



League of Women Voters of Utah

The Utah Voter

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Volume 74 Summer 2005 Issue 1

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Important Dates:

- Don't forget July 19th - Women's Suffrage Day.** July 19th is the first day of the Seneca Falls Convention that started the women's suffrage movement in 1848.
- And, in August we have another day of celebration: On August 26, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. was finally ratified, granting women the right to vote nationwide. President Carter designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day, as a reminder of women's continuing efforts for equality.**

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK THROUGH THE DECADES

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has worked for 85 years to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

The League’s enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure: a national organization with potent partners at the grassroots level: 900 local and state Leagues, and Leagues in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. From its inception in 1920, the League has been a trusted and leading voice for change, strengthening our democratic system at every level of government. The League has evolved over time to tackle the emerging issues of the day and throughout has remained true to our essential purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens.

- **1920s** Secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; League received pen used to sign the Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of married women.
- **1930s** Helped shape the Social Security Act; fought for child labor laws and environmental protections and against political patronage; received award from Woodrow Wilson Foundation for “education work on problems of American foreign policy.”

- **1940s** Built public support for creation of the United Nations; League's "Dumbarton Oaks Campaign" readied nation to accept international obligations.
- **1950s** Sponsored the "Freedom Agenda" – a nationwide program of close to 1,000 community education forums on civil liberties; President Eisenhower delivered major foreign policy address to the League.
- **1960s** Fought against discrimination in education, employment and housing; built citizen support for Economic Opportunity Amendments; President Johnson proclaims "League of Women Voters Week;" supported presidential suffrage for DC.
- **1970s** Sponsored televised presidential debates; initiated major grassroots campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; built public support for the Clean Water Act.
- **1980s** Played critical role in the push for fairer tax policies; leader in the fight to strengthen the Voting Rights Act and extend its major provisions for 25 years; helped defeat constitutional amendment that would have overturned Roe v. Wade; sponsored series of nationwide hearings on Clean Air Act.
- **1990s** Led successful fight for passage and implementation of the Motor Voter law; played critical role in passage of the Clean Air Act; launched voter empowerment campaign "Take Back the System;" advocated for campaign finance and health care reforms; partnered with Kaiser Family Foundation in "Citizen's Voice for Citizen's Choice" health care reform campaign; worked with women in emerging democracies.
- **2000s** Offered first "candidate debates" online through an Internet-based voter education program (DNet – DemocracyNet); instrumental in congressional enactment of Help America Vote Act and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act; launched nationwide voter education campaign on "5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day."

President's Letter

The League of Women Voters Utah is committed to making democracy work across the State. Yes, you can make democracy work by being involved locally! The League of Women Voters provides many benefits to active members of local leagues – networking, lobbying, investigating issues, facilitating community dialogues and sponsoring political debates to name a few. Next time you attend a League meeting or event, invite a friend or two and ask them to join.

In June, Sandy Peck, Joyce Barnes and I attended 2005 LWVUS Council and came away inspired, educated and ready to make the commitment to building the strength of our membership and local community – educating policy makers and the general public on pressing issues, taking concerted action to bring about positive change and communicating with the elected officials and the media. Because of the all the active members of the local Leagues across the State, it is easy to make the commitment to make a difference. My focus this year is to help build the strength of the local Leagues and the State Board. Whether it be telephone conference calls, personal visits, or providing financial resources, I am determined that women will have a place at the table with the League of Women Voters. I want to create an environment that allows all to become better informed about issues that impact their lives and the communities in which they live and work – issues on which they can make a difference.

We are welcoming in new board members and many changes in leadership across the State. I want to take a moment to thank all those who have served over the past year on the State Board – Nanette Benowitz, Carolyn Nelson, Gaye Littleton, Jane Osterhaus, Pat Brim, Georgia Thompson, and Carolyn Dunn. There are many others who have made contributions as well, but they are too numerous to mention by name. Please accept the thanks of your fellow League members for your service and commitment to making democracy work. Thank you to the Ogden League for hosting the 2005 State LWV Convention in April. Convention is a great way to connect with others and vote on issues important to the State and Local Leagues.

In July, the new Board worked hard at Retreat to plan a year ahead that would be engaging for all as well as support our local Leagues, the Lobby Corps and make membership in the League a rewarding experience while at the same time increasing our membership.

