



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters
of Utah

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We Remember Rebecca Lockhart



by Lola Britton, LWVUT Co-president

The League of Women Voters of Utah joins the state in mourning the unexpected passing of former speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, Rebecca "Becky" Lockhart. Her passing marks the end of a promising career of a woman who made history in the Utah State Legislature. The first woman to serve as House speaker, she stood as a powerful example for all women.

After 16 years in the Legislature, Speaker Lockhart chose not to seek reelection in 2014. Many thought this was to position herself to challenge Gov. Gary Herbert in 2016. She also added her name to the list of possible candidates for state superintendent of public instruction. A nurse by profession, she had an abiding interest in education and supported a sweeping education technology plan that would have provided a digital device for every Utah student.

Frank Pignanelli and LaVarr Webb in a Deseret News op-ed nicknamed Speaker Lockhart "The Iron Lady" after Margaret Thatcher. The speaker proved her mettle when she oversaw the investigation of Attorney General John Swallow and took heat for hurrying the passage of HB477, which would have restricted public access to many government records. Ever the pragmatist, Lockhart presided over the law's eventual demise in the face of public outcry. She took pride in trying to bring together the many voices of Utah represented in the House.

Becky Lockhart will remain a shining example to women entering politics in Utah and the nation. She left a huge unfulfilled potential. We hope many will follow in her inspiring footsteps in the future. The thoughts and prayers of the members of the League of Women Voters are with her family at this time.

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Clean Air, No Excuses Rally 2015

by Jenn Gonnely, co-president, League of Women Voters of Utah



On the last day of January, thousands rallied on the steps of the Utah State Capitol to challenge the Legislature to do more to clean up our infamously dirty air. It was a beautiful sunny and clear Salt Lake City day. This may have contributed to the still-enthusiastic crowd not being quite as large as it was in 2014. Estimates were between 2,500 and 3,500 people.

Speakers at the event seemed to fall into three distinct groups: concerned not-for-profit organizations, members of the public and legislators. Individuals representing the organizations included Carl Ingwell of CleanAirNow!, Brian Moench of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Ingrid Griffiee and Cherise Udell from Utah Moms for Clean Air, Alicia Connell from Communities for Clean Air, and Matt Pacenza of HEAL Utah. The viewpoint of members of the public was deftly represented by composer Kurt Bestor, small business owner Derek Kitchen and Pastor David Nichols of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church. Lastly, a significant bipartisan representation from the legislature included House Speaker Greg Hughes and Reps. Patrice Arent, Becky Edwards and Angela Romero.

The League had a table at the event spearheaded by Meagan Lang from the Davis League. We handed out information about the League's legislative priorities, "Ten-Minute Activist" tips and encouraged lots of people to join the League. We even ran out of League membership forms before individuals stopped asking for them.



Any good protest or rally has its own dissenters, and this rally was no different. Reports said that there was a small counter protest of "rolling coal" trucks circling the Capitol and conspicuously stopping to idle their engines until law enforcement asked them to move on.

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So Glad You Asked: ‘Living Wage’ and The League

by Jenn Gonnelly, co-president, League of Women Voters of Utah

On February 5, in the wake of President Obama’s State of the Union address, Elisabeth MacNamara, President, League of Women Voters of the U.S. issued a carefully worded statement regarding the League’s position on supporting a national “living wage.”

As I noted a few weeks ago, [President Obama, in his State of the Union address](#), devoted a lot of time to what he called middle class economics. Practical political considerations dictate that the League, at the national level, can most effectively work for the greatest good by focusing on core democracy issues. Much of the inequality, economic and otherwise, that exists in our society results from uneven and unequal access and participation at the ballot box and beyond. However, the LWWUS Board reminds Leagues that we have a national position on [Meeting Basic Human Needs](#) that includes the following statement: “People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care.” The Board is aware that in setting their own legislative priorities for this year, there are communities in which League Boards may find both the interest and the opportunity to take action on local or state legislation to which this position may apply. Every League Board has the serious responsibility to do its due diligence on any proposed legislation that addresses Meeting Basic Human Needs and judge whether there is member understanding and agreement that the proposed legislation meets the criteria quoted above. If it does, then the Board should carefully deliberate and make a decision based upon both the position and the needs of its own community. What fits other communities can only be addressed by the relevant League.

