



**February-March 2009
President's Letter**

The legislative session is over—everyone is exhausted, frustrated and already looking forward to the mischief next year.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Lobby Corps and Sandy Peck, all of whom have worked long and hard to make sense of all that went on. Hope you heard some of us on KCPW or KPCW in the mornings. We're not professionals, but I've heard from several people who thank us for the factual information.

More events on the way:

• Legislative wrap-up on March 19 at the Girl Scout Headquarters. We will start with finger food at 5 p.m., hear from speakers and conclude by 7 p.m. Please come to listen, ask questions, vent, and decide what action you'd like to take next. Remember that Program Planning is in April.

• Sunshine Week on March 23 at the Main Salt Lake Library. We will begin at 6 p.m. with a web cast from the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. Then three panelists will respond to the 45-minute web cast and apply some of the national information to Utah and local communities. The focus of the national presentation is on President Obama's Memorandum for Openness and Transparency in Government.

Two of the panelists are Boyer Jarvis, longtime LWVSL member and treasured commentator on all things political, and Donald Meyers, Utah County reporter for the *Salt Lake Tribune* and specialist on the issue of the Freedom of Information Act. After the panel discussion there will be time for questions from the audience.

The final activity will be two awards from The Society for Professional Journalists of Utah: The Sunshine Award and the Black Hole Award. Why not make a bet with friends on who gets the awards? Start an office pool, maybe? *(The original idea, finding out what happened to thousands of voter information pamphlets last fall, couldn't be thoroughly researched in time for this program, but we're still pursuing it.)*

• The State Convention on May 15-16 will be provocative and challenging. One speaker is *Salt Lake Tribune* columnist Paul Rolly. I asked him to give us a clue about how he finds all his sources—and to comment on the political scene in Utah. Hold on to your hats! The other speaker hasn't confirmed, so just let me tease you by saying you'll recognize this Utah native's name and be most pleased.

The information from units on the discussion about the National Popular Vote indicates that we have many diverse opinions. Consensus voting will take place at unit meetings in April. More about that when it's completed.

— Joyce Barnes

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Annual Legislative Wrap-Up

Thursday, March 19

Girl Scout Headquarters
445 East 4500 South.

5-7 p.m.

Light Refreshments and
Drinks will be served

Legislators from each political party as well as our own Sandy Peck will speak on the "good and the bad" of the last Legislative session. Should be interesting so please plan to attend and support the efforts of the Lobby Corps and the Observer Corps.

SUSAN FOLLETT, 425-640-0760,
newdirection59@yahoo.com
311 Creamery Lane, Hoytsville, UT 84017



Meet Our New Members

Susan is a native Utahn and graduated from Bountiful High School. For many years she had her own Cosmetology salon in Salt Lake. In 1997 she moved to Summit County. She has worked in the Summit County Sheriff's office and was elected County Clerk of Summit County. At the moment she holds the position of Vice Chair of the Summit County Democratic Party. Susan devotes lots of time to volunteering for non-profits – the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Make A Wish and the Boy Scouts – to name a few.

NADINE GILLMOR, 435-783-5250, ngillmor@allwest.net
P.O. Box 130, Oakley, UT 84055

Nadine grew up in Roosevelt but moved to Salt Lake in 1952 where she helped start the Salt Lake County Democratic Party. In 1983 she and her husband moved to Oakley to continue the ranching started by his family two generations ago. Nadine helped move the 10,000 mother sheep up and down the mountains. She is a Foundation Board Member of UVSC (now Utah Valley State University in Provo) and has set up scholarships at Utah State. She also works for 4H in Summit County.

SARA JONES, 801-944-9991, sarajones2008@hotmail.com
8581 Escalante Dr. Sandy, UT 84093

Sara moved to Salt Lake from Kentucky six months ago. In Kentucky she was teaching World Politics at Morehead State University – a position she held for three years. Sara graduated from UC in San Diego with a degree in Political Science and went on to do her graduate work at Claremont Graduate University. She taught high school in California before moving to Kentucky. Missing the west she moved to Salt Lake where she is now the Director of Educational Excellence and Community Outreach at the Utah Education Association.

LAURA SAGERS, 801-539-8848, laura.sagers@IMAIL.ORG
510 11th Ave, Salt Lake, UT 84103

Laura grew up in Lawrence, Kansas. She got a degree in Political Science from Utah State and later worked as a pollster for Dan Jones. After starting a family, Laura decided she was really interested in nursing and took nursing at Westminster College. She is now a nurse at Primary Children's Hospital. Laura has two daughters and a son and two grandchildren. In what little spare time she has, she enjoys reading, knitting and cooking.

