that the League of Women Voters of Utah board adopt the following changes to the Social Policy and Utah State Taxation positions. The Board adopted the updated opinions in its November Board meeting.

Thanks to everyone involved in the consensus discussions and reporting. We look forward to advocating for the following updated positions in future legislative sessions.

LWVU Position on Education (2013)

(Based on the LWVU 2013 study, "Funding Utah Public Education")

- I. The League supports additional funding for public education. The amount of spending on education per \$1,000 of personal income has dropped continuously from 1995. The League supports increases in basic funding which can be most efficiently managed locally by school districts and schools.
- II. The League supports increasing equity in public education funding through increased state level funding and substantial increases to the percentage of property taxes subject to the basic levy.
- III. The League supports specialized funding for some students, such as students who primarily speak a foreign language and/or students who live in poverty. At the same time, the League urges public education officials to ensure that all students are not shortchanged by specialized funding. The League also supports more funding for pre-school through third grade students who can benefit from early education programs.
- IV. The League supports transparency in public education funding programs, including:
 - Transparency, disclosure and recusals for legislators with conflicts of interest
 - Specific measurable goals for each public education program.

EDUCATION continued on next page...

Great News!

Because of our generous members, our non-party letter raised more this year than ever before. Kudos to us. That money will be put to good use doing the things the League does so well like educating ourselves and the public, registering voters, and doing studies.

Now we are gearing up for the state legislative session when our tireless volunteers do their work. To support their work at the Legislature we will be asking for donations through our lobby letter. Remember these two letters are the only appeals you will receive from the state League all year. Please be as generous as you can. Let's see if we can out do ourselves again! Many thanks in advance.
—Nancy Wingelaar
Development Chair

Do You Know What You are Eating?

The National LWV Agriculture Update is now available at <http://bit.ly/1f13rwl>. This wide-ranging study will raise controversial questions about biotechnology (GMOs), agricultural subsidies, food labeling, and animal management. Go to the discussion questions online, read the parts of the study that interest you, and plan to attend the general meeting on February 13 for additional expert information.

Watch for further details. Then be ready to discuss and take consensus at unit meetings at the end of February. The Weber League participated in the study and has sent their results to the national League.

...EDUCATION continued

- Sunset dates and program evaluation milestones which must be met for program continuation
- Reasonable program justification through demonstrated previous success.

V. The League supports funding for improved evaluations of public schools, especially through alternative and longitudinal evaluations that demonstrate student readiness for careers or college. Current standardized education tests are overemphasized, take too many teaching days and may not adequately measure student success and college/career readiness.

VI. The League urges improved accountability, evaluation and transparency in publicly-funded charter schools. Charter schools receive local funds distributed by the state legislature, which reduces local control and should be clearly identified.

UTAH STATE TAXATION

(added paragraphs to the current position)

Utah property taxes provide a sizeable part of public education funding and have long been subject to equalization programs to ensure all students in Utah have a reasonably equivalent public education. Equalization has significantly declined and the variation in funding levels between districts has significantly increased.

Each public school student should have an adequate education. Property tax equalization programs should be robust enough to ensure that Utah students receive an equitable education opportunity.

GMO Labelling Urged

Read what a Reuters report in the *Chicago Tribune* says about groups lobbying for labels on genetically modified organisms:

<http://bit.ly/1eUqNfN>

Katelyn Hancock

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Kate Hancock is a Salt Lake native.

She graduated from the University of Utah business college with a

degree in business management and

is earning her Certified Financial

Planner (CFP). She works for Merrill Lynch as a financial adviser, where she

is qualified as a Certified Special Needs Advisor (CSNA). Previously Kate

worked as a paralegal for a bankruptcy law firm and for Mountain America

Credit Union. Kate is a current board member for Friends of Animals, Utah.

Her other volunteer activities have included Organizing for America, Equity

Utah, and Peer Advisor at the Matheson Courthouse. Kate enjoys walking dogs

and all outdoor activities. She joined the League because she enjoys talking to

educated, knowledgeable women. Kate is a political activist who wants to help

empower her community.

**New Members****Joan Rawlins**

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Joan Rawlins retired as the director of the University of Utah Student Health Center, where she worked for 23 years. She grew up in Twin Falls, Idaho, and lived in Caldwell, Boise and Coeur d'Alene before moving to Salt Lake in 1983.

