



# League of Women Voters of Utah

## The Utah Voter

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Voter Editor: Nanette Benowitz

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

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### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Interim Committees: Third Wednesdays; July 18, no August, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14
- November 6, 2007: Election Day (municipal offices and voucher referendum)
- January 21 – March 5, 2008: 2008 Legislative Session
- End of January: League Day at the Legislature
- February 1, 2008: LWVUS immigration consensus due
- February 14: League's 88th birthday
- State convention: April, 2008
- June 14-16: National convention in Portland OR

### Past-President's Remarks

April 13, 2007

I would not have believed in 2005 that I would be standing here as outgoing President today. I was unable to attend the 2005 convention because of out of town commitments. Then four months later the elected President left a message at the office, "I can't do this."

The Utah Board has muddled on since then with great volunteer work, despite frequent absences from the state, illnesses and family problems. Last year I agreed to stay on until the end of this term to keep the League going...we made some arrangements which helped all of us do our jobs and keep our organization going.

Since, as the adage says, one can view the glass half-empty or half-full. I am going to deal with the half full. We can point to many accomplishments in the past biennium:

- Voter Service: We had a very successful Voter's Guide on the Web for the 2006 elections— thanks to our Web team, Nanette Benowitz, Kathy Biele, Pat Klentzman, Stuart Gygi and Marie Irvine.
- The Web Site has continued to be a very significant plus--we have used it to educate and inform members, as a lobbying tool, and to inform others.
- We have produced two studies, one on Bias Crimes and one on Redevelopment Agencies.
- Thanks to Jessica Mathewson and her brother Terry Fallon, Kathy Dorn, Nanette, and Marilyn Odell we have developed a brochure for the League.
- We have continued to monitor the Legislature despite the illness of a co-legislative director, back problems of Sandy and seemingly fewer League lobbyists. In late December, I think, we learned of the disbanding of the local chapter of Common Cause, our mentor-partner in good government issues. Assuming the mantle of the only group actively promoting good government issues has been especially important to me. We have also played a role in testifying on education issues.
- Immediately after the election the issue of a fourth Congressional seat became important. The League was the only group at the first meeting of the legislative task force to draw fourth district boundaries. In the end, the Legislative Redistricting Committee, for a variety of reasons, drew a Congressional map that was much better than the one drawn up in 2001 which even *The Wall Street Journal* called horrible.
- A group of Salt Lake and Utah League members came back from National Convention enthusiastic about getting new members and promoting Utah League member attendance at the 2008 convention in Portland. Anne Zeigler, Kathy Dorn, Ann O'Connell, Pat Nielsen and Patty O'Keefe have been active in this.
- We worked on the voucher referendum petition drive. After the brutal legislative session it was encouraging to see that the initiative received 130,000 signatures.
- Our quarterly *Voter* under Nanette's authorship has been great.
- We, with some coordination with the Flagstaff, Arizona, League commented on the Divine Strake proposal.



Continuing the analogy of the glass half full, I will mention some "ice cubes", things that the organization didn't initiate or complete or needs to look at and which if added would fill the glass up further:

- We still need to concentrate on getting new members. This is a perpetual problem...we've probably talked about it at every convention and council and today our guests from the LWWUS will talk about their membership initiative.
- We need to encourage many members to become "chiefs"...and to ensure that they are supported.
- We are experiencing unusual problems with candidates not answering *Voter Guide* questionnaires—none of the Congressional incumbents answered our 2006 guide.
- We have struggling local Leagues that we need to spend more time helping. We need a committee to reorganize the Washington County League. One of the fastest growing areas in the country needs a League of Women Voters.
- We need to look at lobbying the Legislature—more members need to be involved.
- The League needs to formulate an answer to the why's of communities. I was struck by the testimony of the pro voucher parents—"my children need this"—there is no mention of what the community needs.

There are three other kinds of "ice cubes" that need to be added to fill our glass. These are opportunities. The first one is the opportunity for membership and community visibility that the LWWUS national immigration study promises. The second is "civic education". We talk a lot about citizen apathy. I am convinced that citizen apathy has roots in the inadequacies of civic education. State and national citizen groups are there working on the problem—we need to get involved. The last opportunity is coming up with strategies to work with a one-party legislature...and to work to change it. Roz McGee has agreed to talk about her bills and perhaps other proposals to change the way that we reapportion our Congressional and State legislatures. We will have more responsive government **when voters choose their legislators, rather than legislators choosing their voters**. Our position is from 1980—Roz will re-educate us on this and perhaps inspire us.

Last night as I drove home from the hospital I listened to a radio program about voting, the very core of a democracy. The speaker mentioned that both parties have, in our history, found denying voters the right to vote more important than encouraging all to vote. Many times these past 20 months, Sandy Peck and I have talked about the League's recognition of the right to vote, rather than the privilege of voting. Thank you for the opportunity of working with all of the members and the privilege of speaking in the League's name.

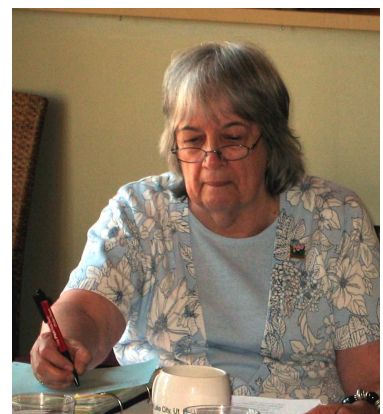
*Gigi Brandt*, past-President

## LWVU Convention Wrap-Up

League members from around the state gathered in Salt Lake on April 14-15 for Convention 2007, to confer and plan study and action for the coming two years. They approved four timely issues for study that focus on management of scarce resources and increasing voter participation:

- Direct Election of the President (National Popular Vote)
- Making Election Day a Holiday
- Energy Alternatives (an expansion of the Salt Lake League study)
- Utah's Water Allocation

New officers were elected to help carry out the program (details below). Delegates also approved adding a second vice-president to the board to direct state program activities.



New consensus positions were adopted for two recent studies, Bias-Motivated Crimes Law and Redevelopment Agencies, which can be used for legislative action. (All our positions can be found on our website at: <http://www.lwvutah.org/league-positions.html> )

**\*LWV Position on Redevelopment Agencies (2007) based on “Redevelopment Agency Study” (2006)**

*The League of Women Voters of Utah supports local government having the necessary powers, including narrowly-restricted eminent domain capability, to improve blighted areas of a community. Such powers are important in areas with significant physical or social problems which block redevelopment through normal market forces.*

*The League supports local government having limited powers to encourage economic development. Redevelopment and economic development should be undertaken within clearly stated parameters, including years of tax investment and budget.*

*The League supports measures that will require greater transparency in the operation of redevelopment agencies, especially requiring agencies to produce standardized annual reports with descriptions of projects undertaken and annual audits of financial activity by project area. Such reports, which include tax receipts, administrative cost, debts, project specific expenditures and benefits, should be made available free to the public both electronically and at public libraries.*

**\*LWVU Position on Bias-Motivated Crimes Law (2007) based on “Hate Crime Study” (2006)**

*The League supports bias-motivated crimes laws that make it clear that conduct, not speech or thought, is being punished. Further, the League supports bias-motivated crimes laws that assure equal protection under law by listing groups that are “neutral on their face”, i.e. race, not African-American, religion, not Baptist.*

Ann O’Connell, Legislative Action co-director, led a discussion of Lobbying for the League and being a voice for young working women by getting to know our legislators, partnering with other public service groups, being part of the Lobby Corps, and using the Utah Voter and League website to learn about bills and action opportunities.

