



PLEASE EMAIL VOTER ARTICLES: By FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH TO: Voter.Materials@gmail.com

UTAH CO-PRESIDENTS

Nelda Bishop
nelda@xmission.com

Marilyn O'Dell
maodell2@gmail.com

INSIDE

Redistricting Utah / 2-4

Cottonwood Heights
 Says 'NO' to Developer
 / 4

Local Leagues
 / 5

Concern:
 Climate Change / 6

LWV and the DEQ's
 New Rules / 7

Clean Air Promise / 8

Rocky's Request for 2012
 Debate
 & Sunlight Foundation
 Rally / 9

Natural Resources
 & Investment of Gift / 10

Unit Topic: Role of the
 Feds in Public Education
 & Volunteerism Brings
 Leaguer a Reward / 11

AUGUST 2011

Redistricting Utah

Will The Redistricting Committee (and, ultimately, the Legislature) listen to the public?

Gigi Brandt, LWV, Program Director
gigibrandt@xmission.com, 801-582-1102

The Legislative Redistricting Committee has finished its round of public hearings and will begin its final work on August 19 and 22 with all day meetings. The August 19 meeting agenda includes reviewing submitted plans. The agenda of the 22nd includes discussion and action on State School Board and Utah Senate redistricting. A total of 175 maps have been submitted, most of them for the four Congressional seats. The question remains as to whether the committee has listened to the public or looked at the maps presented.

The messages presented from the public have generally been two: keep my community together and be fair. In a *Deseret News* article, Senate President Waddoups was quoted as saying the public input has been repetitive, "Frankly, the amount of input we've gotten so far, it's the same people over and over," Waddoups said. "They're broken records." "*What the public really wants,*" Waddoups said, "*is for the boundaries to be determined by the lawmakers they elected and trust*". (Italics are mine.)

The physical task of conducting the hearings was daunting. Many have speculated that the process was designed as show only and suggested that a fairer process would have been the developing of maps followed by public comment on the proposed maps.

Of course, it would be almost impossible to develop maps that do not split any community. Emotions were raw at the Rose Park hearing. Rose Park residents resented being placed with North Salt Lake and Davis County in 2001. Observers reported that it was evident at the West Jordan hearing that many citizens were still angry about the Canyons-Jordan School district split. Tooele County is angry about being split into four Senate districts. Park City residents are unhappy about being placed in a Senate district in Eastern Utah, with a Senator who lives in Vernal.

continued on next page...

The League of Women Voters of Utah

Office: 801-272-8683
 3804 Highland Dr., Ste 8-D
 Salt Lake City, UT 84106

Email: lwvut@mail.xmission.com

Web: www.lwvutah.org

LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

Cache County

Joan McLean
jmcle@cc.usu.edu

Cedar City

Barbara Prestwich
barb.prestwich@hotmail.com

Davis County

Nelda Bishop
nelda@xmission.com
& Marilyn Oberg
jdmb.oberg@gmail.com

Grand County

Cynthia Smith
cjs@manzanaspings.com

Salt Lake

Anne Zeigler
azeigler@xmission.com
& Linda Johnson
gostalinda@aol.com

Weber County

Terri McCulloch
terrimcculloch@aol.com

....continued from Page 1

Most of the emphasis in the press and by citizen and legislative map makers has been on Congressional redistricting and whether the districts should represent a pizza or a donut hole. One observer notes that the Congressional redistricting may be especially contentious because several legislators are interested in running for a Congressional seat. The Senate and House will each draw up its proposed districts.

Salt Lake County Redistricting

The Salt Lake County Redistricting Advisory Committee will have its final recommendations for the County Council on August 30. The committee is responsible for recommending proposals for dividing up the six county council districts as well as Jordan, Granite and Canyons school districts.

The Commission has sought input from citizens, community council members, local governments and school districts. The meetings I have attend have been sparsely attended by citizens and the press. In contrast to many of the meetings of the Legislative Redistricting Committee, the members have been closely involved and the discussions thoughtful. Of course, the commission will not have the final responsibility for the decision making, the County Council will.

