



January 2008

President's Letter

Co-presidents:

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Happy New Year! By this time next year, the elections will have given new leaders, new (hopefully) solutions and (probably) new problems. But the good news is that the League of Women Voters actively participates in choosing leaders, contributing to solutions and pointing out problems and options for solving them.

Recently a friend, talking about a problem, said the League should be working on a particular issue. My response? She's now a new member! Perhaps I'm getting too feisty in my old age (just turned 78 today) but my patience with those pointing out problems without the willingness (or courage) to join in the democratic process is very frustrating. Many members truly don't have the time to be as active as others, but they ARE contributing members. Many others work lobbying at the Capitol or from home to ensure that legislators and policy makers are aware of our presence and seek us out for assistance, opinions and suggestions. We have a solid reputation with these folks because we DO study before forming opinions or policies; our facts are backed up with solid research. And many many people, including AAUW members, helped with The Democracy Store; it was a great success this year—just imagine what it will be like this fall!

OK, you probably don't need to hear all this, but I'm so impressed with what the League does, often with fewer resources than other groups!

To start off this busy year, a legislative luncheon is scheduled for January 29 at the State Capitol. Speakers are UEA's Kim Campbell, Sara Wright from Utah Clean Energy and Amy Defreeze with Utah Rivers Council will bring us up to speed on legislative issues in the current session and respond to questions. Parking will be easier this year, but taking the bus is still easier. Come to the Capitol Cafeteria (in the East Wing), get your lunch (of course you pay!) and join us in the Beehive Room beginning at 11 a.m.

At the November Board meeting, Polly Hough was elected to the position of First Vice President – Program Education. Polly is a long-time member, especially interested in alternative energy sources and in preventing any growth in nuclear plants. To that end, she will be going to Nevada on January 9 with a busload of folks protesting a possible new plant there. We are so glad to have her as the LWVUT representative with the Clean Air Alliance.

Have you noticed the LWV ads in *City Weekly*? Thank Sue Lind!

Did you see Ann Wechsler's excellent letter in the *Salt Lake Tribune*,

PRESIDENT continued on next page ...

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3rd VP
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Membership
Carolyn Dunn

Arrangements
Mary Buchanan

Secretary
Ann Wechsler

Treasurer
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Citizens Lobby in Washington

By Ann Wechsler

The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 (H.R. 2421) is a vital piece of legislation, especially important to Utah because we are the second driest state in the nation and much of our drinking water derives from ephemeral or small streams. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over half of the nation's rivers, streams, lakes and coastal estuaries are not safe for fishing, swimming or boating. Passage of H.R. 2421 and its companion in the senate (S. 1870) would clarify federal jurisdiction and restore the protections of the Clean Water Act of 1972 as originally intended by Congress.

In 2003, the Bush administration began removing protection from streams and wetlands that could not be proven to have a connection to navigable rivers and major lakes. The CWRA, introduced by James Oberstar (D-MN) in May, in its sparse wording would broaden and restore protection of streams and wetlands by replacing the term "navigable waters" throughout the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with "waters of the United States".

Based on the notion that constituents from home districts carry some weight with their congressional delegations, a Sierra Club colleague from Illinois and I went to Washington to lobby for the bill's passage. We focused on the Illinois and Utah delegations, providing enough legwork in two days of intense humidity in June to tire the most seasoned visitors. We thanked those members who were already co-sponsors, explained the legislation to those legislative aides who needed it, and reminded all that 30,000 Sierra Club members might be interested in their environmental voting record. A few were surprisingly receptive. One Illinois aide remarked, "We get the national people in here, but it's nice to see someone from back home"! Others invited us to bring environmental concerns to them in the future; still another (though not from Utah) suggested that his office be flooded with phone calls urging his boss to sign on – a gentle reminder that participatory democracy in



Senators Durbin and Obama, with Frank Orto from Illinois and Ann Wechsler at the weekly Coffee with Constituents

DEMOCRACY continued on next page ...

...*PRESIDENT* continued

explaining the difference between irradiation and radioactivity to the reporter and general public? Thanks, Ann.

Marci Stokes is the new face in the League Office—she will update the email program and work on the website. We welcome her—Sandy welcomes her even more!!

The Holiday Social on December 6 was very well attended. Judi Hillman, League member and Executive Director of the Utah Health Policy Project explained the project and some of the data from current research, some of which will be in an upcoming *Voter*.

— *Joyce Barnes*

Solution for a Broken Health Care System?

By Angelique Goodhue

“Quality Health Care Coverage for all Utahns” is the stated goal of the Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP). This is a lofty goal indeed when you consider that 20% of Utahns currently have no health insurance coverage and little access to care outside of emergency rooms. What’s more, UHPP proposes to provide quality health care for all Utahns in a financially sustainable way. Sounds pretty good so far. But how will it work?

The UHPP proposes that all Utahns purchase affordable health insurance using an “insurance exchange”. The exchange would help eligible Utah residents find and pay for appropriate health insurance plans. The exchange would ideally be the conduit through which all small groups or individuals would access health insurance.