Working on a study is the heart of the League. Thank you to Marilyn Odell and her committee for undertaking a study on Redevelopment Agencies and to Bonnie Fernandez and her committee for a study on Bias Crimes. Marelynn Zipser will be finalizing the consensus on nuclear waste. Check the League's website at www.lwvut.org for more information on studies that have been completed. Additionally, the LWV Utah web site



contains a wealth of information, including valuable links. Don't forget to check out the LWVUS web site www.lwv.org as well to keep informed.

Thank you for your commitment to be a member of the League. You are critical to the success of our organization in Utah. Enjoy the summer. The State Board is here to help you – now and in the months ahead so do not hesitate to call me or any member of the Board.

Warm Regards, *Helen*

STATE CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters of Utah would like to express its appreciation to Shelleice Stokes, Marilyn Odell, Marcia Harris and Sherilyn Bennion for their gracious hospitality in organizing and hosting our state convention this year.

On Friday night, Mark Shurtleff, our second term Utah Attorney General, spoke on our proposed state study issue, "Hate Crime Legislation in Utah". Mark Shurtleff is a strong proponent of the need for so-called "Hate Crimes" legislation. As our keynote speaker, Mr. Shurtleff explained why he felt new legislation is necessary.



On Saturday, we were privileged to have Representative LaWanna Shurtliff from Ogden speak to us during lunch. Lou represents the voters of Utah House District 10 in Ogden. Secondary School Teaching has been her profession (she's now retired), and the Recognitions and Honors she has received include Candidate for Teacher of the Year; Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence; Legislator of the Year, Utah Council on Domestic Violence (twice). The legislation she sponsors reflects not only her strong support for public education but a determination to protect victims of domestic violence. Lou is also a member of the Weber League.

Nanette Benowitz, outgoing LWVU President, made the following comments on the state of LWVU:

To every state board member, we owe a heartfelt thank you and a salute for a job well done. Each of these women are busy and involved in their respective communities and in their local leagues but took the time to come to Salt Lake and participate in the policy and decision making process of the LWVU Board.

The state league has tried over the last two years to respond to the needs of our changing local membership by looking for ways to be more efficient with our time and money. We have been successful in raising grant money that has allowed us to design and implement a state web site (www.lwvutah.org) This web site has enabled us to expand the information we provide to our



membership and to the public. For example, we had available on line: a comprehensive VOTER'S GUIDE; current league publications including the VOTER and studies; links to local league's web sites; and a extensive legislative information site which included our league legislative priorities, updates, background on legislation, testimony and legislative alerts. Using email has allowed us the ability to communicate more effectively, produce more information and research, and still allow board members to be career women.

These shifts in how the league operates have allowed us to stay connected with the local leagues, maintain a league office and have a voice in the state without raising dues (PMP).



Kathy Dorn, Marilyn Odell, Janice Gygi, Helen Peters, Marelynn Zipser, Nancy Cooper, and Nancy Wingelaar

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HELEN PETERS (President) has been a Salt Lake League member for several years. She worked on a study of Salt Lake City Community Councils, reflecting her long time interest in community planning. In her own community, she is outgoing Chair of the Sugar House Community Council and also functions as a Developer Liaison to facilitate development that is pedestrian friendly and compatible to Sugar House's unique character. She has served as a committee member on a design competition for a \$13 million Ballet West facility in Sugar House and was part of a team that received a National Endowment for the Arts Public Works grant for a design competition to connect Sugar House Park and the Hidden Hollow Natural Area. For six years, she served as Chair of Salt Lake City's Capital Improvement Program Citizen's Advisory Board and is the current chair of the Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee.

Helen has held positions as Director of Development for The Children's Museum of Utah and Major Gifts Manager for United Way and Development Officer for the College of Humanities at the University of Utah. She has served and provided leadership to a number of nonprofit boards including the local YWCA, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, the Great Basin Earth Institute, the League of Women Voters and the Family Counseling Center. She is a founder and Executive Committee for the Parley's Trails and Tunnels Committee. She holds a bachelor's of science in Sociology and a master's in Public Administration from the University of Utah. Helen will be entering the master's in urban planning program at the University of Utah this fall.

MARELYNN ZIPSER (Secretary) Marelynn has been LWVUT secretary since 1999. She says the job is much simpler now that almost all Board members have e-mail, and it has been a wonderful way for her to use the experience she has gained in almost 40 years of league membership in Colorado, Texas, and Utah. Marelynn is interested in conservation issues. She fears we will not leave a healthy legacy if our policy makers do not give conservation stronger weight in their decision-making.

