



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters
of Utah

3804 Highland Drive, Suite
8-D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106

(801) 272-8683
Email: lwvut@xmission.com

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League Still Serving Voters but in New Ways

by Lola Britton, LWWUT Co-President



On November 17, 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the National League of Women Voters, spoke at the Salt Lake Tabernacle to the Utah State Suffrage Council presided over by Utah feminists like Emmeline B. Wells and Emily S. Richards. And three years later, 18 women gathered in the Ladies Parlor of the Hotel Utah for the first regular meeting of the Utah League of Women Voters. Leah Dunham Widtsoe (wife of LDS Church Apostle John A. Widtsoe), was elected as state

chairman, and each member paid \$1 in dues. *

Since 1922, our Utah League has seen many changes. Case in point, by now I'm sure you have checked out our 2014 Voters Guide to candidates. In 2004, we began putting it on our website, after some 40 years of printing and distributing it as a newspaper-like document. The online format has several advantages, mainly unlimited space. We have been able to add the hundreds of candidates for the Legislature and school boards to candidates for Congress and statewide offices. And candidate responses no longer have to be limited to the number of words we can afford to print. Of course the change has eliminated the many interesting hours we spent editing and bargaining with candidates to please observe the 75-word limit, as well as telephoning (instead of e-mailing) reminders to candidates and their staff about submission deadlines.

But the Voters Guide's purpose hasn't changed. It still reflects Carrie Chapman Catt's determination to prepare women to be better-informed voting citizens. She had a second goal, "to promote the social legislation

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characteristic of domestic politics such as advocating for better working conditions for women, child labor legislation, and prison reform.”* In other words, she wanted the League to lobby, and we continue to do so. But now we can use email in addition to the fact sheets, press releases, phone calls and in-person conversations we have depended on for many years.

The League learned early on that to lobby credibly we needed information – facts and figures presented in even-handed studies that led to member consensus positions with which we could lobby. We’re not sure when printed League studies began, but we know computers and Internet research in addition to interviews have made gathering and publishing facts and figures easier than it was in the days of manual typewriters and mimeograph machines in our old League office on Third South.

Carrie Chapman Catt’s concern with prison reform is still on our agenda. Between 1983 and 2014 we published four studies on corrections covering rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and prison relocation. We continued our traditional work on representative government, social policy (especially education and women and children’s issues) and international relations, but we also we began to focus on natural resources. We were one of the first organizations to study air quality in 1968. We examined water issues in 1960, 1969, 1980, 1981, and 2009 (and LWV Salt Lake is not quite done, with a study coming up later this year).

The League’s path hasn’t always been smooth. During the Great Depression, membership declined. In fact, the Utah League was dissolved in 1937, but was reinstated in 1955, due in part to concern over threats to civil liberties during the McCarthy era. As League study and action resumed, the subjects we studied both changed and remained the same. The first item on the “new” League agenda was, “A study of the financial structure of the State of Utah with possible support of measures to provide equitable taxation and appropriate distribution of revenue.” Sound familiar? The League has studied the Utah tax system several times since then and we’re working on another update this year.

Looking back, the powerful principle underlying all League Voter Service, Study and Action has continued to be non-partisanship: Voters Guides and debates must include candidates from all political parties and be conducted fairly. League officers must not advocate for particular candidates. Our action must be based on studies that have examined all sides of an issue. We continue to do our best to encourage participation in political life, but in a non-partisan way. As a former president of the national League put it: Partisan? No. Political? You bet!”

