



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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November 2016

Step Up and Join a Board



By Peggy Carrico, LWVUT President

“If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.”

We know this is true for our League members. I am going to give your one more challenge to think about. In early September the Utah Women & Leadership Project released a very interesting report, [The Status of Women on Utah State Boards and Commissions](#). They were able to find the membership for 295 of the 340 “active” Utah

state boards and commissions. The result – 28.1 percent of the positions are held by women. Currently there are 464 open seats. Many of them require an expertise in the area and I know we have many experts amongst our members. It may not be easy to get on the boards, but we won’t know until we try. We have stories of members who have submitted their name for a commission or board and didn’t get a response. That shouldn’t stop us. Women improve the performance of boards. [Credit Suisse](#) completed a study of 2,360 companies globally that concluded, “companies with at least some female board representation outperformed those with no women on the board in terms of share price performance.” While that is the for-profit world, you know it has to carry over. Look over the list that can be found on the [State of Utah’s Boards and Commissions web page](#) and if you see something that interests you, find out more about it and if you need support, let us know. And attend the Real Women Run Fall Social on November 10. Details are on Page 2 of this newsletter. Together we can network and may help to promote your appointment.

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Real Women Run — and Socialize

Real Women Run will hold their Fall Social on Thursday, November 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Log Haven, 6451 Millcreek Canyon Road, Salt Lake City. To register for the event go to realwomenrun.org. Also, save the date for



their Winter Training on Saturday, January 14, 2017, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Salt Lake Community College, Miller Campus. Real Women Run is a collaborative nonpartisan initiative to empower women to participate fully in public

life and civic leadership through elected political office at all levels, appointments to boards and commissions, participation in campaigns, and engagement in the political system. The League of Women Voters Utah participates on the Organizing Committee for Real Women Run.

—Peggy Carrico, LWWUT President

2016 Voter Guide Published Online

By Meagan Lang, LWWUT Voter Services Director

Congratulations to everyone who worked diligently on the 2016 Voter Guide. This year we received replies from 44 percent of the candidates polled. Using new technological platforms we are hoping to streamline and perfect the process for the coming years! Here is a quick breakdown of the percentage of responses by office:

Davis County Commission - 100	U.S. Senate - 50
Davis County School Brd - 100	Utah Attorney General - 50
Millcreek Mayor - 100	Utah Auditor - 66
SL Cty Community Councils - 36	Utah Governor/Lt. Governor - 60
SL County Mayor - 50	Utah House - 38
SL Cty School Boards - 68	Utah Senate - 43
State School Board - 50	Utah Treasurer - 100
U.S. House - 30	Total: 44 percent

The League of Women Voter Guide is a tool many voters depend on to receive nonpartisan information on the candidates running in their district. As we know voter participation is increased during presidential elections, which makes 2016 a crucial year to give



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nonpartisan support to citizens looking for unbiased rhetoric. Volunteers worked together to identify significant questions for each electoral position. Those questions were sent to all candidates running for U.S. Congress, State Offices, Utah House and Senate, State Education Board, and sectioned into district demographics.

Salt Lake and Davis Leagues also used the tool to gather responses for local candidates.

Our Voter Guide is published online only and can be accessed through our website(www.lwvutah.org). You can find the link on the homepage or by pressing on the “Get Informed” topic located on the upper right hand corner of the webpage, and then click Voter Information. If you do not know your district please go to vote.utah.gov and follow the prompts. Our website also has links to the state Voter Information Pamphlet and Judicial Commission report.

The League of Women Voters make it easier than ever for constituency members to keep track of their district candidates as the November election approaches. Remember, as a League member we can all make sure our friends, family, and social networks are registered to vote, and informed. Help us spread the word, and be sure to share the Voter Guide on your social media pages.

League Ready to Fight for Fair Redistricting Process

By Gigi Brandt LWWUT Vice President-Programs

A new Utah Policy survey finds that 85 percent of Utahns favored term limits for state executive offices and members of the Utah Legislature, and 88 percent favored term limits for Utah's congressional delegation. Despite our supposed cultural penchant for individual agency, these results seem to indicate that Utah citizens don't want the the responsibility of limiting terms — they want laws to do it for them.