JANICE GYGI (Development Director) is a marketing professor and associate dean of the School of Business at Utah Valley State College. She graduated from Highland High School in Salt Lake City and has lived in Boston, Philadelphia, Alexandria VA, and Dallas. She has served as secretary of the Salt Lake LWV and treasurer and president of the Utah LWV, and she is a member of the AAUW. Janice has three children and seven grandchildren, and her husband, Stuart, is treasurer of the Salt Lake LWV.

SHERILYN BENNION (Communications Director) has been active in League for 30 years. She has been co-president in Eureka CA and currently serves as secretary for the Salt Lake League. Her special interests are education and environment. Having retired from her long time position as journalism professor at Humboldt State University in California, she now finds time to enjoy traveling, hiking in the nearby mountains and catching up on her reading.

NANCY COOPER (Nominating Committee Chair) joined the LWV shortly after coming to Utah in 1969. Since then she has been president of the Davis County League several times and co-president of State League. Her educational background includes graduation from Munich American High School, attendance at Stephens College in Missouri for two years, and graduation from the University of California at Santa Barbara in Social Studies (History and Political Science). Nancy currently works with her husband in a small company related to the mining industry. Until recently she was a board member of the women's shelter in Davis County, and she is director of the Salt Lake Committee on Foreign Relations.

GIGI BRANDT (Vice President/Program) joined the League in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1967. She has been a local and state study chairperson (education, public transportation, water and energy), Voter Service chair, a board member in Massachusetts and Utah, and Salt Lake president. She has edited the Salt Lake Voter for what she describes as "too long." Gigi served on two LWVUS committees, the energy study committee and the nominating committee. For the past 15 years she has worked for the Salt Lake School district as a computer lab manager in an elementary school. She and her husband have two adult children and two grandchildren and provide after school care for their kindergartener grandson. She belongs to two book groups, and enjoys knitting, sewing and

gardening. Lately gardening has consisted of zeriscaping their front yard. She enjoys spending summer time at the family cabin in Wyoming outside Yellowstone Park.

LWVUT Existing Positions in Brief

League Existing Positions in Brief based on past consensus. The state League board can take action at any time on existing positions.

GOVERNMENT

G.1. *Reorganization of State Government*

The League supports more efficient state government with well defined lines of authority. The governor should have authority to initiate administrative reorganization.

G.2. *The Utah Constitution*

The Utah Constitution should be redrawn into a document that is clear, concise, confined to fundamentals and up to date. A constitutional convention should be called. The Legislature should not sit as the convention.

G.3. *A Unified Judicial System*

The League supports the concept of a state unified judicial system with clear lines of authority, responsibility and accountability.

G.4. *Election Laws and Procedures*

The League supports fair and equitable election laws, liberal residency requirements for voting, fair reapportionment, year-round voter registration and a shorter election process.

G.5. *Campaign Finance*

The League believes that the public has the right to know the source of candidates' campaign funds by requiring candidates to report both before and after elections.

PACs should be required to register with the Lt. Governor's office.

G.6. *Reapportionment and Redistricting*

The basic criteria for reapportionment and redistricting are the standards of each citizen's right to vote, the equal value of each vote, and effective representation regardless of where that citizen resides. The League supports meeting strict anti-gerrymandering standards and judicial review. The League supports establishing a bipartisan commission that would serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature. The Legislature would approve a final plan that would be subject to approval by the courts.

TAX POLICY

T.1. *Taxation*

Taxes should be both adequate and fair for all those paying them. Other important criteria are benefits received, stability, responsiveness and simplicity.

T.2. *Property taxes*

Property taxes should be assessed equitably, with annual reappraisal if it is financially feasible. Property tax exemptions should be removed from the Constitution and enacted by statute.

T.3. *Income taxes*

Utah income taxes should be more progressive. Tax brackets should be spread so that the top rate is reached at a higher income level and the tax rate on higher incomes should be increased.

T.4. *Sales taxes*

All current sales tax exemptions should undergo periodic review, and there should be a formal procedure for review of proposed sales tax exemptions. The sales tax on food should be either eliminated or reduced gradually until it is eliminated.

NATURAL RESOURCES

NR.1. *Energy Development*

The League, fully cognizant of the problem of energy supply and demand in the state and the nation, recognizes that Utah possesses many resources that can be used in the solution of this problem. We are concerned that these resources be used in ways that protect the environmental, social and economic needs of our citizens and citizens of the nation. Responsible decision-making must involve local communities, state government, consumers and energy resource developers.

NR.2. *Land Use*

The League favors state involvement in wise land use in order to reduce negative impacts on the environment. We encourage setting of minimum state standards and provision of technical and planning assistance to local and regional governing bodies

NR.3. *Water Resources*

The League recognizes the need for coordinated river basin planning and supports enforcement of water pollution abatement measures. We believe that the public must be involved in regulatory and policy decisions about water at the state and local level.