Salt Lake City Redistricting

The Salt Lake City Council is soliciting applications for Salt Lake City residents in each Council district to serve as members of a redistricting working group which will recommend city and school district boundaries. To apply, go to: www.slcgov.com/redistricting.

League Activities and The Utah Citizens Counsel Redistricting Effort

The Utah Citizens Counsel Redistricting Project, to which the League belongs, is hoping to have alternative maps for Congressional, Utah Senate and House districts posted to the their website and submitted to the legislative redistricting site. These maps demonstrate possible districts which are drawn up with the Salt Lake County Council's adopted principles. The Counsel, along with the Salt Lake League, will be at the August 20 County Council meeting, when the County advisory committee presents its recommendations to congratulate the County Council for a citizen redistricting process.

How can citizens participate in these redistricting efforts?

1. Attend Redistricting Committee meetings when scheduled beginning on August 19. Show the committee that the public is involved and watching.
2. Contact committee members (found at: <http://le.utah.gov/>). Then choose "Interim Committees". Then choose "Redistricting Committee" from the alphabetical list. Ask them to consider **political boundaries and communities of interest in their considerations**, rather than political advantage.
3. Contact your legislator asking them to do the same.
4. Attend the August 30 County Council meeting when the Salt Lake County Redistricting Advisory Commission presents its proposals.

Utah League Co-presidents

Nelda Bishop
nelda@xmission.com

Marilyn O'Dell
maodell2@gmail.com

Executive Director Emeritus

Sandy Peck
sandypeck@xmission.com

Office Manager

Tina Hose
lwwut@xmission.com

....continued from page 2

At press time, the Salt Lake League is planning a general meeting in September to talk about the various redistricting proposals in Salt Lake County.

Wealth, Poverty & Congress

Two recent reports have highlighted some of the effects that the recession and tepid recovery have had on particular communities.

Disparity in wealth between ethnic groups:

The Pew Research Center has released a report stating that median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households, reflecting the most disparity in wealth ratios since the government began publishing such data a quarter century ago. This disparity is roughly twice the size of the ratios that had prevailed between these three groups for the two decades prior to the Great Recession that ended in 2009.

The Pew Research Center analysis found that, in percentage terms, the bursting of the housing market bubble in 2006 and the recession that followed from late 2007 to mid-2009 took a far greater toll on the wealth of minorities than whites. From 2005 to 2009, inflation-adjusted median wealth fell by 66% among Hispanic households and 53% among black households, compared with just 16% among white households. To read the full report, go to <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2069/housing-bubble-subprime-mortgages-hispanics-blacks-household-wealth-disparity>.

Status of American children in 2011

Will the US face a decade of "lost children"?

The Children's Defense Fund issued a report, *The State of American Children*, in July with very sobering facts about the recession's impact on children. Some of the findings include:

The number of children living in poverty has increased by four million since 2000, and the number of children who fell into poverty between 2008 and 2009 was the largest single-year increase ever recorded.

- The number of homeless children in public schools increased 41 percent between the 2006-7 and 2008-9 school years.
- *In 2009, an average of 15.6 million children received food stamps monthly, a 65 percent increase over 10 years.*
- *A majority of children in all racial groups and 79 percent or more of black and Hispanic children in public schools cannot read or do math at grade level in the fourth, eighth or 12th grades.*

As part of the Children's Defense Fund website, one can take a quiz about

continued on next page...

“THANK YOU!”

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

**Nancy Melling
Carol Withrow
Jessica Hale**

For their contributions to the LWV Education Fund

Sharon Walkington

For her contribution to the League’s Celebration Fund, honoring Judy Buffmire (1929-May 2011)

Lea Cotter

For her contribution of a case of bottled water for LWV Meetings at the office

....continued from page 3

their knowledge of the state of children in America. Go to: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/state-of-americas-children-2011/soac-2011-quiz.html>

**How to Turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans:
Six Steps to Fixing Congress**

In an article written and published well before the debt limit debate, former US Congressman Mickey Edwards (Republican from Oklahoma and former member of the Republican Congressional leadership) proposed a six step plan to “turn our political system on its head, so that the people, not parties control our government” in How to Turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans in the July/August issue of *The Atlantic*. Describing American government as a battle between warring tribes rather an a collective enterprise, some of his steps are only applicable to Congress, but the numbers one and two will be particularly meaningful to Utah citizens.