Briefly, term limits for national candidates have been declared unconstitutional in a 1995 Case *U.S. Term Limits, Inc v. Thornton*. Currently, Utah is represented in the U.S. Senate by individual who was elected first in 1976. In 1994, the Legislature enacted term limits in response to a citizen initiative led by Merrill Cook which would have put the measure on the 1994 ballot. The 2014 Legislature responded in a similar way in SB54. SB54 provided an alternative route to the primary ballot through the Count My Vote initiative. In 2003 the Legislature repealed the term limit legislation.

In theory, voters can effect term limits at the ballot box. In practice, that rarely happens. Incumbency is reinforced by redistricting and, in a small amount by straight ballot tickets.

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Redistricting occurs only once every 10 years after the Census results are final. The 2021 Legislature will determine the next congressional and Utah Legislature districts.

Why then did the Utah League include the question, “Do you favor a nonpartisan commission to make recommendations to the Legislature in 2021 about reappointment and redistricting? Why or why not?” in their 2016 Voter Guide?

With the experience in 2011 still relatively fresh in citizens’ minds when legislative bodies at the national and local level created “safe” or non-competitive districts, it seems that now is the time to begin thinking about the process in 2021. Many have noted the role of “safe districts” in the polarized political process. As a result of the 2011 U.S. House redistricting, the [Cook Political Report](#) on October 14 sees that only 24 seats (out of 435) are considered highly competitive.

The League's positions are clear—politicians should not be the individuals choosing their voters and the process should be open and promote fair and effective representation with the maximum opportunity for public participation. We would have to change the Utah Constitution to have some type of citizen commission responsible for the drawing of districts. Under current law, a citizen advisory commission could operate, with the Legislature making the final determination.

The Utah League will be discussing a plans to be ready when the next redistricting process begins in five years. We welcome your input.

And lastly, as I write this, the Utah election results are very fluid. Some politicians must be nervous about the prospects of straight-ticket voting. Utah is only one of 10 states that allow some form of straight-ticket voting

Legislative Action Committee Readies for Next Session

By Nickie Nelson, LWVUT Legislative Action Committee Director

Remember, we WILL get through this upcoming election which will finally be over by November 9. The Legislative Action Committee is already focusing on next year’s legislative session, which begins on January 23, 2017. We anticipate a significant numbers of new legislators, but the League’s priorities will remain much the same—a focus on education, criminal justice, health care and the environment, with one exception, that of prioritizing redistricting. By studying and lobbying on redistricting now, perhaps we can positively influence legislative boundaries that more fairly represent Utah’s voting population.

Save these dates: January 27, 2017, at noon at the Capitol, training on “In the Know About the Legislature” for OSHER and all League members. February 10, brown-bag lunch at noon celebrating the League’s 97th birthday. We are still looking for ideas and volunteers for the League’s 100th birthday on February 14, 2020. Contact Vickie Samuelson at

League-ese

BOARD - the group of members who serve as officers and directors and are either elected or appointed.

UNIT - small groups in local Leagues that meet regularly to participate in League program at convenient times and places.

PROGRAM - issues chosen by members annually for study and action.

STUDY COMMITTEE - a group of interested League members who study or update a program topic.

CONSENSUS - agreement among a substantial number of members (not a majority).

POSITION - a statement of what League supports or opposes on the basis of a particular consensus.

ACTION - whatever the League does, at every level of government to implement its program.

CALL TO ACTION - a request to all members to participate in a concerted effort to implement a League position.

801-750-2217 (vsam0236@gmail.com) or Nickie Nelson at 801-231-7326(nickie.nelson@gmail.com).



Did you 'Meme' That?

By Kathy Biele, LWVSL President

Warning! Don't trust everything you see on social media. That was the message from Roger Plohow, news critic and vice president of the Adams Publishing Group-Rockies.



Memes are especially suspect, and often incorrect. People often share memes with quotes that famous people never said. No, Benjamin Franklin never said, "In wine there is

wisdom, in beer there is Freedom, in water there is bacteria," because Franklin died in 1790, and the first use of the word "bacteria" came in 1837.

Social media has changed the face of journalism by allowing anyone to call themselves a "journalist." It is important for readers to check the facts with a reliable source before sharing information. Readers are also becoming less interested in opposing opinions. The Internet validates that.

Plohow, who is editor and publisher of four Idaho newspapers, talked about the state of journalism, and explained Joint Operating Agreements such as the one that forced the Salt Lake Tribune into its subordinate position. That the Tribune is again locally owned is a hopeful sign, but the financial challenges remain — for all newspapers. Readers should be willing to pay for good, accurate reporting.

