



The League of Women Voters
of Utah

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January 2018

Empower Voters, Defend Democracy



by Catherine Weller, LWVUT Co-President
Most of us begin the new year with certain hopes and expectations, sometimes fears. The transition from 2016 to 2017 was politically charged due to the upcoming presidential inauguration. While some Americans prepared for the inauguration with glee, others prepared by organizing demonstrations. Both the nation's and our state's capitals saw large protests (the largest protest recorded in Utah) by women and their allies. More marches by additional groups followed, all impassioned and important. It was clear to see that many people began 2017 with a renewed commitment to civic and political engagement.

For persons like my fellow League of Women Voters members and myself, witnessing a renewed desire to connect with the political system has been heartening. As I am fond of saying, democracy is not a spectator sport. But after the marching is done, there is still work to do. We in the League encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Our mission is to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We engage with the political system regularly and provide our fellow citizens tools to do the same, at whatever level they can.

Let us build upon that commitment in 2018. This new year brings League members a variety of opportunities for involvement.

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After holiday schedules full of parties and commitments both social and work oriented, many of us look forward to hibernating in the cozy quiescence of January. Not so the members of the LWVUT Legislative Action Corps.. The Legislative Corps will meet in early January to train new members and set plans for the 2018 session of the Utah State Legislature. Your participation in this group can make a significant difference in the League's ability to meet its goals for the session.

The number of people who volunteer to observe directly affects how much legislation we can monitor and report upon to the membership and the public at large. It also affects what we can lobby on, if supported by our positions, of course. Our presence in the various legislative sessions is also noticed by our lawmakers. It's a popular pastime to complain about the Utah State Legislature. But we can do more. We can and do make a difference but not without your help. Please see Legislative Corps co-director Nickie Nelson's article in this newsletter for more information.

Redistricting has been an important part of League programming this year. Thanks to the proposed state initiative, it's also been a hot topic statewide. The League of Women Voters of Utah supports the redistricting initiative. To that end, League members have carried petitions in many parts of the state and helped validate those filled petition booklets. Indeed, League members have been among the best Better Boundaries volunteers. The need for volunteers is not over. Contact Gigi Brandt (gigibrandt@xmission.com) for more information about volunteer opportunities.

My hopes and expectations for 2018? I keep going back to the League's mission statement, "Empower Voters. Defend Democracy." I'm going to stick with those. I hope they're part of your plans as well.

Better Boundaries Needs You!

Volunteers are still needed to gather signatures, especially outside of Salt Lake City proper. Highly motivated? Volunteer to be a Senate District Captain. You'll work with Better Boundaries to help distribute and track signature packets using a variety of methods. If you only have a few hours here and there, or if you're an introvert, consider validating signatures within the packets. You'll work in the Better Boundaries office at 1435 S. State St. in Salt Lake City. Contact Jackie at 801-413-4832 or jackie@betterboundaries.org or visit betterboundaries.org.



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Legislative Corps Prepares for Next Session

by Nickie Nelson, LWVUT Co-Legislative Director

Utah's legislators will be back in session on January 22. The session lasts 45 days, ending on March 8. During that time, the League's Legislative Action Corps will be very active. We will track bills which have an impact on League issues. We will use our League consensus positions to lobby our legislators to vote for or against selected bills. Our co-presidents will lobby for the League by testifying at committees or by writing to or meeting with legislators. We will send action alerts to our members, asking them to lobby as individuals. And we will work with other groups to support positions where we have common interests.

These days, when national politics dominate our attention, it is easy to forget how important local and state issues can be. From roads to schools to taxes and healthcare, the decisions our state legislators make affect us every day. "All politics is local," and in Utah, this is especially true. Your state legislators live in your neighborhood, maybe attend your church or shop at the same grocery store. Your participation in state government can have a real impact.

It is easy to join the League's Legislative Corps. Just call or send an email to Trixi Sieger, our office manager, at 801-272-8683 or lwwut@xmission.com. This will put you on the Legislative Corps email list. You will receive emails about upcoming events, bills that we are tracking, and best of all, reports on committees that our members attend. These reports are meant only for League members and are not shared outside the League.

If you have time, you may join Corps members at the Capitol for our famous Wednesday lunches. Members report on what's happening, what's coming up, and the latest rumors or predictions (i.e., gossip). We meet at approximately 11:45 a.m. (depends on when morning committees end) every Wednesday in the Seagull Room, which is just off the cafeteria in the Senate Building. You can bring your lunch or buy lunch there. We welcome members and friends. It's fun!