With the understanding that the LWWUS Board has not interpreted this provision of our position on Meeting Basic Human Needs to define a so-called ‘living wage’ at the national level or to support a federal minimum wage, action on state or local legislation using this or any other national position is at the discretion of the League Board at that governmental level. At the national level, Board and staff will continue to say that we have no member understanding and agreement as to a definition of a ‘living wage’ and that we cannot support a federal minimum wage. On the other hand, we do not presume to anticipate every possible legislative scenario that Leagues may confront in their own communities to which the language of the Meeting Basic Human Needs position may apply.

After this email, it was asked, ***“Didn’t “Living Wage” come up at the 2014 LWWUS Convention? Why was it not adopted?”***

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Yes, at the 2014 LWVUS Convention in Dallas a motion was made to concur with the [LWVKS Living Wage Position](#) which reads:

“A living wage should provide sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income.”

The debate on this motion was robust and spread over two days with caucus meetings added in an effort to pass concurrence. This is an important issue and many of us at the convention are very interested in seeing the League take a position on living wage. We also understand that concurrence with a study that has already been undertaken on the state level is the quickest way to take a position on the national level. At issue with this motion was the exact wording of the position. Many delegates, including me, at the 2014 convention took issue with the inclusion of education in the definition of self sufficiency. The concern was that in saying that government assistance should not be necessary for “education” that our strong support for public education would be undermined. Had the line been changed to “higher education” many said they would have been able to vote for concurrence.

As it stands, the [Meeting Basic Human Needs](#) position from LWVUS does allow us on a case-by-case basis to evaluate, and support when appropriate, any bills that arise in support of living wages at Legislature. Currently there is one numbered bill regarding living wage [HB0309 Living Wage](#) (J. Miller). This bill is in the House Rules Committee. We have not yet taken a position on this bill.

Some Questions Unresolved from Tax Study

by Marilyn O'Dell, Committee Chair

Nine groups discussed the consensus questions on the League's new study, “Understanding Utah's Tax System.” Three local Leagues (Grand, Davis and Weber) submitted reports along with six units of the Salt Lake League. Combining reports from these groups, the Tax Study Committee found that we had consensus on some but not all of the questions.

Our position on earmarks was strengthened to include a recommendation for a sunset provision along with limits and transparency. Our report coincided with a request from Voices for Utah Children to join them in a letter to the Legislature requesting removal of earmarks from the General Fund. Utah Children came to conclusions similar to ours in their recent study, “What's Still Eating Utah's General Fund: How Unfunded Earmarks Are Undermining the Budget Process and Affecting Utah Families and Children.”

Office Procedures Updated

Here at the League of Women Voters of Utah headquarterImmigrre ready for a new year and are working to keep our office operating well for you. As League members new and old, you may at times have forgotten or wondered how to do something that has been assigned to you and need assistance from the office. Look for office “FAQs” with the 2015 Roster; they will also be posted to our website!

-- Trixi Seiger, Office Manager

League members agreed that we should continue to lobby for a severance tax on coal and to raise other mineral severance taxes. They thought that funds for roads should come from transportation taxes and fees as well as from other general taxes.

Fees are becoming a more important part of government financing and League members think there should be more attention paid to fees, along with taxes, in government financial reports, budgets and hearings.

These new areas of consensus will be added to “Impacts on Utah Issues,” a collection of all League of Women Voters of Utah statements of position, used to support League action. “Impacts on Utah Issues” can be found on our website, lwvutah.org on the League Positions page.