Why is an exchange necessary? Insurance companies participating in the exchange would compete with each other to cover small groups and individuals. The ability to compare plans head to head and the group purchasing power of all small groups and individuals purchasing insurance through this one conduit would theoretically drive costs down.

In addition to the concept of the exchange, UHPP is focused on several other principles which could help bring the high cost of health care down while improving the quality of care. These principles include the following:

Shared risk: Health care coverage would be guaranteed to everyone. No one would be turned down. Everyone would pay about the same amount for coverage, regardless of actuarial risks. Adverse selection (being turned down as a bad risk or being charged exorbitant rates based on your risk profile) would be eliminated.

EXCHANGE continued on next page ...

...*DEMOCRACY* continued

America lives on.

A delightful highlight of this Capitol Hill ritual is the early morning weekly Coffee with Constituents that Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama convene. It is a slice of efficient governing. The Senators appear precisely on time and begin taking questions, substantive questions, from a diverse audience. Senator Obama readily affirmed that he would support the CWRA. Utahns may appreciate the fact that Richard Durbin is also the sponsor of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, S. 1170. We also appreciated the donuts and the accompanying photo opportunity with the Senators.

Democracy does have its upside.

The Clean Water Restoration Act has 173 co-sponsors in the house and 21 sponsors in the senate. It has no co-sponsors from Utah. I have found a website, OpenCongress.org, a fruitful way to follow the progress of any bill, with a glossary of terms and a concise explanation of how a bill becomes law. Navigating Congress online proves immeasurably more gratifying than searching for the elevators in its labyrinth of halls. However, when it comes to legislation that will significantly impact our future, however you choose to navigate the democratic process is a welcome responsibility.

LEAGUE’S POSITION ON HEALTH CARE

For more information, go to the national League website and search for Health Care, or simply click [here](#) to read the April 1993 statement.

BUTTON UP!

Poll workers unite. Salt Lake Count Elections assures us that we may sport League bling. So wear your pin or anything else that might identify you as a League member.

...EXCHANGE continued

Affordable premiums and medical care: Contributions for coverage would be based on ability to pay. Those who can shoulder more of the burden would do so.

Shared Responsibility: Employers, individuals, providers and government would share in the cost of coverage and medical care. All Utahns would be required to purchase coverage in the exchange or enroll in programs like Medicaid and CHIP.

Cost Control and Financial Sustainability: The money spent by hospitals, emergency rooms and other providers on those with no or inadequate insurance would be invested instead in cost-effective coverage.

Prevention and Wellness: Incentives would be provided for individuals to pursue Wellness. Primary care would be more easily accessed and would be focused on preventing disease and achieving wellness, not just treating disease.

Publicly responsive, evidence-based benefits management: Care provided would be based on available research. The decisions regarding what would and would not be covered would be subject to public scrutiny. It would be responsive to public feedback.

Lean administration and maximum purchasing power: Health plans competing for the privilege of providing coverage for Utah residents would need to become more administratively efficient in order to compete. Being able to operate without employees who under the current system deny coverage or claims would certainly help improve efficiency.

Provider Stewardship: Providers would not be compensated on the basis of tests ordered or procedures performed. Rather, they would be encouraged to use resources wisely, following published clinical guidelines for a particular disease or condition. Retrospective review of performance would be one way of ensuring that such guidelines are followed.

Quality improvement and systematic elimination of health disparities: Efforts at making improvements would be centralized and coordinated. Elimination of health disparities among different cultural, racial and ethnic groups would be a particular focus.

Quality efforts would help reduce inefficiencies such as underuse or failure to provide a service that would have a favorable outcome, overuse or providing health services whose risk of harm exceeds potential benefits and are not cost effective, misuse or avoidable complications of appropriate health care and variation or wide deviation in care of similar diagnoses.

How will the UHPP implement this plan? One proposal is that a single bill including all of the crucial elements of the plan would be submitted to legislature. The details of the plan have not yet been worked out.

If you are interested in having an impact on the process, feedback and comments are being solicited from the community on the UHPP website (www.healthpolicyproject.org/index.html). You can also get involved by joining USHARE (Utahns for Sustainable Health Care Reform), the Utah Business Group on Health or the Medicaid Policy Clinic by contacting Stacey@healthpolicyproject.org or calling (801)433-2299.

HEALTH CARE REVIEW SOUGHT

Contact
HCR4US
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call
978-443-8609

Health Care
Reform for the
US
www.hcr4us.org

Two strong
advocates for
universal, single
payer health
care:

PNHP
(www.pnhp.org) and Health
Care Now
(healthcare-now.org)

Health Care Reform for the U.S. (HCR4US)

An informal group of about 300 members from Leagues in 46 states is asking that local Leagues seek a "Review" of the LWVUS health care study. They would like to:

1. Raise visibility of the LWVUS position as a good solution to the U.S. health-care dilemma,
2. Serve as a resource and education for LWV members,
3. Mobilize LWV members to educate other members and public,
4. Prepare for 2008 LWVUS Convention, to educate members on Health Care Reform.