She earned a B.A. in secondary education from the College of Idaho and a Masters of Public Administration from the U of U, and worked in banking as well as health care administration. She takes classes from the Osher Institute at the U, reads, hikes and showshoes with the "Wasatch Front with Sheryl's Outdoor Adventure Group." Joan joined the LWV hoping to network and meet with others to enhance her knowledge and activism in politics as well as broaden her circle of friends. She is interested in the legislative process and health and human services.

Jean Acheson

1441 So 1300 East SLC 84105

801-633-5225 jachwest@comcast.net

Jean Acheson grew up in upstate New York. She lived in New York City and New Jersey before moving to Salt Lake City just over 10 years ago. Jean earned a B.A. in English from Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Jean was a professional in the accounting field, mostly for software companies. She recently made a career change by earning her real estate license. Jean is the president of the Utah Friends of Paleontology (UFOP) and works as a volunteer at the Natural History Museum of Utah in the paleontology lab cleaning dinosaur bones. She also accompanies and works with the paleontologists on field trips. Jean leads hikes for the Wasatch

Mark Your Calendar:

The State of the Community Luncheon

for the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake will be Thursday, April 17 at Little America, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Don't miss a live interview by KUER's Doug Fabrizio.

MEMBERS continued on next page...

...MEMBERS continued

Mountain Club and is a volunteer usher for Salt Lake County at Abravanel Hall, Rose Wagner and the Capitol theatres. Other interests are travel, reading, photography and being with her dog King, an alumnus of Best Friends Animal Society. Jean wants to learn more about Utah politics and issues.

Mildred Wetterberg

1822 Wilson Ave SLC 84108

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Millie Wetterberg retired to Salt Lake in 2010. Just prior to her move, she lived for 10 years in Germany teaching ESL for the DOD in Baumholder. She calls Springfield, Ohio, her hometown. She graduated with a B.A. in art education from Colorado State University and a master's degree in English as a Second Language from George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. Millie has lived in Chile, Brazil and Columbia. She also traveled to Latvia on a Fulbright Teacher Exchange in ESL. She served in the Peace Corps from 1967-69 in Chile. Mille is a longtime volunteer with the organization Partners of the Americas. She has volunteered for the Olympics, Special Olympics, and political campaigns. This month she is volunteering for the first time for the Sundance Film Festival. Millie is a skier, traveler, and photographer and also enjoys bowling and hiking. She is a self-professed political junkie and wants to encourage people to vote.

Kitty Kaplan

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Kitty Kaplan grew up on a farm near Charles Town, W.V. She lived in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., before moving to Salt Lake City some 30 years ago. Kitty earned a B.S. from West Virginia University and a master's in public health from the University of Utah. She worked for Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, the NIH in Bethesda, HMR Preventive Health Care Programs and as a professional medical coder in Salt Lake. She has recently retired. Kitty sits on the board of directors for the I.J. and Jeanne Wagner Jewish Community Center and the National Council of Jewish Women, Utah Section, serving as state policy chair. She is also a past president of this organization. She is also a past president of the Women's State Legislative Council of Utah, and is on the board serving as director for the Health and Human Services Legislative Study Committee. Kitty enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, biking, bowling and golf. She has always admired the stances taken by the League. She feels it is a good way to continue her education in political issues and appreciates that the League looks at all sides of an issue. Her main interests are health care and gun violence prevention issues.

MEMBERS continued on next page...

Cell Phone Searches at Issue

The U.S. Supreme Court will take up the issue:

<http://reut.rs/KbBvfl>

...MEMBERS continued**Don Schoenbeck & Barbara Franz**

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Don Schoenbeck moved to Utah in 2007 from Illinois. He was born and raised in Chicago and earned his business school degree at the University of Illinois. He retired after a long career as a consultant in the areas of organizational leadership, management practices and employee relations. Since moving to Utah, he has been a political activist particularly with other seniors. He believes politicians take seniors and their votes for granted. As an advocate, he organizes, educates and leads discussions on topical issues with seniors. In the past, he volunteered for various local and national political campaigns. Don enjoys reading, writing, and music. He joined the League after a hearing a presentation by one of our members. He respects and appreciates the non-partisan, intelligent and thoughtful approach to issues.

