



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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June 2015

Fundraising Major Goal for 2015-16



by Jenn Gonnely, co-president LWV-Utah

The 2015 League of Women Voters of Utah Annual Convention was a memorable one. It kicked off on Friday, May 15, with a forum focusing on the future of public lands. More than 100 people gathered at the Grand Center in Moab to hear four diverse speakers discuss the future of public lands in Utah.

On Saturday, 33 delegates joined us at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center for the Annual Convention. The Convention is such an exciting time to plan the year ahead and to discuss the future of the League in Utah. We were honored to

have our national liaison Toni Larson, League of Women Voters U.S. vice president, join us for the day as well.

The delegates represented all the local Leagues in the state, including four from Davis, 16 from Grand, 11 from Salt Lake, one from Weber and even one from Washington County.

Convention is a time to plan program and approve studies for the year to come. Enthusiasm this year was unprecedented. Four studies were proposed and ultimately adopted by the delegates.

Two of the studies will be conducted seeking consensus: An examination of Death with Dignity/Right to Die laws will be chaired by Vickie Samuelson of Salt Lake County. A study of the Utah Code regarding elections that use only mail-in ballots will be chaired by Eve Tallman of Grand County.

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An additional two studies will be educational in nature and will not require the consensus process. The first of these will focus on human trafficking in Utah and will be chaired by Luciane Fungalua of Salt Lake. Lastly, Aaron Bryant of Salt Lake will conduct a study of sexual violence in Utah.



Would you like to be on any of these study committees? Great! Contact information for each of the study chairs and a short description of the studies is included in this issue of the *Utah Voter*.

During the convention, the League of Women Voters of Utah unveiled the 2015-2016 budget. The new budget includes an aggressive goal to increase our fundraising from last year's approximately \$11,000 to \$20,000 in the upcoming financial year. Now, let's be frank. This goal was not greeted by all the delegates with enthusiasm. There is concern this new goal will hamper fundraising for local leagues. The board is certainly cognizant of the fundraising limitations we all have. But we do believe that for the League of Women Voters to thrive across the entire state a robust state organization is necessary.

In Utah, as we hear often at the Legislature, we are very good at doing more with less, and the League of Women Voters of Utah has been a stellar example of this principle. Often when we have asked for money in the past we have told you how this money is spent to keep the state organization running, but what we don't often talk about is what we **can't** do because we run on such a slim budget.

For instance, we cannot pay to rent facilities for statewide political candidate debates. Instead we must rely on others like the Utah Debate Commission to conduct those debates. We also cannot print physical copies of our Voters Guides, or studies that could be left in libraries or community centers for browsing by the public. Nor can we contract with newspapers to add the guides to their printed distribution. We are unable to produce advertising using media such as billboards, print ads, television or radio public service announcements to promote voter participation. Within our budget of \$11,000, we are unable to have the League office covered full time. Currently we also rely entirely upon volunteers to maintain our daily legislative updates. This is not

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sustainable, and it would cost us at least \$1,200 to pay an individual to provide this service for us in the upcoming session.

In the upcoming fiscal year we will be reaching out to our members once a quarter to help meet the \$20,000 goal. We will also be working with members who have volunteered to help us identify available grant funding and approaching local businesses who are interested in underwriting our ongoing work. Lola and I appreciate the generosity of our members and know not everyone can give more just because we are asking for more. We hope instead that you will remember the League when you talk to your friends, neighbors and businesses you frequent. We can grow the League together.

Important Studies Approved for 2015-2016

Right to Die Study

At the Annual Convention in Moab this past weekend, Vickie Samuelson, co-director for Health and Human Services, introduced a topic for study, The Right To Die With Dignity, which was approved for a consensus study. Now she is asking for volunteers to work on the committee for this study. She will need your email addresses and phone numbers, then will set us up on a google group to communicate throughout the process. Her contact information is: 801-250-9210, phone; email vsam0236@gmail.com

Sexual Violence Study

During the convention, a non-consensus, educational study was approved related to sexual violence. Aaron Bryant: LCSW, LSUDC, plans to research and provide information to the League and the community about issues surrounding sexual violence in an effort to raise awareness and inform decisions about future policy. Sexual violence is a social epidemic which impacts our communities morally, socially, fiscally, psychologically, and must be better understood and more adequately addressed. This study will explore the prevalence of sexual violence in Utah, provide the breakdown of occurrence based on age, race, locality, and other demographics. It will provide information about the current systems of treatment and interventions provided to victims, perpetrators, and prevention as well as the gaps which occur within these systems.