Program Planning for 2008 Convention

Local Leagues should ask that health-care reform be recommended as a Review item for 2008-10. That is how to encourage LWVUS attention to health-care reform more broadly and actively, HCR4US has been informed. Local Leagues may do this when completing their program-planning forms due March 1. A Review will allow for the updating of our present health care position without the funds, time, and human energy required for an entire new study.

Local Leagues should include the Review of health-care reform as one of their recommended items. Leagues should note that "Review" means "to update materials and to promote education at the local and state level rather than to redo the entire study."

Health Care Facts in the United States:

1. Over 46 million Americans are uninsured and at least that many are underinsured.
2. In 2004, Elizabeth Warren of Harvard Law School published a study showing that 50% of all personal bankruptcies followed a medical crisis. And of those people filing personal bankruptcy, 75% had health insurance ("Sick and Broke", Elizabeth Warren, Miami Herald, 2/12/2005)
3. Family insurance premiums in the United States are averaging more than \$9,500 per annum. (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2005)
4. Insurance is tied to employment in the USA. If you lose your job, you lose your insurance. Health insurance should be portable and lifelong.
5. The U.S. is the only developed country that does not offer universal health coverage to its residents. Plus the USA has higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy rates than the other developed countries with universal coverage. (United Nations UNDP Human Development Report, 9/7/05)
6. There are more than 9 million children (1 in 9) in the USA who are uninsured. (www.childrenshealthcampaign.org)
7. Health care costs are draining municipal and school budgets all over the country (check your local area to see what percentage of their costs are going to health care coverage of their employees.)

Gauge Your Attitudes Toward Immigrants

This questionnaire is designed to help you think through your own attitudes and understanding of immigrants and immigration policies. After responding True or False to each question, see Page 11 to compare your answers with data related to immigrants and immigration issues.

True or False:

1. ____ Most of the immigrants in this country crossed the border illegally.
2. ____ If we seal our borders completely we can keep people from crossing illegally.
3. ____ Immigrants here illegally do not pay taxes.
4. ____ Today there are more immigrants than ever before in our nation's history.
5. ____ Most Latinos in the U. S. are undocumented.
6. ____ Immigrants in the U. S. without authorization are criminals and have no regard for laws.

DONORS ROLL CALL

Carolyn Nelson

Nancy Young

Marianne
O'Brien

Kathy
Van Dame

Naomi Franklin

Margaret
Harris

Hugh & Jan
Gillilan

Sandra Wilkins

...HCR4US continued

8. Small businesses are straining to provide any coverage at all for their employees, thus making them less competitive.

9. Many independent contractors and family-owned business owners do without any health care coverage at all for themselves or their employees due to high health care coverage costs.

10. Physicians for a National Healthcare Program (PNHP) maintains that under a "Medicare for All" plan, the U.S. could save almost \$300 billion in total health care costs while providing universal coverage for all.

(www.pnhp.org)

11. In 2004, total health care spending accounted for 15.3% of the United States GDP. The average for other industrialized OEDC (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries was 8.9%.

(www.oedc.org)

12. In recent elections, health care was mentioned as one of the most important concerns in the minds of the electorate (just after the economy and the war in Iraq) in many national polls.

13. In every car that GM makes, approximately \$1500 goes toward the health care costs of its employees. This high cost provides strong incentives for American businesses like GM to take their manufacturing plants to countries like Canada which already have a national health care plan for its citizens (*Washington Post*, 2/11/05).

14. Co-pays and deductibles continue to rise for those who have insurance. Insurance companies shift the rising cost of health care to patients.

Finally, health care should be a right of all those living in the USA, not a commodity that is distributed and sold to those who can afford it and leaving those who can not afford it without any health care coverage.

48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION ON HORIZON

June 13-17, 2008,
the League of
Women Voter of
the United States
will host
Convention in
Portland, Oregon.
For more
information, go to
the website:
www.lwv.org

Battle Lines Drawn Over Convention Focus

Compiled by Ann O'Connell

Will there be a battle between the supporters of more League action in the health-care area and League members who want a study of direct election of the president?

I hope you have read the article in the winter *Utah Voter* on the latest proposal for circumventing the Electoral College. The LWV of Salt Lake will study this *National Popular Vote* system in April. If our State Board approves, we will use materials created by the League of Women Voters of New York. You can go to their website (<http://www.lwvny.org/>) and click on "National Popular Vote" to see their proposal, how the National League responded to them, and their background information on National Popular Vote. Also, the New York League is asking other Leagues (therefore us) to join them in asking for a National League study of National Popular Vote. You will also note that the LWVUS has told New York that a state cannot do such a study. It is interesting that the National League has not told Utah we cannot do so, even though there were two representatives of the LWVUS at our state convention when the study was adopted. They did not object and in fact seemed to be pleased with our program. You can read more about the New York League's study and proposal to us below.