Barbara Franz, a native of Colorado, attended Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colo. She lived in Indianapolis, Indiana for 2½ years, then moved to Salt Lake in 1962 where she has lived ever since except for the two years she lived in Edinburgh, Scotland. She has traveled extensively in both Western and Eastern Europe. She graduated from Westminster College where she earned a RN, BSN degree. Much of her nursing career was spent as a hospice nurse, and a geriatric nurse at St. Mark's Hospital. A travel nurse assignment took her to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in 2000. A highlight in her nursing career was the three weeks with a team of medical professionals in North and South Vietnam on a pediatric humanitarian medical mission in 2004. Barbara is semi-retired from nursing. She volunteers at Juan Diego Catholic High School. Her interests include reading, cooking, traveling, music, health and human services, and spending time with her family and friends. Barbara wants to expand her understanding of current issues and thinks the League of Women Voters is a worthwhile organization to do just that.

Twila Norton

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Twila Norton had a long career with various federal agencies and is now retired in Salt Lake, where she has lived since 1983. She retired as a contract officer at Fort Douglas. Previously she worked in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon and in the Bay area in California, where she worked for NASA. Twila was born in KS and grew up in Albert Lea, MN. She attended Mankato Business College. Twila has volunteered at Red Butte Garden for 10 years and is involved in P.E.O. International, Utah State Chapter, whose main philanthropic effort provides education opportunities for women. She enjoys travel and bridge. Twila joined the League of Women Voters to be better informed on political matters.. She lost her husband in August, 2011 and would like to continue their shared activism in environmental and natural resource issues.

MEMBERS continued on next page...

Help Wanted with Naturalization Ceremonies

Since April 2013, Naturalization Ceremony Coordinator Mauritia Stephens has handed out voter registration forms and the League's *Helpful Voter Information* pamphlet to more than 2,000 new citizens! Mauritia is looking for League members who have two hours every other month to take a turn at handing out voter registration forms/pamphlets and representing the League at the 2014 bi-monthly ceremonies.

The naturalization ceremonies are held at Abravanel Hall at 10 a.m. on selected dates, yet to be determined for 2014.

Please call Mauritia ([801-272-8532](tel:801-272-8532)) if you are interested in shadowing her and subsequently representing the League at these moving and memorable ceremonies.

League Pitches in on Count My Vote Petitions

by Anne Zeigler

The League of Women Voters has volunteered to help with the “Count My Vote” initiative petition drive, gathering signatures to place on the ballot the question of how candidates for Utah elective office should be nominated to be on the primary election ballot. The “Count My Vote” effort seeks to replace the long-running party caucus-convention nominating system with a system by which a citizen running for office who gathers signatures from 2 percent of registered voters in his district would be eligible to be on the primary ballot. Supporters feel this would increase voter turnout and broaden engagement in Utah Elections, giving all Utah voters a voice in choosing their leaders.

You can get petitions from League unit leaders, who are responsible for keeping track of serial numbers on the petitions. We have been informed that David May has replaced Bev Cooper and will deliver petitions to unit leaders as well as pick them up. If you would like to take a petition and are not in a League unit, you can contact David May at 801-898-3562 or main office number is 801-238-3960.

Things to remember:

You cannot sign your own petition, but you must sign on the back of the petition verifying you are the one who received the signatures.

Person signing the Salt Lake County petition must live in Salt Lake County.

Deadline for returning petitions is first week in March.

...MEMBERS continued

Marilyn Stewart

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Marilyn Stewart is a Spokane native, living in Salt Lake for the last 40 years. She earned her RN, BSN degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. She taught Medical Terminology and Medical Assisting and Health at Cottonwood High School from 1978 to 2010. Marilyn worked as a psychiatric nurse at various facilities, including the University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute, and others in the states of Washington, Rhode Island, Oregon and California. Marilyn has volunteered in nursing education including serving on advisory committees at Salt Lake Community College for the Surgical Technology, Nursing and Medical assisting programs. She is a member of the AAUW. Marilyn serves as the chair of her local political precinct. She enjoys taking classes at the U through the Osher Institute as well as gardening. She is a member of several book groups. Marilyn joined the League of women voters to be more politically savvy and be more involved in her state and local politics.

