



EMAIL VOTER ARTICLES: BY DAWN, FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH TO: Voter.Materials@gmail.com

UTAH CO-PRESIDENTS

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MAY 2010



LWVU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANDY IS RETIRING

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President

After many years, Sandy Peck is retiring as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters effective June 30. No one in the League or who works with the League had to ask "Sandy Who?" when they read the above head-

line. Sandy has been the face and voice of the League in Salt Lake City since 1983.

Sandy is not ending her relationship with the League which she joined 39 years ago. She will still volunteer to do things she enjoys and still write the broadcast updates during the State Legislative session. She won't be going to the office on a regular basis nor will she draw the ridiculously small wage she has been receiving.

We will have a chance to honor Sandy at the Fall Fete on a date to be announced. In honor of her long tenure Sandy will carry the title of Executive Director Emeritus. You will still be able to reach Sandy at her home email, sandypeck@xmission.com.

While losing Sandy, the League will be gaining a new employee. Tina Hose Sumner will take over managing the office. She is now working with Sandy to extract as much of the history of the League and organization of the office as she can before Sandy's final day. Tina has been Secretary for the LWVU since 2007 after retiring from a long career working for Salt Lake City. Like Sandy, she will be paid, not according to her value, but according to what we can afford because Tina is also a dedicated League member.

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**THE NATIONAL LEAGUE
ENVIRONMENTAL / NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES
A Long, Strong History**
Gigi Brandt, LWVU

The national League has a long history of being interested and active about environmental issues. In the 1920s and 1930s the League did a study of land erosion and flood control and supported the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the 1950s, the League studied water resources. The 1970s saw studies on air pollution and land use, waste management and energy. The League also added safe drinking water issues in that decade. To League members the interaction between water quality and quantity, air and land use have been prominent since our inception. It is appropriate that the LWVUS current focus is on climate change.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EDUCATION
LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL?**

Marilyn Bown, LWVSL Education Director

The recent May 4, 2010 PBS-Frontline report titled "College, Inc." focused on student debt and worthless degrees. At present, we the taxpayers are picking up the tab for both accredited institutions and other non-accredited, unethical institutions that make false promises to students about career and undergraduate opportunities. In addition, defaults of federal student loans have reached an amazing figure of \$700 billion. 50% of students who default are enrolled in **for-profit** colleges and universities. These institutions are businesses that trade on Wall Street; this problem may yet become "too big to fail".

As our LWV representatives attend the LWV-US Convention in Atlanta, GA in June, they will support the LWV-US study of The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. This four-part proposal includes focus on 1) the basic goals of public education, 2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, 3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of educational governance, including funding, and 4) the development of common standards. All are interesting, valuable aspects of the current federal role in education; all contributed to underlying discussions and proposed bills in the Utah Legislature this year. Might this national study expand to include The Role of the Federal Government in Public and **Higher** Education?

Simultaneous with the federal government's role in funding students are numerous other issues. What was the impact of No Child Left Behind on students and teachers? What will be the effect of "Race to the Top" on minority students? As Utah population grows and shifts, what will happen to school district boundaries? to equalization funding formulas? How effective and prolific are charter schools? And home schooling? Who among you is interested in information on, study of, and potential action on these timely issues? If you are interested, please email Marilyn.Bown@yahoo.com and be looking for next month's survey on Education.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President

NO VOTER IN JUNE: The Voter will not be published in June.

LWVU: LWV State Council will be held May 12–15, hosted by the Grand County League, Moab, UT. There we'll vote on a new budget and new Board. In June many of us will be travelling to Atlanta for the LWVUS biennial convention. After that, the state League will start planning for the coming year at a Board retreat as will many other local Leagues.

SALT LAKE ANNUAL MEETING
June 2, 2010

Anne Zeigler, LWVSL Co-President

A CHANGE IN LOCATION: The United Church of Christ in Holladay will be the site for our Annual Meeting. It is located on 2631 East Murray Holladay Road. Please enter via the West door – there will be lots of parking on the NW side of the church.

The Annual Meeting is a **"POT LUCK"**. Board members (and all others who feel moved to cook) will supply the makings. Please contact Maryann Lapsley – 801-581-1231 or malapsley@msn.com and let her know what you would like to bring. **Dinner will start at 5:30PM** and the **Meeting will begin at 6PM**.

We will be electing new officers, vote on a program for the coming year, and have an opportunity to socialize and meet new people. I hope all Salt Lake members will join us. Let us know how you feel about how to make the LWV of Salt Lake an effective organization.

There are NO Salt Lake Unit Meetings in May

**Editor's Correction to
March Voter article**

In the article about LWVUS program planning, the word 'no' was left out of the mention of the Library unit's ideas. The sentence should have read "Library Unit: 2 members wanted no federal role in education."

