



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters
of Utah

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October 2019

League Plans to Further Expand Statewide



by Nicola Nelson, LWV-Davis County Co-President

Yesterday I attended a strategic planning meeting for the Utah League. Yes, my eyes sort of glazed over when I heard the words “strategic planning,” but it turned out to be an interesting and fruitful discussion resulting in some concrete initiatives. One of these initiatives is a plan to extend the League’s presence throughout every part of Utah.

Impossible, we thought at first —no one in (rural, eastern, southern, northern, coal country...) will

support the League’s policies. That brought us to discussion of the League’s mission: “To empower voters and defend democracy.” Do these “other” Utahns really not support that mission? I believe they do. And how did we arrive at our policies? By studying issues we believed were important and arriving at a consensus on our policy positions. Would we support a League study on the topic of “Loss of Grazing Opportunities on Public Lands” or “Why Landfills Are Better than Recycling?” Arriving at a consensus might be challenging!

I believe that a nonprofit nonpartisan political organization that bases its positions on facts would be welcomed in Washington County with its growth and water concerns, in San Juan County where county government and voting rights are undergoing scrutiny, in Carbon County where industries are in transition and unemployment is a growing concern, and elsewhere throughout the state.

Extending our presence statewide requires commitment, people, money, and above all, energy. It’s a long-term project but one that I believe in. I encourage you to think about it and discuss it with other League members.

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Legislative Committee Prepares for 2020 Session

by Emily Walsh, LWV-UT Legislative Action Committee

On Wednesday, October 16, bring a lunch and join us for our legislative lunch meeting! We will meet in the cafeteria of the Senate Building at 11:30 a.m.. All are welcome to attend. We will discuss observations and potential bills and can answer any questions you might have about the legislature. The 2020 Legislative Session looks like it will be most interesting.

We provide legislative updates on KRCL 90.9 FM RadioActive at 6 p.m. before and after interim days. You can watch for posts from us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). If you would like to join the Legislative Action Google Group to participate and observe or to get reports on the committees we observe call (801) 272-8683 or email office@lwwutah.org.

League Volunteers Register New Citizens to Vote

by Janice Mosby, LWV-SL Voter Services Director

The League of Women Voters is a multi-faceted organization, and one of the activities it's known for is registering new voters. The League has an important role in naturalization ceremonies in Salt Lake County, which we attend with the intention of signing up new citizens to vote. These ceremonies take place at the U.S. District Courthouse, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services field office, and other large venues such as Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, the Viridian Event Center, This Is the Place Heritage



Park, and the State Capitol. League volunteers help new citizens fill out the voter registration form and collect and review the forms after they have taken their oath of citizenship. We then congratulate them.

There is nothing more rewarding than attending a naturalization ceremony to watch the candidates take the oath of citizenship and recite their first Pledge of Allegiance. It is not unusual for 25 or more countries to be represented. The ceremony room is often filled with emotion as some stand up to give personal reasons why they are happy to become U.S. citizens. Their gratitude for the opportunity to live in our United States is moving. We should all follow their example by showing our enthusiasm for our country and by encouraging others to exercise the right to vote.

If you are interested in learning more, contact the Salt Lake League's Voter Services committee at voterservices@lwwsl.org.



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League to Celebrate 100th with SLAC Play

by Tina Hose, LWV-UT Anniversary Committee

As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in 2020, the Utah League is collaborating with Salt Lake Acting Company on a play which will complement our historic anniversary.

Four historical characters – Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass' second wife Helen, Douglass' daughter Rosetta and suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton are featured in the play *Four Women Talking about the Man under the Sheet*. (Historical side note: Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton first visited the territory of Utah in 1870.)

The play begins on the morning of February 21, 1895, as Susan B. Anthony knocks on the door of Mrs. Frederick Douglass, whose famous husband unexpectedly died the night before. Anthony is there to offer her condolences – but also to defend herself. Over the course of the play, *Four Women Talking about the Man under the Sheet* explores the intersection of feminism and race. *Four Women* is both serious and at times comedic as the four women in question try to figure out what compromises can and should be made in the service of an ideal.

The Utah League believes that this play is a fantastic opportunity to explore a part of our past as well as issues and ideals that are still current. More events will be a part of the League's 100th Anniversary, but mark your calendars now for March 11, 2020, and the Utah League's evening hosting of *Four Women Talking about the Man under the Sheet* at Salt Lake Acting Company.

U.N. Conference Was Opportunity to Show Off League

by Donnie Davis, LWV-Salt Lake Program Director



A funny thing happened on the way to the *68th United Nations Civil Society Conference on Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities* held here in Salt Lake City. This was the first U.N. Conference to be held outside of the New York U.N. Building since the last conference held in San Francisco 45 years ago. The League has close ties to the U.N. and next year, when the League celebrates its 100 year anniversary, the U.N. will celebrate its 75th. The New York League observes the U.N. and

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attends conferences and gatherings, as we did here in SLC.