Park City Unit Looks at Session

LEGISLATIVE
WRAP-UP
March 28 (Sat.)
2-3:30 p.m.
Summit County
Library, Kimball
Junction

Rep. Christine
Johnson,
D-Salt Lake
Rep. Mel Brown,
R-Coalville

WENDY ZEIGLER, 2557 Valley View Ave, Holladay, UT 84117

Wendy attended the University of Colorado and graduated from the University of Utah in Physical Therapy. She coaches Speed and Agility in children and young people. She is on the board of Utah Open Lands and has been active in the Friends of Avalanche Forecast. At present she is busy finding jobs and furnishings for a Sudanese family. Her sons are 14 and 16 years old. Wendy joined the League primarily to give financial support.

CARLA SOPHIA PITCHER, 435-347-8125; (cell) 435-631-0610

carla.pitcher@yahoo.com

7990 Meadow View Drive, Park City, UT 84098

Carla attended the University of Utah, Westminster and BYU. Her career emphasis has been on Business Governance and Government Interface. It was the suffering of children she witnessed that turned her into an activist. She has been an activist in the fields of international free trade, ethical business practices, human and civil rights and child labor. Carla enjoys reading, cooking international foods and Italian Opera. She has 2 sons.

ZITA BELL, 801-943-2422, zitabell@hotmail.com

7589 Quicksilver Drive, Salt Lake, UT 84121

Zita is a returning member of the League having taken a sabbatical for a few years. Zita attended the University of Utah, Harvard and University of California at Sacramento. She has degrees in Political Science and in Cognitive Language Development. Originally from Guatemala, Zita has lived all over the world as her father was a civil engineer. A naturalized citizen, Zita came to Utah in 1974. She currently works part time in the Brighton ticket office – this allows her lots of ski time. She has one son and two daughters.

WENDY SMITH, 801-253-9800 11281 Palisade Rim Drive, So Jordan, UT 84095

R. DOUGLAS JOHNSON, 435-656-1229, 1760 Towab Way, Ivins, UT 84738

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Get Active, The Board Wants You!

Interested in getting more involved in the League?

We are anticipating openings on the Board of the LWV of SLC beginning fall 2009.

Don't hesitate —longtime League members will be happy to mentor you.

If you'd like to be a part of this dynamic group or want more information, contact Marilyn Smith at cincoymaya@msn.com or 801-273-0369.

Redistricting Panel Proposal Resurfaces

Long a priority for the League of Women Voters, the process of redistricting is on the minds of Salt Lake County Council members, and the Salt Lake League has been watching closely.

Salt Lake League members have been attending a variety of local government committee meetings in January and February, and have covered several interesting topics. Perhaps the most interesting was the County Council's move to establish a non-partisan panel to recommend redistricting boundaries after the 2010 census. According to the proposal, it would have eight members, no more than three from each party and at least two representatives of voters from the general public.

Our League has always supported non-partisan boards to determine redistricting to avoid gerrymandering "safe" districts for one party or the other. As a result of this announcement, Salt Lake League president Joyce Barnes has proposed to County Mayor Peter Corroon and the County Council that a member of the League be selected for one of these public seats.

In other business, the County Council discussed continuing problems in the Planning and Development Division and purchasing property for open spaces, a long-term aim of the mayor.

At the Salt Lake City Council meetings attended by Leaguers in January, several items of interest came up: the renovation of the Gallivan Center, the Salt Lake City Librarian's annual report to the Council, the Jordan River Blueprint and the 2009 budget picture for Salt Lake City. The budget review was especially interesting as it detailed the sources of revenue for the city and its expenses. The bottom line was that revenue was down in every area except sales taxes on food sales at grocery stores. Council members were clearly hopeful that federal funds will be available from the stimulus package to keep afloat current maintenance projects, like sidewalk repair, and to help finance new projects like the Gallivan Center and trail construction along the Jordan River that have been approved but may have to be placed on hold because of funding shortfalls.

There's always something of interest going on at local government meetings. If you would like to join the local government Observer Corps, please let me know: Kathryn.Fitzgerald@yahoo.com.

Sunshine Week Kicks Off Friday, March 20

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SUNSHINE LAWS EMPOWER ALL OF US TO HOLD OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE!

GET THE INFO!

BE A HERO!



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SUNSHINEWEEK.ORG

Join us Monday, March 23 for a discussion of what the new Administration is or should be doing to promote open government, what you can do to advance that goal, and what the news media are doing to make government information easily available in our community.