1. Break the power of partisans to keep candidates off the general-election ballot. (Former Senator Bob Bennett's experience is mentioned.)
2. Turn over the process of redrawing congressional districts to independent, non-partisan commissions.
3. Allow members of any party to offer amendments to any House bill and—with rare exception—put those amendments to a vote.
4. Change the leadership structure of Congressional committees.
5. Fill committee vacancies by lot.
6. Choose committee staff solely on the basis of professional qualifications.

The article can be found online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/07/how-to-turn-republicans-and-democrats-intoamericans/8521/>

Note: the Editor had to paste this last address into my browser for results.
Note: (there are no spaces contained in either of the links on the page.)

**COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS DENIES DEVELOPER
PROPOSAL FOR TAVACI**

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

You have probably learned from newspapers and TV reports that after 2 years of hearings and numerous proposals by Terry Diehl for his Tavaci development to gain a change of zoning so he could put up a hotel, condos, and commercial development at the base of Big Cottonwood Canyon—it has been denied. I think he thought people would give up, as he kept coming back with new proposals, and thus could get it passed. WRONG! The public never gave up in their overall concern that this was not good for Cottonwood Heights. Thinking that the concern was from a “small but vocal minority of anti-growth individuals”, he obviously did not know the audience, or

continued on next page...

Did you know...?

The **State Board of Education meetings** can be accessed by online audio — just as the Utah Legislature's committee and floor meetings are accessed via computer.

Go to:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/board/Meetings.aspx>

(There are no spaces contained in this link.)

....continued from page 4

failed to observe that his lawyer and developers were the only ones in favor of his proposals. Now, Terry Diehl wants to secede from Cottonwood Heights, thinking that Salt Lake county would approve his plan.

I have been so proud of Cottonwood Heights, who became a city in 2005, the main reason being the people wanted to have more of a say in what was happening in their community. The public hearings have been standing room only against the Tavaci rezone and the city council has listened to the people. The council has been fair in letting developer Terry Diehl have his say and allowed him to come back with different proposals. The failure to pay back property taxes by Diehl was the crowning blow and it was a unanimous decision to deny the rezone. Our sincere thanks to the journalists for their coverage – oh, how we need them.

The *Deseret News* had an interesting article on Aug. 4th. “The penalty for letting property taxes slide in Utah is a one-time penalty of 2.5% and 7% interest annually – a figure lower than the interest a developer might pay on a bank loan – for up to five years.” How many other developers are getting away with this? We urge our members to be aware of what is happening in their community and stay informed by receiving the agendas of their local city government.

Go online to the League of Women Voters' website www.lwvutah.org; on left side of screen go to “Get to Know your Local League”, click on Salt Lake, go to bottom paragraph “Find a Meeting” and click on “schedule of meetings”. You can sign up for emails of your local agenda and receive it automatically before each meeting. If an agenda item is of interest, we urge you to attend and hear what is happening. Being involved at the local level of government is SO IMPORTANT to make Democracy work!!

Report on Local Leagues

Janice Gygi, LWVU Dir. Of Local Leagues, sgygi@xmission.com, 801-576-1891

Most of the local leagues are in planning mode for the fall. We are looking forward to being able to print all of the plans in the September *Voter*. Meanwhile, here is some of what has been happening.

A group of interested members in the **Cache County League** has met twice this summer to make plans for the fall. If you live in Cache County and want a say in League activities, contact Joan McLean at joan.mclean@usu.edu. Let her know what you would like to discuss. Ask your friends if they would like to join in the conversation.

Officers of the **Cedar City League** will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan the next year. The president is Barbara Prestwich, who can be reached at barb.prestwich@hotmail.com. Let her know if you want to have a say in the activities for the coming year.

continued on next page...