NR.4. *Water Taxation*

The League favors a stable and equitable revenue flow for water delivery infrastructure, including user fees and assessments on each water account or hook-up. Water policies and fees should be transparent, approved by voters or their representatives and subject to time limits.

SOCIAL POLICY

SP. 1. *Public Schools*

The League supports adequate financing of the public schools to ensure quality education.

SP. 2. *Higher Education*

The League supports action to promote economic development through quality public and higher education.

SP. 3. *Corrections*

The League supports action to establish jail standards and to encourage community-based corrections facilities.

SP. 4. *Housing*

The League believes that state and local governments should pursue actions which address the problems of homeless persons and increase the supply of decent affordable housing for both renters and owners.

SP. 5. *Child Care*

We recognize the need for and support the availability of child care for families of all income levels.

SP. 6. *Women's Issues*

The League supports a statutory definition of marital property which establishes automatic co-ownership of property acquired by the efforts of either spouse during the marriage.

SP. 7. *Juvenile Justice*

We support more facilities and treatment options, especially for female, minority and mentally ill offenders and youth in transition from secure care to parole. We support rehabilitation tailored to urban/rural needs, early risk assessment and intervention, and professional evaluation of all programs.

SP. 8. *Corrections*

We believe effective reintegration into society should be the primary focus of prison programs, including access to transition services, literacy high school diploma and vocation training. Female inmates should have the same access to education, jobs, programming and recreational facilities as male inmates.

LWV-Utah Program Gigi Brandt VP-Program

Delegates to the Utah LWV Convention on April 30, adopted an ambitious program for the 2005-2007 biennium. Two new studies, Bias Crimes and Redevelopment Agency (RDA) laws were adopted as well as a review of League positions on taxation and education. See below.

For many League members serving on a study committee is a seminal experience. A study committee needs researchers, interviewers, and writers. Members can also serve on the editing committee. For the novice, attending an interview is a great way to get involved.

The Bias Crimes and RDA committees are already at work with publication dates scheduled for November and January. Bonnie Fernandez (566-0358, Fernan@xmission.com) serves as the Bias Crime chairperson, and Marilyn Odell (393-7205, maodell@aol.com) is the RDA committee chair. Call or e-mail either of one of them to get involved—you won't regret it.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UTAH PROGRAM 2005- 2007

- I ACT to 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. Act to 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.

- II. Review current Utah League tax positions to resolve inconsistencies and to determine their adequacy for current tax policy issues.
 - A. Review the report of the 2004 Individual Income Tax and Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Task Force and former Governor Walker's 2004 tax recommendations.
 - B. Monitor the 2005 Tax Reform Task Force.
- III. Review current Utah League education positions to determine their adequacy for current education issues. Review current public education funding sources.
- IV. Act to promote community awareness of the issue of health care for the uninsured.
 - A. Review LWVUS positions on health policy.
 - B. Monitor the 2005 Privately Owned Health Care Organization Task Force.
- V. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding nuclear waste.
- VI. Act to implement League consensus positions regarding the Utah corrections system.
- VII. Study Hate-Crimes legislation.

The Utah Legislature failed to pass effective hate crimes legislation once again in 2005, for the 9th year in a row. Even though it is a topic of heated discussion, clarification and updating is needed because its content and form have changed over the years. A group of LWV lobby corps members proposes that the League of Women Voters study hate crimes legislation, including: a history of the legislation, what other states are doing along with the level of effectiveness of their legislation, and concerns from different Utah factions such as the Sutherland Institute and the ACLU. The intent is to use the information to decide if the League of Women Voters will take a position on the issue.
- VIII. Act to protect Utah's citizen initiative process.
- IX. Study Redevelopment Agency law, looking at current Utah statutes, recent changes and the thinking behind these changes, the impact of Redevelopment Agencies on taxes of other entities and on property rights, some examples of current uses of redevelopment agencies, and monitoring what governmental entities use as alternatives to RDA during the coming year.
- X. Provide information about Montana's Silver Bullet Legislative Rule to the public and the Utah legislature. Montana has a legislature evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Each party has 12 silver bullets allowing it to force an issue out of committee to be voted on by the entire body. It has been used 3 times to date.