Aaron is personally, professionally, and academically passionate about this topic. He will make it his Master's of Public Policy research project in Fall 2015, which will help us obtain information for the LWV research project. He works in the University of Utah School of Medicine as the DORA (Drug Offender Reform Act) representative in the Department of Psychiatry. Members who wish to be on the research committee should

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contact him at 801-979-6995. He hopes to begin the initial planning within the next month.

Utah Vote-By-Mail 2015

The Voter Services Committee of the Grand County League is preparing to conduct a statewide consensus study regarding the change to Vote-By-Mail in several Utah counties. If consensus can be reached by this fall, the State League will be able to use the information with an eye toward legislation in the 2016 session. In the opinion of Committee members Eve Tallman (chair) and Karen Robinson, the dearth of code or rules surrounding the security and handling of ballots, the definition of an “active voter” and the role of poll-watchers have an impact on the fair and transparent election process. Watch for emails in the coming months on this topic. To ask questions, volunteer to assist with the statewide survey committee, or to nominate a committee member, please contact: Eve Tallman, evetallman@gmail.com or Karen Robinson, sombra@frontiernet.net.

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking, considered a form of modern-day slavery, is the second most profitable transnational crime, following drug trade. The International Labour Organization estimates that this global industry generates \$150 billion a year with approximately 20.9 million victims globally, 5.5 million of whom are children.

According to the National Crime Victims Rights Week, of those trafficked for sex in the U.S., approximately 94 percent are female and 6 percent are male (an estimated 40 percent in the sex trade are exploited children). Of those sex-trafficked victims in the U.S., approximately 83 percent are U.S. citizens. Recent cases of Human Trafficking in Utah have brought more attention to its existence. Utah is not untouched by its effect. So we would like to conduct an educational study for the League of Women Voters to inform our constituencies about the effect and prevalence of human trafficking of persons in Utah. Our main focus will be on labor and sex trafficking in Utah and its economic and social impact as well as the importance of having laws/policies in place to help identify, address and stop potential or existing cases. Moreover, the goal is to protect the victims.

Any interested party who would like to be part of this committee, please contact Luciane Fangalua at luciane.f.fangalua@gmail.com



League Studies Online

Wonder what studies the League has conducted?
Curious about League members' research?

The National League website has an online League study clearinghouse that contains study documents from numerous national, state and local leagues. You can search the site at

<https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>

Leaguers Explore Waterwise Landscape Designs

by Jill Lesh, LWV-SL water study committee co-chair



Three recent events gave League members opportunities to delve into critical issues raised in the LWVSL study “Water Use & Conservation in Salt Lake County.” In March, 60 members explored controversial solutions to water shortages with a panel of water experts. In April, members met in eight units to discuss the

study and to identify possible local action steps.

The culminating event was the tour of the Jordan Valley Water Conservation Garden Park. (Shown in photo by Jean Acheson: League members with waterwise landscape designer Mike Lorenc at the Jordan Valley Water Conservation Garden Park.) Twenty-five members and guests learned ways to create beautiful home landscapes for a desert climate with minimal water use.

Using waterwise plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation can reduce the amount of water that the average homeowner uses annually for exterior gardening from 50 inches to only 18 inches. For a database of 800 ideal plants for northern Utah, see <http://conservationgardenpark.org/plants>.

Results: Members’ Priorities for Program, 2015-2016

by Kathy Fitzgerald, LWV-SL program director

Salt Lake League members meeting on Thursday, May 7 produced a varied and exciting list of new and continuing ideas for League meetings in 2015-2016. Among the new ideas are a new topic, Human Trafficking, with a focus on Utah’s surprising role in this criminal activity, and a new meeting format: a “book club” meeting to discuss a selected book, possibly about money in politics, a topic under study by the LWVUS. Salt Lake’s 2015 Water Study and the Legislature’s Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act (passed in 2015 as a result of prison relocation discussions) are two of the familiar topics members want to pursue further.