This is Why I 'League' for You

By Nickie Nelson, LWVUT Legislative Action Committee Director

If you are a League member, I know you are involved in many efforts to better your community and your country. You give money and time to environmental organizations, helping the less fortunate, to political campaigns and many other efforts to better the lives of those around you

Register New Citizens to Vote

LWVSL needs your help in reaching our newest citizens in the community to help them register to vote. We currently need volunteers for Wednesday, November 9. Don't miss this special opportunity to help make democracy work.

Please contact Jane Nelson, janenelson2004@msn.com, or Luana Chilelli, (luanachilelli@comcast.net), for more information or to volunteer.

and around the world. If you're like me, you find it hard to decide where to give of your limited resources, whether they be time or money or both.

So why do I give to the League? My reasoning is that so many of these good causes would be helped by better laws, and we can only get better laws if voters use their power to choose legislators who support what the voters want instead of special interests, big corporations, or political parties. More than 50 percent of Utahns want greater Medicaid expansion, support a tax hike for mass transit, want tax credits for clean energy and support physician-assisted dying legislation. The League can help voters understand how to make these things happen.

The League's mission is to *"encourage informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."*

I believe that if we, as League members, use our energy and resources to inform citizens, to encourage them to learn about issues and candidates and to vote, and then show them how to interact with their legislators, that the other causes we believe in would be better off. If you agree, the League needs your time, your money and your energy.

Climate Change: Flood Congressional Phone Lines

By Carole Straughn, Co-president, LWVSL

Would you believe it takes only 10 people calling on any one topic on any one day before congressional office staff say they are "flooded" with calls? That is one of the tactics LWVSL will explore in our February 2017 Unit Meetings, where we will get down to brass tacks advocating for federal action on Climate Change.

But should a local league even be talking to Congress about climate?



LWVSL already has our plate full just working on issues in Salt Lake County, not to mention joining LWVUT advocacy with the Utah legislature. Isn't it over-reaching to worry about taking action on a federal level? And isn't Global Warming a problem too big and amorphous for us to have an effect?

The LWVUS puts "defending the environment" as a priority, second only to their core mission of "making democracy work." They've issued a call to action:

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. The League works to build grassroots support for action on climate change nationally and at the state and local levels in order to avoid irrevocable damage to our planet.

Save the date for 2017 Salt Lake Lunch and Learn

"Iceberg Dead Ahead!"
Climate Collision or
Course Correction:
Two Decades that will
Change the World

Join Dr. Robert Davies,
physicist,
Utah Climate Center and
USU

Thursday, February 2,
2017
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Girl Scouts Offices
445 East 4500 South

Bring a your own "green
bag" lunch or snack.
Beverages will be
provided.

For more information call
Carole Straughn
801-664-5897

So, everything we cherish and everything we hope for, everything we are working for here and now in our communities, is at risk from runaway climate chaos. Nothing we want to do here and now and for the future of our grandchildren will be possible if our region is subjected to the cascade of extreme weather events and their effects predicted by climate scientists - dwindling snowpack, drought, wildfires, tornadoes, torrential rains, soil erosion, insect infestations, loss of forests.

It sounds overwhelming, but, yes, we can do something. We can add our voices to the many others who are beginning slowly to overcome the inertia.

After the Salt Lake League got a green light from the League of Women Voters of the United States to address Climate Change with our Utah congressional delegation, a Climate Action Committee formed to create and carry forward a plan to urge our members of Congress to act to curb global warming. So far the committee has engaged Dr. Robert Davies to speak to a League Lunch and Learn (See sidebar). We are recruiting experienced climate advocates to lead our unit meetings in late February, and we are exploring avenues of collaboration with other groups to amplify all our voices. Once there is political will to curb climate change, our elected representatives will act. We can help make it happen.

Meanwhile, you can help build political will just by breaking the silence on Global Warming, a curiously taboo subject. Below, in a nutshell, Dr. Gene Robl explains what's behind the scientific consensus that the Climate is changing and that it's we humans who are causing it.