State Representative and Salt Lake League member Roz McGee updated the convention on Redistricting Issues in Utah. Establishment of an independent bipartisan redistricting commission has been a Utah League priority since 1980 and is also a National League priority. Under the Utah Constitution, the legislature currently is in charge of the process. Rep. McGee has sponsored several redistricting reform bills and is likely to do so again. An initiative to replace the relevant article in the Constitution is another option being discussed.

Guests from Washington, Donna Lauffer, an LWWUS Board Member from Kansas who is the liaison between the Utah and National Leagues, and Cheryl Graeve, Director of LWWUS Membership and Support services, were welcomed at convention. They offered helpful hints on lobbying, voter service and recruiting new League members. National League priorities are: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform and an Immigration Study in progress that all members will take consensus on this fall. Extra effort is going into a DC Voting Rights Education Project to finally give DC residents the right to a voting representative in the US House. As always, civil liberties, ethics and campaign finance reform are high on the agenda. And to increase voter participation and security, the League is focusing on poll worker education and recruitment and polling place management. We are opposing requiring ID and document proof at the polls as unnecessary restrictions on the right to vote.

Lunch and dinner speakers Chief Justice Christine Durham and Pastor France Davis offered knowledge and inspiration to the delegates. Pastor Davis spoke on “Leadership and Voting Rights,” and Chief Justice Durham discussed “Issues Confronting Utah’s Judiciary.” A heartfelt thank you to them and to our LWV Salt Lake hosts for their kind hospitality.



Convention is a good time to reflect on our successes-- be they informative studies and newsletters, the 2006 Voter Guide to candidates at [lwvutah.org](http://lwvutah.org), or legislative action—and to plan to do even more to serve the citizens of Utah.

So plan to be at the next convention. It's a national one on June 14-16 2008 in beautiful Portland, Oregon. See you there!

By *Sandy Peck*, Executive Director

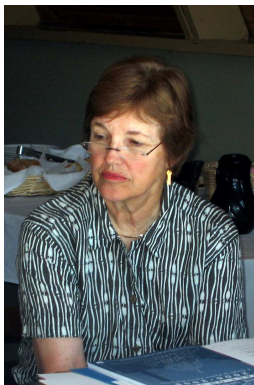
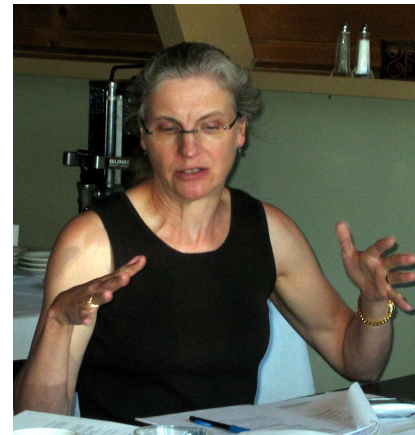
*and to the leaders  
you must have vision  
know like a blueprint the way you have come  
and know the present like a familiar sum  
climb through the smoke to the eastern hill  
and watch the dawn rise beautiful and still  
fire on your tongue, fire in your heart  
hold the helm in the dirty weather  
when war and prejudice have done their part  
lead us all out together  
-Moses Carl Holman*

## LWVU Board of Directors

### Alice Larkin Steiner (Co-President)

Alice was most recently a planning consultant for the Utah Transit Authority. From 1990 to 2000, she was the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City. For the prior ten years, Alice was a senior vice-president for Wallace Associates Consulting Group where she supervised real estate workouts, asset management, and planning studies. She has been a columnist for the Salt Lake Tribune (on local travel) and The Enterprise (on local government issues).

Alice has been active in civic affairs, serving on numerous Boards of Directors of non-profit corporations and community task forces. She has been a member of the League of Women Voters since 2000. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Reed College and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Harvard University.



### Nancy Melling (Co-President)

Nancy has been in League since 1966, serving tirelessly as Salt Lake planning and zoning chair, treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president in charge of program, and LWVU Education Fund Director. She has also chaired the State of the Community Luncheon Committee for several years and regularly does the League legislative update on KCPW.

A former math teacher, she has enjoyed tutoring junior and senior high mathematics and relaxing with tennis, hiking, backpacking, kayaking, travel and reading. Nancy's family includes her husband George, son Tom an attorney in Seattle, and a daughter Amy who is living in Lakewood CO. She has two grandsons who are a little over one year old.

**Janice Gygi (Vice President, Local Government)**

Janice was born in Salt Lake City and graduated from Highland High School. She has lived in the metropolitan areas of Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington, DC.

She taught for six years in the marketing department at the University of North Texas, just outside Dallas, before returning to Salt Lake. She is currently Professor of Marketing and teaches principles of business and marketing at Utah Valley State College.

A member of the Utah League since 1984 (except for the six years in Texas) she has served as secretary of LWV Salt Lake and treasurer and president of LWV Utah. Janice and Stuart have three children and seven grandchildren.



**Tina Hose (Secretary)**

In August 2006 Tina Hose retired from her Senior Human Resources Consultant position after working 30+ years in Salt Lake City Government. She previously served as an appointed member of the Davis County Merit Council (2004-2007) and is currently a Hearing Officer for Salt Lake County Classification Appeals. She earned her bachelor's degree in Human Relations from Westminster College and holds the professional designation of Senior Professional in Human Resources from the Society of Human Resource Management. Tina is well suited for the League Secretary position, as she has also previously served as a voluntary board secretary for St. Ann's Parish Council and the local chapter of the International Personnel Management Association.

Tina became more active in the League shortly after she and her husband moved to Bountiful when he became Fire Chief in 2000. Nancy Cooper and the other Bountiful League members would call her to provide information on, and offer transportation to, League events. It is because of the Bountiful League members that Tina would like the opportunity to continue on in their active and energetic spirit by serving as Secretary for the Utah League.



**Sue Kirkham (Treasurer)**

Sue was the Deputy Director of Salt Lake Valley Health Department, which serves all municipalities and the unincorporated portions of Salt Lake County. She has had a 28-year career in public health working at both local and state health departments. She has a BS in Community Health Education and a Masters in Public Administration.

A Salt Lake native, she and her husband have retired to Moab where her husband tends their two cats. She does some occasional consulting for Salt Lake County. She longs for the time when she can actually complete one of her many hobby projects such as spinning, knitting, basketry and beading. In the meantime she is happy to again be involved in League activities.



**Jessica Mathewson (Communications Director)**

Jessica is a marketing specialist with over 20 years of experience at Fortune 500 companies including Kellogg's, Nabisco and Becton Dickinson. Her industry background encompasses medical devices, health and beauty aids, and confectionery and food products. She currently has her own strategic marketing and facilitation consultancy, Pragmatix Marketing, based out of Park City, Utah. Her areas of expertise include product marketing and launches, global and domestic strategy development, marketing communications, pricing strategy development and group facilitation. Jessica has an undergraduate degree (B.A.) in Psychology from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, and an MBA in Marketing from DePaul University, Chicago,

Illinois. She and her husband have lived in Park City, Utah, since 1993 and enjoy the wide variety of outdoor activities the state has to offer.