The board will present the list to the Annual Meeting on June 2 (6 p.m., Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South). If you are passionate about a

How do I...check out and use media equipment?

We currently have a microphone and speaker set (includes two microphones), a projector and laptop for use.

To use our media equipment for events, you will need to notify the office when you will need media equipment, for how long and what you will be using. We will then write your name on the checkout list and let you know what is available and when it will need to be returned. When setting up the microphones, remember to charge them before the event!

-- Trixi Sieger, Office Manager
League of Women Voters of Utah

particular topic, you still need to attend the Annual Meeting to speak for it. The board will calendar topics into the 2015-2016 schedule at its Retreat later in June, prioritizing from the list below on the basis of member interest and availability of volunteers to work on the topic.

Here is the members' list of priorities:

1. General meeting (panel) on human trafficking
2. Water Study Follow-up: Local ordinances on pricing, water use and landscaping
3. Elections: Richard Kimball, Executive Director of Vote Smart, an organization that provides excellent online information on donors and voting records of elected officials, will speak.
4. Climate Change: The Road to Sustainable Energy (Transitioning From Fossil Fuels to Sustainable Sources).
5. General meeting update to learn how the Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act (2015, passed as a result of prison relocation discussions) has been implemented and is affecting defendants.
6. Special meeting: Book Discussion

LWVSL's calendar will be filled out by studies from the national and state leagues.

State of the Community Luncheon a Great Success

by Sue Lind, luncheon chairman

Tell the stories of immigrants, the Most Rev. John C. Wester admonished the audience at the Salt Lake League's annual State of the Community luncheon. Held on Tuesday, April 28 at the University Park Marriott, the luncheon also featured former Utah House Minority Leader Jennifer Seelig, and James Taylor and Devon Hartley of the Granite Technical Institute.



Bishop Wester postponed his transfer to Santa Fe, New Mexico to speak to us about "Immigration Policy and The American Dream." He said that in response to a question from a student from St. Ann's, he had encouraged her to write the stories of individual migrants. He compared the real fences along our borders, and the psychological fences we build to keep immigrants out of our lives, emphasizing the need for balance between law enforcement and helping immigrants who are already contributing to the American way of life. Bishop Wester told



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>

us he supports a path to citizenship for the 11.5 million immigrants who have been in the states for many years, especially because the exportation of family members disrupts the lives of many productive immigrants.

Former Representative and Minority Leader Jennifer Seelig paid moving tribute to the late Speaker of the Utah House, Rebecca Lockhart. While Seelig is a Democrat and Lockhart was a Republican, there were many issues upon which they found middle ground. Seelig described Lockhart as an introverted, shy person who definitely grew in office and became a great example to women of the state. Becky Lockhart's husband Stan and their daughters received the League's Making Democracy Work award on behalf of the late speaker.



Granite Technical Institute received the League's Community Service Award for its vision of creating a place where high school students can be introduced to skills and technical knowledge needed for future careers. This early introduction to technology helps students become productive citizens of their communities. Each semester 2,500 to 3,000 high school students enroll in the Institute. The award was received by James Taylor, Granite School District Director of Career and Technical Education, and Devon Hartley, Principal of Granite Technical Institute.

Weller Book Works sold some favorite books of the honorees and keynote speaker at the luncheon, and beautiful baskets and items from Overstock.com were won by many guests. Jill Lesh and the Membership Committee answered guest questions and were on hand to help with new memberships.

The Luncheon Committee (Sue Lind, Chairman, Judi Short, treasurer, Nancy Melling, Linda Johnson, Nancy Young, Katelyn Hancock, and Nancy Wingelaar) worked diligently for many months to make sure the event was an occasion of quality for League members and guests.

Davis County League Annual Meeting

The Davis County League's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 6 p.m. at the home of Nickie Nelson, 36 Ironwood Drive, North Salt Lake (west off of Bountiful Blvd.).

Stay Connected with National League

Get news and alerts in your inbox. Join our online community to get the latest updates from the League of Women Voters!