Volunteer to Make a Difference

-Carry Count My Vote Petitions (Anne Zeigler: abzeigler@centurylink.net)

-Attend legislative committee meetings at the Capitol

-Join the Local Government Observer Corps: email Angie Abram (angie.abram@loneprairie.com)

-Work to protect the vote

-Help with mailings at the League office (2-3 hours a month) lwwut@xmission.com or call 801-272-8683.

-Read LWV email daily

-Join committees (membership, voter services, environment)

-Contribute to the League of Women Voters budget! (lwwutah.org or mail a check to the office, 3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

— Lola Britton, Co-President LWVSL

Important Dates & Events for the 2014 Legislative Session

by **Ann O'Connell & Angie Abram, Legislative Action Corps Co-Chairs**

Monday, January 27

First day of legislative session (yearly the fourth Monday in January).
Advocacy Lobby Training & Legislative Orientation

Two Opportunities!

Everyone Welcome (Members bring a friend)

January 22 at 7 p.m., Salt Lake City Main Library, Conference Room 4.

If you haven't observed the Legislature before and are thinking of checking it out, consider coming to this Advocacy Lobby Training the week prior to the legislative session. Experienced Leaguers will discuss how the Legislature works and how League interacts with it.

January 27 at noon, Utah State Capitol, Multipurpose Room

just inside the Capitol north entrance.

If you haven't observed the Legislature before and are thinking of checking it out, consider coming to this Advocacy Lobby Training on the opening day of the 2014 Legislative session. Experienced Leaguers will discuss how the Legislature works and how League interacts with it. Attendees are encouraged to purchase lunch in the East Senate Building capitol cafeteria and bring it to the multipurpose room before our orientation starts at noon.

Every Wednesday of the Session at Noon

Utah State Capitol Cafeteria, East Senate Building. During the 2013 Legislative session, Legislative Action Corps members meet in the cafeteria each Wednesday at noon to discuss session highlights and any league positions that pertain to upcoming legislation. This is also a time to request League Presidents to testify on behalf of League positions. Newcomers are welcome. Observing committees is a good way learn about the legislature and the process. Feel free to double up at committees. Just walk in and look for an LWV button.

Friday, February 14

Annual Legislative Brown Bag Luncheon, Noon, Copper Room, East Senate Building. Join us for our Annual Legislative Luncheon to hear legislators discuss their expectations and priorities for the session, with an opportunity to ask them questions. Purchase your lunch in the Senate Building cafeteria beginning at 11:30 and bring it to the Copper Room (in the same building) to hear our speakers at noon.

Thursday, March 13

Last day of legislative session

Bill of Rights Bookmark Available

The League of Women Voters of Utah wishes to sincerely thank Lloyd Carr of Carr Printing Company in Bountiful for their donation of 1000 Constitution Bill of Rights bookmarks with the LWV logo and address. Local leagues can obtain some of these bookmarks to distribute at state and local League events as well as at other events that encourage citizens to participate in the political process. Contact Tina Hose at 801-272-8683. We appreciate Carr Printing's interest in our organization and in helping to provide constitutional information to residents of the state of Utah.



Forum Tackles Tough Topics

School grading and voter turnout were among the hot topics discussed at the January 11 Legislative Forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the AAUW. About 70 people attended the forum whose panel included Sens. Howard Stephenson, R-Draper, and Karen Mayne, D-West Valley, along with Reps. Becky Edwards, R-North Salt Lake, and Marie Poulson, D-Salt Lake.



Questions, screened by Angie Abram and Karen McCoy, touched on campaign finance, the gas tax, prison relocation, the caucus system, air quality and more.

The school grading issue broke down along party lines, with Republicans calling it an important piece of the accountability puzzle. Democrats called for caution and asked that consideration be given to the individual challenges at schools.

Utah's poor voter turnout was a topic of concern, but legislators were more focused on the availability of personal data through the selling of voter lists. Sen. Mayne is proposing limits to the data that would be public.

— Anne Zeigler

Weber League Questions Commissioners' Motives

by Terri McCulloch

The League of Women Voters of Weber County was quoted on January 15 in a front page article in the Standard-Examiner as one of many who questioned the motives behind the actions of two of the Weber County commissioners.