....continued from page 5

The **Davis County League** had a successful summer meeting on July 17 at the home of Jane Neuschwander. A barbeque potluck was held in her backyard, and members discussed issues that were of interest to them. The officers are presently making plans for the fall including a forum for candidates and a discussion of the national LWV study on the role of the Feds in public education. To make suggestions and get further information, contact Nelda Bishop at nelda@xmission.com or Marilyn Oberg at jdmb.oberg@gmail.com. At the state convention in the spring, Nelda was elected as co-president of the Utah State League. Congratulations to Nelda and the Davis County League.

The **Grand County League** will meet on August 29 at 3:00 p.m. in the Grand County Library board room to plan for the fall Candidates' Forum on October 3. They have also been working on getting their Facebook page up and running. The president is Cynthia Smith. You can contact her at cjs@manzanasprings.com.

The **Salt Lake League** has held monthly meetings over the summer to discuss the national LWV study on the role of the Feds in public education. Information on this issue and plans for future meetings are on page 11 of this *Voter*. The Salt Lake presidents are Anne Zeigler at azeigler@xmission.com and Linda Johnson at gostalinda@aol.com.

The **Weber County League** will be having their planning meeting within the next couple of weeks. They had a very successful year last year and look forward to some interesting programs this next year. Terri McCulloch is the president, and she can be reached at terrimcculloch@aol.com.

We want to build the **St. George League**. We have members who have retired in St. George or who winter there. If you are interested in discussing the important issues that the state and nation are facing, let us know, and we will put together some programs. Contact Janice Gygi at Janice.gygi@uvu.edu.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERN

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

Ann Wechsler, a former LWVSL member now living in Seattle, mailed us a note with an informative letter from the Sierra Club:

Did you know that New York City Mayor Bloomberg has donated \$50 million to the Sierra Club to accelerate the fight against coal and to support America's clean energy future? WOW! Why are so many ready to criticize the efforts of 99% of the scientists in this world, thinking they are doing it for political gain, and that we're wasting our time. Stay tuned with the League of Women Voters, local, state and nationally to keep abreast of what is really happening! Go to our LWV Utah website: www.lwvutah.org or LWV-US: <http://lwv.org>.

Public Participation - The League's Position and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) New Rules

Ann O'Connell, LWVU past Environmental Resources Dir

oconnell@xmission.com, 801-363-9046

Bear with me and read *the LWVUS position immediately below in italics*. It is found in Impact on Issues 2010 – 2012, on the LWVUS website.

The League believes that public understanding and cooperation are essential to the responsible and responsive management of our nation's natural resources. The public has a right to know about pollution levels, dangers to health and the environment, and proposed resource management policies and options. The public has a right to participate in decision making at each phase in the process and at each level of government involvement. Officials should make a special effort to develop readily understandable procedures for public involvement and to ensure that the public has adequate information to participate effectively. Public records should be readily accessible at all governmental levels. Adequate funding is needed to ensure opportunities for public education and effective public participation in all aspects of the decision making process.

The appropriate level of government should publicize, in an extensive and timely manner and in readily available sources, information about pollution levels, pollution-abatement programs, and resource management policies and options. Hearings should be held in easily accessible locations, at convenient times and, when possible, in the area concerned. The hearing procedures and other opportunities for public comment should actively encourage citizen participation in decision making.

The League supports public education that provides a basic understanding of the environment and the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of environmental protection, pollution control and conservation.

Mechanisms for citizen appeal must be guaranteed, including access to the courts. Due process rights for the affected public and private parties must be assured.

This is the National League position that the Salt Lake and Utah Leagues are looking to when they sign on to comments on the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) newly issued public participation rules. The general theme of the comments is that the new rules are too restrictive and I think one can infer that they are too restrictive both for the concerned citizen and for her lawyers. The procedures outlined in the rules will not pass muster with the EPA (the feds); they do not comply with Utah statutes guaranteeing access to Utah courts; they put too much decision-making power in the hands of the department and its divisions. Public notice requirements are inadequate – something that is particularly important to us as individuals and members of a volunteer organization.