BIAS CRIMES by Bonnie Fernandez and Kathy Dorn
 New Statewide League Study on "Enhanced Penalty for Bias Motivated Offense"

In the 2005 Utah legislative session, another attempt at so-called "hate crimes" legislation was presented, for the ninth year in a row. Once again, Representatives did not even pass the bill out of committee for debate by the full House.

Individual League members in the lobby corps could sense strong feelings in the air while the legislation was being discussed and wanted to speak officially, but could not since the Utah League did not have an official position. That prompted a discussion about studying the issue and working to arrive at an official League position. League interest in this issue increased when Utah



Attorney General Mark Shurtleff was the keynote speaker at League convention in Ogden.

“Hate crime” is a misnomer. A more accurate description is “bias motivated crime.”

Penalty Enhancement for a bias motivated crime would not apply to a criminal action merely because of what someone thinks, believes, or because they belong to a certain organization. Evidence of bias or prejudice has to be present at the time the crime is committed.

For example: Someone throws a rock through a window of a home of a Vietnamese family. That is not a bias motivated crime; that is vandalism. If the same thing happens, but the rock has a note tied to it saying, “We don’t want you Asians in our neighborhood,” many believe that action, because of the evidence attached to it, should categorize the crime a bias motivated crime, subject to an enhanced penalty.

There is much to research. There are many points of view. There are many questions to be answered. The purpose of the study is to present objective information on the subject, so that Leaguers and others will have a clear understanding of the issues involved.

A committee has been formed and is busy researching and conducting interviews meant to lead to determining study questions and getting the information ready for local League unit meetings in November. It is hoped that consensus will be achieved in December. We hope the local Leagues around the state will use this topic as a way to energize their members and even attract new members.

Study members include Kathy Dorn, Bonnie Fernandez, Marie Fulmer, Pat Klentzman, Missy Larson, Carolyn Nelson, Julien Puzey, and Joycelynn Straight. The committee work is in its early stages and we welcome anyone who would like to work on this study. Please contact Bonnie Fernandez, chair (801-566-0358) for more information.

WATCH FOR MORE INFO AND THE STUDY THIS FALL

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY STUDY IS GOING!! By Marilyn Odell



Redevelopment Agencies seemed like a mass of confusing information with frequent articles in the paper and groups both for and against voicing opinions. Although the balance of the benefits versus the social and financial costs is still a big question, the basics are becoming clearer as the first segment of the study being written details some information about the legislation.

The study of Redevelopment Agencies was approved by our April 30 convention. It was proposed by the League of Women Voters of Weber County because of the controversy about local Redevelopment Agencies. Many League members in Salt Lake County also voiced an interest in the subject. Since the Weber League proposed the study we volunteered to provide the leadership and I ended up as the Study Chair.

Sandy sent out a request for participants and I sent a draft outline to those who responded. Bonnie Fernandez, Joycelynn Straight, Roxanne Hinds and I met in the League office, revised the outline and took responsibility for some of the outline items. We decided that since Bonnie and Joycelynn were also on the Hate Crimes Study Committee and they plan to ask for consensus before the end of the year that it would be an impossibility to ask for consensus on this study, too. However, we did set a goal to have the study completed by January so that individuals could use it in meeting with their legislators.

In addition to those at the original meeting, Alice Steiner, Katie Spendlove and Diana Rollins have agreed to help. Pat Comarell, Kathryn McKay and Sue Skordos have expressed interest but not commitment yet.

Many of us have been attending meetings of the Tax Reform Task Force, especially the Subcommittee on RDAs and Other Taxes.

We need all the help we can get and would love to have more people on the committee. If you’re interested, call me at 801-393-7225 or email me at maodell@aol.com. Even if you just want to do one interview and write it up, we can use you.

We've scheduled our next meeting for Friday, August 12 at 1:00 p.m. because that worked for the people at the first meeting. I'm hoping to find a place to meet in Bountiful since that would be accessible for both Weber and Salt Lake County members. You're invited to join us.

LWVUS Council in Washington DC

By Sandy Peck

Early in June your president Helen Peters and I had a chance to catch up on how National League is doing. We met at the Marriott Metro Center in downtown Washington. to look at program issues, budget and membership, plus some very special panels, what's happening at the UN, priorities of our lobby corps in Congress, workshops and a Sunday evening banquet with David Gergen, journalist and past presidential advisor.

We heard some good news right away. League membership is up and we are operating in the black. Office space and staff were consolidated and the number of National Voters was reduced from 4 to 3. Contributions to the League and Education Fund for specific projects, such as studies and forums, are up as well. But donors are giving less for general operations.

A major program project is "Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities," an eight-month initiative that fosters public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security. Under "Local Voices" local leagues hold their own forums with grants from LWVUS. Since September 11 and the Patriot Act, League members have shown a strong interest in this issue. You may remember that past League president Nanette Benowitz participated in a hearing on the Patriot Act held by Senator Orrin Hatch at the University of Utah Law School. The League supports the SAFE Act instead of making the Patriot Act more restrictive.

At council a civil liberties panel urged national immigration reform but cautioned against using local law enforcement to track immigrants. Local police usually do not want the job and it can damage trust between them and immigrant communities. Also it leads to profiling, which they called ineffective based on experience with drug law enforcement. The panel also discussed the frustration of local officials who can't get the information about chemical facilities they need from companies and federal officials to prevent terrorist attacks or accidents where a million people might be at risk.

"Local Voices" is just part of the League "Democracy Agenda," which promotes representative government and preservation of Constitutional rights, areas in which the League has special interest and expertise. Besides civil liberties, the agenda includes improving election procedures to comply with the Help America Vote Act to be sure every vote counts, redistricting, an independent judiciary, and campaign finance reform including public financing.

Utah has made considerable progress on HAVA. We have selected new voting equipment and are using provisional ballots and no-excuse absentee voting. The next legislature is likely to address early voting and perhaps voter id requirements and redistricting. Judges in Utah are appointed, then subject to retention elections. But in other states judges are directly elected, making campaign contributions more likely to interfere with judicial independence. We do have campaign contribution disclosure laws that apply to judicial retention elections but no limits on campaign contributions. Council supported enacting an "Our Democracy, Our Airwaves" law as a way to achieve campaign finance reform. By requiring free air time for candidates from radio and television stations (who are using our publicly owned airwaves for free, by the way), such a law would make campaigns less dependent on raising the extravagant amounts of money they now need for paid ads.

May 28, 2005 LWVUS

ACTION ALERT: OPEN HEARINGS ON PATRIOT ACT



The Patriot Act was enacted quickly by Congress in the days following 9/11 with very little deliberation or debate. Now there is time for thoughtful and open debate, as certain provisions of the Act do not expire until December 31, 2005. It is critical that the deliberations concerning the Patriot Act be conducted as openly as possible. The pending Senate Intelligence Committee markup session should not be held behind closed doors, there should be no rush to the floor of the Senate for a vote and there should be thorough consideration of the impact of the Patriot Act on civil liberties.

Support H.R. 1526, the SAFE Act -May 19, 2005

TO: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

FROM: Kay J. Maxwell, President

RE: Support H.R. 1526, the SAFE Act

The League of Women Voters believes that basic civil liberties must be preserved and protected as the nation seeks to guard against terrorism and other threats to national security. We therefore ask that you support and cosponsor H.R. 1526, the SAFE Act (Security and Freedom Ensured Act of 2005).

For the past 85 years, members of the League have been steadfast in their conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country. There are fundamental principles that guard our liberty -- from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches -- that must be preserved.

Today, League members are concerned about the impact of the USA Patriot Act passed by Congress in October 2001. We believe that the SAFE Act would address some of the most problematic provisions of the USA Patriot Act. It would limit so-called "sneak and peek" searches, which allow secret warrants, to specific instances where there is a risk of flight or danger to life or physical safety.

In addition, the SAFE Act would limit law enforcement requests for business records by requiring evidence that the records relate to a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power, and are not merely part of a "fishing expedition." In sum, we believe that the SAFE Act would provide reasonable checks on some of the most extreme sections of the USA Patriot Act.

These are challenging times for all Americans. We recognize that there are real and serious terrorist threats. The League believes that the SAFE Act would preserve authority for law enforcement officials to combat terrorism. At the same time, it would protect innocent Americans from unrestricted government surveillance. The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor and support H.R. 1526.

MEMBERSHIP BUILDING

Successful habits of growing Leagues by Nancy Wingelaar

League is an organization driven by membership. To survive and prosper we need members who are willing to devote time, money, and energy to pursuing our goals. Yet with women and men busier now than ever before, how do we attract members and retain them? When surveyed, all Local Leagues say that maintaining and growing their membership is a difficult task. The State Board "feels your pain". This year we are focusing on membership and plan to have a membership chair appointed in the near future who will help Locals with membership recruitment and retention. National is also concerned and has done a non-scientific survey across the country to help us understand what practices and components successfully growing Leagues identify as important.

Here are some general common practices:

- They have interesting program (issues important to the community- local, state, national)
- They understand and build on League's trusted reputation
- They have a High degree of visibility and are externally oriented
 - ✓ 85% Have local press coverage due to relationships with media
 - ✓ 80% Regularly submit letters to the editor
 - ✓ Use other visibility opportunities such as cable, public access, radio
- They make yearly membership plans and set goals. Set a window of time and have everyone committed to bringing in new members
- The League as a whole is involved in membership recruitment and they ASK, ASK, ASK, people to JOIN. To retain people they follow up by first welcoming them into the organization with a new member welcome session and then giving them a job.






The most important way to build membership at the local level is to have LEAGUE MEMBERS ACTIVELY ASK OTHERS TO JOIN. Ask in your own League and you'll find that a majority joined because someone they know asked them to join. Two groups will become involved – very busy people (because they like to be involved) and people who have NEVER been asked. So don't make assumptions ... JUST ASK THEM!

People will join a group that:

- Makes a difference on issues community members consider vitally important
- Provides flexibility, including many different ways to get involved
- Encourages networking and building contacts in the community
- Allows members to learn new skills that will be useful in becoming community leaders or in advancing one's career
- Offers opportunities for having fun and building relationships
- Respects individual contributions, skills, experiences, and available time

This sounds exactly like League to me. Take it upon yourself to invite at least two people to League this year and welcome them, show them the ropes, involve them, and thank them. You may be surprised at your success in building your League.

Fun facts about LWVUS

-  Cost of a major League study-- \$300,000
-  Cost of a page in the National Voter-- \$1000
-  Number of page-views on Election Day of D-net, the LWV on-line Voter Guide -- 25 million
-  Number of action alert responses to members of Congress in 2004 --30,000. In 2005 so far --41,797
-  Book recommendation from David Gergen: To understand religious right viewpoint, read *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

LOCAL LEAGUE UPDATES

League of Women Voters of Grand County:

- The Grand County League elected officers at their May annual meeting. They are: Cynthia Smith and Barbara Geller - Co-Presidents; Karen Robinson – Treasurer. We have managed for several years to function with a skeleton slate of officers. Someone volunteers to take minutes at each of our meetings and everyone helps with our other projects.
- We are very excited that the Grand County Fair has been brought back to life again, because that is where we had held our silent auction fund raiser for so many years. Since there has been no fair for the last two years, we have had a hard time raising our needed funds. We are now busy collecting items and organizing for the August 19th and 20th event. The money from this event is used for our Candidate's Forum which we sponsor every year. We also are going to register voters at the County Fair.

Cynthia Smith, LWVG co-president

League of Women Voters of Cache County

Cache County has had a hard time finding officers although there are 30 members

- They always have a breakfast with their legislators before the session starts; they provide a list of elected officials "People's Choice", staff voter registration wherever and whenever requested.
- They held a "Meet the Candidates" for school board.



League of Women Voters of Cedar City

Cedar City has 14 members of which there is a small core group who are "addicted" to League.

- They had a meeting about local Water Conservation District, a candidates meeting for school board and city council (in cooperation with other groups). We were unable to secure cooperation of Washington County League to participate in Utah and US studies.
- Our new president is Lynne Brown.

Tom Proffitt



Barbara Prestwich

League of Women Voters of Davis County-

- The Davis league has met and added a few members this year.
- Two very successful meetings were a Meet the Candidates night sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce and a January luncheon with Governor Olene Walker. Both were very well attended and informative.
- Additionally, meetings were held at the County Jail to discuss expansion plans and tour the facility and receive information from a United Way study of Davis County's most pressing human service issues.

Peggy Carrico, President

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake

- July, 2004, we completed negotiations with the Main Salt Lake Library for our Democracy Store, to open in September. It was a stunning success! Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk, provided excellent voting materials and a voting machine. League had visibility in new places and a brand new "audience" plus publicity on KUED, KSL, and the SL Tribune. We closed November 3rd and have been invited back, at our discretion.
- August to October found members working diligently on the State Voter Guide, moderating and timing candidate debates, registering voters and helping make elections run smoothly. September 29 was the date for our visit to the Jordan Valley Water District to talk about water conservation and population growth. Units studied "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank (book and Video). We honored Voter Service Woman Joyce Barnes at our Fall Fete on October 10—a token of our appreciation for her valuable work.
- October brought our Charter Schools study and a panel on Charter Schools presented by AAUW. Members attended KUED candidate debates and answered the question, "Where can I get the League's Voter Guide?" Answer: on line with a few hard copies at libraries. Some of us gathered signatures for the conservation funding initiative (on the ballot after a hard fight). It lost.
- November- a few members served as judges at the polls. Unit study was Part 1 of our study of Elections Systems, setting out "The Criteria" for a good election system. We began to examine proposed state legislation.
- December marked our Holiday Social. We were honored to have Rep. Scott Daniels speak on civil liberties, well qualified as a former judge and retiring from the State Legislature this year. His wisdom will be missed.

- January- we continued to monitor and lobby the SL County Council on a weekly basis. Voter Service continued to attend New Citizens' Swearing-In Ceremonies and provide voter registration opportunities.
- We continued Legislative activities in February and March and studied Election Systems, Part 2, "Major Elections Systems." March brought our Legislative Wrap-up, starring Reps Pat Jones and Jim Dunnigan and our own Sandy Peck. Local and State Program making were accomplished.
- April- studied nuclear waste, enjoyed our state convention, attended our very successful State of the Community Lunch where we heard Patrick Shea, former director of the BLM, and awarded former Gov. Olene Walker the Salt Lake League's Service Award, in absentia.
- May –general meeting on Watershed Issues at the City and County Building., with the Director for watershed management for Salt Lake City.

Pat Nielsen, President

League of Women Voters of Utah County-

- The Utah League held a public candidate forum for Utah County Legislative Candidates, assisted by the BYU Nursing Health Issues class and their instructor and League member Susan Chasson (she was a candidate, too!) League members also met with the Utah County elections clerk to assess the status of implementation of HAVA in the county and had a unit meeting on the election systems material from the California League supplied by state League.
- They visited the state Legislature, attended Women's State Legislative Council, and held a unit meeting to keep up on state issues. County issues were also followed, including transportation (public transit, highways and the Mountainlands Association of Governments program on transportation), county air quality, county support for local library cooperation or county library, and academic freedom and community "values" issues at Utah Valley State College. The League and Women in Leadership met with new County Commissioner Larry Ellertson for a question and answer session.
- At a luncheon meeting with President Sederberg of Utah Valley State College, they explored the role of a state college in Utah Valley and participated in a public forum, "Health Insurance Alternatives for Small Business" and current health statistics for Utah, were presented by Cathy Dunham of the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation.



Mary Lou Huffmon, state liaison

League of Women Voters of Weber County: www.weberleague.org

Tentative Schedule for the coming year:

- July 16 was the new member orientation. **Saturday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. to Noon** . – An orientation for new and old members was held at Cherrywood Condominium Clubhouse, 1120 Canyon Rd. #26. Our guest leader was be Nanette Benowitz, past-president of the Utah League of Women, were addressed. August 26th is Women's Equality".
- On September 17th we will be having our membership picnic at the MTC Park in Ogden. Karen Wickstrom will be speaking on RDA's.
- On October 12 Mark Shurtleff will be addressing the League on the Hate Crimes bill at the Weber County main library.
- We will also be hosting a debate between the City Council candidates in late October.

Brenda Kidman, LWVW President



MEMORIAL FUND

The Memorial Fund, a joint savings account for both State and the Salt Lake Leagues, has \$5000.00 which is used for office supplies and/or equipment. Stuart Gygi, the Salt Lake League Treasurer is the chair and both Salt Lake and State have two representatives. The Memorial Fund Committee meets whenever the office has a need for equipment. For example, the last purchase was two years ago. The fund purchased our current copy/fax/scan/printer.

This fund is available for contributions from members or non-members in memory of League members who have passed away.....such as

Eleanor Stewart Olsen 1910 ~ 2005

Eleanor Stewart Olsen passed away April 22 with her family at her side. She was born in Provo, Utah August 27, 1910. She attended West High School and the University of Utah graduating with a law degree in 1935. She was married to Lawrence Swan Olsen for 60 years and with him raised, as she always remarked, three "almost average children," including past league president Lee Brennan who was also a member of the Utah Tax Commission.

One of the founders of the Utah League of Women Voters, she was active in civic and political affairs. She was the first citizen advocate on the Central Utah Water Board. She ran for the Utah State Legislature, and worked for a short time in the office of Legislative Research. She was a dedicated advocate for women's rights.

The passion of her life was her family and the family homestead in the North Fork of Provo Canyon recently known as Sundance. She was an expert organic gardener and gourmet cook and enjoyed entertaining family and friends.



Memorable Moments from Convention:



Nancy Melling



Kathy Dorn



Helen Peters, Nancy Wingelaar and Marelyn Zipser
singing to Sandy



Marilyn Odell and
Marelynn Zipser



Marie Irvine



Sandy Peck, our executive director