What to Tell Your Undecided Neighbor About Climate Change

By Dr. Gene Robl, Atmospheric Scientist, University of Utah

We have often been told there is a consensus among 97 percent of climate scientists that global warming is taking place and that it is due primarily to human emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular, carbon dioxide. That warming is taking place is found in extensive surface data as well as data taken from satellite measurements. The network of surface observations reveals that the warming, in terms of global-average temperature, is presently occurring at an alarming rate, especially during the past several years. In fact, 2016 is likely destined to become the warmest year ever.

Other signatures of dramatic warming are found in observations of Arctic sea ice, showing a precipitous decline during the past several decades; in addition, more than 90 percent of glaciers worldwide are undergoing rapid shrinking. There exist many other so-called warming "fingerprints," among which are rises in sea level and the poleward spread of diseases previously confined to tropical latitudes. Substantial agreement exists among different numerical climate models, in that they reveal the causal connection

More from LWVUTAH.ORG

Did you know the new website, lwvutah.org, is not only full of information like board member contacts, studies, and upcoming event, but that it also has a page containing helpful links to Utah's elected officials, other voting information sites, and several non-profits.

Find it at <http://lwvutah.org/get-informed/helpful-links>

between increased concentrations of greenhouse gases and warming of the climate system.

Such models incorporate the complex network of interactions between the atmosphere and other components of the Earth system, such as the oceans and the biosphere. It is worth mentioning that most of the recent increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide have, through isotope analysis, been shown to contain fossilized carbon, i.e. carbon that has been buried for millions of years.

As a final note, all meaningful scientific research is subject to peer review. Therefore, if results published by any individual are founded on contrived notions or contain elements of bias, they will, sooner or later, become invalidated, resulting in the reputation of any such individual becoming severely jeopardized.

Dr. Robl is married to LWVSL member Kate Randazzo. The couple serve on the LWVSL Climate Action Committee.

Weber County Meets About Partisan School Boards

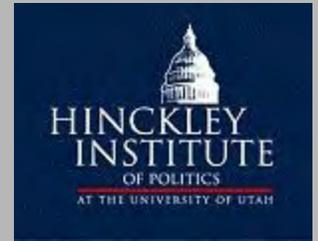
By Terri McCullough, LWV-Weber, President

The Weber County League sponsored an informational meeting with Senator Ann Millner, R-District 18, concerning of the new partisan school board law. Utah has traditionally slated candidates is by having a

12-member committee made up of businesspeople and educators select three people from each district to submit to the governor after interviews and reviewing qualifications. The governor would then interview the three and pick two to send forward to be on the ballot. This was challenged and Judge Clark Waddoups ruled that parts of the process are unconstitutional. That meant Utah had to have



another plan. Sen. Millner put together a bill that would involve the governor selecting the members similar to the Board of Regents for schools. This didn't pass both houses in the last legislative session. It then turned to an election of primaries and final elections of nonpartisan candidates. During the last few days, knowing something had to be in place, a bill was substituted for Sen. Millner's bill, making the elections partisan. This year will remain nonpartisan but the following year will incorporate partisan candidates. We had a lively discussion concerning whether this was a good or bad situation. The law really came down to having to get something in place or the election/selection could not take



Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 South 1400 East, Bldg. 73 Room 101, in the Moot Courtroom, 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/calendar/>

place. The discussion was interesting and informative and gave us all a better idea of how this law came to be.

LWV Davis County Meets Candidates

By Kathy Stockel, LWV-Davis President

Meet the Candidate events for state and local candidates were held in northern Davis County at the Clearfield City Hall, for middle Davis County at Kaysville's Davis Applied Technical College, and for southern Davis County at Bountiful City Hall. The candidates included those for County Commission, for School Board, and for state Legislative races.



One measure of whether these traditional League voter service events are successful is the turnout. Using turnout as the measure, all three events were successful and the turnout at two of the events pleasantly surprised us. Two years ago only one person attended the event at Davis Applied Technical College. This year we had 20 with others stopping by for a single race or two. We hoped at least 50

would attend the Bountiful race and the turnout was double that.

We attribute the success to a variety of things. Our events were co-sponsored by the PTA and the AARP. In addition to flyers being put up, we sent press releases to the two county newspapers plus the Salt Lake Tribune and the Deseret News. We listed them in the "event" pages of the papers and in addition purchased ads in the Clipper which serves southern Davis County and the Standard-Examiner which serves northern Davis County. Some cities included the events on their city website or in mailings.