But there is more. The June Convention is growing even more exciting as there is another major issue competing for our attention. An unofficial coalition of Leaguers would like to make national health care the League's major focus for the next two years. And they too are asking for our support. Since resources and energy are limited, I predict delegates will partake of a rousing debate and considerable fun and excitement (at least for the likes of us League policy wonks). Please plan to go to Portland and participate.

Here is what New York proposes.

Recommend a New Study at LWVUS Program Planning Time

The League of Women Voters of New York State respectfully requests Leagues across the country to recommend the adoption (at the National Convention in 2008) of a National Study entitled: "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President." Leagues are urged to recommend this exact wording when returning their Program Planning Report Forms to LWVUS by March 1st.

Why they are making this request

NY State Delegates Embraced Study of Compact for NPV

In May 2007, the NY State Convention enthusiastically adopted the non-recommended study: Should NYS Join the Compact for a National Popular Vote? In June, the NPV State Study Committee began its research. The timetable approved by LWVNY board required that all study materials including consensus questions would be out to local Leagues by the end of January 2008. In fact, the NPV study guide is near completion.

NPV continued on next page ...

...NPV continued

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PROPOSAL**

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**STATEMENT
OF POSITION**

on Selection of
the President,
as Announced
by National
Board, January
1970, Revised
March 1982 and
Updated June
2004: League
of Women
Voters of the
United States of
America
“Impact on
Issues 2006-
2008”, Wash.,
D.C.: LWVUS,
publication
#386,
http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf
August 10,
2007.

Background on National Popular Vote

Under the U.S. Constitution, the states have exclusive and complete power to allocate their electoral votes, and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time. Under the National Popular Vote bill, all of the state’s electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President – meaning 270 of 538. As of November 11th, the bill has 366 legislative sponsors in 47 states. 43 bills have been introduced in all but 8 States and 10 Legislative Chambers Have Now Passed the Bill: Maryland became the first state to enact the National Popular Vote bill on April 10, 2007. The bill has also passed the Hawaii House (35-12) and the Hawaii Senate (19-4). The bill has passed the Colorado Senate and the Arkansas House. On May 2, 2007 The Illinois House of Representatives passed the National Popular Vote bill. On May 14, the California & the North Carolina Senates passed the National Popular Vote bill. Clearly, the time is ripe to study this issue so that we know whether we support using a compact as a method for electing the President by National Popular Vote.

The New York League is asking other Leagues to:

1. Enter: New Study of “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President” on the Program Planning Report Form: in the section New Study/Program Item, under the heading Representative Government. Help us spread the word to your League contacts across the country.
2. Let us know if you will recommend the study to LWVUS so we can track our lobbying efforts.
3. Send delegates to LWVUS Convention June13-17, 2008 to vote in favor of study. In order to see why this idea merits further consideration go to: <http://www.lwvny.org/npv.html> or go to <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/index.php>.

The League’s Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

Out with Ozone, 2.5 Particulates

By Polly Hough

SL LEAGUE JOINS CLEAN AIR GROUP

The Salt Lake League has officially joined the new Utah Clean Air Alliance. As the UCAA motto says: 'We all share the right to breathe clean air.' We can have it, if we stand up for it. If you could spare a couple of hours a week/month to serve on a UCAA committee, please email polly.hough@comcast.org.

Greet the New Year with renewed resolve to help us clean up the Salt Lake air we breathe. Leaguers, get ready. We have an exciting new way to help our government improve our city. We need only to help ourselves and our leaders learn the extent of the immediate climate change problem, and to accept our responsibilities to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

We, LWVSL, did our own study of alternative energy sources last spring, and had articles in the state and Salt Lake *Voters* on governmental responses to the challenge. Now our newest effort, to improve air quality, will help us deal more effectively with raising awareness of the many facets of climate change, and with promoting cleaner, safer energy sources.

The Salt Lake League has officially joined the new Utah Clean Air Alliance (UCAA), which was instituted by the MOMs and DOCs coalitions in November. UCAA is dedicated to getting cleaner air in Salt Lake and other Utah cities. UCAA has accepted the "inalienable" right to healthy air as its over-riding goal, along with being science-based, sustainability-focused, consensus-based, and working to protect the rights of children and future generations who cannot speak for themselves.

Our citizens, plagued by inversions throughout the year with dangerous levels of ozone and particulates, are no longer willing to overlook air pollutants. Newspaper readers can look at the air quality report, on the weather page or online, and react to the Red Alerts. We have recently learned that serious damage occurs at even lower levels than the present EPA standard. Enforcement has been a problem under the present administration's leadership, and measurement has its problems. As we learn more about the damaging physiological effects caused by breathing in the city air's toxins, Utah Clean Air Alliance will provide a way for us to access the best information and disperse it to larger numbers on our website, which is being designed.