That evening, the League of Women Voters Salt Lake Chapter will host a screening of the 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event, held at the Center for American Progress and available via webcast, presents a great opportunity for the public to be involved in the crafting of President Obama's administration's open government directive.

Individuals who are intimately involved in crafting the directive will explain the initiative's goals, receive feedback from the audience, and let members of the public know how they can continue to participate in the discussion.

Following the webcast, a three-person panel (Boyer Jarvis, Donald Meyers and a third yet-to-be announced participant) will discuss the web cast and implications for Utah and local communities.

At the event, to be held at 6 p.m. at Main Salt Lake City Library, 210 East 400 South, the Utah Headliners chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will present its annual Sunshine and Black Hole Awards.

This event is free and open to the public.

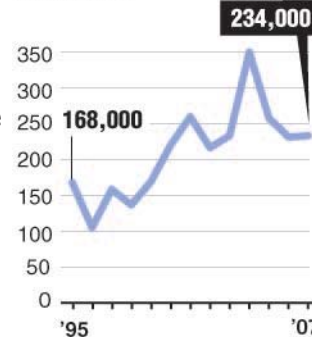
For more information, contact Joyce Barnes at (801) 278-2296

More government secrecy

For every dollar spent declassifying old secrets, federal agencies spend \$185 creating and securing new secrets. A look at the trends:

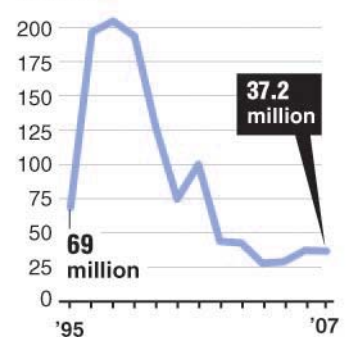
Classifying

Classification decisions, in thousands



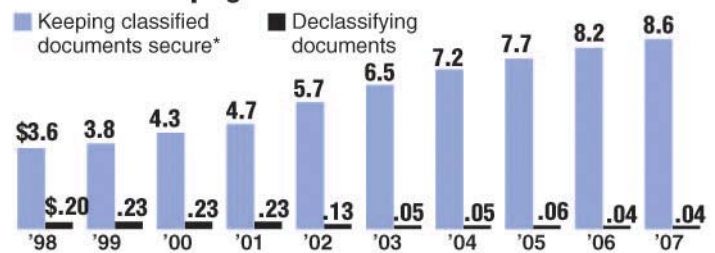
Declassifying

Pages declassified, in millions



The cost of keeping secrets

In billions of dollars



*Does not include the CIA; its spending on classification activities is classified
Source: OpenTheGovernment.org Graphic: Judy Treible

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First National Sunshine Week

“Your Right to Know” was launched in March 2005 and will be celebrated in 2009 from March 15-21. Sunshine Week’s intent is to raise awareness of the importance of open government to everyone in the community, not just journalists. Sponsors are the American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, American Library Association, Center for American Progress, League of Women Voters, National Freedom of Information Coalition, Open-TheGovernment.org, Public Citizen, Special Libraries Association, Sunshine Week, and the Sunlight Foundation.

Obama: Transparency a Touchstone of Presidency FOI orders herald new standard of openness, end to era of secrecy

“Let me say it as simply as I can: Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency,” President Obama said on his first full day in office.

And then he walked the walk — big time.

Obama followed through on his campaign pledges to promote greater government transparency by issuing several directives on openness and accountability. Among them were a memorandum on the Freedom of Information Act, an executive order overturning limitations on release of presidential records, and a memo on government transparency directing the creation of an open government directive within 120 days.

“The way to make a government responsible is not simply to enlist the services of responsible men and women, or to sign laws that ensure that they never stray,” the president said. “The way to make government responsible is to hold it accountable. And the way to make government accountable is make it transparent so that the American people can know exactly what decisions are being made, how they’re being made, and whether their interests are being well served.”

Commenting on his FOIA memorandum that will overturn the doctrine of withholding information promulgated by former Attorney General John Ashcroft, Obama noted, “For a long time now, there’s been too much secrecy in this city. The old rules said that if there was a defensible argument for not disclosing something to the American people, then it should not be disclosed. That era is now over.

“Starting today, every agency and department should know that this administration stands on the side not of those who seek to withhold information but those who seek to make it known.”