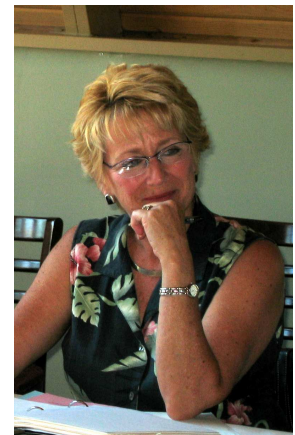
She served as a board member and Board President of the English Skills Learning Center in Salt Lake City, a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to teaching volunteers how to work one-on-one and in small groups with immigrants and refugees to teach them English. During her tenure, the board stabilized the organization's funding, established more structured internal accounting and HR policies and procedures, re-named the organization to more effectively communicate the mission and developed overall organizational strategies and communications tactics to increase awareness of ESLC among potential donors, tutors and the public at large.

Jessica joined the LWVU several years ago and has assisted the organization in the lobby corps during the State Legislative Session, has volunteered for voter registration duties and participated in the 2006 public relations campaign to promote the League's on-line voters guide. Her brother, Terry Fallon, a graphic designer in Vermont, graciously donated his skills to develop the current League brochure as well as posters to promote the voters' guide and the League in general.

She believes the League has a great heritage in Utah and hopes to promote the organization in order to increase its visibility and encourage new members to join and participate. She is looking forward to assisting the League by fulfilling the duties of the Public Relations/Communications Director.

### **Nancy Wingelaar (Development Director)**

Nancy is a native of Sacramento, California who came to Utah in 1979. She was a member of the Park City League from its inception. She has served as local League president and state League treasurer, three terms as state development director, and most recently voter service director. After moving to Salt Lake City, then to Grand Junction Colorado, Nancy returned to Park City where she was instrumental in reorganizing and recruiting League members there as a unit of LWV Salt Lake before moving back to Sandy. She has worked as a dental hygienist for more than 20 years and has a son and three stepchildren. She enjoys reading, hiking, skiing, biking and gardening.



### **Kathy Dorn (Voter Service Director)**

Kathy has resided in Utah since August 2003, when she and her husband Ken were transferred here with Ken's company. Kathy's undergrad work was in business (1968) and social work (1995). She has a life long interest in education at all levels (and two daughters who teach). She and her husband have 6 grandchildren, which are her hobby and take her out of Utah several times a year.

She lived all of her adult life in Illinois where she joined LWV in 1980, after working on a preschool availability study in her area. She worked on the Early Childhood Intervention position and took it to National League convention with Jean LaBlonde. It is the current national position. She served as President of her local league in 1996. Although that has since disbanded, she still counts Leaguers among her dearest friends.

She's been the LWVUT Legislative Action Director and currently is the Voter Service Director. She says she is interested in figuring out Utah lawmakers, education positions and lots of other stuff and looks forward to continuing to work with all of us and to learning our stories.



### **Ann O'Connell (Co-Legislative Director)**

Ann was born in Baltimore and grew up in Seattle. Her educational background includes Stanford University and Vassar College, plus a degree in biology from the University of Utah. After retiring from Rowland Hall, where she taught life sciences and physical sciences, she was a lobbyist for the Audubon Society for several years.

Ann is a long time Salt Lake League member who has chaired the nominating committee and been on the population study committee as well as serving as co-president and natural resources director. She has also chaired a study of seven alternative election methods such as instant run-off and proportional voting. Ann is particularly interested in growth, environmental and transportation issues. She likes to hike.



### **Cassie Levitt Dippo (Co-Legislative Director)**

Cassie was born in New York City, where she spent her first nine years before moving to Alta, Utah. She went away to school a year later and didn't return to live in Utah until her early 20's. She has a BA in sociology from Harvard-Radcliffe.

Before taking a hiatus for the past two years, she spent 15 years lobbying the Utah Legislature for Common Cause. Issues of interest and knowledge are in the area of government process, such as: Campaign Finance Reform, Lobby Regulations, Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Redistricting.

She is not sure how long she has been a LWV member, but her initial membership must have coincided fairly closely to the start of her lobbying career with Common Cause, as she almost always worked in coalition with Sandy Peck at the Legislature.

## **LWVU Program 2007-09**

### **I. Promote election process reform.**

- a) Participate in the implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
- b) Act to improve the election process, including voter registration and election procedures, election equipment, and redistricting for federal and state candidates.
- c) Complete and implement consensus on the Utah League Study of Election Systems.
- d) Promote campaign finance reform with a primary focus on campaign contribution limits for candidates for state offices, personal use of campaign funds, and lobbyist gifts and contributions.
- e) *\*Study the Direct Election of the President, including the National Popular Vote state compact proposal, LWV Electoral College positions, and making Election Day a holiday to increase voter participation.*

### **II. Review all current Utah League positions to resolve inconsistencies and to determine their adequacy for current policy issues.**

### **III. Act to promote community awareness of the issue of health care for the uninsured and review LWVUS policy on health care.**



**IV. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding nuclear waste.**

**\*V. *Study Alternative Energy, based on LWV Salt Lake's May 2007 study, "Energy Alternatives for Today and Tomorrow."***

**\*VI. *Study Utah's Water Allocation.***

**VII. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding the Utah corrections system.**

**VIII. Act to protect Utah's citizen initiative process.**

\*new items

Approved April 14, 2007

<b>LWVUS - National Council</b>
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Joyce Barnes (LWV-Salt Lake) and Alice Steiner (LWV-Utah) attended the LWVUS Council in Washington, D.C. in June. Alice sent this report:

The first session today talked about the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) that the LWVUS is undertaking with a few local leagues. They stressed that it is important to answer the following questions before getting serious about membership recruitment:

- (1) What is my goal?
- (2) Who is my audience?
- (3) What is the message I want to send to this audience?

In the MRI, women, aged 50 to 65 were the target audience. The three primary messages that worked for this group were:

- (1) Joining the league is a way to build strong communities;
- (2) Joining the league is a way to have a strong impact outside the home; and
- (3) The league offers leadership opportunities now and when you retire.

Recruitment ideas suggested by the leagues present included:

- (1) Have league members ask potential members to become a community leader by joining the League.
- (2) Approach PTA members with the message that once your children are out of school, you can continue your community involvement in the league.
- (3) Ask term limited politicians to join when their terms are up.
- (4) Have luncheons where speakers are invited and given a gift membership.

Finally, they said that leagues have to ask for members and work to get visibility and recognition.

The next issue discussed was the requirement in some states that voters produce an identification card prior to voting. The league member presenting stated that this was an issue in search of a problem. They had us do an exercise to get us to feel passionate about this issue by posing the question of how we would feel if we needed an ID and couldn't get one, and therefore couldn't vote. The take-home message here was that it is often necessary to put a face on an issue. Also, membership, visibility, and fundraising should not be managed as separate silos, but as an interconnected whole.

During the state's roll call, many leagues mentioned that they use community television to cover their events.