A typical problem that UCAA and its member organizations are working on is the effort to cut down vehicle emissions, and especially school bus diesel fumes which kids breathe while the buses are idling in the school yard. Those emissions, dependent on place and weather pattern, are toxic and the buses must be retrofitted as soon as possible. The MOMs organization started the local work on this, but they know it will take many people working; to get grants from the EPA and other sources, to nudge school districts to care, to retrofit school and other diesel vehicles, and to encourage governmental response. Logan City, already, has been able to obtain federal funds for school bus retrofits. So, we hope UCAA, with its transportation, education, renewable, and other committees, can attract large numbers to join forces, educate themselves to the problems here and now, and get ready to insist that safe standards be instituted, and enforced, with the appropriate allocations of public and private funds. We hope to have a bill introduced in this January 2008 Legislature to allocate funds and mandate control of the problem, well

UCAA continued on next page...

PAY DUES ONLINE SOON

What a new concept for the League of Women Voters!!! Yes, you will soon be able to pay your dues, donate, renew your membership, and do it with a credit card — all on the State League website. The membership committee has been working on this concept for many months. Although many of us are not computer savvy, we feel computers are here to stay and the LWV needs to keep up with the times. You know how convenient and time-saving email is and most of us wonder how we ever lived without it.
- Anne Zeigler

...UCAA continued

within the present jurisdiction. Other bills planned will help but need support by an alert and aroused citizenry. League members can assist with the Alliance and League committee for alternative energy.

Already UCAA has initiated several actions which we, as an organizational member have participated in. One in December was a letter to Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, urging him to hold off the construction of a new coal-fired plant sited near our southern border, the proposed Toquop project near Mesquite. Because we are downwind from its emissions and already have too much ozone and particulates, we cannot tolerate raising the level by a new coal plant's toxins. In a letter to Gov. Jon Huntsman asking him to be true to his announced priority of improving air quality in Utah cities and recreational areas, UCAA also reminded him to urge the EPA to accept the new science-based standards, and to reject the recent Association of Manufacturers' effort to undermine the higher standards.

These initial actions allowed us to see if the UCAA would respect the autonomy of individual component organizations comprising it, especially those with non-partisan orientations such as LWV, except when they, themselves, have taken a position. We consulted with the presidents of both the Utah and Salt Lake Leagues on our interpretation of the national league's position, given to Congress November 8 by the LWVUS's, President Mary Wilson. Her letter concerned the need to set stringent standards for emissions and to fund development of renewables, in the new energy bill being debated. We can lower our national "carbon footprint" (be responsible about the CO₂ level which we put into the atmosphere), especially since we have not signed onto any international agreement about CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere. Please check out our LWVUS President's [strong statement](#) on the national website, and feel good as we did, that Leaguers are doing our part and being relevant to the changing needs of our troubled time.

Although HR6, the 2007 Energy Bill that Congress passed, is not as strong as some would have hoped, it did begin to tighten auto emission standards and allocate funds for renewable incentives and research, spurring on their cost-effectiveness. President Bush did, grudgingly, sign it, saying that although there is too much "pork" in it, (some suggested by him). It has some valuable measures in it. We will keep you posted on the actions and evolution of UCAA, as well as League work on energy resources and upcoming bills at the Utah legislature to combat global warming. Several League members serve on UCAA committees including its steering committee, and we hope for more.

Because of its research on these quite technical matters, Utah Clean Energy has greatly helped all these citizen organizations concerned with positive clean energy legislation and regulation. You can learn more about their legislative priorities at their [website](#).

One of the most important UCAA committees for clean air is "Red Alert", that will help publicize measures for schools and the public to take during our worst inversions.

WEBSITE GETS FACELIFT

It is much more user friendly – please give it a try and check it out weekly, as it does change. We hope a new online membership form will encourage people to join and support us financially. None of this would have happened without the efforts of LWVUT past president and Utah Voter Editor Nanette Benowitz who originally set up a web site for the LWV, and LWVUT Communications Director Jessica Mathewson, who has diligently pursued the changes. Marci Stokes, our new assistant to Sandy Peck, will be available to help keep the site updated.
— Anne Zeigler

Immigration Attitudes: Answers to Questionnaire (p6)

1. False Most immigrants come to the United States legally. Of those in the country without proper authorization, just over half came on some type of temporary visa and overstayed their authorized time period. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, in 2005, the foreign-born population in the U.S. was between 10 million and 12 million, less than half of whom crossed the border illegally.

(Source: Department of Homeland Security:
<http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/index.html>)

2. False During the decade between 1995 and 2005, the government investment in border security, including the construction of fences and detection devices, grew more than tenfold. Yet, during this same period the number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. doubled. When there exists on one side of the border desperate people in need of work and on the other side an economy that demands foreign labor, no border enforcement regime alone can prevent illegal entries. What is more likely to result from a strategy that simply attempts to seal the borders, without addressing other aspects of the immigration system, is more organized crime involvement in clandestine crossings and more deaths of migrants making desperate and dangerous attempts at crossings.

(Source: Immigration and Naturalization website:
http://www.ncjrs.org/ondcppubs/publications/enforce/border/ins_3.html)

3. False Immigrants, even those without proper immigration status in the country, pay taxes – sales taxes, property taxes, income taxes, Social Security deductions, government license and permit fees, gasoline and beverage taxes, etc. The National Research Council reports that on an individual basis, immigrants contribute about \$80,000 more in taxes than they receive in public benefits over a life time.