There was agreement that the rate of the corporate franchise tax should be raised and that county assessors should have the right to protest valuations of centrally assessed property located in their counties.

Consensus was not reached on two subjects, both related to income tax: a return to a graduated income tax from the single rate and setting a percentage cap on the amount of income tax revenues that can be used for higher education. In both cases, some League members thought there was not enough information to make a decision. Both might be good subjects for further League meetings or small studies. Other areas in question were exemptions for non-profits and the feasibility of reducing fares on public transit. Leaguers always want to know more.

Celebrate Women’s History Month with League

by **Laurie West**

The League of Women Voters of Utah, in partnership with KUED 7 and Salt Lake Community College, are proud to present: Celebrating Women’s History in Utah, Martha Hughes Cannon. KUED has graciously provided us the opportunity to screen this 2012 documentary about Martha Hughes Cannon; the nation’s first elected female state senator. She was also a physician, advocate and plural wife.

The event will be held on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at Salt Lake Community College – South City Campus. The college is donating the use of their wonderful Multipurpose Room located in the Arts and Media Center. The 57-minute screening will be followed by a Q&A session with documentarian Nancy Green. We will then serve light refreshments.

Since this is a catered event, we ask that you sign up for free tickets through Eventbrite as soon as possible. You can access this event at www.Eventbrite.com, then type LWVUT in the search bar. Please feel

Listen to Leg Updates

Jenn Gonnely is providing legislative updates to KRCL and KCPW this year. You can access them in KRCL’s program archives at <http://www.krcl.org/legislative-updates-2015/>

free to invite your friends and family members to help us celebrate Women's History Month.

The Arts and Media Center Multipurpose Room is on the southeast side of the building and is easily accessed from the parking lot just east of State Street on 1700 South. Enter the building from the east door.

Panel to Address the Future of Water

by Jill Lesh & Linda Clark, study chairs

On Tuesday March 31 a panel of experts will discuss the challenges in Salt Lake County of providing water, encouraging conservation, repairing infrastructure, and finding new water sources while maintaining our aquifers and the Great Salt Lake.

Panelists are Stephanie Duer, water conservation programs for Salt Lake City; Steve Erickson, Utah Audubon Council legislative advocate; and Richard Bay, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District general manager.

Come and ask your questions. This program will be enlightening and great preparation for April Unit Discussions of a new LWVSL study: *"Water Use & Conservation in Salt Lake County."*

Tuesday, March 31, 6-8:30 p.m.
(6 p.m. social; 6:30 program)
Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 E. 4500 South, Salt Lake City

Immigration Topic of Community Luncheon

by Sue Lind, Community Luncheon chair

The 2015 State of the Community Luncheon is coming up on Tuesday, April 28. Social hour will begin at 11:30 followed by the luncheon and awards. This year's luncheon will be at a different location, the Marriott University Park, 480 Wakara Way. It can be reached from Foothill Drive, north of the University of Utah campus in University Research Park. There will be plenty of free parking. Public transportation is not an option so make sure you carpool. If you have a car, please check with a friend who might like to come to the luncheon but does not have transportation.

Granite Technical Institute will be honored with the League Community Service Award for their farsighted approach to tomorrow's job market. At GTI's 2500 South State location, students in grades 9-12 are learning academic subjects and high-demand skills with real-world applications.



Hinckley Forums

are held in Orson Spencer Hall, Room 255, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/forums/index.html>

GTI focuses on high quality, hands-on experiences both on and off campus. There are classes in construction, medical fields, hydroponics, and biotech research and product development. All these classes and a whole lot more are can be found in a catalogue of intriguing subjects to help support students in finding personal purpose, potential and pathways to their futures.

“The American Dream and Immigration Policy” will be the topic discussed at the luncheon by our Keynote speaker, Bishop John C. Wester. Bishop Wester is the bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City and all of Utah. He has served on many boards and committees locally, nationally and internationally regarding immigration.