As I was sitting at a table just outside of the U.N. Youth area wearing my very large League of Women Voters pin, a young woman stopped by and said she would like some information about the League, and that she would like to become a member! I said, “We would love for you to become a member,” and proceeded to give her information and a Salt Lake League business card. Late that afternoon, I was on my way out of the conference building, which had the most security I have ever seen in Salt Lake, when a young man carrying an “Ask Me” sign yelled, “I love the League of Women Voters!” I turned and he asked, “How did that mock ranked voting go? Did the results align with the election results?” On went the conversation about the need for ranked choice voting in Utah. The League is respected for the work that it does, recognized as a bipartisan non governmental organization, and appreciated by the communities that it serves, which is why I am proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters.

Your Purchases Can Help Fund the League

by **Wendy Molteni, LWV-UT Development Director**

Did you know that you can contribute to the League of Women Voters of Utah at no cost to yourself? Kroger and Amazon will do all of the work for you! On Amazon, simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and set your charity as “League of Women Voters of Utah.” If your closest Kroger store is Smith’s, go to www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/communityrewards and set your organization to “League of Women Voters of Utah.” For other Kroger stores, go to www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/.

All this requires is a few minutes of your time to set up your charity preference, and your purchases will help fund the ongoing work of the League. The State League is busy this fall following the special session of the Legislature, monitoring the tax reform taskforce, attracting new members throughout the state, and attending the Utah Women’s Policy Conference and the UN Civil Society Conference. We can’t do this important work without your help!

Weber League Engages Voters, Works for Change

by **Terri McCulloch, LWV-Weber County President**

In our planning meeting, the board and members of the Weber County League decided that the focus of our activities prior to the upcoming 2020 election will be on promoting voter registration, educating citizens on issues addressed in this election, and increasing voter turnout. The goal of the League at every level has been to “register, educate, and engage voters.” The turnout for the last election in Weber County was less than we had hoped and definitely did not represent the majority opinion of all



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All forums are free and open to the public, sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

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<https://www.hinckley.utah.edu/calendar>

citizens. We have fought this battle since our inception as an organization and participated in the struggle for all citizens' voting rights. It can feel discouraging when voter turnout is low. The fact that the State Legislature did not fully support the ballot initiatives passed by citizens has resulted in some citizens feeling that their vote is not important.

That is definitely wrong. Voters made their choice and the current Legislature chose not to listen. If they don't want to listen, then we need to vote for different representatives who will listen. Remember: the citizens of Utah got together in 2018 and presented initiatives that gained support throughout the state. We came together to get something done, and we did. Our representatives should listen to their constituents, and when they don't, we need to vote them out. The only way to do that is to support candidates who



share the goals and views of citizens, not special interests. The Weber League will get people involved in the election by registering them to vote, educating them on the issues, and encouraging them to go to the polls. We are a small group, but that has never stopped us from making a big impact in the past, and it won't now.

What is the Future of the Great Salt Lake?

by Jan Striefel, LWV-SL Library Unit Leader

The Great Salt Lake Advisory Council was created in 2010 by the Utah Legislature to advise them on the sustainable use, protection, and development of the Great Salt Lake. Members are appointed by the governor and represent the industries associated with the lake, the five counties located around the lake, municipal governments, and environmental groups. The council has undertaken numerous studies, reports, and projects to more fully understand the lake, its health and value, and its future.

Great Salt Lake Integrated Model/Integrated Water Resource Management

The purpose of the [Great Salt Lake Integrated Model](#) is to assemble a wide range of data and develop scenarios to analyze and predict the effects of population growth, climate change, and development on water levels in the Great Salt Lake. Population and land use data have been analyzed and projected into the future based on current levels of growth. Climate and hydrology in the model is based on predictions that the weather will be warmer and wetter. Water use data in the model came from the State Water Strategy Plan, which recommends conservation goals for municipal and industrial water, as well as agricultural water.

Salt Lake to Meet on Election Reform

October Unit Discussion meetings will revolve around the issue of election reform. If you are wondering why that's important, what it means, or why it hasn't happened already, you should attend one of our six small group meetings around the county and in Park City.

These meetings are open to the public. Check out the locations and times on our website. You will find resources there, as well.:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/unit-meetings/#unit>

The analysis suggests that climate change will be the most significant factor in the lake's future, but planning and conservation may mitigate some of the potential impacts. The primary recommendation is that water management and planning be coordinated on a regional basis, and include an education and incentive program along with land use planning changes. The message the numbers send is that the



time for action is now, and such action must include significant changes in water use behavior and mandatory conservation.

The model is intended to be managed by the Division of Water Quality and will allow analysis of potential actions regarding the lake to help facilitate good management and policy.