(Source: http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.html)

4. True, but ...The 34 million people in the U.S. who are foreign born (in 2005) represent the largest number of immigrants in our nation's history. However, as a proportion of the total U. S. population, today's immigrants are about 12%, whereas in 1910, the proportion of foreign-born of the U.S. population was 15%. Thus, today we are less a nation of immigrants than we were 100 years ago.

(Source: Census Data: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kprof00-us.pdf> and <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/censr-4.pdf>)

5. False Of the more than 40 million Latinos in the United States, about 75% were born in this country.

6. False Under current U.S. laws, people here without proper immigration authority have committed a civil offense, rather than committed a criminal activity. Moreover, immigrants are less likely to commit a crime in the U.S. than are native-born. According to the Migration Policy Institute, the rate of incarceration of foreign-born individuals (.68% of total foreign-born are in jails) is well below that of native-born ones (3.51%).

New Member Corner

Samantha Starr

343 S 500 East 84120; 864-1337

Samantha is a student in political science at the University of Utah who recently spent time in Washington, D.C., on an internship with the National Democratic Party. She is She has a passion for politics, and her grandmother is the president of the Cedar City League.



Joan Wolf

4467 Adonis Dr. 84124; 278-1758

Joan belonged to the League when she lived in Ohio. She's a retired professor from the University of Utah in the Department of Special Education, and her husband also teaches at the U, as well.

Jeanette Misaka

420 Park Terrace Dr. 84124; 277-9303

Jeanette is retired from the College of Education, Department of Special Education at the University of Utah. For six years, she worked at the state Office of Education in the education equity division. She loves to read and enjoys classical music, theater and travel. She is a member of AAUW and she joined because she likes what the League does, wants to support us and wants more information about the issues.

Kathy Black

3958 Parkview Dr. 84124; 274-1688

Kathy is a Utah native, a piano performer and teacher, who has been active in the PTA. She was on the Salt Lake Board of Education for six years, and served as president. She was on the board of Valley Mental Health. Her interests are in competitive tennis, and she has seven children and 10 grandchildren. She also enjoys reading. She joined the League at the urging of Anne Zeigler.

David and Sue Click

1387 E. 1300 South 84105; 583-3004

Sue has a bachelor's in English from Pennsylvania State University and works as a domestic co-parenting mediator, a field in which she has been a pioneer. She became a mediator after being appointed to mediate a realty dispute. She loves bike riding, yoga and belongs to an organization called the Cronos. She joined because she's very concerned about women's issues.

David is on staff at the University of Utah. He loves biking and makes wine as a hobby.

LEAGUE NEEDS GOOD

LISTENERS

As the 57th Legislature gets under way, the League's stalwart Lobby Corps could use your eyes and ears. Whether you can monitor the session from the internet at home or from Capitol Hill, you would be most welcome on our team. Contact Ann O'Connell, 363-9046, connell@xmission.com, and let her know you're interested.

**UNITS MEET
ON SESSION**

See back page for meeting times and places. The Legislature gets rolling again on January 21, and units will explore this elected body during January.

Energy Corridor Questioned

Public meetings to obtain comments on the West-Wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) will be held in 11 Western states and Washington, D.C., through February 5.

There will two meetings on the same day at each location. The first meeting will be held from 2-5 p.m., and the second meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m.

NOTE: Additional important information about the public meetings is available at the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS Information Center website at

<http://corridoreis.anl.gov/involve/pubschedule/>.

The Draft PEIS is available at

<http://corridoreis.anl.gov/eis/guide/index.cfm>.

Dates and locations for the Salt Lake public meeting:

Thursday, January 17
Airport Hilton Hotel
5151 Wiley Post Road
Salt Lake City , UT
(801)539-1515

If you have questions or need more information, contact the Energy Corridor PEIS webmaster at corridoreiswebmaster@anl.gov.

This may seem like an uninteresting technical open house about a topic far from League interests, but this is not the case. Our members want to be involved in promoting alternative energy. These energy corridors (rights of way for power lines, gas lines, etc.) are not the dreams of sustainability planners. The corridors are integral to promoting the fossil fuel industry of the Intermountain West. It could be that some if not all of these corridors could be used to distribute power from alternative sources. But right now I am very suspicious of what kind of energy production they will promote. We need to be at the meeting to understand the specific purposes of each corridor and to try to parse out where they pass through lands we would especially like to protect.

