



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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April 2017

## Join Us at the 2017 Convention

by Terri McCulloch, LWVWeber President

The Weber County League is honored to sponsor state convention this year. We have some things planned that will entice members to come to visit Northern Utah, talk to interesting and intelligent people, and share their expertise with others.

We will begin on Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at Southwest Branch of Weber County Library at 2039 W. 4000 South in Roy. This is a state-of-the-art library filled with superior technology. We will have a tour led by member Sarah Lovato, who will show us the most advanced library system in the state. The tour will be followed by a catered dinner in one of the impressive activity rooms. Immediately after dinner, we will have a debate about the Electoral



College led by Dr. Leah Murray and Dr. Thomas Kuehls, both professors of political science at Weber State University. At the conclusion, anyone interested in visiting Historic 25<sup>th</sup> Street and having a drink or two at one of the eclectic bars nestled between historic shops after the debate is welcome.

The Saturday business meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at the Ogden Nature Center at 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Visitor Center Discovery Room. A continental breakfast and catered lunch will be provided. If time permits, a walk around the Nature Center can be arranged. We hope that all members will take advantage of learning about the League and visiting the beautiful city of Ogden.

We chose the Electoral College as the topic of our Friday evening presentation based upon the recent results in the presidential election. The concept was born in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Several methods of electing the president were considered. They included

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selection by Congress, by governors of the states, by state legislatures, and by popular election. The Electoral College was created because some politicians believed a popular vote was too out-of-control and would give too much voting power to highly populated areas. It safeguarded against less informed or uneducated citizens choosing our leader. The assumption was that the structure would result in a candidate winning the popular vote as well as the electoral vote. As we have recently seen, this has not always been the case.

The major cons of this system in our current society include the fact that the Electoral College often ignores the will of the people, and in the opinion of some gives more power to states with larger populations, and discriminates against a more educated society. All three situations raise the question of whether this system has run its course. The debate at convention will present both sides of this argument. We hope to see great attendance in discussing this issue and participating in convention.

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### Participate in Annual Convention

Join the League for our annual convention on Saturday April 29 as we elect officers and plan for the coming year. We will also set our program priorities for 2017-2018.



What do you want to focus our work on? If you have an idea for a new study, contact Gigi Brandt, Peggy Carrico or Lola Britton and we can talk about how to propose it. The League has a great opportunity to build on the passion of citizens who are getting involved and

wanting to see change. Bring your ideas to this convention about how the League can get our message out and become part of this exciting wave of community partners and potential new members.

You will be able to register on [lwwutah.org](http://lwwutah.org) soon. The cost for Friday night dinner is \$35, Saturday lunch is \$10, or you can pay \$35 for both.

— **Peggy Carrico, LWVUT President**

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### It's Program Time for the Utah League

*by Gigi Brandt, LWVUT Vice President, Programs*

The Legislature has adjourned, citizens protests are in the air, and the tulips and crocuses are beginning to bloom — so it's time to discuss program planning for the Utah League for 2017-2018. What is new and exciting this year is the citizen activism in Utah and the opportunity it presents for the League to collaborate with other activists..

The League is a grassroots organization. Rather than rely on a board of directors to choose issues on which to focus, the League model is to consult members first, then have a board of directors draw up a possible program. The membership then votes on the proposed program at state



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convention or a local league annual meeting.

The Utah League board has decided to conduct an all-member survey to determine where to focus our activities. You should receive the survey via email around Wednesday, March 22. Please complete and return it before Friday, March 31. League members are faced with interesting choices in 2018. That's an election year and there may be two state initiatives on the ballot, one on education funding and the other on creation of a citizen advisory board for redistricting (which the Utah league has advocated for since 1980). What other voter services should we be considering?

Please fill out the survey. We need your ideas.

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## Legislature Debates Ranked-Choice Voting

*by Ann O'Connell, LWVSL Natural Resources*

A ranked-choice voting bill passed the Utah House 59-12 this session but failed in the Senate Government Operations Committee on a 3-3 tie. Two committee members were absent. In such a small committee, their presence might have changed the vote. However, to be fair, legislators often miss committee meetings because they are presenting bills in other committees.

