

**League of Women Voters of Salt Lake**

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# The Salt Lake Voter

Joyce Barnes, Sharon Walkington, Co-Presidents

Gigi Brandt, Editor

## February, 2006

**February Unit Meetings**  
**Access to Health Care: the Local**  
**Perspective**

Last July, Paul Krugman\*, *New York Times* columnist, in an article unfortunately not carried by the Salt Lake Tribune, noted that Toyota (a successful auto company) decided to locate a new automobile assembly plant in Canada rather than the United States. Health care costs and level of education of prospective workers were considerations in their decision. Canada has single-payer care health insurance. Krugman concludes, "For now, let me just point out that treating people decently is sometimes a competitive advantage. In America, basic health insurance is a privilege; in Canada, it's a right. And in the auto industry, at least, the good jobs are heading north."

The American health care system is the world's costliest, averaging of \$6,280 for each citizen. The US health care system offers choice to consumers and impressive innovation. At the same time, according to a recent articles in *The Economist*\* (January 29-February 3) "...the American system has big problems, notably inadequate coverage (Continued on page 2)

**Legislative Wrapup**  
**March 11, 2006, 3-5 PM**  
**Old Farm Community Center**  
**601 East 4110 South**

Mark your calendars for this annual event to laugh, cry, about the deliberations and antics of the Utah 2006 Legislative Session. Guests are welcome.

**HAPPY 86<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN**  
**VOTERS**

The League celebrates its founding on February 14, 1920. Celebrate it—make a call to Senators Bennett and Hatch and your House member to protect civil liberties in The Patriot Act reauthorization.

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## President's Letter

By Sharon Walkington

Our valiant Legislative Lobby Corps met on January 10 for a rally and pep talk. Representative Roz McGee was the featured guest. I say "*valiant*" for one reason—parking at the Capitol is difficult, to say the least. I know someone who has a much deserved exclusive parking spot across the street! Sandy Peck is so honored, thanks to a Capitol Hill resident, who offered the parking in her driveway because of the League's daily updates during the Legislature.

It occurred to me that on the eve of the League's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 14, a recent visit from Kay Maxwell, our gracious, articulate National President, a request for program making from LWVUS and our activities at the Capitol that I could explain some of League of Women Voters procedures,

Program making is the result of members' suggestions for study and action directed at various legislative and executive governmental agencies at the local, state and national level. Suggestions can be based on already established program positions or new ones. Each board at every level tallies the suggestions. At convention (every two years at state and national level) or annual meeting, final suggestions are made based on greatest interest, timeliness, finances and most important, woman power and voted on by the body.

Next, the League studies, takes consensus, and writes a statement of position based on that consensus. Most Statements of Position are general and flexible enough to fit a lobbying activity whether supporting or opposing an issue. The League can also take advocacy on the basis of the National

principles. When the statement of position is deemed to be no longer applicable, it can be changed with a new study or dropped by vote at convention or annual meeting.

The deadline for National Program making suggestions is February 27 at 4 pm in the League office in time for the SL board meeting. So please fill out the form on page in this *Voter*. Local program making will be done in the spring.

February's unit meeting materials about Access to Health Care has been organized by Social Policy Chairman Pat Nielsen. March's usual *Legislative Wrapup* is scheduled for Saturday, March 11.

## Global Climate Change

**The Artic to the Rocky Mountain West  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sterner Center Symposium  
March 3-4, 2006**

The 2006 symposium will examine the effects of global climate change from the Artic to the Rocky Mountains. Speakers include scientists, politicians, policy analysts, attorneys and community activities who will address the diverse dimensions of the problem.

The cost of the symposium is \$95 and \$50 for seniors and students if received by February 17; \$125 and \$65 after February 17. Call 583-3440 to reserve.

### **Health Care continued from page 1.**

(no other rich country, has armies of uninsured), spotty quality, and high cost." Daily, it seems, news articles note another corporation's announcement of cut backs in insurance. In addition, in the budget reconciliation bill passed February 1, Congress slashed funds for Medicaid and Medicare.

Clearly, League unit meetings will have plenty of discussion issues. The February unit material brings the access to health care to a local focus.