You might remember that we are already in court because there was no opportunity for the public to make a case against the Division of Forestry, Fire

continued on next page...

....continued from page 7

and State Land's permitting of the Great Salt Lake Minerals expansion. The new rules still maintain that permits are of interest only to the permitting state division and the permittee. That is not something that sits well with the League of Women Voters.

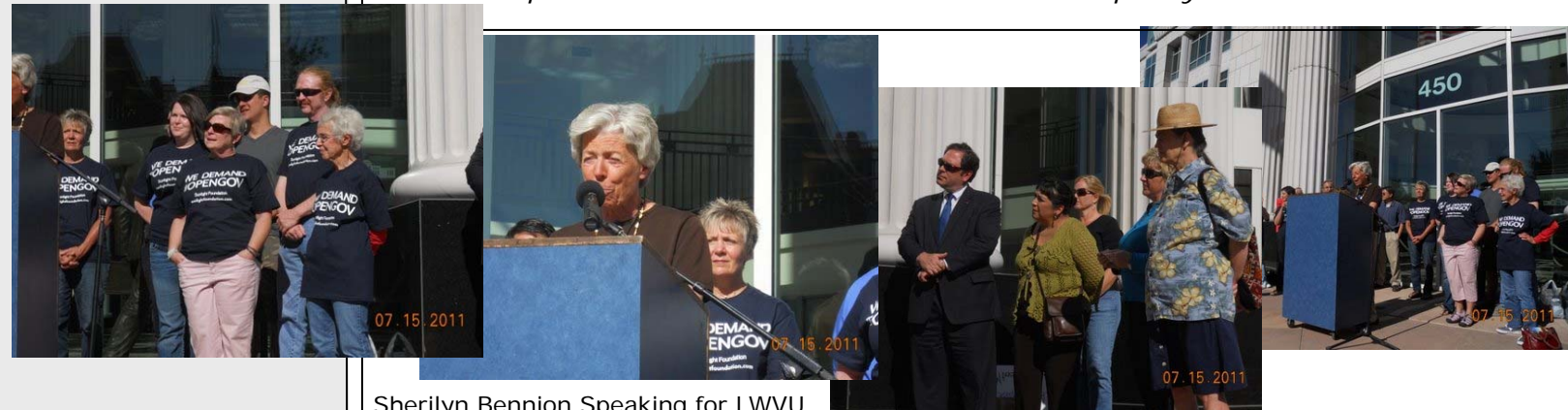
I thought you might be amused by the last few lines of the comments. They are from Joro Walker, of Western Resource Advocates, the lawyers representing Friends of Great Salt Lake and other conservation and advocacy groups in this matter:

Gender Neutrality

The proposed rules should be written in a way that is gender neutral. To do otherwise suggests that Utah's government is sexist. Thank you for all you do to protect and enhance the environmental quality of Utah.

Pictures are from the Sunlight Rally for Open Government

July 15, 2011
On Court House steps



Sherilyn Bennion Speaking for LWVU

A review of the Sunlight Foundation Rally is on page 9.

CLEAN AIR PROMISE

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-president

The US League launched a campaign to protect clean air with a national TV ad on July 25. The ad is part of the work of a larger community that includes a broad range of environmental and public health groups.

Material on the campaign should have been received by every local League president. One emphasis of this campaign is to call on citizens, elected officials and community leaders to take the Clean Air Promise to protect the health of our children and families. Each local League is encouraged to use this tool kit as it best fits local conditions.

This campaign follows the focus of the ads that ran in Massachusetts and Missouri criticizing individual US Senators for their vote on a related issue. Those ads were paid for by the Partnership Project. When I was unable to find such an organization on the web I was told that their web site is www.saveoureenvironment.org. This web site lists 20 environmental advocacy groups that are participants in the Partnership Project, a 501 (c) (3). Complaints about this ad and its effect on local politics led the LWVUS Board to issue guidelines for major in-state initiatives which include a commitment to brief State League leadership in advance of launching such an initiative.