Local League Presidents

**Cache County
Joan McLean**

jmcle@cc.usu.edu

**Cedar City
Barbara Prestwich**
barb.prestwich@gmail.com

**Davis County
Nelda Bishop
& Kathy Stockel**
nelda@xmission.com
khs_nodak@yahoo.com

**Grand County
Cynthia Smith**
cjs@manzanaspings.com

**Salt Lake
Janice Gygi**
janice.gygi@uvu.edu

& Karen McCoy
mcfro45@msn.com

**Weber County
Terri McCulloch**
terrimcculloch@aol.com

Our Mission statement says it all:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Read about it in the League files at the Utah State Historical Society.*

Voters Guide Premiers Again

By Jenn Gonnelly, LWVUT Co-President

The League of Women Voters of Utah is pleased to announce the release of our 2014 Voters Guide. It is available online at votersguide.lwvutah.org. The guide provides useful information including contact details for each candidate to help voters make an informed decision at the polls in November. The LWVUT is well known for providing accurate and non-partisan information. This publication is a fine example of that.

League volunteers authored questions that were tailored to each office and are intended to address issues of concern to Utah voters. The questions asked were:

Congressional Candidates

1. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court and currently has more nationwide enrollees than anticipated. Its current financial subsidies for enrollees differ from state to state. Do you believe the ACA should be changed in order to provide equal enrollment benefits to all U.S. residents? Please explain.
2. A 2013 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report estimates that fixing our broken immigration system will shrink the deficit by \$900 billion in 20 years and grow the economy. What steps would you take toward comprehensive immigration reform?
3. Nationally, women make 77 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. In Utah that figure is even lower at 70 cents on the dollar. How do you plan to address this issue in Washington?
4. With the recent rulings from the Supreme Court, many Americans believe Democracy is now for sale. How do you plan to address money in politics nationally?

Utah Attorney General

1. If elected, what is the single most important thing you would do to gain back the public's trust in the Attorney General's office?
2. Do you think the Attorney General's office has a responsibility to advise the Utah State Legislature and/or the governor's office

Utah League Co-presidents

Lola Britton

lolabritton@comcast.net

Jenn Gonnelly

jenn@gonnelly.com

Executive Director
Emeritus

Sandy Peck

sandypeck@xmission.com

Office Manager

Tina Hose

lwvut@xmission.com

against lawsuits posing a great financial burden to Utah's tax payers? Please explain your position.

3. What solutions will you pursue to prevent fraud/abuse in issues such as payday lending and business opportunity enterprises (Biz-Ops), as well as to combat identity theft.

Utah House/Senate

1. Several polls have indicated education is the number one issue of Utah's constituents. What would you propose to raise Utah out of our current ranking of 51st in the nation as far as per pupil spending and classroom size.
2. Utah has a well-known air quality problem. What is the single most important thing the legislature can do to improve air quality?
3. Without expanding Medicaid in Utah, a significant number of Utahns will go without the coverage required to receive adequate health care. What action do you think the Utah Legislature should take now to provide for the health of all Utah residents?

Using contact information that was supplied by the Lt. Governor's Office of Elections, we emailed all candidates on July 1. We asked candidates to provide answers of approximately 200 words per question (the length of a newspaper letter to the editor). The deadline for responses was August 1.

Where we found incorrect candidate contact details, we conducted research to find correct information and we sent the updates back to the Office of Elections. We sent reminders to candidates who had not yet responded on July 15 and again on July 29. The candidates' responses were not edited in any manner, but were compiled and formatted for online publication. This guide represents countless hours of effort by many volunteers.

Volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake followed the same methodology to reach candidates for school boards in their region. Those responses can also be found in the guide.

Candidates were made aware that if they chose not to respond to the questions, that would be noted in our Voters Guide. Contact information is also provided for those candidates who chose not to answer the questions. We encourage all voters to contact these candidates directly.