Criminal Justice Reform Discussed

by Nicola Nelson, LWVUT
co-legislative director

On February 13, the League of Women Voters annual legislative brown bag luncheon at the Utah State Capitol celebrated the 95th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. Luncheon speakers were Reps. Eric Hutchings, R-Kearns, and Brian King, D-Salt Lake. Both speakers discussed current suggested

criminal justice reform initiatives from the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) and the Pew Institute Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

Rep. Hutchings co-chairs the Executive Offices & Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, is on the Prison Relocation Commission and has been a longtime member of the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Standing and Interim Committees. Rep. King is a member of the Executive Appropriations Committee, Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee and House Judiciary and Revenue and Taxation Standing Committees.

King and Hutchings discussed findings of the recent study of Utah’s criminal justice system and the CCJJ study recommendations for reinvestment in programs leading to outcomes other than incarceration. They talked about the synergy between Prison Relocation plans and the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which have given life to possible changes in sentencing, parole/probation, and

League Made Democracy Work

Ninety-five years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight” to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls as well as to empower voters to influence their government to better serve their interests. The League’s first major victory came just six months later with the passage of the 19th Amendment, which secured women the right to vote. But that success was just the first of many.

Since then, the League has been critical in Making Democracy Work® across a range of issues. **How well do you know the League’s impact on Americans’ lives?** [Test your knowledge and learn more about just some of the League’s great accomplishments over the past 95 years!](#)

[Read McNamara’s full letter here.](#)

— *Elisabeth McNamara,*
President League of Women Voters



mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. The size of the new prison is to be based on projections of future prison populations. Implementing the recommendations for reform could lead to a prison population leveling off 20 years from now, almost 2,000 below current projections.

Representatives Hutchings and King said that a \$10 million line item in the Criminal Justice Appropriations budget would pay for Justice



Reinvestment increased upfront costs. And both representatives emphasized it is critical to pass full Medicaid expansion or at least Healthy Utah style health-care reforms to fund the planned treatment programs.

Several of these initiatives are supported by League

of Women Voters national social policy positions and also match Utah League of Women Voters legislative priorities that we are pursuing this legislative session. We encourage you to contact your legislators urging passage of full Medicaid expansion (SB 83) or Healthy Utah (SB 164) and support for the CCJJ study recommendations. Rep. Hutchings bill is [HB 348](#) - Criminal Justice Programs and Amendments.

Mental Health Panel Discussion Well Received

Karen McCoy, LWVSL co-president



Mental health services focusing on substance abuse and homelessness as well as incarceration and treatment approaches were topics of interest during a panel discussion February 11. More than 30 Salt Lake LWV members had a wonderful opportunity to hear from four professionals involved in the delivery of mental health

services in Salt Lake County. Bringing their many years of experience, extensive data, and professional insights were Sherri Wittwer from

Legislative Wrap-Up

On Wednesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. several of our Legislative Corps members, including Angie Abram and Nickie Nelson, co-chairs, as well as Sandy Peck and Jenn Gonnely will again join our annual Legislative Wrap-up at the Girl Scout Headquarters. They will provide us with an overview of legislation pertinent to League interests and priorities, including expansion of Medicaid, public education, prison relocation issues, voter participation issues, and government transparency. Join us for the opportunity to hear relevant, on-target information and answers to our legislative questions.

We thank all the dedicated members of our Leg Corps who spend hundreds of hours during the Utah State Legislature session reading and tracking legislation, attending and listening to legislative sessions, talking with legislators, providing daily Legislature updates, action alerts and position statements on key League priorities, as needed, and serving as a key link for our members to understand legislation that impacts our lives.

-- Karen McCoy, Co-President, LWVSL

Optum Health, Jeannie Edens from Salt Lake County Behavioral Health Services, Shawn McMillian from First Step House and Jenn Hyvonen from Fourth Street Clinic. They shared with us the many challenges and opportunities surrounding the delivery of public mental health services and programs. All of the presenters indicated that adoption of Healthy Utah initiative would allow for expansion of services since many programs have months long waiting lists.