After the roll call, the question was posed to the floor: "Is the consensus process the best one for obtaining member understanding of an issue and agreement prior to the US League adopting a formal position?" Presentations that went along with this "Dialogue with the Board" touched on many issues, including:

- The first mention in the bylaws of the need to do League studies was in 1966.
- The current study and consensus process was adopted by the 1970 Convention. Prior to 1970, a variety of approaches were used, including the US League adopting a position at convention and then asking state leagues to provide supportive information on that issue.
- The Immigration Study that is underway is the first national study undertaken by the League since 1993.
- LWVUS is using task forces to put together information for current education in areas where the League already has a position. The work of the task forces could be used later as the basis for studies.

At the State League Roundtable, we discussed voter guides and candidate debates. Vote411.org depends on state leagues to send them their voter guides to post on the national site. Several leagues indicated that their web site hits increased dramatically after sending Vote411 information. Most states continue to print voter guides, often in conjunction with the local or statewide newspaper. Everyone seemed to think that visibility of the results were critical to get candidates to respond. California does not ask questions of the candidates since there are so many, but provides links to the candidates' websites. Most of the small and medium size states do ask questions; some indicated that they provide links to the candidates' websites. Some indicated that if candidates do not respond they have an inactive link for that candidate on the league website. Many leagues put a fair amount of money into publishing the voter guide, but seem to feel that it is worth it for visibility.

Several of the state leagues continue to sponsor debates, but often in conjunction with another organization. The North Dakota League broadcasts the debates live on the community television station, which rebroadcasts the debate several times during the lead-up to the election. There was a strong feeling that there is an art to putting on a good debate and effort should be made to train those who will be coordinating it. One league asked journalists to pose questions for the first half as a means to get good newspaper coverage.

On Sunday, we learned that LWVUS is redoing "In League" (the book describing how leagues operate) to make it shorter and more concise. The new book will be called "League Basics" and should be out this summer. It will provide a quick overview of league organization and processes.

At the president's breakfast, the role of state leagues was discussed by the various state leagues present. All felt that providing visibility statewide and lobbying the legislature were critical roles. Some also described their role as providing service to local leagues; some indicated that the state league is made up of local leagues, with their bylaws providing that the state board be made up of the presidents of the local leagues.

LWVUS priorities for next year include pushing for the democracy agenda, addressing global climate change, and addressing health care. They feel that redistricting should be an education issue for LWVUS since redistricting decisions are state decisions. LWVUS has a number of list-serves (lists that you sign up for which allow you to pose questions to others on the list-serve to find out what they have done) organized by topics. They would like folks to post things like completing studies, issues, and good ideas on the list-serves in addition to asking questions.

During the roll call of the states on Sunday, we learned that Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island co-sponsored a leadership building conference in an effort to build volunteer leadership within their local and state leagues. Georgia has a follow-up program for voters registered by the league. It includes postcards reminding them to vote and telling them where their polling place is before the election; it also includes a postcard after the election telling them who represents them and how to contact their representatives.

Next year, LWWUS is going to conduct research on why people don't vote; update "Face to Face," the booklet on how to conduct candidate debates; and reissue the "Choosing the President" publication. They are also producing a series of monographs on voting called "Helping America Vote".

They are looking for leagues to participate in a new project called "Safer More Compassionate World" which the LWWUS is working with the Rand Corporation on.

It was noted that state and local leagues will need to plan time in the fall for consensus meetings on the Immigration Study. The study coordinator suggested that the meetings be planned to last 2 to 3 hours so that all of the six consensus questions can be addressed. There will be papers addressing the issues covered by each question on the LWWUS web site, in addition to the background papers that are already posted. We heard a great panel discussion Monday morning that is posted on the LWWUS web site as a podcast and a video. I recommend listening to it. The study coordinator suggested that the leagues assign different members to lead the discussion for each of the discussion questions. Materials should be ready for consensus discussions on the Immigration Study on September 1.

The congressional representative from Washington, D.C., Eleanor Holmes Norton, talked about DC Voting Rights on Sunday afternoon. She was very complimentary of the Utah support they have received.

The Dialogue with the Board continued on Sunday afternoon. Major points made were:

- Perhaps LWWUS should study the study process.
- Member understanding should come before agreement and positions. Member understanding is critical to avoid schisms in membership.
- Interpretation of existing positions is an appropriate subject for board resolutions.
- The LWWUS bylaws should clearly define a resolution process.
- In Oregon, resolutions proposed by the membership for consideration at the local or state convention are submitted to a board committee in advance. The committee decides if they should go to the floor for a vote during convention and council.
- The credibility of the organization is more important than being able to turn on a dime on a specific issue.
- Every league should have a new members' introduction program that includes talking about the study and consensus process.
- The LWWUS budget should split out the LWW-Education Fund budget.
- LWWUS should collect the per-member payments from all leagues and not let non-payments from some leagues continue indefinitely.
- LWWUS should update the study of health care reform.
- LWWUS should study energy policy.

*Alice Larkjn Steiner*, Co-President E-mail: [akarsteiner@aol.com](mailto:akarsteiner@aol.com)

**COME TO THE 2008 CONVENTION**

Sandy Peck, Ann O'Connell, Pat Nielson, Anne Zeigler, Patti O'Keefe and Kathy Dorn were in the small group of Utah League of Women Voters who attended the convention last summer in Minneapolis. During our three days there, we attended workshops, learned about thriving communities and how to use vote411, a new education web site. During the plenary sessions, we watched as comments about the League budget and program were worked out and votes were cast. We voted for a new national president and several new board members. We ate great meals and met the National League of Women Voters board representative to Utah. We learned how to bring

groups together to find some consensus on “hot topics.” It was exciting to see the many booths of “wares” to purchase, things brought from local leagues to sell to help their bottom line.

Anne Zeigler went to many meetings about membership and brought back lots of great ideas to increase our numbers. She has already implemented many of them.

Why are we sharing this with you almost one year later? All six of us are attempting to get all of Utah LWV excited about the opportunities at a national convention. The **NEXT** convention is in June 2008 in Portland OR. Portland is close enough to drive and many more of the members could see and feel the excitement of a national convention. Please talk to your fellow members about the opportunities of a close-by convention and help your board members find reasonable ways for many of them to attend.

We are putting out the idea almost one year early so that all the details may be worked on and MANY, MANY can attend. It would be fantastic to see you at a National CONVENTION in 2008. We will be carpooling, so send information and requests to the League office c/o Kathy Dorn and we will include you in any plans made here in Salt Lake.

*Kathy Dorn*, Voter Service Director

## LWVU BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

The League’s new State Board members met Friday, June 15 at Lugano’s Restaurant in Salt Lake County. New Co-Presidents Alice Larkin Steiner and Nancy Melling, Communications Director Jessica Mathews, Co-Legislative Action Director Cassie Dippo and Secretary Tina Hose joined current Board members and advisors Janice Gygi, Nancy Cooper, Kathy Dorn, Nancy Wingelaar, Sandy Peck, Nanette Benowitz, and Ann O’Connell in the half-day retreat/board meeting facilitated by long time League member and past president Helen Peters.