You may also join our dedicated Corps members at the Capitol to attend committees or House and Senate sessions. Any of our members will be glad to mentor you at any time. You can come once or every day. But be careful; you might get hooked—that's what happened to us!

Utah League

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League Keeps Eye on Education During Legislature

by Marilyn Bown, LWVUT Education Co-director

Governor Gary Herbert identifies himself as supportive of increased education funding during the upcoming Utah legislative session, January 22 to March 8. We champion this stand and will be watching and waiting for the Appropriations decisions.

In November's Voter, LWVUT Co-President Peggy Carrico identified our need for timely studies to take positions at the Utah Capitol. With no position on state school board elections, we were unable to take action on SB78, Partisan State School Board Elections. Recently SB78 was found unconstitutional in 3rd District Court, considering state school board members as paid employees with benefits, etc. We expect more news from Utah judicial and legislative systems soon and want to be ready with a position behind us.

Currently, the Education Interim committee has passed seven education bills that will now go to the Senate and House floors. At least 51 bills are also in the pipeline that impact funding, curriculum, teacher licensure, and parenting issues. Please help listening in person or online and reporting to League members. If interested and available, please contact Lea Cotter (cotterbt@comcast.net) or Marilyn Bown (385-900-5159 or marilyn.bown@yahoo.com).

Annual Legislative Forum to Inform

by Janice Gygi, LWVUT Vice-President, Local Leagues

The Annual Legislative Forum sponsored by AAUW and LWV Salt Lake will be held on Saturday, Jan 6, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Girl Scouts Office, 445 E. 4500 South. Light refreshments will be served, and the panel discussion begins at 10 a.m. Four legislators will discuss their plans and concerns for the upcoming legislative sessions and will answer questions from the audience. The panelists are Sen. Daniel Thatcher, R-District 12, Salt Lake and Tooele Counties; Sen. Karen Mayne, D-District 8, Salt Lake County; Rep. Sandra Hollins, D-District 23, Salt Lake County; and Rep. Raymond Ward, R-District 19, Davis County. This is always an interesting, informative meeting. Plan to attend and learn what will be happening at the Legislature this year.

Legislative Corps Plans Meetings

The Legislative Action Group (Legislative Corps) will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1-4 p.m.

Location: League Office, 230 W. 200 South, Suite 2114, Salt Lake City

Agenda:

1-2 p.m.: Training for new Corps members

2-4 p.m.: Plans for covering the 2018 session

Utah's Food Sustainability at Issue

by Ann O'Connell, LWVUT Natural Resources Chair

The Utah League's Agricultural Study committee is awash in data, but we are finding that it's not always what we need. Most of this treasure trove of information is gathered by the federal government, but does not always match the questions the committee is asking.

In my internet searches, I found a fascinating set of food maps in an [article](#) by Joe Satran in the Huffington Post that compares all the states in how much food is grown for people and how much for animal feed. The most lucrative food crop in Utah is wheat. In Montana, it's beans, in Colorado, wheat again and in Arizona, it's lettuce. Lettuce in Arizona is a surprise, but the fact that coastal states produce most of the nation's fruits and vegetables is not.

Perhaps the more important information, and the one the author was seeking, I suspect, is that the United States raises a huge amount of animal feed. He makes no judgments, but I suspect most League members could discuss the repercussions of animal production at some length. There is air and water pollution; diminished human and animal health and happiness; and destruction of ecosystems for starters.

Another question you might want to consider is whether Utah can be food sustainable. An [Envision Utah poll](#) finds that Utahns wish to be self-sufficient in food. It appears the League agriculture study might suggest that is not possible. You will be asked to consider what that means for a League agriculture position. Should we work to save farmland at the Legislature and at the local level when most of our fresh food comes from California? Perhaps we would think it important to do so anyway.

In the Satran article, read the notations for the maps carefully. In the map, Most Lucrative Food Crop in Each State, be aware that some numbers are in millions, others in billions. In the bottom map, People Food vs. Animal Feed, note that the percentages represent animal feed part of agricultural production for the state. For example, Washington is dark green because only 12 percent of agricultural income comes from animal feed. Utah is a medium red because 83 percent of agricultural income comes from animal feed.

You may look at this information as training for the Utah League study scheduled for next fall. It will be a bit of a slog in places.

Notes from the Office

Check out the Voter each month for helpful hints from the LWV office.

This month:

How do I...know when the office is open?

Phone: Office hours are normally 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mon-Thurs but can change from time to time.

Contact the office by phone 801-272-8683.

Shop to Support Our League

The Utah League has signed up to be part of Smith's Inspiring Donations program.

Any purchases made at Smith's can earn money for the league. Visit Smith's Community Rewards [website](#) to enroll.