The League has made our best effort to reach the 209 candidates running for office. I am dismayed that a mere 81 candidates responded, 38.8 percent of the total. I am further saddened that only 16 of the 76 incumbents chose to participate. While there was a significant difference between the participation

Orientation for New, Prospective Members

Plan to attend a delightful social and orientation meeting Wednesday, October 22 at 5 p.m. Leaders from LWVSL and LWWUT will give energizing overviews of how the League works: studies, positions, lobbying, voter service, and the three-tiered organization. New members, please treat yourself to this invaluable introduction sponsored by the Salt Lake City League. Longtime members, please bring a prospective member. The social begins at 5, including appetizers and wine, followed by the information session at 5:30. We will gather at Jeris Johnson's home, 6114 Heughs Canyon Way in Holladay. For more information contact Jeris Johnson, jerisj@nf100.com, 801-274-1234.

rates of Democratic and Republican candidates, the participation rate for every party was dismal and therefore we choose not to congratulate any party on their participation rate. Candidates listing themselves as unaffiliated had by far the best participation rate; 100 percent for the state races and 76 percent for LWVSL school board races. The League of Women Voters has completed these guides year after year and this may be the worst participation rate we have ever seen. In an election year in which government transparency continues to be in the news, we think Utah voters deserve better!

Voters Guide: Let Candidates Hear

Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWVSL Program Director

Now that the Voters Guide has been published online (votersguide.lwvutah.org) thanks to the amazing efforts of Voters Service volunteers from both the LWWUT and LWVSL, how can we let candidates know how important it is to participate in our survey?

It's essential that candidates know the public pays attention to the Voters Guide. With that in mind, I emailed every candidate in all of my districts, either thanking them for taking the time to respond to the League Survey, or asking if they would be willing to respond to me personally, as a constituent, since they didn't respond to the League survey.

The Voters Guide provides contact information for each candidate, whether or not they responded to the survey. When two email addresses were supplied, I chose the one that seemed to be addressed to the candidate rather than the campaign office.

I sent the same message to all the candidates who had responded and the same message to all those who hadn't, so basically I wrote only two messages and copied them for each of the people in their category. For those who had not responded, I also copied the questions from the Guide onto my post (erasing the line about "No response from this candidate").

The next morning, I had responses from four candidates who had filled out the questionnaire, thanking me for reading it, and from one who had not filled it out, but who proceeded to answer the questions on his own blog. (<http://www.andrewmccullough.blogspot.com/>)

It took me about 45 minutes to email all the candidates for offices in my districts.

This is easy to do. It is important that candidates hear from you. Whether you email all your candidates or just a few, let's just do it!



There's a New Way to Donate

Beginning November 1, PayPal will be on the League's website to facilitate digital payments whether it is your membership dues, donations or purchasing tickets for various events. The League is excited to offer PayPal as a way to pay.

Judiciary Evaluated on Principles

By Jenn Gonnely, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Utah

How would you like to be treated if you had to go to court? You would expect to be treated fairly – with respect and civility. You would like to be able to tell your side of the story and have the judge really listen to you. You would like to be treated the same as everyone else. You would like to feel that you'd truly had your day in court.

Here in Utah, judges are evaluated based on these principles, which together are called Procedural Fairness. Utah can be proud of requiring a comprehensive evaluation of all judges and for embracing a focus on Procedural Fairness. In the end, fair courts and fair judges make our communities safer and stronger, a goal we can all agree on. For more information about the judges on your ballot, go to www.judges.utah.gov. If you would prefer a paper Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to your home, call the Elections Office at 801-538-1041.

About the Judicial Evaluation Commission

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) was established by the legislature in 2008. Its goals are:

- To collect and disseminate valid information about each judge's performance so that voters may make informed decisions about whether or not to retain that judge in office.
- To provide judges with useful feedback about their performance so that they may become better judges and to thereby improve the quality of the judiciary as a whole.
- To promote public accountability of the judiciary while ensuring that the judiciary continues to operate as an independent branch of government.
- To accomplish these goals, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission conducts multi-faceted evaluations of judges. A key part of the Commission's evaluation process is a survey of people who have had sufficient experience with a judge to develop an informed opinion about his or her performance. These people include attorneys, jurors, and court staff.