Recognizing legitimate withholding such as privacy and national security, Obama added that, “the mere fact that you have the legal power to keep something secret does not mean you should always use it. The Freedom of Information Act is perhaps the most powerful instrument we have for making our government honest and transparent, and of holding it accountable. And I expect members of my administration not simply to live up to the letter but also the spirit of this law.”

Obama also pledged to hold himself “to a new standard of openness. Going forward, anytime the American people want to know something that I or a former President wants to withhold, we will have to consult with the Attorney General and the White House Counsel, whose business it is to ensure compliance with the rule of law. Information will not be withheld just because I say so. It will be withheld because a separate authority believes my request is well grounded in the Constitution.”

While Obama indicated that these directives were just a start and “will not by themselves make government as honest and transparent as it needs to be,” he did call the

OFFICERS**Program Planning Postponed**

1st VP Program
TBA

Education
Patti O'Keefe

Local
Government
Kathryn
Fitzgerald

Natr'l Resources
Polly Hough
Ann Wechsler

Social Policy
TBA

2nd VPs
Voter Service
Mary Fogg
Ruth Gardner

Public Relations
Sue Lind
Missy Bird

SL Voter
Katharine Biele
Pat Klentzman

3rd VP
Organization
Anne Zeigler

Membership
Phyllis Frankel
Margo Thurman

Arrangements
Mary Buchanan

Secretary
Linda Johnson
Sue Click

Treasurer
Stuart Gygi

On the schedule for February unit meetings were discussions of state and local program making – as well as the LWVUS “Electing the President.” At the February 9 board meeting, however, the Salt Lake board decided to postpone program planning. For the League of Women Voters of Utah, the February date seemed less than opportune for effective discussion since the Utah Legislature is only half way through its annual deliberations.

The League of Women Voters at all levels—local, state, and national—is proud of its grassroots, bottom-up program making process. Our members tell their respective boards about their interests, not the other way around. For members, participating in program making is one of the most important League functions. League programs are limited only by our imagination about problems and our womanpower. That being said, the process can be bewildering to new League members and frustrating (as well as stimulating) to more experienced Leaguers.

To get this input, Leagues have experimented with various formats from scheduled unit meetings, general meetings and individual worksheets. The most memorable program planning meetings from my more than 40 years of League membership in two states have been general meetings where members could “brainstorm” together..

So, the Salt Lake League has postponed its program making meeting for now. A later date will allow for more issues debated during the Legislative session to be part of the discussion. As you review what happened during the session be thinking about the statewide issues you would like the Utah League to study, discuss, and take action on.

— Gigi Brandt

actions “the beginning of a new era of openness in our country.”

Of course every beginning sometimes has a little trouble getting started: None of the presidents remarks, memorandum or directives had been posted to the fancy new White House website or blog that evening.

The National Security Archive was among those posting the documents.

And the Associated Press, Reuters and Agence France Presse refused to distribute White House press office photos of the president's first day in the Oval Office after news photographers were denied access.

But, for now, observers hope this is a normal learning curve and not the first act of “transparency theater,” a term coined by John Wonderlich of the Sunlight Foundation.

— from the Sunshine Week home page

http://www.sunshineweek.org/sunshineweek/obama_foia



Hinckley Forums

The University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics offers ongoing forums on topics of political and social interest. Please visit their website:

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/forums/index.html>

Mon. March 23 9:40 a.m.	15th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide: Perspectives from a Survivor and a Prosecutor Louis Gakumba, Rwandan Genocide Survivor Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper, War Crimes Prosecutor, UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (1996-98); Member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Wed. March 25 Noon	Service, Politics and the Environment Jessi Carrier, U of U Student Jen Colby, Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Sustainability Jason Groenewold, HEAL Utah Drew Thompson (moderator) Benneion Center Student Presented by – The Bennion Community Service Center
Wed. March 25 2:00 p.m.	Genocide in Darfur Samuel Totten, member of the U.S. Atrocities Documentations Team; co-author, Genocide in Darfur: Investigating Atrocities in the Sudan; Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Arkansas
Thurs. March 26 9:10 a.m.	What Health Care Reform Will Look Like: The Perspective Within the Beltway John Poelman, Research Analyst, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Health Policy Division, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Thurs. March 26 1:45 p.m.	Preventive War in Theory and Practice Jack Levy, Board of Governors' Professor of Political Science, Rutgers University, and Senior Associate, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University Rutgers University Ambassador John & Marcia Price Lecture Series in American Foreign Policy and Conference on Grand Strategy in the Interwar Years
Tues. March 31 1:30 p.m.	Careers and Internships in the Foreign Service Amy Hyatt, Diplomat in Residence, Arizona State University, 23 year career Foreign Service Officer

Local Meetings Unmasked

If you are a member of the League's Observer Corps, or if you are just interested in visiting a local government meeting, Kathryn Fitzgerald has compiled a list, with dates, times and websites, which is available on the Salt Lake web page:
<http://lwwutah.org/saltlakecounty.html>

LWW Utah State Convention 2009

Red Lion Hotel

161 W 600 South

SLC UT 84101

May 15 and 16

Friday Dinner 6:30

Dinner with Speaker

Guests welcome!!