The bill had 17 house co-sponsors, five of whom were Republicans. Ranked-Choice Voting (Instant Runoff Voting) is neither a liberal nor a conservative issue. In the recent presidential election, many Utah Republicans suffered from not wanting to vote for candidate Donald Trump while strongly preferring either Evan McMullin or Mitt Romney. However, a vote for either of these two *spoilers* would subtract from Trump's opportunity to win the state's electoral vote and perhaps contribute to a Hillary Clinton victory. This was a real moral dilemma for a Republican that Ranked-Choice voting would solve. A similar situation often exists on the left. A young man testified before the House Government Operations committee that he had wanted to vote for Jill Stein of the Green Party but realized that to do so would mean he might be contributing to a Trump victory. He too supports Ranked-Choice Voting

Ranked-Choice or Instant Runoff Voting means that when more than two candidates are running, the winning candidate must win with a 50 plus majority rather than a plurality of, say 40 percent. Ranked Choice allows the voter to rank a preferred candidate first, and then list the others in descending order of preference, even omitting those who are unacceptable. If no candidate wins 51 percent of the votes on first count, the lowest vote getter is dropped. On ballots where the losing candidate was ranked first, the second-place candidate then takes first place. If a recount still does not achieve more than 50 percent, the process is repeated. Thus, Ranked Choice eliminates the need for a primary to narrow a field to two candidates and voters can express their true preferences. In the last presidential election, a Utah Republican could have ranked McMullin first and Trump second, with the confidence that the ballot would

### Utah League

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not contribute to a Democratic victory.

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake studied several alternative voting systems in 2004 and decided that the League should support experimenting with election reforms to our current dysfunctional voting systems. You can find the [position](#) in the Salt Lake League's *Impact on Issues*. The LWV of Utah does not have a position on Ranked Choice so the LWV of Salt Lake obtained state league permission to lobby for Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck's HB349 at this year's legislative session. No doubt a ranked choice bill will appear at the 2018 Legislature. To prepare for action in the next session, the League of Women Voters of Utah could adopt a position in favor of voting reforms by either concurring with the Salt Lake position or engaging in its own study process. The League of Women Voters of Oregon has just completed a 70-page study of voting systems which Utah could borrow. Of course, there is less massive study material available. If someone is willing to take this on, I can suggest sources.



## League Kept Watch on Legislature

*by Vickie Samuelson Co-Director of Legislative Action Corps*

The 2017 Legislative session is now done and we can all take a deep breath and maybe relax a little bit. We have held two wrap-up events and shared some findings that I would like to share with those of you that couldn't come.

First Nickie and I would like to give a big Thank You to all our observers who are: Sally Aulakh, Sherilyn Bennion, Marilyn Bown, Lola Britton, Peggy Carrico, Lea Cotter, Kathy Fitzgerald, Ann Johnson, Marilyn Oberg, Ann O'Connell, Marilyn O'Dell, Cindy Sharkey, Kathy Stockel, Kathy Van Dame, Emily Walsh and Nickie Nelson. I think that is a record for our group. Good Job!

There were 740 bills plus 75 resolutions for a total of 815. 535 or 66 percent passed. Not too many bills were run with no chance of passing. We

## Did you know...

There is an easy way to remember to renew your membership or annual donations. If you would like the peace of mind knowing that you remembered to renew or donate, there is an option to make this payment ongoing monthly or annually! Just click the option when you pay online at our website [lwwut.org](http://lwwut.org)

Your sustaining support goes directly to the League's work to protect and defend our democracy. Together we can ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible, protect our environment, and reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Make an ongoing tax deductible gift today!

- *Trixi Seager, LWVUT office manager*

supported about 50 bills, most of which passed. The 16 notable bills that failed were:

SB46, Medicaid Expansion - Davis; SB141 Progressive income tax - Dabakis; SB210 Equal Pay Data - Anderegg; HB71 Hygiene Tax Act - Duckworth; HB76 End of Life Option Act - Chavez-Houck; HB147 Living Wage - Hemingway; HB159 Voter Registration (when you get your driver license) - Handy; HB215 Reproductive Health - King; HB226 Charter School Website - Weight; HB285 Same-Day Voting - Chavez-Houck and HJR1 Redistricting - Nelson/Dayton; HJR18 - Edwards and SJR9 - Dabakis on Climate Change; and SJR10 ERA - Dabakis.

We opposed HB11, Partisan Commissions - Thurston; HB65, Restricting DAQ - Schultz; HB141, Unborn Child Protection Amendments - Stratton.

We opposed several resolutions on Bears Ears, Grand-Staircase, and Article 5 Constitutional Conventions which passed.

And That's A Wrap.

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## Train to Run for Political Office

Real Women Run is holding two training workshops in April. On Saturday, April 8 from 8:30 am to 2 pm the first Southern Utah Training will be held at the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce. It is for community members wanting to get more involved, as well as current and potential campaign managers and political candidates in Washington, Kane and Iron Counties. On Saturday, April 22, the Real Women Run Spring Training will provide great information for anyone considering a run for 2017 city/county office.