You do need to have a rewards card.

Get Ready for 2018 State Convention

by Kathy Biele, LWVSL President

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake would like to invite you to the 2018 Utah State Convention. With so much happening in Utah and the nation, this is the League's year to act, and we'd like you to be part of the planning.

Convention will be held Friday and Saturday, May 11-12. On Friday night, we will meet at the historic Peery Hotel in downtown Salt Lake for a social, dinner and talk by the incomparable Rod Decker, just retired from KUTV Channel 2. Rod is an aficionado of Utah history, and will surely entertain and educate us.



Those wishing to reserve the newly remodeled rooms at the Peery will have special pricing for our convention. The Salt Lake League is also working to arrange an historic tour of downtown for those interested. More on that later.

On Saturday, we will meet in the Utah State Capitol Boardroom from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to wrap up our business for the year. We are planning a lunch at the Capitol, and of course, tours will be available.

Stay tuned for more details, but plan now to attend a convention looking at the past and the future of the League of Women Voters of Utah.

Why Does the LWVUT Ask for Donations?

by Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWVUT Development Director

Recently, a member asked me why she was receiving a fundraising letter when she had just paid her membership dues. It was an excellent question, so I'd like to explain.

Here's a little background: Your standard annual membership dues of \$55 are divided among the League's three levels, matching the three levels of government, local, state and national. Your local League receives \$13 of your dues, the Utah State League \$10, and national \$32. The League keeps dues low to be as affordable as possible to as many people as possible, but none of the levels can survive on dues alone.

Act Against Voter Suppression

National League urges members to sign petition to reject voter suppression in the name of "Election Integrity."

Sign at the [league website](#).

While local leagues can hold in-person fundraising events (the Salt Lake League, for instance, has its highly-anticipated annual State of the Community Luncheon), such events aren't feasible for the State League. The State League's share of the office manager's salary, office rent and other expenses like mailings, telephone and electronics is \$12,000/year (an amazingly shoestring budget considering what we accomplish). With approximately 400 statewide members paying \$10 in State dues, we receive about \$4,000 annually from dues (all these figures vary from year to year). This means we must raise approximately \$8,000/year by other means.

That's why the LWWUT sends out quarterly fundraising letters and suggests other ways to donate, such as planned giving (leaving money in a will).

Unlike some nonprofit organizations, the League of Women Voters of Utah does not send out monthly or weekly appeal letters. We ask that you respond as generously as possible to our quarterly letter either by check or by going online to http://www.lwvutah.org/participate/support_us#donate and donating to the League of Women Voters of Utah.

When you receive your next quarterly appeal letter in early February, please give to help us fight for League positions on issues like redistricting, adequate educational funding, fair state taxes, water usage policy, criminal justice, human trafficking, voting rights, domestic violence and death with dignity.

A big thank you to all our donors!

Davis League to Hold Educational Events



by Ann Johnson, LWW-Davis County Co-President

The Davis League enjoyed a Holiday Social with stimulating conversation and abundant food at the home of Nickie Nelson and John Logan on December 3. Special guests were County Commissioner Bret Millburn; County Commissioner Randy Elliot with his wife, Julia, and their three daughters; North Salt

Lake City Council member-elect, Lisa Baskin; Field Representative for

Donors Honor Roll

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our loyal donors. Our amazing work is accomplished by hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the invaluable help of our part-time office manager, but we depend on our generous donors to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. Thank you to Oct. and Nov. 2017 donors:

Janice Gygi

Nicola Nelson and John Logan

Nancy Wingelaar

Peggy Carrico

Maxine Haggerty

Dr. Sherman Bloom

Benjamin and Cynthia Everitt

Pat Jones

Kathryn MacKay

Marilyn O'Dell

Lisa Olken

Carol Withrow

—*Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWWUT Development Director*

Congressman Chris Stewart, Rhonda Perkes; and Davis Clipper reporter, Louise Shaw. We also welcomed two new members, Lorene Kamalu and Dolores Nelson.

Coming in January:

Saturday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m. at the South Metro Fire Station, 255 S. 100 West, Bountiful. County Commissioner Randy Elliott and key county staff members will explain how our county government operates and plans they have for dealing with projected growth in Davis County.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 11 a.m. at the Centerville Public Library, 45 S. 400 West, Centerville. Nelda Bishop, former LWWUT Co-president, and Don Woodward, former Deseret News City Editor, will conduct a workshop on writing letters to the editor that get published. Those interested in attending will bring a draft of a letter they would like tips for improving and a laptop to research facts.