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www.lwvutah.org](http://www.lwvutah.org)**

**On the top,
RED MENU BAR:**

**Choose
"Support Us";**

**then click on:
"Donate"
Or
"Join"**

A SUCCESSFUL LUNCHEON

Sue Lind, LWVSL Luncheon Chair 2010

Thursday, April 15, we had a successful State of the Community Luncheon at the Downtown Marriott. Co-President Anne, Zeigler, stated that this was one of the best luncheons she had attended. There was an attendance of 215; the luncheon profited \$6500 for the League. The food, especially the dessert, was delicious. The program was very informative.

Our keynote speaker was Martha Hales Ball, a retired, celebrated junior high history teacher. Her remarks centered around a program in which she is deeply invested: "Rights, Respect and Responsibility" in the class room and in public life. A link to her remarks, "Public Education in the 21st Century", may be found at: lwvutah.org. Gordon Hanks was acknowledged as our Community Service Honoree for his community outreach programs to high school and college jazz students. He also arranged for a trio of exceptional junior high and high school jazz musicians to provide music for the luncheon.

This is the first year that an award was given for Making Democracy Work. The award went to the City of South Jordan for its exceptional program for local citizens to be educated in the processes of local government. A follow-up to this program will be on May 18, when Tina Hose and our two Salt Lake League Co-presidents, Anne Zeigler and Linda Johnson, will present the League's award plaque to Mayor Money during the South Jordan City Council Meeting.

Luncheon Chair Susan Lind stated, "As this is the only major fundraising event put on by the Salt League, we hope that the membership will continue to support this event in an even greater way next year. The Luncheon Committee works hard to see that it is enjoyable and well worth everyone's time!"

JOIN US AT

LWV-US NATIONAL CONVENTION

Contact: *Anne Zeigler*, LWVSL Co-President
azeigler@xmission.com , 801-944-4163

What an exciting time to go to the LWVUS National Convention during the LWV 90th Anniversary, June 11-15, in Atlanta, Georgia. Plan some side trips and enjoy an invigorating, stimulating experience with women who are excited and care about the future of the U.S and Utah. There is an opportunity to share rooms to control costs. Talk to Anne about details.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE With Small Commitments of Time

Anne Zeigler, Co-President LWVSL

azeigler@xmission.com, 801-044-4163

1. Be part of the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters
2. Carry Ethics Petitions. Email Gigi Brandt: gigibrandt@att.net
3. Attend monthly legislative interim committee meetings at the Capitol during the summer and fall. Email Sherilyn: lcbsb@q.com
4. Join the Local Government Observer Corps: email Kathy: kathrynfitzgerald@yahoo.com
5. Go on line: [VOTE18.org](http://www.vote18.org) <http://www.vote18.org> and check out the Vote18 lesson plan. Need volunteers to go to 12th Grade and get 18 year olds registered to VOTE.
6. Help with mailings at the League office only 2-3 hours once a month. Email the office at lwwut@xmission.com or call 801-272-8683.
7. Read LWV email daily to see what is happening in League issues.
8. If you can't participate in any of the above, consider GIVING MONEY to help the LWV budget shortfall! Go online to do it lwwutah.org or mail a check to the office, 3804 Highland Dr. Ste 8D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

THANK YOU

for your

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE!

Betsy Wolf
Gigi Brandt
Connie Hanks
Joyce Barnes
Judi Short
Ann O'Connell
Joel and Marilyn Bown
Gina Rieke
Georgia Beth
Thompson

FAIR BOUNDARIES FAILS TO GATHER REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR BALLOT INITIATIVE

Jenn Gonnelly, LWVSL Health & Human Services Director

www.gonnelly.com, 801-448-6536

On April 15, the deadline for signatures to be turned into the county clerks' offices, Glenn Wright, field director for Fair Boundaries, told the Deseret News, "Unfortunately, we're not going to make it." Fair Boundaries gathered about 50,000 signatures.

The Fair Boundaries initiative would have set up an independent redistricting commission to redraw U.S. House, legislative and State School Board districts after the 2010 Census. The commission would then make that recommendation to the Legislature, although the legislature would still have had the final say.

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The League of Women Voters of Utah

THANKS

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Fair Boundaries continued

94,000 signatures would have been required or 10% of the citizens that voted in the last gubernatorial election. These signatures also had to be gathered by state Senate District and at least 26 of the 29 districts needed to be represented with the requisite 10%. Some of the counties in those Senate Districts that gathered their 10% were Summit, San Juan, and Sanpete counties. Unfortunately, Salt Lake County gathered only about half of the required signatures.