Wine by the glass extra

*Come help decide future League
study and action*

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

Business Meeting

Lunch 12:30

with guest speaker

Business concludes 3 p.m.

Save the date!

Guess Who's on Facebook?

Check out our group on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com> - and search for League of Women Voters of Utah. We post Legislative updates and action items, as well as participate in discussions. And don't forget our website — both the Utah League's (<http://lwvutah.org/>) and the Salt Lake League's (<http://lwvutah.org/salt-lakecounty.html>)— for updated information.

Observer Corps Kept Eye on Legislature

This Legislative Session, the League of Women Voters organized an Observer Corps made up of people who wanted to learn more about the Legislature and to become educated about our political process. We felt it was important for our legislators to know that the public was watching them and that we care enough to be up there. It was not easy for many volunteers to get to the Capitol, but with determination, the League was indeed visible and showed that democratic government is helped by the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The Utah Legislature was in session until March 12, and many of our members were there until midnight the last day. A huge THANKYOU to all who participated in this democratic process by attending sessions, listening on-line, writing/emailing or calling legislators. Even if you weren't successful in your efforts, your efforts have been appreciated and should make you proud.

We hope you will attend our Annual Legislative Wrap-up on March 19 (Thurs.) at the Girl Scout Headquarters from 5:30-7 p.m. There we will hear from several of our prominent legislators. The Park City unit has scheduled a Legislative Wrap-up on March 28 (Sat.) from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Summit County Library, Kimball Junction. Already committed to attend – Reps. Christine Johnson and Mel Brown. Everyone is invited.

— *Anne Zeigler*

Electoral College Debate Continues

When the founding fathers made big decisions as they created our Constitution, little did they realize that in 2009 we would be debating whether or not to continue with the Electoral College. And I certainly did not think, eons ago in civics class, that I would be leading a group of savvy and sometimes sassy ladies and gentlemen in a discussion of this very convoluted topic!

BUT — the topic is truly fascinating and frustrating. League members tackled it in unit meetings last month, and will be seeking consensus in April. Stay tuned, and be sure to read some of the voluminous material on the subject.

— *Ann O'Connell*

New Website Engages Public Dialogue

A new website will allow the public to share their ideas with members of the Governor’s Commission on Strengthening Utah’s Democracy.

The website, www.strengthendemocracy.org, allows the public to post opinions on issues related to the commission’s charge from Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. to find ways to increase voter participation.

Through the site, the public can also contact commission members and view meeting schedules. The group’s next meeting is March 28 in the KUED board room at 101 Wasatch Drive. All meetings are open to the public.

The commission, led by the University of Utah’s Hinckley Institute of Politics Director Kirk Jowers, is looking at legislative ethics, campaign finance laws, redistricting, lobbying regulations and how elections are conducted.

— *The Deseret News*

Mark Your Calendars

- Thurs, April 9
Community Luncheon
Marriott Hotel downtown
Sponsor a table of 10 to hear and honor Karen Hale and Pat Bagley.

- July 4
Murray Fourth of July Parade

GIVE THE GIFT OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!

The gift of membership to the League of Women Voters is an excellent way to introduce friends and family to issues that matter to everyone living in the Salt Lake City area. Since the beginning, the League of Women Voters has believed that active and informed citizens are vital to the health of democracy. Help support the League’s mission by giving an annual membership to someone you care about.

Simply fill out the coupon below (or go online) and return it to the League office with dues payment of \$50 (\$10 for students). We will send a welcome letter to the new member(s).

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Your Name: _____

Your phone: _____ email: _____

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization
that encourages informed and active participation in government.*

UNIT MEETINGS FOR MARCH WILL BE GENERAL MEETINGS

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

March 19 (Thurs)

5-7 p.m.

Girl Scout Headquarters

445 East 4500 South

Light Refreshments will be served

SUNSHINE WEEK MEETING

March 23 (Mon.)

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Auditorium of Main Library

(See article on pgs 5-7 for more details)