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission is an independent, 13-member group of lawyers and nonlawyers. The legislature, the executive branch, and the judiciary each appoint four members, only two of whom can be from the same political party and only two of whom can be lawyers. Each commissioner serves for four years and may sit for no more than three full

Learn More About Utah Judges

For more information about the judges on your ballot, go to www.judges.utah.gov. If you would prefer a paper Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to your home, call the Elections Office at 801-538-1041.

terms. For a full list of current members, go to www.judges.utah.gov/faq.html

Those surveyed are asked to evaluate the judges on their legal ability, integrity and judicial temperament, and administrative ability. In addition, the Commission conducts a courtroom observation program, and ensures compliance with disciplinary and education standards.

As judges stand for retention elections, the Commission makes a public recommendation regarding whether the judge should be retained in office. The voters ultimately decide whether or not each judge will continue to serve in office.



Summer Voter Registration Takes Off at Pioneer Park

Carole Straughn Co-Chair Voter Service

With tabling at the Farmers Market in Pioneer Park cut from weekly to monthly times this Fall, volunteers leading the Salt Lake League's Voter Registration drive scrambled to find new venues. Summer intern Harrison Tarter (pictured left with Naomi Franklin), following suggestions from a Voter Services brainstorming session in May, set up weekly dates from

June through October with additional Farmers Markets at Gardner Village, Wheeler Farms and 900 West (Jordan Park). On short notice, Harrison found another venue at a neighborhood party sponsored by Poplar Grove Community Council at their local police precinct. Naomi Franklin and Carole Straughn (pictured below with Harrison) tabled there in July, assisted by two middle-school volunteers recruited by the event organizers. Meanwhile, Naomi's persistent search for a venue at Salt Lake Community College paid off with a two-day space at the annual vendor fair on the Redwood Road campus. These efforts have yielded 167 registrations so far.

While registrations remained brisk at Pioneer Park, volunteers felt they had done all they could at the smaller markets after two visits, so additional reservations were found at community gatherings, such as Sugar House Talks near the S-Line, Fiesta Mexicana in West Jordan and the Clean Air Fair on Library Square.

Registrations remain strong at traditional League



Hinckley Forums

are held in Orson Spencer Hall, Room 255, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/forums/index.html>

events such as debates, forums and naturalization ceremonies. Under the leadership of Jane Nelson and Anne Zeigler volunteers are stepping up their efforts to ensure new citizens get registered by collecting their registration forms and making sure they get to the county clerks' offices in a timely fashion. Ninety-two registrations have been collected at naturalizations.

Although the deadline for turning in the forms we collect is October 6, the Salt Lake County Clerk's office is making available posters with QR codes, which people can use to register online through Tuesday, October 28. This extends the period when we can help people get registered in time to vote November 4.

A 10-by-10 foot canopy was acquired with education funds, which provides shade and shelter and creates a stronger visual impression to draw visitors. The challenge is making sure there are two volunteers available to set up and take down the tent.

Kudos to all who supported voter registration this fall. Thanks to Karen McCoy for setting up the Pioneer Park dates, to Anne Zeigler for injecting energy into the process early on, and to all the many the volunteers who generously gave their time to register voters at far-flung events.



Voter Services Stays Busy

Nancy Wingelaar Co-Chair Voter Service

It's that time of year -- that would be election time of year — as you have all noticed with the deluge of candidate appeals you have probably received. Well, it is a busy time for your Voter Service volunteers too.

As you see in the article from Carole Straughn, co-chair for Voter Service, she and her helpers have done a heroic job registering voters. Their creativity and diligence in developing contacts with new venues has been amazing. Kudos to you all.

Our Voter Registration efforts at the Naturalization Ceremonies led by Jane Nelson have been productive. If you have been to a ceremony, you know how emotional and exciting they are. Our new citizens are thrilled to be able to vote, and our being there to register them makes them feel included immediately in the electorate.

As you all know after much blood, sweat, and tears, our Voters Guide is online

Register New Citizens to Vote

I would like to invite you to participate in the Naturalization Ceremony events in which new citizens are sworn in.