While Utahns for Ethical Government believe that they can reach the goal by the final August deadline and will therefore be circulating petitions, Fair Boundaries has deemed the goal unattainable by August and has decided to put the effort on hold for now. Going forward, Fair Boundaries as an organization will remain intact. Mary Bishop told me that "There will be a time to run this again, and there will be a role in this effort for the League of Women Voters."

EARTH AWARENESS — CLEAN AIR!

Polly Hough, LWVSL Natural Resources Chair

A late spring made May 1st a comfortable morning to host our Earth Awareness Clean Air Presentation and a great success it was, with four speakers, and an audience of over 50 newcomers and League members, roughly half of each. Trying a public meeting on Saturday morning was a new time for us, and we had an excellent location at The Girl Scout Headquarters' Julia Lowe room.

Our speakers were lively on the subject of air and water pollution; solutions receiving focus were the anti-idling campaign and more public education, with the possible reviving of Utah Clean Air Alliance under Terry Marasco's direction. Terry told of his availability for that coalition that could bring a number of groups together. They could focus efforts to advocate for legislation promoting cleaner air and for avoidance of losing Utah water from the Snake Valley Aquifer to Las Vegas developments, which could result in terrible dust storms blowing into our city.

Dr. Brian Moench used his dynamic and often satiric Power Point presentation to show the folly of disregarding the EPA effort to improve the air quality on the Wasatch Front. Cherise Udell, co-founder of MOMS, described the efforts of their anti-idling campaign. She handed out campaign brochures and decals encouraging people to observe the 10 second rule on idling. MOMS also is requesting that schools post signs to discourage idling motors during after-school pick up of children.

We also heard from Kate Lilja representing SLC Green, Salt Lake City's Division of Sustainability, who spoke about plans to assist with a broad-based program of diminishing air pollution in Salt Lake.

**2ND ANNUAL WELLS FARGO ECONOMIC SUMMIT
for NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Linda Johnson, LWVSL Co-President

The Salt Lake League was lucky enough to get one of the very much in demand seats at the Wells Fargo Economic Summit this year. Along with tons of information, there were a few interesting trends that came to light. Several people from Wells Fargo Bank, which sponsors and hosts the Summit, felt the economy was improving—not fast, but trending upward in a seemingly dependable way. Speakers from the Governor’s Office, Salt Lake Chamber, and the Economic Development Corps of Utah (a non-profit, industry attracting business) all indicated they were having more success attracting new businesses to Utah.

Of great interest was a lengthy discussion of how fundraising was going for the many non-profits in Utah. It was reported that gifts from corporations were off in 2009 by almost 50%, and that grants were down about 35% over all. Individual giving varied: some gave more because there was greater need; others gave less because their assets shrank. All in all, those providing human services were helped more generously than those, such as the League, serving other purposes.

Finally, some statistics proved what we all felt we knew: Utahns give more money and more time to more non-profit agencies than average. We are 10th in the nation for donating, and 1st in the nation for giving time—both in the percent of us who volunteer, and the numbers of hours we give. Nevertheless, everyone has to work a lot harder to “stay in business” to do civic good. It’s no longer possible to sit back and hope people contribute. We all have to work at it, as hard as we can.

**RECENT OBSERVATIONS
of
COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE**

Pat Klentzman, LWVU Voter Co-Editor

At the Vancouver 2010 Paralympics, in March, all utensils used at concession booths were dissolvable in boiling water and completely biodegradable. They look and function better than many plastic utensils we have seen over the years.

At an Embassy Suites hotel in Corpus Christi, TX in April, Rainforest coffee was offered in our suite and all coffee cups and cup holders were made completely from recyclable materials and were 100% biodegradable. Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee is grown on farms where forests are protected; rivers, soils and wildlife conserved; workers are treated with respect, paid decent wages, properly equipped and given access to education and medical care.

THINGS ARE CHANGING IN OUR WORLD. KEEP LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE!!

2010 LEGISLATIVE ACTION (OR INACTION) ON ETHICS AND ELECTIONS

Gigi Brandt, LWVU

The 2010 Utah Legislature, prompted by the citizen ethics initiative, passed a record number of **12 ethics related bills**. *HJR 15* is the constitutional amendment which will be on the 2010 ballot. It establishes a five member independent advisory ethics commission composed of three retired state judges and two former legislators. Other bills enacted modifications of rules governing the receipt and disposition of ethics complaints, modifications of the open meeting laws and GRAMA restrictions relating to the ethics commission. For a comparison with the proposed citizen ethics initiative go to www.utahnsforethicalgovernment.org/pdf/UEGcomparison.1010.pdf.