Affordable Housing Measures Debated

by Barbara Hicks, LWV-Grand County Treasurer

Grand County League of Women Voters were treated to a special event at the regular November meeting—an opportunity to hear civil discourse in action. The meeting featured the Grand County High School debate team addressing a "hot topic" local issue.

The proliferation of nightly rentals in Grand County has strained options for locals for affordable housing. The Grand County League has presented information on this topic in the past and at the November 13 meeting, the team debated pros and cons of an ordinance limiting the number of rentals. Coach Carrie Strecker and County Development Director Zacharia Levine worked with the students prior to the event and their polished arguments reflected their research and hard work.

"We hope to make this an annual event, it is great way to engage with the students," said Co-President Darcey Brown, who coordinated the event attended by 60 plus people. Parents and supporters also had a bake sale in conjunction with the event, with proceeds funding team travel to competitions.



REALWOMENRUN
AT THE **ywca**

Full-day training featuring workshops for everyone: current candidates and campaign managers, future candidates looking for information on where to start, and those who want to get more involved in public service.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Salt Lake Community
College, Miller Campus
Sandy, UT

General Registration \$35
Student Registration \$15

[Register for the Winter Training.](#)

Kaleidoscope 2016

Join us the evening before the Winter Training for conversation about the challenges and opportunities that women of color, LGBTQ, and other marginalized communities face both in office and as candidates.

Friday, Jan. 12, 2018
5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
YWCA Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

This is a free event, but space is limited - [register now.](#)

Salt Lake League Celebrates Holidays with Action

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake heard from Gwen Knight of Prevent Child Abuse Utah at their annual Holiday Social in December. PCAU became the recipient of LWVSL's holiday philanthropy.



Salt Lake Unit Discussions Revised in 2018

Unit discussion meetings for January and February have been changed to become more relevant to our political landscape. In January, as we kick off the new year, LWVSL will be studying the ballot initiative movement nationwide and in Utah. This should be of particular interest to the League, as we are supporting the redistricting petition. Also, the Utah Legislature will be potentially dealing with five different ballot initiatives.

In February, units will be learning how to talk about Medicaid Expansion, the pros and cons as well as the very intricate financial issues surrounding what is also a critical social problem. The Utah Citizens Council will be helping us with talking points and research.

You won't want to miss these exciting and important group discussions! See the back page of this newsletter for times and places.

The third *Utah Women's Leadership Speaker & Dialogue Series* event for this academic year is scheduled for Jan. 30, 2018 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) at Utah Valley University. It is an "[Impact Evening for Utah Girls & Women: Mindfulness, Negative Interactions, & Leadership](#)." The keynote will be given by Justice Christine Durham (former Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court), and then attendees will choose from one of three workshops:

Mindfulness, Embodiment and Leadership-Presence in Leading and Living

Understanding Women's Negative Interactions with Each Other

You Don't Have to Wait to Lead as Young Women

The event is designed for women (12 years and older), and influencers (including men) are welcome to join us too! [RSVP Online Now](#). More details are on the Utah Women & Leadership Project [homepage](#). We plan to live stream/Facebook live the sessions.

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
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Ballot Initiatives

TOWN CLUB UNIT– Wednesday, January 10 – 11:00 A.M.

Town Club - 1081 East South Temple

Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193

akarsteiner@aol.com

GIRL SCOUT UNIT – Monday, January 29 – 11 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South

Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163

annezeigler506@gmail.com

NITE OWLS – Monday, January 22 – 7:30 P.M.

862 East Harrison Ave.

Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387

judi.short@gmail.com

BENCH BUNCH – Wednesday, January 24 – 10:00 A.M.

Holladay Library – 2150 East Murray-Holladay Road – 4730 South

Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118

ngmelling2@gmail.com

WEST SIDE UNIT – Wednesday, January 24 – 6 to 8 P.M.

Hunter Village Club House, 3440 So. Bambrugh Way (6845 W.)

West Valley City 84128

Unit Leader – Vickie Samuelson – 801-250-9210

vsam0236@gmail.com

SANDY UNIT – Thursday, January 25 – 10:00– 11:30 A.M.

Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East

Unit Leader - Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585

janice.gygi@uvu.edu

LIBRARY UNIT – Thursday, January 25 – 12:30 P.M.

Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East

Unit Leaders – Kathy Fitzgerald – 801-521-5790; Carole Straughn –

801-664-5897

klrfitzgerald@gmail.com

PARK CITY UNIT – Tuesday, January 30 – 11:00 A.M.

Park City Public Library

1255 Park Avenue, Park City

Unit Leader – Jill Lesh – 435-655-1965

jilllesh@me.com

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