Following their presentation, a Q&A session generated a lot of questions. Due to the broad scope of these issues, many attendees indicated a desire for future programs to expand our understanding of possible solutions.



Kudos to Vickie Samuelson and her program planning committee!

Salt Lake League Discusses Unit Meetings

by Anne Zeigler

Salt Lake League discussion unit leaders have been discussing making unit meetings more frequent and appealing. General meetings for the entire membership have taken up half of our year's program and have received more member participation than unit meetings, which may be intimidating for some people. The following suggestions and comments were made:

- Senior centers and libraries in their areas were suggested as good meeting places and ways to recruit new members.
- Co-chairs for unit leaders could be helpful.
- Meeting LWV purposes should be explored: Education and Activism.
- Studies done by other state and local leagues could be discussed in units using www.clearinghouse.lwv.org
- Reports from other local organizations, i.e., Utah Foundation, Fair Vote, etc., should be used.
- Units might choose a book to discuss.
- Units might choose to go on educational tours.
- Units could visit the Legislature during the session.



Nominating History Recounted at Meeting

by Terri McCulloch, president, Weber County

The presentation by Dr. Leah Murray at the the Weber County League of Women Voters February meeting provided interesting and



informative information concerning campaign finance. Some highlights of the meeting were:

The history of the nominating cycle for the United States began with a congressional caucus (elected officials) selecting nominees for office. As years went by, it moved to

party members selecting nominees at national conventions. From 1968-1972, a shift towards primaries occurred, which eventually became law. At that point, campaigning became a lot more important. Campaigning required money. Prior to primary elections, individuals and parties were involved in the selection of nominees, which did not require massive advertising. The 2012 Presidential election involved spending \$7 billion dollars.

Campaign Finance laws enacted and implemented from 1972-76 did place some restrictions on spending at the national level. On a state level, Utah ranks fourth from the bottom among the states in effective campaign finance regulation. There are no limits in Utah for money donated to a political candidate. The state does have campaign finance disclosure laws requiring full disclosure of sources of income.

Some common misconceptions are:

- People often believe money buys elections
- People often believe money buys legislative votes

While these statements are repeated often, there is no real evidence that they are always true. There are a great many instances where the person spending the most money was not victorious.

- Voter fraud happens at the polls.

There are no documented occurrences of this in Utah – with the exception of an older couple who did vote by mail and then forgot they had done it and appeared at the polls to vote.

The following websites provide information on campaign financing and funding:



Join Great Public Lands Gamble Rally

Join the Utah League as we take a stand together against the take over of Utah's public land. The Great Public Land Gamble or the [Transfer of Public Lands Act](#) threatens to seize 30 million acres of land that have been held in public ownership for generations, are a part of Utah's heritage, and are tied to our tourism economy. Do not let the state take over these lands for energy exploration and lock us out of these great public areas which we Utahns have enjoyed for generations.

Join us at the State Capitol Rotunda on Monday, March 2, 4:30-6 p.m. to tell Gov. Gary Herbert we do not want to gamble away Utah's future!

For more information see the website greatpubliclandsgamble.org or the [facebook event page](#).

- www.cfinst.org
- www.opensecrets.org

This was a very informative meeting and as former legislator Lou Shurtliff said, "I love coming and meeting with this group because people are intelligent, informed, and enjoyable to be with."

Laynee Jones SLC
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Laynee Jones joined Mountain Accord in October 2013 as the Program Manager. Mountain Accord is an unprecedented collaboration of more than 20 public and private organizations to make critical decisions for the long-term future of the central



Wasatch Mountains. Laynee has 20 years of experience including transportation, environmental/NEPA, planning, and water quality. She graduated with a B.S in civil engineering from Texas A&M in 1992 and began her career as an environmental engineer in Fort Worth, Texas. Laynee moved to Park City in 1997 to realize her lifelong dream of living in the mountains. She continued consulting in the environmental and transportation arenas, with short breaks to work at the Salt Lake Olympic committee and the Sundance Film Festival. In 2008, Laynee joined Lochner and developed environment and transit practices until she joined the Mountain Accord program in 2013. Laynee enjoys skiing, mountain biking, and fishing.