The League of Women Voters of Utah

THANKS

in recognition for their generous gifts of

Email,



Internet Access & Website Hosting Services

OPPORTUNITY

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President, maodell2@gmail.com, 801-393-7225

Rocky Anderson is looking for volunteers to make follow up calls about our recent joint letter. The letter asking for support of a presidential debate in Utah before the 2012 election was sent out on July 8 over the signature of Rocky Anderson, the presidents of the League of Women Voters of Utah, the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Utah and the Past Co-Coordinator of the Green Party of Utah. You can read it on the League's web site on the "Positions" page.

This letter was sent to 178 Utah organizations with a response form. Rocky would like to have people call the groups that received it. You can contact him at 801-364-3560 or reach him by email: rocky.highroad@gmail.com.

OPEN GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE AND A PRESS CONFERENCE

Marilyn O'Dell, LWVU Co-President, maodell2@gmail.com, 801-393-7225

Pictures of LWV attendees are on page 8.

When I get a call from someone I've never heard of asking that the League participate in a press conference in Salt Lake City, I'm a little suspicious. However, the invitation from Jason Williams asking that we participate with the Sunlight Foundation turned out to be the prelude to a worthwhile event. The Foundation brought a team of four (all young women) from Washington D.C. to Salt Lake that handled media contacts, audio visual equipment, organization and administrative detail. The press conference was held July 15 on the steps of the Matheson Courthouse on State Street. Only Channel 5 responded with a camera crew. (I heard from a neighbor that the footage ran on the 10 p.m. news that evening.) The event was set to coincide with the National Governors' Conference held at the Grand America Hotel. Interestingly, the Governors' Conference is not an open event. The agenda is not published and media outlets do not have unrestricted admission.

Sherilyn Bennion, the League's 2010-2011 Co-director for Legislative Action, was one of the speakers at the press conference. Sherilyn was our authority on HB477 and spoke to several groups between the law's passage by the Legislature and its overturn.

After the conference we all walked over to the Grand America with electronic letters to each state governor signed by citizens' of their state asking for more transparency in government. Although the hotel had a heavy presence of Utah State Patrol officers, our group was not held up as we marched into the ornate lobby and down the hall to the conference. We got as far as conference registration but that was the end of our progress. Conference organizers sent out a representative to tell us that we would not be allowed to present the letters but that we could send them to the governors. We then left quietly. No one wanted to risk a confrontation with those imposing State troopers.

**ONLINE
CREDIT
CARD
PAYMENTS**

**Donate,
Join,
Or Renew
Membership**

[Go to
www.lwvutah.org](http://www.lwvutah.org)

**On the top
Banner of the
HOME Page**

***Click the RED
Box* Marked
"DONATE"**

Energy Solutions wants to be allowed to bring more radioactive waste into its Clive facility than allowed

Linda Johnson, LWVSL Natural Resources Chair, *pro tem*

On Thursday, August 4th, there was a forum for public comment on Energy Solutions' application to allow "blended waste" into their Clive facility at Division of Radiation Control. Blended waste means mixing highly radioactive waste with acceptable waste, until it meets qualifications--at the very highest "class A" level. If this new waste (it has a special name because it's pre-mixed, packaged, then shipped) is accepted, we will have a significant, unwanted increase in total radioactivity at Clive. Interestingly, a man from a competing radioactive material disposal site passionately asked Utah to follow Federal guidelines and not allow radioactive disposal that Texas cannot accept. He was surprised Utah allows (above ground) mounds, too; theirs is all underground.

Both Federal and State rules and regulations require a full technical review before this change is made. Governor Herbert was against blended waste dumping; it's a way for Energy Solutions to bypass the State's strong laws keeping hotter waste out. Nevertheless, the impression was that Energy Solutions is going to get approval at the Board's next meeting.