Volunteer League members attend to provide voter registration materials and answer questions the new citizens may have concerning voting. I have found these ceremonies to be extremely moving and meaningful as we reflect on the privileges we have as U.S. citizens.

We need two volunteers for each ceremony. Open times are listed below:

Sep. 26	10 a.m.-2 needed
	2 p.m.-2 needed
Oct. 10	10 a.m.-2 needed
Oct. 24	10 a.m.-2 needed
	2 p.m.-1 needed
Nov. 14	10 a.m.-2 needed
	2 p.m.- 1 needed

Thank you – LWVSL
Naturalization Ceremony
Coordinator Jane Nelson
801-943-8677
Janenelson2004@msn.com

and ready for use. The Salt Lake contingent of the Voters Guide we created questions for all the local School Board Candidates and emailed them. The response rate was about 75 percent which was very good. Go online to check out your candidates' answers. Most answers were well thought out and very informative. We have printed new business cards with the Voters Guide site on the front. Please feel free to pick up some of these cards and distribute them. Now that we have this great information available, we need to get the word out to the public as to how to access it. Go to WWW.LWVUTAH.ORG/VOTERSGUIDE. Please commit to telling at least five people about the guide.

The debate on Wednesday, September 10 at the Holladay City Auditorium was a resounding success. Included were all six candidates from Senate District 4 (Jani Iwamoto and Sabrina Peterson, House District 36 Patrice Arent and Robert Book, and District 37 Ron Hilton and Carol Spackman Moss). The candidates could not have been more cooperative, well spoken and informative. The audience asked probing questions. And our volunteers did a bang up job. A "Well Done" to all. It was the League doing a great job at what it is known for – voter education. Congratulations!

Celebrate at the Fall Fete

Nancy Wingelaar - Committee for Fall Fete

Who doesn't like chocolate, the food of royalty? What about champagne, the traditional drink of celebration? Friday, October 10 at our Fall Fete we will be treated to both along with delectable desserts. We will be celebrating the Salt Lake League of Women Voters as well as feting longtime member Sherilyn Bennion.

Sherilyn joined the League in California in 1970 while teaching at Humboldt State University. While there, between 1970 and 2000, she worked on studies, conducted and assisted with candidates' debates, and served in board positions and as co-president.



Upon returning to Salt Lake City she took up the banner again and worked on studies, registered voters, and served as Salt Lake League secretary and on the state board as well.



Volunteer for Girl Scouts National Convention

Volunteering helps you learn or develop skills, make important networking contacts, and promotes health and wellness. We need volunteers for the 2014 Girl Scouts Convention coming to SLC Oct 16-19 at the Salt Palace Convention Center!

Girl Scouts convention volunteers will get an awesome t-shirt and earn a pass to the Hall of Experiences for every three hour shift worked. These passes are fully transferable. On the day a shift is worked, volunteers may also visit Girl Scouts business meetings and Conversations of Consequence. Keynote speakers include empowering women such as Elizabeth Smart, Ann Romney, and GSUSA CEO Anna Maria Chavez!

Register as a volunteer today!

<http://www.gsutah.org/volunteer-convention>

A few years ago she says she became addicted to following the state legislature and naturally became co-director of the Legislative Corps for two or three years. A retired journalism professor, she was particularly interested in First Amendment and freedom of information issues such as open meetings, open records, and freedom of speech. She became deeply involved with GRAMA, Utah's government access law, and was often seen speaking out on TV about access to government information.

Plan to attend the Fall Fete and help us honor Sherilyn Bennion.

WATCH THE MAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO THE FALL FETE AND PLAN TO ATTEND!

UTA Business Model in Spotlight



by Linda Johnson Natural Resources Director, LWVSL

There has been quite a bit in the newspapers about the Utah Legislature's audit subcommittee and the Utah Transit Authority. At the

Legislature's Audit Subcommittee hearing, fairly accurately discussed in the media, I learned something important but mostly not covered in the press. Here's my take on UTA.