\*For e-mail copies of the Krugman and/or *Economist* articles, contact [gigibrandt@att.net](mailto:gigibrandt@att.net)

## **What the Units Are Saying About the Utah Legislative Priorities 2006**

**By Mary Fogg,**

Members were provided with a detailed list of information about upcoming bills to use as a guide in preparation for the 2006 Legislative Session from Sandy Peck, our Executive Director and members of our lobby corps. Although there were similarities in the positions reflected in the scribe notes, there also were observations and questions that reflected the usual in depth level of discussion that are typical of the unit members.

The fact that Utah began this Legislative Session with \$1 billion surplus generated "recommendations" for spending to support long term needs of education programs. As you would expect the need to reduce classroom size, provide specialized training for teachers as well as to provide scholarship money for education majors topped the list. In addition there was consensus regarding the importance of educating all students including the children of our immigrant population since our society benefits from educated citizens. The concept of full day kindergarten and for the continuation of funding in-state tuition for students who have been in the system for at least three years was supported. However, some members felt we need more information about the funding for these programs. One unit commented on our lack of knowledge regarding which taxes are creating the surplus!

Member's response to *HB Sales Tax on Food* was unanimous. "If sales tax is ever going to be removed on food, this is the best opportunity." However, it was agreed that the need to identify ways for lost revenues to be recouped for the small towns affected is a priority. Other proposed bills that members agreed were critical included continued efforts to provide health care for children, the disabled and low-income citizens. In addition, the critical need to increase the minimum wage to \$7, the opportunity for early voting and consideration of polling places was a priority of most units as well as support for *HB122 Utah Small Business Health Plan*.

As you would expect there was opposition to a wide range of proposed bills. There was agreement in opposition to *HB45 Bear River Development Act*, *HB47 Sales Tax Diversion for Water Projects and Water Financing* as well as *SB39 General Fund Surplus Appropriation for Water Development Projects*. In addition, *SB70 A Process for Approval of Waste Disposal Amendments* was of concern to our members. One unit reported that they laughed about the Legislature and proposed revision of the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, but wondered if there it was just a way to spend some of the "surplus" on another frivolous lawsuit!!

### ***Thanks to our contributors***

Nancy Eisenman  
Carolyn Nelson  
Lauren O'Malley  
Wayne Martinson  
Barbara Cowley

*Thanks to Xmission  
([www.xmission.com](http://www.xmission.com)) for its donation of  
ISP services to LWV*

## *Welcome to Our New Members*

Peggy Nelson  
4265 Camille St  
Salt Lake City 84124  
277-9545

\*Anne Gray  
3760 Millstream Drive  
Salt Lake City 84109  
273-8892

### **Change of Addresses**

Ruth Matsuo  
1912 E Hillcrest Ave  
Salt Lake City 84106

Roselyn Kirk  
404 Tenth Ave  
Salt Lake City 84103

### **Member News**

Get well wishes to *Alice Steiner*.

Co-president *Sharon Walkington* is featured on a public television advertisement extolling volunteering. Besides LWV, Sharon volunteers at the Museum of Natural History and tutors 12 hours a week at Emerson School.

Membership Chair Carolyn Dunn has suggested that new member, *Anne Gray*, be dubbed a "League brat" because her mother was very active in LWV as Anne was growing up. Anne is a nurse in the preventive cardiology department at the University of Utah hospital. She moved to Utah from Colorado 12 years ago. She has three children. She joined because she wanted to become more involved.

*Mark your calendars*

**State of the Community Luncheon**  
April 12, 2006

## **Hinckley Institute of Politics Programs**

### *The Armenian Genocide Debate*

February 13, 8:30 am \*

Guenter Lewy, Professor Emeritus  
Political Science, University of  
Massachusetts/Amherst

### *Energy in the Twenty-first Century.* –

February 22, 2 pm\*

Matt Simmons, chairman of Simmons & Company International will speak. His recent book is *Twilight in the Desert: the Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy*.

### *Terrorist Financing: Preventing Another 9/11*

February 24, 10:45 am\*

Jeff Breinholt, Acting Chief Counterterrorism Section, Criminal Division, US Department of Justice will speak.