Assessment of Potential Costs of Declining Water Levels in Great Salt Lake

This Assessment (which will [be publicly available](#) soon) analyzes the potential costs of declining water levels in the Great Salt Lake. It relies on information generated by a recent study of the consequences of drying lake systems worldwide. Increased water diversions from the rivers that flow into the Lake have shown a steady historic decline in water level. The report addresses issues such as reduced lake effect, increased dust, reduced lake access, increased salinity, habitat loss, new island bridges, and the spread of invasive species. These factors are used to analyze the costs associated with the loss of viable industries including mineral extraction and the brine shrimp Industry, recreational use values, health impacts, and impacts to the ski industry, as well as other adverse effects.

Without some action to maintain the lake, costs are estimated to be between \$1.7 billion and \$2.2 billion per year, including the net loss of more than 6,500 jobs. Generally, the lower the water level in the lake, the higher the costs, and costs increase even more the longer the lake continues to decline. These estimated costs do not include the cultural value of the lake, quality of life in the surrounding area, or the potential damage to Utah's image to the rest of the world caused by a dying lake.

GSLAC has produced several other important documents and studies, all of which can be found [on their website](#).

Election Security Talking Points for Leagues

LWV-US has created talking points to help Leagues speak with one voice about election security ahead of pivotal elections in 2020. [Read them now on the League Management Site.](#)

(<http://bit.ly/2koBQnb>)

These points may be updated, so Leagues are encouraged to continually check back on this page.

League Announces National Redistricting Campaign

by Gigi Brandt, LWV-UT Redistricting and Money in Politics Advisor

The national League of Women Voters has announced the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign, which will focus on creating fair political maps in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Each state will create its own plan to carry out the objectives in one of the five major focus areas:

- Ballot Initiatives or Referendums
- State Constitutional Options
- State Legislative Fixes
- Federal Legislative Fixes
- Civic Engagement & Education



Fair Maps Campaign Featured on ABC News

As part of last week's rollout of the People Powered Fair Maps Campaign, LWV-US CEO Virginia Kase gave an interview to ABC news on our nationwide redistricting effort. [Watch the interview!](#)

<http://bit.ly/2mgCGTo>

Each state will engage in advocacy, education, organizing, mobilization, partnerships, and litigation. A national conference will train League members to implement the campaign. The National League has set aside \$500,000 to fund the campaign as part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League next year. It is expected that this will be a multi-year project.

The Utah League has identified Proposition 4's implementation as a top priority, one which we will pursue through litigation if necessary. Perhaps equally exciting to us is the civic education focus of the plan. As the national League's [announcement](#) of this campaign states, "In order to have a successful impact on redistricting efforts at the community level, the people impacted need to be involved. In order for people to get involved, they need to be comfortable communicating their needs as individuals and within a larger community with shared interests and values." Our goal is to educate citizens to participate in the redistricting process and to hold policymakers accountable. To accomplish this, League members will work in coordination with community partners. It is exciting for me to think about the prospect of educating Utah citizens, particularly those living outside of the Wasatch Front, about the redistricting process.

Proposition 4 is still threatened by possible legislative action. We still have the 2020 and 2021 Legislatures and any special sessions during which we must defend the proposition. It may be that only the public reaction to tax

reform prevented the Legislature from acting in the 2019 session. Some legislators would like to gut it entirely. Others want to amend it, and still others have advocated lawsuits. Better Boundaries negotiated with legislative leadership before the 2019 session ended about revisions to the Initiative – these negotiations continue. If you want to be involved in formulating Utah’s campaign, please contact me at gigibrandt@xmission.com.

On another note, U.S. League President Chris Carson recently [spoke via webinar](#) about extending citizen redistricting commissions, advisory and other, to counties and local governments. Utah already used an advisory redistricting commission in Salt Lake County in 2011. Carson also talked about the importance of redistricting commissioner training to a successful process.

League Clean Energy Forum to Feature Sarah Wright

by Carole Straughn, LWV-UT Environmental Director

You are cordially invited to the Utah and Salt Lake Leagues’ Clean Energy Forum, which will take place Saturday, Nov, 9 from 1-3 p.m. at the Marmalade Branch Library in Salt Lake City, 280 W. 500 North.



Sarah Wright, executive director of Utah Clean Energy, will be joined by Joelle Stewart, vice president of Regulation for Rocky Mountain Power, and Dan Albrecht, director of the Western Center for Rural Development at Utah State University. The topic of discussion is “A Conversation on Utah’s Path to Clean Energy.” The moderator for the event will be Nicola Nelson, program director for the Utah League. Come join us and learn what you can do to speed our cities and state along the path to clean energy that will

improve our air quality and abate climate change!

Global Climate Change Threat

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world unless we act now -- as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to cut this country's GHG emissions, freeze construction of new coal-fired power plants, invest in a new clean energy economy, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change. - LWV-US [Toolkit for Climate Change](#)

In Memoriam: Jeff Peck

Jeff Peck, husband of former League executive director and longtime Salt Lake League member Sandy Peck, passed away on August 21. Jeff was a regular attendee on Salt Lake’s Community Luncheon and other League functions. Sandy and Jeff were living in Norman, Oklahoma, at the time of Jeff’s death.