The two male commissioners have aligned themselves against the third commissioner, who is female, in many votes, most recently to change a tradition of 20 years that rotates the commission chair each year. Instead of giving the current vice chair the position, the two voted to keep one of them in the chairmanship. The two also passed a resolution in a recent commission meeting to oppose the "Count My Vote" petition. All three commissioners belong to the same party.

Some League members have suggested that LWVW update their study of county government made in 1981 to get people thinking about exploring the idea of a larger number of commissioners.

Voter Data at Issue

Read what the Salt Lake Tribune has to say about the issue of protecting personal data in voter rolls:

"What is the price of government transparency? In the case of Utah voters, it's having some out-of-state dude put your name, address and birth date on a web site. ..."

<http://bit.ly/Imm6Nzl>

The LWV-Davis County Invites you:

‘How to Communicate Effectively with Your Legislator’

12:30 p.m. Saturday February 15

Bountiful (South Branch) Library Auditorium
725 S. Main St., Bountiful

1. Components of Effective Communication
2. Overview of the 2014 Utah State Legislature
3. Legislator’s Preferred Methods of Communication
4. Breakout Group Topics Include:
 - Issue Research and Background
 - Choosing a Point of View
 - What should I communicate to my legislator?
 - What style works best with my issue and position?

**Everyone is welcome at this two-hour public meeting
sponsored by the LWV-Davis County**

LWVSL Program for Winter and Spring

Here is the LWV of Salt Lake’s exciting program for the rest of this year. Please participate in as many of these varied events as you can! Your voice is needed, especially for the consensus unit meetings in January and February.

January: Unit meetings: State Prison Relocation Study. Discussion and consensus. See the Voter for a list of times, dates and places.

February: Unit meetings: National Agriculture Update. Discussion and consensus. See the Voter for a list of times, dates and places.

March: General Meeting: Legislative Wrap-up: Thursday, **March 20**, 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts Office, 445 East 4500 South, SLC.

April: General Meeting: Local Program Planning, **April 8**, time and place to be determined.

State of the Community Luncheon, Thursday, **April 17**, 11:30 a.m. at Little America

May: Open to ideas. Suggested so far: tour of community gardens, tour of Water Management facility, re-visit the national Agriculture Update

June: Annual Meeting, Tuesday, **June 3**, time and place to be determined.

**Members
Donate
to CASA**

League members contributed \$1,065 at the 2013 holiday social to benefit children in the Court-Appointed Special Advocate program. Gwen Knight, CASA director for the 3rd District Court of Salt Lake, gave a touching presentation on what the program is and how it supports and advocates for young people who are experiencing family issues of abuse and neglect. Money collected for CASA typically is given to the children in the form of gift cards so they may then choose a gift for themselves or someone in their family. Grateful thanks to all who attended and helped support this most worthy organization.

— Carol Jenson, CASA
Volunteer

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization
that encourages informed and active participation in government.*

JANUARY UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE
Prison Relocation Study

Girl Scout Unit – Monday, Jan. 27 @ 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South
Anne Zeigler, Unit Leader – [801-944-4163](tel:801-944-4163) azeigler@centurylink.net

Nite Owls – Tuesday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m.
@862 East Harrison Ave.
Judi Short, Host – [801-487-7387](tel:801-487-7387) judi.short@gmail.com

Bench Bunch – Wednesday, Jan. 29 @ 9:30 a.m.
@LWV Office, 3806 So. Highland Dr.
Nancy Melling/Irene Fisher, Unit Leaders [801-277-9118](tel:801-277-9118) ngmelling2@gmail.com

SANDY UNIT – Thursday, Jan. 30 @ 10:30 – Noon
@ Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East
Janice Gygi, Unit Leader - [801-550-3585](tel:801-550-3585) janice.gygi@uvu.edu

Library Unit – Thursday, Jan. 30 @ Noon-1:30 p.m.
2nd Floor Conf. Rm. @ Main Library, 200 E. 400 South
Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader – [801-278-2296](tel:801-278-2296) jbarnz@xmission.com

Town Club - First Wed. of month- 10:30 a.m.
1081 East South Temple, SLC
Alice Steiner, Unit Leader, [801-363-9193](tel:801-363-9193) akarsteiner@aol.com