We will send you e-communications to keep you up to date on legislative priorities, efforts to improve elections and educate voters, and news from Leagues around the country.

Subscribe at <http://lww.org/get-involved>

Agenda:

Potluck salads and desserts 6 p.m., sandwiches and drinks provided.

Meeting 6:30.

- a. Election of officers. We welcome you to volunteer!
 - Co-Presidents: Nelda Bishop Kathleen Stockel
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Peggy Carrico
 - Publicity: Meagan Lang (proposed)
 - Program Co-chairs: Nancy Cooper/ Nickie Nelson
- b. Program Development: (could be a study, a speaker, a panel, a go-see tour, joining Weber or Salt Lake LWV for an event) Davis LWV and Weber LWV water study: Ann Johnson, Nelda Bishop, others?
- c. Voter Registration events: The board suggests trying Davis Applied Technology College, Weber State University campus in Layton, other college campuses in Davis Co.
- d. Candidate forums for city elections in the fall/ LWV Voters Guide for the *Davis Clipper*
- e. Other program suggestions
 - Education curriculum/SAGE testing
 - Zoning/Agriculture Land Use
 - National LWV will study campaign finance issues
 - Past suggested programs: air quality, refinery expansions, Stericycle update, charter schools, court diversion programs (substance abuse, mental illness, Vets), recycling and reuse issues, health and human services issues, transportation issues (West Davis Corridor and mass transit), attending county commission meetings and city meetings, prison relocation, and Envision Utah planning for the future
- f. Leg Corps update: Nickie Nelson
- g. Member Leadership Development training: Tina Hose

Salt Lake League Annual Meeting

Janice Gygi, Co-president, Salt Lake League

The Salt Lake League annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2 at the Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South. We will begin at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner and will follow this with the annual meeting, which includes election of new officers, approval of the budget, and approval of the program for the next year.

This is an opportunity to socialize with friends and meet new members as well as to conduct the important business of the league. Check the website for a copy of the annual meeting handbook.

Washington County League Needs YOU!

The Washington County League of Women Voters is looking for folks to revitalize the organization. I attended the State Convention of the LWV in Moab last week and I'm anxious to reinvigorate a chapter in southern Utah. A charter exists so most of the heavy lifting is already done...now I just need to find folks in Washington County who believe in the tenets of the LWV and want to make a difference in our cities, county, state and nation.

I'd like to meet with a group of interested people (women and men) to help me get this off the ground. I already have names of more than 25 people who have expressed interest, so please add your name to the list. Folks may reach me at doengelman@gmail.com and 435.879.1558. I hope to schedule a planning meeting sometime in June.

Let's kick up some dust in southern Utah!
—Dorothy Engelman

Women's State Legislative Council Produces

by Carol Jenson, WSLC member

The 2013-2015 Biennium of the Women's State Legislative Council was especially productive, including a rise in membership which now stands at more than 100.

WSLC President Kari Malkovich capably led the group during its 94th year as a non-partisan women's organization whose mission is to study legislative issues that are beneficial to citizens of the state of Utah. Five Legislative Study Committees are in place to organize programs to explore legislation currently being considered. For example: At the first meeting on January 28, WSLC members heard a comprehensive discussion of the Minimum Wage Act Amendment and Cash Wage Obligation for Tipped Employees Amendment. As part of the discussion, the amendment's legislative sponsor as well as a union representative and someone from the Utah Restaurant Association presented to the council. On March 11, the last meeting for this legislative session included updates on the air quality issues before the Legislature and the election of officers for the 2015-2017 WSLC Biennium.

At a luncheon at the Alta Club on March 25, the newly elected officers were installed. The president for the next biennium will be Shauna Scott-Bellicomo with Suzanne Mulet as president-elect. Each WSLC biennium presents challenging and comprehensive non-partisan issues to its members; the next biennium will be especially exciting because of the upcoming state and national elections in 2016.

Davis and Weber County Leagues Hold Joint Event

by Ann Johnson, LWV-Davis
Public Relations Chair

The Utah Legislature has yet to require health insurance companies to cover contraceptives, but took a mere six days to make Viagra available for online ordering without a doctor visit.