Snake Valley Water Diversion matters are back in the news

Linda Johnson, LWVSL Natural Resources Chair, *pro tem*

gostalinda@aol.com, 801-277-4499

The water rights owners sued the State of Nevada to have the matter re-heard, and won. This time the US Bureau of Land Management had time to do a study and draft environmental statement, which says what we heard at our Forum last fall: the whole southeastern part of Nevada could be turned into a desert. We along the Wasatch Front would receive terrible dust storms if that happens, any time the wind is from the southwest. The US Geologic Service report is due early this fall, and further action will be taken in Nevada. We'll keep you posted.

Investing Our Gift Money

The League in Salt Lake recently received a substantial monetary gift which we have been trying to figure out how to invest. In today's world, it almost sounds best to put it under the mattress—but whose mattress? We had too many volunteers.

After investigation, the committee formed to make decisions has decided to probably invest it with The Community Foundation, which was organized as an investment vehicle for nonprofits. The funds are managed independently through Vanguard, with a choice of several risk levels.

We are planning to invest the money so that we can access it if we have a bad fundraising year, and we're also hoping to work toward forming an endowment fund, to help insure our future solvency. During the worst of the recession, it was almost impossible for us—and other nonprofits—to raise enough money to do our jobs. For more information on gift-giving, contact the League office, your local presidents, or the State presidents.

LWVSL—September & October Unit Studies

As reported in the May *Voter*, Utah will participate in the important LWVUS national study on the *Role of the Federal Government In Public Education*. In November, after LWVU submits local results generated from September and October unit meetings, LWVUS will analyze the results and establish positions early in 2012.

Through the summer, groups have been meeting at the LWVU office in Salt Lake to informally discuss the materials offered by LWVUS, which are online and printable. Find them at: http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=191&ContentID=17596

(NOTE: The Editor had to copy the full address above and paste it into the browser in top line of web browser page for results.)

(there are NO spaces in this long address)

The five articles on that website are:

- "Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives"
- "Funding and Equity Issues"
- "Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding"
- "Common Core Standards and Assessments"
- "Legislation & Funding for Education of Disadvantaged Children"

Attend a meeting—bring a friend, a neighbor, anyone who cares about education!! This promises to be a lively topic—close to our hearts.

The September unit meeting schedule is on the bottom of page 12.

CONGRATULATIONS, Margo Thurman!!

On May 25 Margo Thurman received an award at the Molina Healthcare of Utah 4th Annual Community Champions Awards Dinner.

The award was for volunteering more than 730 hours helping educate parents, physicians, medical students, schools and those working as firemen or policemen throughout the state. She was diagnosed with epilepsy at age 9 and made a commitment to provide help and education to eradicate the myths about this disease.

She was nominated by two different individuals who didn't know the other was nominating her (this is probably rare).

The award carried a \$1000 grant which she designated to go to the Epilepsy Alliance of Utah (an organization she recently formed).

Unrelated to the award, but typical of Margo's activism, a couple of years ago she educated the legislature on the need for patients with epilepsy to receive ONLY the prescribed medication unless a change was approved in writing by the patient's physician. This bill passed the first year (usually we have to try at least two years before getting one passed). The pharmaceutical lobbyists remained silent because she worked with them ahead of time to let them understand why it needed to be done. With epilepsy, even a small change in medication (i.e., taking a generic version) can cause irreparable harm, to the point that the patient could die.

Margo is the past Membership chair of LWVSL, a position that she left in order to focus on epilepsy volunteerism.

UTAH VOTER

AUGUST 2011

**League of Women Voters
of Utah**

3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106
(801) 272-8683, www.lwvutah.org

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE PAID
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #1716

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

SALT LAKE— SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

See top of page 11 for information

Nite Owls ~ Monday, September 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

@ 862 Harrison AVE (1375 S)

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

Girl Scout Unit ~ Monday, September 26 @ 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

@ Girl Scout Headquarters 445 E. 4500 S

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

Bench Bunch ~ Wednesday, September 28 @ 9:30 a.m

@ LWV Office 3806 S Highland Drive

Carolyn Dunn, Unit Leader — 801-278-9409

Library Unit ~ Thursday, September 29 @ noon-1:30 p.m.

Room D (downstairs) @ Main Library, 200 E 400 S

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