Julie DeLong Sandy
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Julie DeLong recently reactivated her membership in the Salt Lake League. She works for the Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley as the Deputy Director of Utah Cultural Celebration Center Foundation & Cultural Arts Board Development. The Utah Cultural Celebration Center Foundation (UCCCF) is a new nonprofit that, in partnership with the city, will strengthen the mission of the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Julie has more than 25 years of nonprofit and government experiences as staff, volunteer, and board member. She earned a degree in Community Development at Penn State University and finished a Master's in Public Administration in 2013 at the University of Utah. She is involved with numerous community organizations and enjoys finding ways to connect people and projects for mutual benefit.

Janet Bunger SLC
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Member Orientation Upcoming

Plan to attend a delightful social and orientation meeting Tuesday, April 21 at 5 p.m.

Leaders from LWVSL and LWVUT will give energizing overviews of how the League works: studies, positions, lobbying, voter service, and the three-tiered organization.

Longtime members, please bring a prospective member. New members, please treat yourself to this invaluable introduction sponsored by the Salt Lake City League.

The social begins at 5 p.m., followed by the information session at 5:30, at Jeris Johnson's home, 6114 Heughs Canyon Way in Holladay. For more information contact Jeris Johnson 801-274-1234

Janet moved to Utah from Laramie, Wyoming, in 1975. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Math from the University of Wyoming and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Utah. Her business career has been as a CPA and as a financial planner. At retirement five years ago, she decided to "scale back" and put her sights on "looking forward." Janet volunteers with The Friends of Utah State Parks assisting them in raising funds for improvements. Some of her favorite parks are Dead Horse Point, Antelope Island, and all of the Historical ones. She has been active in AAUW for many years and has served in many offices. Janet is most interested in encouraging women to run for public office. She also has an interest in the Utah Public Lands issues

Make Plans for May Convention Now

by Barbara Hicks, co-president, Grand County League

Planning is in the works for the 2015 League Convention to be held May 15 and 16 in Moab. Moab has more than 35 motels, 12 B&Bs and more than 200 vacation rentals. There is something to fit every price range. Please visit your favorite travel website to read reviews and rankings. In the meantime, here are some suggestions to get you started:

Downtown favorites:

[The Gonzo Inn](#)

[Canyonlands Inn Best Western Plus](#)

[Greenwell Inn Best Western Plus](#)

Bowen Motel

New Hotels near downtown on North Main, within walking distance to downtown:

[Hampton Inn](#)

[Comfort Suites](#)

One to two miles from Downtown on north Highway 191, maybe a little too far to walk to town:

[Aarchway Inn](#)

[Holiday Inn Express](#)

[Fairfield Marriott \(brand new!\)](#)

Near downtown on south Highway 191, can walk to nearby restaurants, groceries, shopping:

[Sleep Inn](#)

15 miles from downtown on the scenic Colorado River Highway 128:

[Red Cliffs Lodge](#)

May is one of Moab's busiest months so don't delay making reservations for lodging.

Please Attend Convention

Everyone is welcome to attend the state convention.

It's a great way to be involved in planning the future program of the League in Utah.

Each local League is allowed 15 voting delegates. The names of those attending as voting delegates need to be submitted to the state League by April 30.

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Salt Lake League March Meetings

There will be no unit meetings in March but there will be two General Meetings.

Wednesday March 18 General Meeting Legislative Wrap-Up

Girl Scout Offices

445 E. 4500 South

6 p.m. social, 6:30 program

Tuesday March 31: General Meeting: Water Use and Conservation in Salt Lake County

Girl Scout Offices

445 E. 4500 South

6 p.m. social, 6:30 program

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