That was a stunning message from Sheryl Allen, former legislator and board member of Real Women Run. Speaking at a joint event of the Davis and Weber Leagues April 23, she introduced the KUED documentary film, "Martha Hughes Cannon," and encouraged attendees to consider running for office.



Currently only 15 percent of Utah legislators are women, she said. Sadly, although the Healthy Utah bill for Medicaid expansion would disproportionately affect women, no women are on the governor's committee to make the final decision.

The Martha Hughes Cannon film reminded 21st Century women that the Mormon physician defeated her husband in an election and became the first woman state senator in the United States. Terri McCullough, president of the Weber League, concluded the program with a brief description of League purpose and activities.

Meagan Lang chaired the event at the Weber State University Davis campus in Layton.

LWVUS Announces Nominations Timeline

Look for the Nominating Committee's Application/Recommendation form in June on the national League website lwv.org, and recommend nominees for the 2016-18 LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee. You may recommend yourself or another League member.

Deadline for submitting forms is September 30.

Additional information, references and a resume are due by November 15. The nominating committee will submit its slate to the LWVUS Board in February 2016. Elections will be held at the June 2016 Convention in Washington, DC. Be sure to make contact to seek approval from the potential nominee before you send in a name.

The current nominating committee seeks a board and membership that reflects the voices of the diverse populations within the League. You can assist us in reaching this goal. Please talk to potential nominees, get their permission to recommend them as nominees, and complete the form on the website.

The nominating committee theme is: "Embracing the future: leading the way." We are looking for members who will not only embrace the future, but will be the ones to lead us there. You are an important link in making that happen.

— *Lee Luebbe NC, Chair*

Judy Duffy MN, Connie Ferguson MI, Alice Giles MD, and Donna Lauffer KS

National Voter Registration Act

More than 20 years since it was enacted, the NVRA remains an essential law that protects the integrity of federal elections across the country, while also making voter registration easy and accessible for millions of Americans.

The League was a key player in the passage of the law, which has greatly improved our voter registration work.

The vision that drove the passage of NVRA is simple: the more people who vote, the stronger our democracy. That simple vision is at the heart of everything the League does. ... For 95 years, we've worked to help new voters engage with their government and to empower people to tackle the most important issues facing our communities.

[Help us celebrate 22 years of improved voter registration – take our short quiz on the National Voter Registration Act.](#)

Thank you for Making Democracy Work®!

—*Elisabeth MacNamara
President, League of
Women Voters*

WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**

Camille Aagard - Highland 84003
Chanelle Buxton - West Jordan 84081
Linda Lewis - Salt Lake City 84106
Chanté McCoy - Salt Lake City 84121
Julie Fillmore - Salt Lake City 84124

Linda “Lindy” Lewis came to Salt Lake via Rochester, Boston and San Diego. She has a B.A. in History, Latin American Studies and Education and worked as a teacher in Massachusetts. Lindy found her calling working in an assisted living as an activities director. She has volunteered for her political party and Head Start, and worked as a precinct inspector. She enjoys cycling, hiking, reading and creating collage art works. Lindy would like to become more involved in the political process and very much respects the fact we live in a democracy.

Chanté McCoy returned to Utah 10 years ago after crisscrossing the country and a year’s stint in Mexico. She was raised in Taylorsville during her teen years, With a master’s in American Studies (English emphasis), she’s primarily worked as a writer, graphic designer, and project manager in the corporate world. Chanté is currently the editor-in-chief of Pets in the City magazine, festival director for PetDance Film Festival, and co-chair of the Cottonwood Heights Arts Council. She joins the League with an eye to environmental concerns.

Utah Voter Schedule

The 2015-16 publication schedule for the next Utah Voter was set at the May board meeting of the Utah League. Below are the months the Voter will publish followed by the submission deadline for each date. Articles for publication should be sent to votermaterials@gmail.com with a topic in the subject line. Please submit photos in a separate email.

July Voter: None

August Voter: None

September Voter: August 14

October Voter: September 11

November Voter: October 16

December Voter: None

January Voter: December 11

February Voter: January 15

March Voter: February 12

April Voter: March 11

May Voter: April 15

June Voter: May 13

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.