Directions:

Take I-80 W toward RENO / S.L. INT'L AIRPORT. 5.2 miles
Take the WRIGHT BROS. DRIVE exit- EXIT 114. 0.3 miles
Merge onto WRIGHT BROTHERS DR. 0.1 miles
Turn LEFT onto WILEY POST WAY. 0.4 miles
End at 5151 Wiley Post Way

— *Ann O'Connell*,
Natural Resources Chair, 363-9046
occonnell@xmission.com

**DONORS
ROLL CALL**

Memorial Fund
contributions:

*In celebration of
Madeleine
Noehren*

Nancy Melling

Charlotte
Newman

*In celebration of
Pat Brim*

Nanette
Benowitz

Reggie Benowitz

Katharine Biele

Nancy Melling

Sandy Peck

Marelynn Zipser

Patricia Condon Brim 1923 ~ 2007

The League lost a talented, devoted member when Pat Brim passed away on December 16.

Pat joined the League after she and Ray returned to Salt Lake upon Ray's retirement from the Air Force. She served the Salt Lake and Utah Leagues in many capacities—study committee member, editor par excellence of numerous studies, co-president of the Salt Lake League, and board member of both Leagues. Under her leadership, the Salt Lake League initiated their annual State of the Community Luncheon.

She served the Salt Lake community in many other ways, including serving as one of the early chairmen of Utah Common Cause and as a member of the Utah Women's State Legislative Council. She also chaired the Utah Museum of Fine Arts Board, as well as chairing a soup cookbook committee and organizing an annual flower and art fundraiser for the Museum.

She and Ray opened their home to the League on many occasions. When Kay Brim, Ray's sister, retired and moved to Salt Lake City, Pat introduced Kay to the Salt Lake League.

We will miss Pat's efforts, her always gracious response to requests, her counsel and her warmth. Our condolences go to Ray and Kay on their loss. We will all miss her.

— *Gigi Brandt*

Come to the 2008 League Legislative Luncheon

Tuesday, January 29 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Beehive Room, State Room Café,
East Building of the Capitol Complex .

We'll meet over a no-host lunch available at the cafeteria down the hall, plan League action and hear experts on our priorities:

- Education: Kim Campbell, President, Utah Education Association
- Clean Air: Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy
- Water Conservation: Amy Defreese, Utah Rivers Council

Space is limited, so please RSVP to the office 801-272-8683 or lwwut@xmission.com

**CLIMATE
ISSUES
HEAT UP**

Series of events at University of Utah to focus Utahns on global warming and solutions.

Nation to Focus on Global Warming

The University of Utah is participating in Focus the Nation, a national educational and civic engagement initiative aimed at uniting U.S. citizens to find solutions to global warming. With more than 10,000 volunteers building events at over 1,300 schools, faith and civic organizations and businesses, Focus the Nation has become the largest Teach-in in history.

The Office of Sustainability and a coalition of students, staff, faculty, and community groups have planned a series of events throughout January to engage Utahns this discussion. All events are free and open to public.

Culminating events:

Thursday, Jan. 31; 6-7:30 p.m. – Utah Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium
Panel Discussion: Policy Solutions to Global Climate Change
President Michael K. Young, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon , Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, Midvale Mayor Joanne Seghini, and the Governor’s Energy Advisor Dianne Nielson.
Co-Hosted by the Hinckley Institute of Politics

Jan. 21-Feb. 12 - www.focusthenation.org/chooseyourfuture.php
Choose Your Future: Vote for a Solution - an opportunity for students and citizens from all over the nation to join together and vote on five priorities for action. The campus and citizen endorsed solutions will be presented to political leaders in Washington D.C., and state capitals across the nation.

Main Events:

Wednesday, Jan. 23 - 6:30-8 p.m. – U of U Olpin Union 4th floor, Panorama East room
Panel Discussion: Interfaith dialogue about Climate Change – featuring moderator Elaine Emmi and speakers Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish, Rabbi Tracee Rosen, Vaughn Lovejoy, George Handley, and Anwar Arafat.

Week of Jan. 28 - www.sustainability.utah.edu/focus.htm
Teach-in at the U of U - voluntary faculty participation linking course content to global climate change and initiating class discussion. See who the faculty are and consider signing up your class.

Wednesday, Jan. 30 - 6-7:30 p.m. – U of U Olpin Union Theater
Focus the Nation 2% Solution Webcast - Join Stanford University climate scientist, Stephen Schneider, sustainability expert Hunter Lovins and green jobs pioneer Van Jones for a discussion of global warming solutions. Bring your cell phone for text message polling during the webcast!

Associated Events:

These events have been organized by other university departments or local non-profit organizations and are related to climate change and solutions.

FOCUS continued on next page...

...*FOCUS* continued

Tuesday, Jan. 15 – 12:15-1:15 p.m. – S.J. Quinney College of Law, #106 Stegner Center: Greenbag series - Sustainability in Building and Design – Angela Dean, AMD Architecture.

Thursday, Jan. 17 – 7 p.m. , The City Library, Main Auditorium
Utah Museum of Natural History: The Nature of Things lecture - When Deserts and Mountains Collide - Snow in the West: Implications for Global Warming and Our Economy – Dr. Thomas Painter.