\*Lectures are in the Hinckley Caucus Room, 255 Orson Spencer Hall, University of Utah

## **Kay Maxwell's Visit to Utah**

Kay Maxwell's whirlwind visit to Utah on February 1 was one of "awe." Those League members and guests who were fortunate to hear her at the Hinckley Institute and the Luncheon were impressed by her energy, articulateness, wit and knowledge. She told the students and others, "Our democracy is in trouble" Her speech to the Hinckley Institute is reprinted on pages and .

Kay and LWVUS advocacy chair Mary Wilson will be in Salt Lake to attend a working conference on redistricting April 3-5 so members may have another opportunity to meet these "awesome" ladies. In her speech and discussion

afterwards, Kay stressed the importance of e-mails to communicate with one another and our legislators. Members who have email and have not given their e-mail addresses to the local office should do so immediately. Kay sends an e-mail letter monthly to all League members with e-mail. She advocated the use of e-mail to communicate with our Senators and Representatives. She reported that because of the anthrax scare, "snail mail" takes several weeks. Citizens can send letters to the local offices and phone calls can be made to Washington, D.C., or locally. Those pressed for time (including non League members) can go to the LWVUS website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), press on the issue and send a message.

Kay reminisced about lobbying Senator Hatch for the Equal Rights Amendment when she was part of the LWVUS lobby core.

### Quote of the Month

"As a result of the...intervention in Iraq, the dissolution of America's global hegemony that is an integral part of the process of globalization has been accelerated, perhaps by a generation. The United States will continue to be pivotal, but it cannot expect its interests or its values to be accepted as paramount. We are moving into a world in which peace will depend on concerted action by several great powers. In these circumstances a revival of realist thinking is overdue. Global security is not served by launching messianic campaigns to export democracy. Nor is it advanced by pursuing a mirage of empire, which even now is melting away." John Gray, "The Mirage of Empire," *The New York Review of Books*, January 12, 2006, page 8.

### The Patriot Act—Action Needed

Celebrate the League's Birthday--Lobby against H.R.3199, the reauthorization of the Patriot Act. The original act's expiration date was extended to March 10. The conference report must be defeated as provides for more government secrecy in the name of homeland security and anti-terrorism **without** the checks and balances needed to protect civil liberties. Medical, bank or library records of American can still be obtained by law enforcement without records.

The Senate version of the re-authorization bill does not make all the necessary changes but it does make more changes to protect civil liberties and restore the checks and balances than the conference report. Honor our founding mothers—visit the League website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to send an e-mail or make a local phone call: 524-5933 (Bennett); 524-4380 (Hatch); 486-6000 (Matheson.)

### Looking for the Sunshine: Openess in Government Sunshine Week, March 12-18

LWVUS, with other organizations, is sponsoring an event entitled "Sunshine Week 2006: Are We Safer in the Dark?" on March 13, 2006. The event will begin with a 90-minute panel of distinguished speakers at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. This will be carried via satellite feed to participating libraries around the country. The Salt Library may be a site.

**LWVUS 2006 Convention, June 10-13  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

All League members are eligible to attend the convention as non-voting members. Members who are interested in attending should contact the office, 272-8683.

**February Calendar**

Units: **Access to Health Care**

**February 22**

Bench Bunch, 9:30 – 11:00  
League Office - 3804 Highland Dr.  
Chair Carolyn Dunn, 278-9409

**February 23**

**Challengers** 12 Noon – bring sack lunch  
Pat Eager's – 2229 Westminster Ave  
Chair Marelynn Zipser, 578-2069

**Library**, 12 Noon

210 East 400 South, Basement  
Susan Aldous – 487-2484

**February 27**

**Old Farm** 11:00 – 12:30PM  
Community Center  
601 East 4110 South  
Chair Anne Zeigler – 944-4163

**University** 12 Noon

Orson Spencer Hall 255  
Chair: Phyllis Frankel – 582-8957

**Night Owls**, 7:30PM

Judi Short's – 862 E. Harrison (1375 South)  
Chair: Judi Short, 487-7387

**If you cannot attend your regular  
unit meeting, feel  
free to attend any of the units  
listed above.**