The retreat format helped acquaint the new officers with the League’s 2007-2009 programs, processes and budget. In its first action, the Board scheduled future Board meetings and the annual legislative luncheon. Board meetings are scheduled for August 30, September 6 and December 6, 2007 and March 6, 2008. The annual legislative luncheon is tentatively scheduled for the last week of January, 2008, to coordinate with the January 21 opening of the 2008 State Legislative session. January 10, 2008 was scheduled as the deadline for Utah LWV to respond to National LWV’s request for consensus on their Immigration study. After discussing National LWV’s Phase II Member Recruitment Initiative RFP (request for proposal) the Board decided a submission from us to National would be premature until our communications plan was solidified. New Communications Director Jessica Mathewson is working closely with her committee to define our *local brand* (an identifiable logo and appearance that supports our mission similar to what we see on all LWVUS materials) and a public relations plan that will include recruitment, orientation and on-going communication procedures and materials. The communications plan will bolster our efforts to promote the LWVUT to prospective and current members.

Development Director Nancy Wingelaar briefed the Board on the status of fund raising efforts to obtain grants and contributions from businesses and foundations that financially support the League’s work. The Board also discussed the League’s Memorial Fund and the promotion of donations not only in memory of deceased individuals, but also to celebrate life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Look for more on this change in future editions of *The Voter*.



Retreat/Board Meeting discussions also included Board member job descriptions. All current position descriptions will be updated and new ones developed. Proposed new position descriptions, to be developed by Secretary Tina Hose, include *Executive Director*, a temporary *Office Support* position to staff the office while the Executive Director attends the Legislature and *Board Advisor*, which will detail the work of those members who act as subject matter experts for the LWVUT on Health Care, the Environment, Education, etc.

The Retreat concluded with the Co-Presidents and Board members reaffirming their enthusiasm, commitment, hope and excitement for strengthening our reputation and promoting the value of the League's work.

*Tina Hose*, secretary



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### Are You Ready to Vote on Vouchers?

Preparing for the Education Voucher referendum will be high on the list for League action from now until the November 6 election. The state, counties and cities will work together to fund the election, using electronic voting equipment.

As many of you know, the League joined Utahns for Public Education last spring and worked to collect signatures to put vouchers on the ballot for a decision by the people. This was logical since we have lobbied at the legislature successfully for several years against tuition tax credits and vouchers. HB 148 passed the House by only one vote and the Senate 19-10, in part we believe because of heavy pressure and campaign funds from out of state voucher proponents.

We always lobby based on our positions, in this case an LWVUS 1978 direction to the national board to oppose tax credits for families of children attending private elementary and secondary schools, based on League support



for equal access to education. We were concerned about the negative impact on public schools that tax credits would have by encouraging flight, particularly from desegregated schools.

Other League principles apply as well, especially accountability to taxpayers. Here are some points we have used to lobby the legislature.

**Equal access to education.** In the United States all are welcomed to the public schools. We value neighborhood public schools as ideal places for children of all backgrounds to learn about the world and each other's cultures and families. Students can't be turned away because of race, religion, disability, a lack of money or a lack of academic talent. On the other hand, private schools can pick and choose. We do not think it appropriate to use public money to support schools that are free to discriminate, on whatever basis.

**Encouraging innovative schools and school choice.** Many good ideas come from private schools. But available choices to attend public charter schools, different schools within a district and schools in other districts already provide a variety of education experiences.

**Relieving the pressure on public schools.** We appreciate the attempt to promote private schools as a way to relieve the financial pressure of a growing student population. However, a small percentage of Utah parents have chosen private schools, and private schools are often unavailable in rural areas. We have not seen evidence that would grow to the national average. We wonder how many diversions of students from public to private schools would be needed to appreciably reduce fixed costs of buildings and staff in the public school system. We are not convinced that even subsidizing private schools will draw enough students to relieve this pressure.

**Accountability.** Voters who pay the bills can hold public schools accountable because they elect the school boards and other government officials who make school policy. But taxpayers would have no way of influencing how tax dollars are spent by private schools. We believe that public money should not be diverted to private businesses but should instead be used to improve public schools that are accountable to voters and taxpayers.

There will be many more pro and con arguments, including the official ones that will be in the Voter Information Pamphlet. We need to examine them carefully and demand facts and figures about costs to the taxpayer, the comparative quality of public and private schools, and the results of other voucher programs.

**We know those arguments in favor will include:**

- We need variety and choice to meet the individual needs of all children.
- We need scholarships for those who can't afford to choose private schools.
- We will save tax dollars, avoiding inevitable tax increases and decreasing class size by diverting new students from public to private schools.
- Vouchers are opposed by bureaucrats and liberal unions.
- We will increase the amount of money that goes to public education.

**Arguments against will include**

- Taxpayers will subsidize choice without assurance of quality or accountability.
- We will decrease support for public schools that are already underfunded.
- Cost to taxpayers will increase to as much as \$429 million over 13 years.
- Vouchers are a liberal, subsidized entitlement program.
- Utah's voucher program will be an experimental universal one for all children, unlike programs in other states that are limited to the disadvantaged or those with special needs.
- We will reverse the reduced segregation and enhanced equal opportunity we have achieved.
- Utah's Constitution prohibits direct public funding of church-sponsored schools, which will invite a costly court case.

This is just the beginning. Stay tuned. Get informed. Exercise your right to vote. November 6 will be here before you know it!

By *Sandy Peck*, Executive Director



## VOTING REFORM IN NEW YORK STATE - A LA DR. SEUSS

### READER 2

The legislature has been sluggish  
'Cause lobbyists are acting thuggish  
Companies with buck to make  
And politicians on the take  
Do not for good lawmaking make.

### READER 1

They punted to the B. O. E.  
Which does not care, apparently  
For moving with alacrity

### READER 2

The counties do not have a plan  
Some like computer, some like scan  
This leaves our system lesser than  
Elections held in Pakistan

### READER 1

The League has been, so far, insistent  
That vote procedures are consistent

### READER 2

We want one standard to prevail

There needs to be a paper trail  
So votes will not be compromised  
By software that is vandalized

### READER 1

So this is unequivocal  
We think that it is critical  
To have elections optimal  
We must use systems optical

### READER 2

A scan gives us a guarantee  
That recounts will be error free

### READER 1

A recount really can't be had  
With hanging chads or code that's bad

### READER 2

And so dear friends, here is our plan  
Tell every woman, every man

### ALL:

Elections will be err-ified  
Unless the voting's verified

Taken from New York State's *'Moment in the Sun'*, from LWVUS Council 2007, created by Michael Carrese for the "Only in New York" (OiNk) performance at the LWNYS 52<sup>nd</sup> Convention in May.

## PROGRAM

### LWVUS Immigration Study

The League of Women Voters has recently launched a two-year study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered will include:

- Business and economic effects and impact

- Diversity
- Effects of global interdependence on immigration
- Motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

The following information on Immigration is available on the national website at this address: <http://lww.org>

Resource Lists:

- Immigration 101: The Basics

National Voter:

- Immigration Study Brief #1
- Immigration Study Brief #2
- Immigration Study Brief #3

Resources:

- Immigration Policy in the 21st Century – Panel Discussion
- Read about S1348 (Immigration Reform Bill) on THOMAS
- LCCR President testifies on Immigration

Background Papers:

- Immigration Policy: Family Reunification
- What Motivates Immigration to America?
- Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues
- Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion
- Effect of Global Interdependency on Migration
- Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration
- Immigration and the Economy
- Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms

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## The Next Culture War

The following article appeared in the June 12, 2007 *New York Times*: OP-ED Columnist David Brooks



The conventional view is that an angry band of conservative activists driven by nativism and economic insecurity is killing immigration reform. But this view is wrong in almost every respect.

In the first place, immigration is not now, nor has it ever been, a primarily partisan issue. A Pew Research Center poll released last week found that 36 percent of Republicans support the bill, along with 33 percent of Democrats and 31 percent of independents. That's hardly a party-line chasm.

In the second place, immigration attitudes have never dovetailed neatly with racist or nativist ones. Hostility to immigration often increases in periods when racist attitudes are on the decline. Moreover, established

immigrants are nearly as suspicious of new and illegal immigrants as native-born Americans.

And in the third place, decades of research have failed to show any clean link between economic insecurity and anti-immigrant views. Pollsters ask voters if they feel their own wages are affected by immigrant labor. There is no strong connection between feelings of personal risk and anti-immigration opinions. Some studies find no link at all between income levels and those views.

What's shaping the immigration debate is something altogether deeper and more interesting. And if you want to understand what it is, start with education. Between 1960 and 1980, the share of Americans



enrolled in higher education exploded. The U.S. became the first nation in history with a mass educated class. The members of this class differed from each other in a thousand ways, but they tended to share a cosmopolitan approach to the world. They celebrated cultural diversity and saw ethnocentrism as a sign of backwardness.

Their worldview, which they don't even understand as a distinct worldview, was well summarized by Richard Rorty, who died this week. The goal of any society, he wrote, was to create "a greater diversity of individuals — larger, fuller, more imaginative and daring individuals." Social life should widen. New cultures should be explored. And, as Rorty concluded, "Individual life will become unthinkably diverse and social life unthinkably free."

Liberal members of the educated class celebrated the cultural individualism of the 1960s. Conservative members celebrated the economic individualism of the 1980s. But they all celebrated individualism. They all valued diversity and embraced a sense of national identity that rested on openness and global integration.

This cultural offensive created a silent backlash among people who were not so enamored of rampant individualism, and who were worried that all this diversity would destroy the ancient ties of community and social solidarity. Members of this class came to feel that America's identity and culture were under threat from people who didn't understand what made America united and distinct.

The two groups clashed whenever a political issue arose that touched on America's identity or role in the world: immigration, free trade, making English the

official language or intervening for humanitarian reasons in Kosovo or Darfur.

These conflicts were and are primarily cultural clashes, not economic or ideological ones. And if you want to predict which side a person is likely to be on, look at his or her educational level. That'll be your best clue.

As the sociologist Manuel Castells generalized, "Elites are cosmopolitan, people are local." People with university values favor intermingling. People with neighborhood values favor assimilation.

What's made the clashes so poisonous is that many members of the educated class don't even recognize that they are facing a rival philosophy. Many of them assume that anybody who disagrees with them on immigration and such must be driven by racism, insecurity or some primitive atavism. This smug attitude sends members of the communal, nationalistic side into fits of alienation and prickly defensiveness. It's what makes many of them, in turn, so unpleasant.

The bottom line is that the immigration debate is part of a newer culture war that has succeeded the familiar and fading culture war. This longer culture war is not within the educated class. It's not the '60s versus the '80s. It's — to mimic Mark Lilla — between the people who have absorbed both the '60s and the '80s, and everyone else.

It's between open, individualistic cosmopolitans and rooted nationalists. It's between those who ride the tides of the cultural mainstream and those so driven by marginalization that they're destroying the best compromise they will get.

## ***The Divide in Caring for Our Kids***

June 12, 2007 *New York Times* By OP-ED COLUMNIST Bob Herbert

A few weeks ago, Teri Hatcher, one of the stars of the television series "Desperate Housewives," was on David Letterman's show, talking very animatedly about a time when her daughter needed emergency dental care.



"It was causing her some pain," Ms. Hatcher said. "And then, of course, it was a Friday night.

Overnight the whole thing blew up and it turned out to be an abscess."

Where to get a dentist on a Saturday?

Luckily, Ms. Hatcher's best friend is married to a dentist who was more than happy to open up his office that Saturday. But he needed an assistant. Ms. Hatcher volunteered.

She digressed: "I hate the dentist... Just my whole life, you know. It's the worst. I would do anything to get out of going to the dentist. Really. Anything."

But Ms. Hatcher stood there like a trouper as the dentist examined her daughter's tooth. "He sees it is an abscess, and he has to do surgery," she said. "So you, I'm trying to — I hate it. I'm squeamish. I'm going to throw up, and then I'm trying to pull it together..."

"So he does the Novocaine and gives her a little of the gas. She is perfectly fine, because she's going, 'I love the dentist. I want to come here every day.' And then, of course, I'm thinking, 'Can I take a tank of that home? Because that is really what I need.'"

And so on. The story, of course, had a happy ending. Ms. Hatcher's daughter was fine. Mr. Letterman got to tell a raunchy dentist joke. The audience was amused, and Ms. Hatcher eventually exited to a robust round of applause.

I was particularly interested in the segment because just a few hours earlier I had filed a column for the next day's paper about health care for children. The column included the story of Deamonte Driver, a homeless 12-year-old from Prince George's County, Md., who also had an abscessed tooth.

Now, if I had been in Ms. Hatcher's position, I would have done exactly as she did. I would have knocked down doors if necessary to get help for a child in distress. So this is no criticism of her. It's an illustration of the kind of stunning differences in fortune that can face youngsters living at opposite ends of America's vast economic divide.

Deamonte needed his tooth pulled, a procedure that was estimated to cost \$80. But his mother, Alyce Driver, had no health insurance for her children. She believes their Medicaid coverage lapsed early this year because of a bureaucratic foul-up, perhaps because paperwork was mailed to a homeless

shelter after they had left. In any event, it would have been difficult for Ms. Driver to find an oral surgeon willing to treat a Medicaid patient.

Untreated, the pain in Deamonte's tooth grew worse. He was taken to a hospital emergency room, where he was given medication for pain and sinusitis and sent home.

What started as a toothache now became a nightmare. Bacteria from the abscess had spread to Deamonte's brain. The child was in agony, and on Feb. 25 he died.

There's a presidential election under way, but this sort of thing is not a big part of the campaign. American children are dying because of a lack of access to health care, and we're worried about Mitt Romney's religion and asking candidates to raise their hands to show whether they believe in evolution. I'm starting to believe in time travel because there's no doubt this nation is moving backward.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul," Nelson Mandela once said, "than the way in which it treats its children."

There are nine million children who lack health care in the U.S. and millions more who are eligible for coverage but fall through the cracks for one reason or another.

What we need is a national commitment to provide basic health care to all children, not just the children of the well-to-do. This should be a no-brainer. You're a child in the United States? You've got health care. We're not going to let you die from a toothache. We're better than that. We're not going to let your family go bankrupt because you've got cancer or some other disease, or because you've been in a terrible accident.

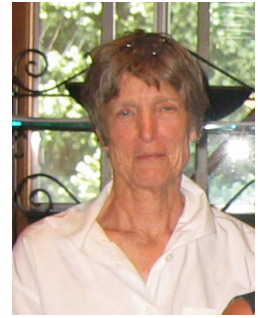
The cost? Don't fall for that bogeyman.

There's plenty of give in America's glittering \$13 trillion economy. What's the sense of being the richest nation on the planet if you can't even afford to keep your children healthy and alive?

## LWVUT Program Issues

### The Las Vegas Water Grab

The LWV of Salt Lake is disturbed about the plans of the Southern Nevada Water District to take water from a West Desert aquifer for use in growing Las Vegas. In fact, we are opposed to the whole project. We would very much like the other Utah Leagues to join us in opposition to this project. Salt Lake is especially well informed about the hydrology and politics of the water transfer both because we discussed the issue in April and because we belong to other organizations that focus on water and environmental matters. We suspect that other League members are also well aware of the "water grab" and would agree that the State League should join the forces of opposition.



The League has several positions that can serve as an umbrella under which the board can decide that we want to speak out on the issue. For this particular case the most appropriate positions come from the League of Women Voters of the U. S. Most, if not all of them were developed in the seventies when environmental issues were in the forefront of public discussion. These are the general statements on environmental quality that apply to the West Desert water transfer. They are requirements for the decision making process for any project which might affect the health or quality of the environment:

- adequate data and a framework within which alternatives may be weighed and intelligent decisions made;
- consideration of environmental, public health, social and economic impacts of proposed plans and actions;
- special responsibility by each level of government for those lands and resources entrusted to them;
- **special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, natural hazards, historical importance and aesthetic values.**

Under Water Resources the National League supports:

- water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, **ground water and surface water and that address potential depletion or pollution of water supplies;**

Then the LWVUS questions the wisdom of interbasin water transfers such as the one proposed by Las Vegas.

Proposed Interbasin Water Transfers. Interstate and interbasin transfers are not new or unusual. Water transfers have served municipal supplies, industry, energy development and agriculture. Construction costs of large-scale water transfers are high, and economic losses in the basin of origin also may be high. **Environmental costs of water transfers may include quantitative and qualitative changes in wetlands and related fisheries and wildlife, diminished aquifer recharge and reduced stream flows. Lowered water tables also may affect groundwater quality and cause land subsidence.** As we look to the future, water transfer decisions will need to incorporate the high costs of moving water, the limited availability of unallocated water and our still limited knowledge of impacts on the affected ecosystems. In order to develop member understanding and agreement on proposals for large-scale water transfer projects, state and local Leagues need to work together. The following guidelines are designed to help Leagues jointly evaluate new proposals for large-scale water transfers. The process for evaluating the suitability of new proposed interbasin water transfers should include:

- ample and effective opportunities for informed public participation in the formulation and analysis of new proposed interbasin water transfers.
- evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts in the basin of origin, the receiving area and any area through which the diversion must pass, so that decision makers and the public have adequate information on which to base a decision;
- examination of all short- and long-term economic costs including, but not limited to, construction, delivery, operation, maintenance and market interest rate;

**\_examination of alternative supply options, such as water conservation, water pricing and reclamation;**

- participation and review by all affected governments;
- procedures for resolution of intergovernmental conflicts;

The LWVUT Board will use these principles when deciding whether or not to speak out about the transfer of water from a shared Utah and Nevada aquifer to the city of Las Vegas.

There will be more analysis of the hydrology of this and neighboring and interconnected Great Basin aquifers in the fall. The League can help disseminate this information.

*Ann O'Connell*, LWV-SL Natural Resource Chair

## Great Salt Lake Minerals Expansion Proposal

At our June retreat, LWVUT board members also discussed industrial expansion on the Great Salt Lake. Great Salt Lake Minerals evaporates lake waters in order to collect potassium sulfate, a fertilizer. Their footprint on the lake includes dikes, ponds, and pumps. They would expand in Gunnison Bay, which is the northwest arm of the lake, west of Promontory Point and also east of the point near the Bear River Bay near the Bird Refuge. The expansion would double their acreage to more square miles than are covered by Salt Lake City.

The National League position, **-special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, natural hazards, historical importance and aesthetic values** - always comes to my mind when confronting threats to the Great Salt Lake.

The Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands is in the process of deciding whether or not to permit this expansion. Earlier in the year the LWV of Salt Lake, along with other members of the Great Salt Lake Alliance, signed onto a letter describing our concerns about possible harm to the lake and the Division's responsibility to protect it. We are awaiting the ROD or Record of Decision of the Division of Forestry and State Lands, the state agency that has responsibility for protecting and managing the lake. "By law, the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands is required to ensure that any use of Great Salt Lake does not interfere with navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic beauty, public recreation, and water quality on and in the lake. Moreover, protection of these values trumps any other use of sovereign lands and cannot be superseded in the name of economic development or payment to the State." (From Lynn de Freitas' Executive Director's Message in the Winter/Spring edition of *Friends of Great Salt Lake*.)

Again, I do not think that the Salt Lake League is alone among Utah Leagues in its concern about this industrial expansion and would like the LWV of Utah to be the League organization speaking out to protect the lake. The Great Salt Lake Alliance does not expect the Division of Forestry and State Lands to refuse GSL Minerals' request. The next step after permission is granted would be to make a Request for Agency Action, which is in fact a hearing before the director of the agency that made the decision in the first place, which is not promising but the correct procedure. I would like the LWVUT to be part of the group that asks for that hearing. I should reassure



you that this is not going to court; we are a very long way from any such drastic action. The Great Salt Lake Alliance will take one small step at a time. But all League members I have heard from have said this is the time to say "no."

If you would like to learn more about the areas to be impacted and see some maps, go to [www.fogsl.org](http://www.fogsl.org).

*Ann O'Connell*, LWVSL -Natural Resources Chair

## LWV-SL Study of "ENERGY ALTERNATIVES"

*approved for statewide consideration at 2007 Convention*

Out of frustration with general lack of attention to energy costs, carbon dioxide emissions and the realities of climate change, LWV-SL agreed last June to prepare a preliminary report on our present and potential energy sources. It turned out to be a large subject. Attention became focused following Al Gore's filming of "An Inconvenient Truth". Reporting in the media and in scientific journals accelerated through the year. We benefited from the expertise of local academics and environment-dedicated organizations. And finally we attempted to capture the big picture in as condensed a form as possible.

"A year ago Global Warming was an abstract concept to which most people paid little attention. Today, it is widely perceived as a problem that threatens our way of life. Much like tackling the national obesity problem, concerns about global warming have met no "magic bullet" solution. We have, however, identified many partial measures that can be implemented in attempting to reverse our situation over time. This report undertakes to summarize a complex body of knowledge in process of rapid evolution." [To receive the complete report, please e-mail: [franklin@biology.utah.edu](mailto:franklin@biology.utah.edu) ]

A draft of the report garnered enough LWV interest to catch LWV-Utah attention at our spring convention. The final energy report was discussed by LWV-SL's five units at the end of May. Unit meetings were attended by some forty participants, providing enthusiasm and suggestions for continued study and action, clearly a positive response. A full accounting will appear in the SL Voter in September. Members suggested partnering with other groups (Utah Moms for Clean Air and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment were featured in May SL Voter), educating the public (broad showings of "An Inconvenient Truth"), questioning legislative candidates, writing newspaper columns and public service announcements, talking up the means for energy efficiency and the ways to reduce combustion of gasoline, coal and natural gas. It is the latter fossil fuels that are producing most pollution, creating political stresses and coming up against diminishing availability.