In general the ethics procedure passed by the legislature favors legislators rather than the public and probably means that the status quo will remain.

Utah will be able to say, if voters approve *HJR15*, that it has an ethics commission. The ethics interim committee has only scheduled three meetings this year--May 19, June 23 and November 17. The committee will be working on a new code of conduct for legislators. The ethics bills passed in this session will not mean very much if the code of conduct remains much the same.

Campaign finance: *HB124* limits the use of campaign funds for personal use. A last minute amendment in the Senate would allow the use of personal funds amends campaign finance regulations favoring the "transparency" approach rather than the limitation of funds. It did not include a limitation on campaign donations and requires the Lt. Governor to make public donations within 3 days of receiving. Limitation of campaign donations is a study item for the 2010 interim.

Sub1HB2270 relates to **financial disclosure and conflicts of interest** for legislative, executive and state school board candidates. Since it was passed by a two thirds majority, it takes effect immediately for the 2010 elections. To see the law in action, go to elections.utah.gov/2010Candidates.htm.

Most controversial was the passage of **the law which provides for the process of removal of names from an initiative and referendum petitions** which takes effect immediately. The petitions had to be delivered by April 15 at which point the names of the public signatories were part of the public record. Citizens have the right of removal for 30 days. One legislative observer suggested that all such laws that limit initiatives and referendums could be challenged in court as unconstitutional.

Of course, Representative Chavez-Houck's **bill establishing an independent advisory redistricting commission** never made it out of rules committee.

**WELCOME OUR
NEW
MEMBERS !**

**INTRODUCE
YOURSELF**

***Make a
New Friend***

NEW MEMBERS

SALT LAKE LEAGUE

Margo Thurman & Phyllis Frankel, LWVSL Membership Co-Chairs

DELLA RIQUES

dellairene@hotmail.com

801-599-9353

5710 Fairwood Drive, Taylorsville, UT 84118

Della grew up in Arizona but has lived in Utah for 32 years. After high school she received training from the FBI and worked for that agency as a Coding Clerk in Washington, D.C. for 9 years. She moved to Utah to be near family and continued the same type of work she did for the FBI, but in Utah it has been for the Department of Public Safety. She has been there for 32 years and is still working. She enjoys the four ten-hour day work week implemented by the state. Della joined the League because she wants to know more about the voting process.

LYNNE ROMNEY

romneylynne@gmail.com

801-943-8039, C: 801-707-6655

7779 Silver Lake Drive, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

Lynne grew up in Salt Lake and graduated from East High School. She earned a degree in Science Composite Education from the University of Utah. After teaching for a bit at Skyline she and her husband moved to North Carolina where he furthered his studies in Entomology. While there, Lynne worked as a Lab Associate, culturing mosquitoes. They returned to Utah and lived in Vernal for 33 years. Lynne taught Biology for Gifted and Talented Students at the high school level. She has lived in Salt Lake for 2 years and remarks there is so much more to do here than in Vernal.

WEBER LEAGUE

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President

HEATHER HALES

hales1@msn.com

801-393-2129

4684 Signe Lane, Ogden, UT 84403

Heather is a retired high school pre-engineering teacher. She lives in Ogden with her husband and has two grown daughters. Her first grandchild just arrived. Heather had friends in the League when she lived in Colorado and liked the idea of a non-opinionated source of information. She has found that the League is one of the few balanced sources. She thinks that an informed citizenry is more important now than it has ever been.

UTAH VOTER

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**League of Women Voters
of Utah**

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(801) 272-8683, www.lwvutah.org

MAY 2010

Non-Profit Org
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**There are NO Salt Lake Unit Meetings in May
(See page 3 - for all Units to meet at Annual Meeting, June 2)**

In most months from September to May, we have 5 units meeting at the following locations:

Nite Owls ~ 4th Monday @ 7:30 p.m.

@ 862 Harrison AVE (1375 S)

Judi Short, host — 801- 487-7387, judi.short@gmail.com

Girl Scout Unit ~ 4th Monday @ 11 a.m.

@ Girl Scout Headquarters 445 E. 4500 S

Anne Zeigler, Unit Leader — 801-944-4163, azeigler@xmission.com

Bench Bunch ~ 4th Wednesday @ 9:30 a.m.

@ LWV Office 3806 S Highland Drive

Carolyn Dunn, Unit Leader — 801-278-9409

Library Unit ~ 4th Thursday @ noon-1:30 p.m.

@ Main Library 200 E 400 S

Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader 801-278-2296, jbarnz@xmission.com

Town Club ~ 1st Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m.

@ Town Club, 1081 East South Temple

Alice Steiner, Unit Leader — akarsteiner@aol.com; to reserve lunch — 801-363-9193