Thursday, Jan. 17 - 6:30-8 p.m. – University of Utah Olpin Union Theater
Film Screening: What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire – Co-hosted by Post Carbon Salt Lake

Friday, Jan. 18 – 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Orson Spencer Hall (OSH), #215
Geography Department Colloquium lecture – A National Vision for Stabilizing Global Climate – Dr. Craig Forster, Director, Office of Sustainability.

Saturday, Jan. 19 – 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. – University of Utah Olpin Union Building 4th floor, Panorama East room (note: registration required – see website for details)

Workshop on Permaculture principles and practice: Hands-on solutions to Climate Change – Co-hosted by TreeUtah and the student group S.E.E.D.

Sunday, Jan. 20 – 6-10 p.m., Brewvies Cinema Pub, 677 S 200 W, Salt Lake City (must be 21 to attend, screening is free).

Film Screening: An Inconvenient Truth – with Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, Utah Clean Energy, and HEAL Utah staff leading a Q&A session.

Tuesday, Jan. 22 – Stegner Center: Greenbag series - Sustainable Development and Management of Ski Resorts – Dr. Gian Zini.
12:15 pm-1:15 pm, S.J. Quinney College of Law, R m. 106.

Monday, Jan. 28 – 3:30-5 p.m., University of Utah Olpin Union Theater.
Global Warming and The Coming Energy Shortfall: Interconnected Problems, Common Solutions? – Hosted by Post Carbon Salt Lake.

Wednesday, Jan. 30 – 9:10-9:30 am , KCPW 88.3 and 105.3 FM.
Live radio interview with Dr. Marcia McNutt about Changing Climate and the Oceans (*see below*).

Wednesday, Jan. 30 – 7:30-9 p.m., Aline Wilmot Skaggs Biology Bldg., Room 220.
Frontiers of Science Lecture: Changing Climate: It's all about the Oceans – Dr. Marcia McNutt, Monterey Bay Research Institute.

**FOR MORE
ON 'FOCUS':**

<http://www.sustainability.utah.edu/newsandevents/ftncalendar.htm>

or contact
Lindsay Clark at
the Office of
Sustainability -
lclark@sustainability.utah.edu
801-585-9352

**DEADLINE
LOOMS FOR
PRIMARY**

Utah's
Presidential
Primary is on
Tuesday,
February 5.
Deadline
to register
is January 29.

Facts on Voting in Presidential Primary

Who will the Democrats and Republicans nominate for U.S. President next summer? You should help decide.

When:

It's not too late to sign up in person so that you can help decide by voting in Utah's Presidential Primary on Tuesday, February 5. But January 29 is the deadline!

Where to register:

You can register by going to your County Clerk's office weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. In Salt Lake, register at the County Complex, 21st South and State, South Building, 1st floor.

You should register – or re-register if you have moved, changed your name or want to change your party affiliation. Registering as "unaffiliated" instead of with a particular political party gives you the option of waiting until Primary Election Day (Feb. 5) to decide who you want to vote for.

Primary Rules Different:

The rules for voting in the Presidential Primary are a little different from other elections. They are established by the National Political Parties, not by the state or county.

To vote a **Republican Ballot**, you must:

- Be a registered Republican, or
- if unaffiliated with any other certified political party in the State of Utah, you must affiliate with the Republican Party.
- Unaffiliated voters may affiliate at the polls on Election Day.

To vote a **Democratic Ballot**, you must:

- Be a registered Democrat, or
- if unaffiliated with any other certified political party in the State of Utah, you do not need to affiliate with the Democratic Party.

Utah Democratic Party 328-1212

Utah Republican Party 533-9777

Need to **Vote Absentee**? You can vote absentee in the clerk's office weekdays January 14-February 4, 8 a.m. -5 p.m. To vote absentee by mail, go to the clerk's website to print an application

<https://secure.slco.org/cl/elections/index.cfm>

or call 801.468-3427

Need to **Vote Early**? You can vote weekdays January 22-31, noon-6 p.m., at various locations in the valley or February 1 from noon-5 p.m.

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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The League of Women Voters thanks



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UNIT MEETINGS

“LEGISLATURE”

Judi Short, Unit Chair
487-7387

Jan. 23 **Bench Bunch**
(Wed.) League Office,
3804 Highland Dr.
9:30-11 a.m.
Carolyn Dunn, Unit Chair
278-9409

Jan. 31 **Challengers**
(Thurs.) Home of Pat Eager
2229 Westminster Ave., SLC
Noon – Bring sack lunch
Marelynn Zipser, Unit Chair
578-2069

Jan. 28 **Girl Scout Headquarters**
(Mon.) (formerly Old Farm)
445 East 4500 South
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Anne Zeigler, Unit Chair
944-4163

Jan. 31 **Main Library**
(Thurs.) 210 East 400 South, SLC
Conf. (Room D) Level-1
1-2 p.m.
Kathy Dorn & Joyce Barnes
Co-Chairs
277-0897

Jan. 21 **Night Owls**
(Mon.) Home of Judi Short
862 E. Harrison (1375 So.)
7:30 p.m.

**NOTE:* If you cannot attend your regular unit meeting, please attend any of the units above.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT
ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT,