

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
 3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D
 Salt Lake City, UT 84106
 801-272-8683, lwwut@xmission.com

The Salt Lake Voter

Pat Nielson, President

Gigi Brandt, Editor

March, 2005

March Unit Meetings

What Issues Are Most Important to You?

It's that time of year again. The Salt Lake League and Utah League Boards are asking members to tell them what issues they are interested in. March units will focus on member recommendations for program for the Salt Lake League for 2004-2005 and Utah program 2005-2007.

Each year Salt Lake League members are asked to give input to the Salt Lake League's program for the next year. In alternate years, League members do the same for LWV Utah and LWVUS. 2005 is the year for Utah program planning. Participating in program making is one of the most important things a League member can do. League programs are limited only by our imagination about problems and our womanpower.

Only about 30-35 percent of League members attend unit meetings regularly. If you can not attend your unit meeting, or do not attend regularly, send the worksheet to the office. (Continued on page 2)

Legislative Wrap-up Report

ve Director Sandy Peck were the speakers Representatives James Dunnigan (R-Taylorsville) and Pat Jones (D-Holladay) along with League Executive at LWV Salt Lake's annual legislative wrap-up on March 9.

Representative Dunnigan spoke about his successful bill making it a felony to offer bogus health insurance. He spoke about his positive experience on the recent legislative tax task force (which also included Representative Jones) and his view of Governor Huntsman's proposal to phase out the corporate income tax. He noted that (continued on page 7)

In this Voter

President's Letter	Page 2
U of Utah Special Lectures	Page 3
Member News	Page 4
Local Government	Page 5
Wanted – A Silver Bullet	Page 5
Hinckley Institute Programs	Page 6
Quote of the Month	Page 6

President's Letter

Pat Nielson

The League of Women Voters Lobby Corps worked tirelessly to achieve LWV Utah's legislative goals during the 2005-06 Session. You'll soon receive a report on the Corps' assessment of how well we and the legislators performed.

Meantime, the equally important issue is, was your voice heard? What did you tell your senator and representative? Did you tell them "thanks" for anything? Surely there was something that you approved of. I am blessed with two excellent Legislators. Sometimes I forget to thank them. I'm working on that.

The point is, if you like the outcomes, it's easy to handle. When you don't like what's happening, action may be difficult and/or scary, and not immediately identifiable. I suggest to you that your first priority must be to communicate your displeasure; second, tell them what you don't like; third, tell them what you want, all in your most polite league voice. It is not your job to solve the problem, unless you do have a preferred outcome in mind. Remember, a wise woman once said, if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten. To think otherwise is the definition of insanity.

I hope you'll participate in one or more legislative interim committees, predictable times and issues. I'll buy you a coffee in the brand new State Room cafeteria! Thanks for all you do. Stay tough.
Pat 583-6932

Program (continued from page 1.)

For each level of League, the process is the same.

- Members are asked to "brainstorm" about program items

- Member ideas are transmitted to the appropriate board
- The board discusses the ideas, chooses some ideas and presents them to the membership at annual meeting/convention. Ideas not chosen are also listed as "non-recommended" items.
- Delegates/members vote on the program at the annual meeting/convention

After program is adopted, the Salt Lake Board will determine in the summer what the actual calendar will be.

League member involvement is crucial. Members at every level have challenged Board recommendations at times. The first Utah LWV study on air quality had its genesis in a non-recommended item and last year at LWVUS convention the body insisted that the LWVUS Board focus its attention on civil liberties. Study items must have been forwarded to the appropriate LWV Board if they are to be discussed at annual meeting/convention, even if the Board does not recommend that item.

Sometimes the League has a position(s) that was adopted a longtime ago and members would benefit from re-education, either in a study or a general meeting.

Also, the LWVUS has announced several projects that Salt Lake League members might be interested in. *"Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities*, is a project to coordinate a public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security. (See www.lwv.org for more information.). The League of Women Voters, the Center for Women Policy Studies and Women's Environment and Development Organization will host a series of eight forums in the fall of 2005 (September

through November) to broaden women's involvement in foreign policy discussions. LWVUS has partnered with Preview Forum to encourage local Leagues to host community forums on the role of news in a democracy and in your communities. *"The News We Need: Finding Balance in an Age of Spin"*. (See www.previewforum.com) The neat thing about this group is that they will provide *free resources* (including videos, planning guides, and publicity materials) to participating Leagues.

The SL Board is anticipating your input!

**Can Human Rights Survive?
Reflections on Inequality and
Modernity**

**2005 Tanner Lecture on Human Values
March 30, 8 PM**

Dr. Paul Farmer, infectious disease specialist and medical anthropologist from Harvard Medical school will deliver the annual Tanner Lecture of Human Values. "Can Human Rights Survive? Reflections on Inequality and Modernity", on March 30 at 8 pm in the Dumke Auditorium, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah campus. Dr. Farmer, a McArthur Foundation awardee, has focused on treating some of the world's poorest populations. He is a founding director of Partners in Health, an international charity organization that provides direct health care services and undertakes research and advocacy on behalf of those living in poverty.

Three panel discussions with Dr. Farmer are part of the lecture series. Doug Fabrizio of KUER will moderate "Health, Poverty and Human Rights in Utah" with Dr. Mara Rabin, Medical Director, Utah Health and Human Rights Project, Salt Lake Family Health Center, Dr. Adi Gundlapalli, Medical Director, Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Inc and Dr. Lillian Tom-Orme from the U of Utah Family Preventive Medicine

Department on March 30 from 2-4 PM at the Gould Auditorium, Marriott Library.

University philosophy professor Margaret Battin will moderate "Paul Farmer and his Work" with Dr. DeVon Hale of the University School of Medicine, Professor Robert Huefner (political science), Professor Paul Wiesner (anthropology) and Duke University Professor Priscilla Wald (English), on March 31 from 10AM-12 noon at the Gould Auditorium.

"Surviving AIDS: Geography and Policy" is the third panel scheduled for March 31 from 7-9 pm at the Salt Lake City Library Auditorium. Dr. Jay Jacobson, Director of Center for Medical Ethics, will moderate with Dr. Robert Rolfs, Utah State Epidemiologist, Pat Christensen, former president of The Pangaea Global Aids Foundation and Jon Weisberg, Secure the Future Aids relief initiative in southern Africa.

**2005 David Gardner Lecture in the
Humanities and Fine Arts**

March 21, 7 PM

Lily Yeh, internationally celebrated activist, visual artist and founder and executive director of The Village, will discuss her work and philosophy on community building through art when she presents the 2005 David Pierpont Gardner Graduate Lecture in the Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Utah, March 21 in the Dumke Auditorium, Utah Museum of Fine Arts' Auditorium.

The Village is a community-based arts, education and neighborhood development organization that works with residents to reclaim abandoned space and rebuild a sense of hope and possibility in neighborhoods. Since 1986, the Village has worked with tens of thousands of people to provide a wide variety of art experiences in

a formerly blighted inter city area in North Philadelphia where the annual median family income is \$10,000.

Yeh has used her model of community revitalization through the arts in many other settings outside the United States.

Welcome to Our New Members

Terri Lane
4552 South Jupiter Dr 84121
277-4552

Delores Chase
1235 E second South #402 84102
328-9908

Nancy Issaman
3054 Millcreek Rd. 84119
483-2583

Sue Kirkham
1491 North th East
Centerville, 84104
468-2726

Millie Fletcher
1455 Gilmer Dr 84105
582-0519

Member News

Welcome to these new members:

Sue Kirkham is the interim director of The Salt Lake Valley Health Department. She joined to learn about issues and to work with informed women on issues. She plans to attend the Library Unit.

Terri Lane has a degree in microbiology and worked at Abbot Labs in Chicago and worked as resource aid in California. She is a volunteer for HIV coalition. She came to Utah with her husband who is a professor and director of neonatal research at the University of Utah. She joined because she is interested in learning about the issues.

Delores Chase is a retired art dealer. She worked hard in the 2004 election politics and was disappointed. She joined as a result of a donation to LWVUS.

Brent Horton, a World War II veteran was born in Cache Valley and earned an engineering degree at USU. He joined to support the League.

Parker Cooke is a business and political major at Salt Lake Community College. His membership was a gift from his grandmother, Sue Gordon, because he showed such enthusiasm in getting voters registered last fall.

Nancy Issaman has a BA in art history from Boston University. She came to Utah with her husband who is a biophysics professor. She uses her talents to design theatre sets locally. She has developed a Guatemala project, a plan to help women economically. She designs dolls and costumes, and the Guatemalan women make them to sell. She joined because of her interest in league's work.

Happy 90th Birthday, Charlotte Newman!
Our tax guru, **Charlotte Newman** will celebrate on March 27.

Naomi Franklin received the County Volunteer Leadership award from the Salt Lake County Democratic Party at a dinner on February 15.

Speedy recovery to our President **Pat Nielson** who is recuperating from foot surgery on both feet.

Thanks to Xmission (www.xmission.com) for its donation of ISP services to LWV.

Local Government Report

By Anne Zeigler

Members of the Salt Lake League of Women Voters have been attending the County Council Meetings on Tuesdays. Recently Jenny Wilson, an At-Large Democrat member of the County Council was reported to have said that she would like to see members of the community be "watch dogs" of the County. Since November the units have assigned their members to observe the meetings and report anything they felt the League should be aware of.

In January members of the Bench Bunch unit attended County Council work sessions where business is reviewed, discussed and decided upon before being presented in the formal 4 pm meeting . Those who attended found the meetings interesting, educational and worthwhile. Carolyn Dunn observed that the Council members seemed "to be well prepared and informed." Unit members Mary Olsen, Sue Gordon, Gwen Schamel, Ruth Magar, Carolyn Dunn, Madge Fairbanks, and Marilyn Smith served as observers.

Main Library Unit members attended council meetings in February. Attending were Pat Klentzman, Mary House, Nancy Melling, Bonnie Rock, Polly Hough and Kay Papulak. Some League members who had attended meetings since November were also in attendance, as they have found the meetings to be of great interest. I have been told that the Council is well aware that League members are in attendance, and that we seem to be the only "public watch dogs" that are present. We need to keep that reputation.

In March, a different unit is attending each week. Of course anyone is welcome to attend. If you find a topic that interests you, please don't hesitate to drop in. You can pull up the agenda by going to the website:

www.co.slc.ut.us. Click the "on-line services" and arrow down to "agendas, council", then click on "committee of the whole -current". The agendas are posted Friday night. The meeting times vary so be sure to either go on-line or call Anne Zeigler and she will email or mail you a copy. It is important that you wear a League of Women Voters badge. You can pick one up at the League office, but if you don't have one, please don't use that as an excuse not to attend. Please feel free to call Anne Zeigler (944-4163) if you have any questions.

Joycelynn Straight is our newest Board Member. She will be Director of Local Government. Joycelynn attends all County Council meetings on Tuesday, plus the Board of Adjustments, and regular Council meetings at 4PM. She has also been attending the legislative sessions. If you have any concerns or suggestions for local government, please feel free to contact her at 485-4457.

Wanted—A Silver Bullet

"Duck! They're shooting silver bullets in the Montana House of Representatives. Figuratively at least." In an article, "Horse Sense: Representatives Use Silver Bullets to Move Stalled Bills," (*Billings Gazette*, February 21, 2005) reporter Charles S. Johnson describes a decision of the leadership of the Montana House of Representatives.

The House is tied at 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, with each committee equally divided between the parties. So it's hard for committees to muster enough votes - a simple majority to endorse bills - and send them to the floor where all 100 representatives can debate them. Anticipating this problem, House leaders came up with the idea of silver bullets. Each side gets a dozen silver bullets to use during the entire 90-day session. A party leader declares he is using a

silver bullet, and the bill in comes to the House floor for debate.

As of the press date February 21, the bullets had only been used three times, the proposed “bulleted” legislation resulted in two passed bills and one which died (not surprisingly, it was a campaign finance bill.)

The Utah House does not have the equally divided membership problem --but wouldn't it be nice if each party (even proportionately) would have silver bullets to bring bills to the floor? Maybe citizens wouldn't have to wait four legislative terms to discuss the change in school finance proposed by the Jones-Mascaro bill if it couldn't be blocked by those legislators who have large families.

Perhaps if we had a silver bullet, we would all feel more like the Legislature represented us even part of the time.

State of the Community Luncheon

Patrick Shea, former director of the Bureau of Land Management under President Clinton, will be the featured speaker at the Annual State of the Community Luncheon, April 14th at the Little America Hotel.

Former Governor Olene Walker will receive the League's Community Service award.

Hinckley Institute of Policy March Events

The African First World War - An International Conspiracy March 28, 0:45 AM
Rigobert N. Butandu, Author, *Forgotten War – The Criminal Invasion of the DR Congo: The International Conspiracy Unveiled*

Challenges Facing Salt Lake City, March 31, 10:45 am: Mayor Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City and Ted Wilson, former mayor,

Salt Lake City, former director, Hinckley Institute of Politics

All programs are at the Hinckley Institute of Politics Caucus Room (Orson Spencer Hall 255) and are open to the public

Thanks to Our Contributors

Doris Gras
Peggy Christensen
Linda Fontenot

<p>State of the Community Luncheon April 14, 2005</p>

Quote of the Month....