The state organized UTA as a business-oriented, profit-making entity. But UTA can't do its job properly as a business. The audit shows that eventually UTA's estimated income won't cover interest and debt payments, or equipment and maintenance costs, let alone more buses and routes.

UTA got massive federal grants to build the system, which they could have turned down, but no sensible agency would do that. To get grants, UTA had to provide matching funds, that's how the process works. Bloated executive pay rates and bonuses have contributed to the problem, comparable to the cost of a few new buses over the year. UTA is a multi-billion dollar business. The bad PR is killing them, I hope the bonuses are banned; but the pay problem is minor.

The auditors said UTA won't have enough money because they don't have enough ridership income. But UTA can't have ridership without better routes and more equipment. Charging more won't work, that discourages ridership — if it's cheaper to drive, people won't use transit.

I've worked thousands of hours for better air quality. Research shows more than half our pollution is from vehicles. The best solution is transit. I know from studies and because I can see the smog belt we call I-15 clearly as a brown path through the valley. UTA must expand service and keep fares low.

So, what to do? I think the state must forget about profit, give up breaking even, and re-charter UTA using a public service / utility model. A "special district" must take over some debt, to free up UTA's cash for fare and

Save the Date: Fall Fete

October 10
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Millcreek Cacao & Coffee
Roasters
657 S. Main St.,
Salt Lake City

Honor longtime member and former League Legislative Action Director Sherilyn Bennion and enjoy a champagne and chocolate tasting. RSVP to the LWVUT Office at 801-272-8683

service improvements. The cost of good transit should be paid by all who breathe, not by all who utilize mass transit, through an equitable tax paid by everyone in UTA's service area. Then we could expand transit and ridership, and vastly improve our air.

UTA doesn't do everything right, but it does a lot very well. We need to empower them to do even more for us. And watch them carefully!

Read the Legislative Audit:

http://le.utah.gov/audit/14_06rpt.pdf



October Unit Meetings: SLC Homelessness

Janice Gygi, Co-president,
Salt Lake League

In 2005, the state of Utah enacted a plan to eliminate chronic homelessness within 10 years. By 2013, the number of chronic homeless had been reduced by 74 percent.

However, they represented only 10 to 12 percent of the homeless population. In 2013, Salt Lake had 2,066 homeless people. Many organizations are working together to solve this problem. Salt Lake's October unit meetings for will address the issue of homelessness. Information will be available on our [website](#)

(Saltlake.lwvutah.org) by October 10.

Plan to attend a unit meeting and discuss questions such as the following: Who are the homeless? What causes homelessness? Are some groups under-counted? What services are available? How are services funded? What steps can we take to solve this problem?

**October Unit Meetings
Homelessness in Salt Lake**

GIRL SCOUT UNIT – Monday, October 27 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163

abzeigler@centurylink.net

Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South

NITE OWLS – Monday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

862 East Harrison Ave.

Judi Short, Host – 801-487-7387 judi.short@gmail.com

BENCH BUNCH – Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 9:30 a.m.

LWV Office, 3806 So. Highland Dr.

Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118

ngmelling2@gmail.com

SANDY UNIT – Thursday, Oct. 30 10:30 – Noon

Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East

Janice Gygi, Unit Leader - 801-550-3585

janice.gygi@uvu.edu

LIBRARY UNIT – Thursday, Oct. 30 Noon-1:30 p.m.

Room D, lower level at Main Library, 200 E. 400 South

Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader – 801-278-2296

jbarnz@xmission.com

TOWN CLUB - Tues. Oct. 14 at 11 a.m.

1081 East South Temple, SLC

Alice Steiner, Unit Leader, 801-363-9193

alicelsteiner@gmail.com

To stay for lunch, one must make reservations early with Alice Steiner.

Dress is ladies professional/nice casual. All LWV members are welcome.

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