For the Bountiful event we brought in a third co-sponsor: The Bountiful Youth Council. They assisted with greeting people, offered to help with voter registration those with new names or addresses as well as new voters, they handed out cards for audience questions, collected the questions and delivered them to the moderator. We told the audience how to access the LWVUT Voter Guide.

We also asked attendees where they heard about the Meet the Candidate events. This data will help inform and assess our outreach efforts so next time we can utilize the most efficacious routes to inform our voters.

Political Yet Nonpartisan

Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

To ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, each League's board of directors is responsible for drafting and carrying out its own nonpartisan policy and for seeing that both its members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan role.

Leagues should also have a conflict of interest policy related to board members' paid employment, service on other boards (including League boards at other levels), personal lobbying, etc.

Information about developing and implementing a nonpartisan policy, the nonpartisan policy of the national League board and sample policies for local and state Leagues can be found in the Members section of the League website.

From the [Member Resources section of the League of Women Voters Forum.](#)

Grand County Gets Active During Campaigns

By Barbara Hicks, LWV-Grand, President

On September 28, the Grand County League hosted our 36th annual Candidates Forum and it was a huge success. The event was held at the Grand Center because we knew it would draw a large crowd due to the four county council races and three state races. Grand County votes on one senate candidate but we have two representative races because of redistricting.

An [article about the event](#) was published by our local newspaper, the Moab Times-Independent. [Video of the forum](#) is also available on the Moab 21 News channel on YouTube.



Several years ago, the League was the beneficiary of 12 very unique art dolls made by a local artist and dear friend to many, Suzanne Osanna. The dolls were acquired by Cynthia Smith and a friend upon the artist's death and subsequently donated to the league with the intent they be sold. Barbara Browning hosted the dolls for almost two years and gave them names and fixed them

up for resale. I am happy to report the dolls have been sold to a local resident and art lover and the proceeds will be used for our educational programs.

Our next meeting is November 14 5:15 pm at the Library. There was no October meeting as it fell on Columbus Day.



Annabelle Shrieve

I grew up in San Jose, California, and have lived in San Francisco, Boston, Miami, and Little Rock.

I moved to Salt Lake City 17 years ago with my husband and our children. We have enjoyed living in Utah and continue to take

advantage of the variety of places to hike, bike, and ski.

My undergraduate degree is in natural science and I have a M.A. in public history with an emphasis in museum studies. I was in the education field



Thanks to the [Girl Scouts of Utah](#) for the generous use of their facilities.



for over 25 years, teaching elementary school and middle school science, teacher training, and curriculum writing. I was a senior research associate at Education Development Center in Boston, working to improve science education in large urban school districts. During my years in education, I kept up an interest in the arts, conservation of objects and bookbinding, in particular. I'm currently working as a book and paper conservation technician at the University of Utah.

I enjoy traveling and learning about the diversity of the earth and it's inhabitants. I am an active member of the Guild of Book Workers, the Bookbinders of California, and the American Institute for Conservation.

I knew the League of Women Voters was involved in helping to make the voting process accessible to more people. I read and researched the organization and feel that I could contribute to this cause.



**Join Salt Lake Acting Company and
The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake**

**Post Play Panel Discussion
about End of Life Options**

**Following Saturday November 5th
2:00 PM Performance***

Panelists:

Margaret Pabst Battin, PhD. University of

Utah Philosophy Professor and Bioethicist. *Winter* was inspired by her fictional short story, *Robek*.

Utah Representative Rebecca Chavez-Houck. Sponsor of HB 391 Death with Dignity Act in 2015 Utah Legislature, and HB264 End of Life Options, which is under study in the current interim session.

Playwright Julie Jensen. Author of *Winter*.

Liana B. Teteberg. LWVSL League Member, Health Care Consultant and founder of Yarrow Hospice and Palliative Care, Park City, Utah.

Moderated by: Terry Gildea. News Director, KUER Radio.

*No tickets? Call today for 11/5 performance 801-363-7522

Save Your Seats!

Call Salt Lake Acting
Company
(801-363-7522)

to reserve \$26 seats for
the special matinee
performance of Julie
Jensen's beautiful play
about family and the right
to die, "Winter," and the
following panel
discussion.

NOTE: SLAC subscribers
can exchange their
regular season tickets for
the special November 5th
performance.

Review the League's
Death with Dignity study
on line at lwvutah.org

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