“Most Americans, and perhaps most senior U.S. government officials believe that the United States has been following through on such commitments [support for economic development in impoverished countries in the Monterrey Consensus*]. The U.S. response, public and private, to December's Indian Ocean tsunami has seem to confirm the nation's generous engagement with those in need. Ironically, though, this outpouring of concern may obscure rather than clarify a deeper truth. Other than in response to diasasters—famines, floods, and earthquakes—U.S. assistance for the world's poorest countries is utterly inadequate. It falls far short of meeting the needs of recipient countries, fails to tap into the vast U.S. capacity for providing aid, does not fulfill Washington's many promises to fund development adequately, and is a small

fraction of what Americans believe the U.S. actually provides.

...Without dramatic reform, the United States will increasingly be tarred as a country ready to invest in war, and perhaps in emergency relief, but not in peaceful development."

Jeffrey D. Sachs, "The Development Challenge," *Foreign Affairs*, March-April 2005, pg. 78-79. Jeffrey D. Sachs is Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Director of the UN Millennium Project.

*In 2000 the US joined the UN in the Millennium Declaration in which the world pledged to cut extreme poverty in half and reduce child mortality by two-thirds in 15 years. The Monterrey Consensus, adopted in March 2002, was a multifaceted strategy to achieve the Millennium Declaration Goals.

Legislative Wrap-up (contd from page 1)

Corporate income taxes provide \$200 million for public education and he expressed concern that the jobs required to make up that loss would be difficult to be realized. He doesn't feel that our current rate of corporate income tax is "unfair."

Representative Jones who serves as assistant minority whip said the Legislature needs more women, "because our issues are different." She focused on four issues important to her.

1. Tax reform. She is pleased that the Jones-Mascaro Bill will be referred to the task force. She noted that her bill was run in tandem with Representative Wayne Harper's bill which would institute a flat tax, which she pointed out is beneficial to the wealthy.

2. Education. She mentioned the disconnect between legislators and what it happening out there.
3. Senior citizen issues. Her district has the second largest number of seniors in the state. She mentioned the rising number of seniors in the state. This trend has implications for housing, health, long term care, among other issues She had success with her bill for a commission on aging.
4. Health issues.

She expressed concern about Substitute *HB18* which would earmark an increasing amount of sales tax from the General Fund into highway fund. The General Fund also is the source of funds for all human services and higher education. She feels that the state has grossly underfunded education and needs to plan for a state response to all the federal funding cuts in human services and health issues.

Representative Jones noted in questions about the defeat of tuition tax credits that several of the new legislators were more moderate than those that they replaced.

Sandy Peck reviewed the LWV Utah "Top 10 Bill List" (included in this *Voter*).

Board Briefs

1. President Pat Neilson has been asked to contribute an article on The Democracy Store for LWVUS *Voter*.
2. The programs for the April and May meetings have switched; the April unit meetings will focus on the LWVUtah Nuclear Waste study and the May 18 general meeting will focus on watershed issues.

- March 15 **Challengers** 12 Noon
 Pat Eager 's
 2229 Westminster Ave
 Marelynn Zipser 578-2069
 Bring sack lunch
- March 21 **Night Owls** 7:30PM
 Gigi Brandt's
 2059 E Ninth South
 582-1102
- March 23 **Bench Bunch:** 9:30 AM
 League Office,
 3804 Highland Dr.
 Carolyn Dunn 278-9409
- March 28 **Old Farm Day** 11:AM
 Old Farm Community Center
 601 East 4110 South
 Anne Zeigler – 944-4163
- University Unit** 12 noon
 Hinckley Institute, Rm 255,
 Orson Spencer Hall
 Phyllis Frankel 582-8957
- March 31 **Library Unit:** 12 noon-1 pm
 Main Library –Room 3 Level 3
 210 East 400South, SLC
 Alice Steiner – akarsteiner@aol.com - 363-9193

If you cannot attend your regular unit meeting,
 we encouraged you to attend any of the units
 listed above.

<p>State of the Community Luncheon April 14, 2005</p>

March Unit Meetings

Unit Topic: State / Local Program