LWV-Utah positions on Energy were established in 1975, by three League studies chaired by Gigi Brandt: "The Quest for Energy: An Overview," "The Quest for Energy: Finances," and "The Quest for Energy: Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts." LWV-Utah's position expresses concern that (energy) *resources be used in a way that protects the environmental, social and economic needs of our citizens and citizens of the nation.....The federal government has a responsibility to assist regions in which the impact of energy development crosses state lines....The League supports formation of an agency at the state level to consolidate and coordinate (energy resource) siting decisions, but only if it provides a system of checks and balances among government, private interests and citizens, and provides for adequate citizen participation at all stages of the process".* (LWV-Utah, *Impact on Issues* 2007, pp 19-20). (Read this and other League Positions at <http://www.lwvutah.org> )

The time for such citizen participation is here. Gov. Jon Huntsman, out of concern for our present energy usage, with attendant economic, pollution and climate change consequences, has formed the Governor's Blue Ribbon Council on Climate Change (BRAC): [http://energy.utah.gov/energy/governors\\_priorities/energy.html](http://energy.utah.gov/energy/governors_priorities/energy.html)

"The purpose of the BRAC is to provide a forum where representatives from government, industry, environment and the community can have a productive dialog regarding the options available in Utah to address climate change." Towards this end, five Climate Change Workgroups have been meeting over the past six months, organized by Utah's Dept. of Environmental Quality: [www.deq.utah.gov/issues/climate\\_change](http://www.deq.utah.gov/issues/climate_change). These meetings are OPEN: only designated members may vote, but public comment is welcomed throughout. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 26, 10:30 to 3 p.m. DEQ Building #2 - Room 101 168 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City. The 6/26 meeting will present the final prioritized suggestions to be brought before BRAC itself; BRAC will then report to the Governor this Fall. The meetings have been sprightly, accessible and interesting. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn how our energy options are developing for Utah.

Gov. Huntsman has demonstrated sincere and active concern for progressive energy decisions in Utah and the Western USA. He has met with Gov. Schwarzenegger to consider the leading dynamic measures put into place in California. And he has joined the Western Governor's Association representing 19 western states, "calling on the federal government to not only partner with them in developing clean energy sources, but to enter the battle against global warming" (*Salt Lake Tribune*, 6/16/07). The next phase will be to obtain funding for key options by educating and working with the Utah Legislature. What an opportunity for LWV activism!

By *Naomi Franklin*, LWV-SL Alternative Energy Report Chair

## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

**LWV Weber County** held their annual meeting on March 27. Diana Rollins was elected president. They have an excellent newsletter, *The Watchdog*, with Marilyn Odell as the editor. The summer issue announced their Annual Summer Social on July 11 at the home of Marcia Harris and the Annual Membership picnic on September 22 at the Ogden Nature Center. The Weber league now has 38 members.

**LWV Cache County** has a new president, Rhonda Christensen. They will be making plans this fall.

**LWV Cedar City** now has co-presidents, Barbara Prestwich and Penny Brown. They will be meeting soon to plan for the next year.

**LWV Utah County** met during the year and identified their primary concern as working with college age citizens on voter education and registration. They will cooperate with both BYU and UVSC. Linda Clark is president, and they currently have 8 members.

**LWV Davis County** has co-presidents Nelda Bishop and Marilyn Oberg. Although they have not had an annual meeting this year, they are making plans for the fall.

**LWV Grand County** president is Cynthia Smith. The Grand league is interested in issues concerning elections.

**LWV Salt Lake** held their annual meeting on June 4 with a good turnout. Co-Presidents Joyce Barnes and Phyllis Frankel led the discussion concerning possible programs for the year. While no new studies were proposed for the local league, past projects such as the Democracy Store at the main Salt Lake Library and monitoring county government will be continued. Salt Lake members will be participating in the state league studies that were adopted at the LWVUT Convention. During the past year the Salt Lake units discussed the Bias-Related Crimes Study (formerly known as the Hate Crimes Study) and the RDA study, hosted a forum on immigration, discussed water issues and energy alternatives. They also were active on the school voucher issue and participated in



Sunshine Week. The State of the Community Luncheon honored past LWVSL president, Dee Rowland, and featured Dr. Joe Jarvis speaking on critical health issues.

**Washington County** has several of our retired members, but at the moment there is no formal league organization. If you would like to help build a league in St. George, please let us know, and we will do whatever we can to facilitate that.

The national league has a study on immigration ready for discussion at the local level. Materials are available on the LWVUS web site and in the national Voter. The state league would be happy to help local leagues participate in this study. The material should be interesting to individuals in the community as well as to league members and could serve as a recruitment tool. The state board can send speakers or help the local leagues plan their own programs. This could be a great way to start the year and interest new members in your league. Local presidents will receive more information in the near future.

If you want to become more active in your local league, contact me (Janice Gygi, [gygija@uvsc.edu](mailto:gygija@uvsc.edu) or 801-550-3585), and I will provide you with information. State board members would be happy to visit with your league and help you plan for the year.

The LWVUT needs to have an updated list of your members with their contact information. If you have not already done so, please send this to Sandy Peck, [lwvut@xmission.com](mailto:lwvut@xmission.com), as soon as possible.

By *Janice Gygi*, Vice President, Local Leagues

#### 'MEMORIAL' FUND

The Memorial Fund, a joint savings account for both the State and the Salt Lake Leagues, has a current principal of \$5000.00, which is used for office supplies and/or equipment. Stuart Gygi, the Salt Lake League Treasurer, chairs the Memorial Fund Committee. In addition both Salt Lake and State have two representatives. The committee meets whenever the office has a need for equipment. For example, the fund recently purchased a copy/fax/scan/printer and a new DSL modem.

*This fund is available for contributions from members or non-members in memory of League members who have passed away. It is also appropriate to donate to this fund in acknowledgment of a celebration of such events as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.*

We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the league:

*Lois Arnow*

*Nanette Benowitz*

*Dot Bolieau*

*Georgene Bond*

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## **Support the League of Women Voters to strengthen our democracy**

**Join the League of Women Voters of Utah**, a respected, national grassroots organization that acts on important issues that affect you, your community and our nation. You can make a difference on the issues! Membership forms are available on line at <http://www.lwvutah.org/form.html>

**We are –**

- *Empowering millions of voters to protect their right to vote*
- *Working to ensure that ALL votes are counted and all voices are heard*
- *Preserving our constitutional rights by safeguarding civil liberties*
- *Acting as a force for positive change in our communities and in our democracy*

We believe that sensible, responsible, civil discourse and action based on substance, rather than partisan battles is essential if we are to avoid polarization and get something done. We believe that American democracy is at risk and that now is the time to act.

**Donate to the League.** Your tax-deductible contribution will provide important support for advancing our critical work to safeguard the vote. Contribute today!