Sessions will be held on Messaging and Media, Research and Demographics, Fundraising, and Stories from the Trenches of Running for Office. Keynote speaker is Jackie Biskupski. The workshop will be held at the Kem C. Gardner Center

Institute at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. To register for either workshop go to [realwomenrun.org](http://realwomenrun.org).

— *Peggy Carrico, LWVUT President*



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## Luncheon Celebrates Women of Utah

*by Susan Lind, State of the Community Luncheon Chair*

The LWVSL State of the Community Luncheon will be Tuesday, April 11, at Little America. Registration and social hour begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and program at noon. Our Keynote Speaker, Natalie Gochnour, and honorees Gail Miller, receiving the Community Service Award, and Sheryl Allen, accepting the award for Making Democracy Work, will be recognized as some of the most accomplished women of Utah.

## Help Wanted:

You have joined the League of Women Voters for everything we stand for: facts, studies, political and social activism. Now is your opportunity to get involved, in whatever small way you can. The Salt Lake League is looking for members interested in following education, city and county governments, and environmental issues.

Your participation is limited only by what you can do. It may be once a month. It may be more.

Let us know your interests, and we can help you put them into action.

Call the office 801-272-8683, or Kathy Biele, 801-243-1185, for more information.

In addition to our exceptional program, the luncheon committee members have been working very hard to produce a couple of mementos to help us all remember many of the illustrious women of our state. There will be some very stylish aprons and mugs in red or blue with the names of many celebrated Utah women printed on them. The list of more than 50 is not all inclusive but we ran out of room on the items. And, too, we didn't want to make the print so small we wouldn't be able to read the names.

The aprons and cups will be sold in the foyer before, during and after the luncheon. I plan to buy a number of them so if you want to make a purchase you had better get there before I do!



On the mementos you will find the names of early Utah women including Emmaline B. Wells, Susa Young Gates and Martha Hughes Cannon. All three women were involved in the early women's suffrage movement. All three were intelligent, gifted writers and very involved in the early settlement of Utah.

Emmaline B. Wells was the third editor of Utah's Woman's Exponent, a semi-monthly periodical established in 1873 and published until 1914.

Emmaline was also a diarist. Her detailed diaries spanned 80 years.

As a suffragist, she was friends with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and represented Utah women in the National Woman Suffrage Association for nearly 30 years.

Susa Young Gates, an LDS aristocrat, was raised in the Lion House as a daughter of Brigham Young. At 14 she was editor of the University of Deseret Literary Magazine.

She waged a successful campaign to include universal suffrage in Utah's constitution in 1896. In 1889, she sailed to London and in 1902 to Copenhagen as speaker and participant in conventions of the International Council of Women.



Her early marriage produced two children and a second marriage produced 11 children whose births and deaths were interspersed among a heavy professional schedule. Only five survived to adulthood.

Martha Hughes Cannon, noted physician and the first female state senator in the United States, was born in 1857. Martha married Angus M. Cannon, 23 years her senior. She was the fourth of six wives. They had three children.



### Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 South 1400 East, Bldg. 73 Room 101, in the Moot Courtroom, 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/calendar/>

Commencing her political career, Martha H. Cannon ran for state senator in 1896 on the Democratic ticket against her husband, who had been senator on the Republican ticket. She won the election, defeating her husband, and served two terms, focusing on public health issues. After leaving office she served on the of Utah Board of Health and Board of Utah State School for the Deaf and Dumb. In later years she divided her time between Utah and Los Angeles practicing medicine.



Be sure to attend the luncheon and become more familiar with the celebrated Utah women on our commemorative aprons and mugs.

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## Climate Change Follow-Up in February Unit Meetings

*by Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWVUT Development Director*

LWVSL Unit meetings in February followed up on a General Meeting about climate change with specific recommendations for action. Speakers from the Utah Climate Action Network met with each unit to share their expertise on effective communication with legislators at state and national levels. Their insights are important for communicating on any topic. For example, at one unit meeting, we learned that

- At the federal level, letters, emails, telephone calls and postcards will all be read and counted by the Legislative Correspondent in the senator or representative's office. Trends will be reported to the congressperson at daily or weekly meetings. Letters take longest to arrive, because they all go through security searches.
- As an organization, League should establish relationships with congressional staff personnel, at either the local or Washington, D.C. office.
- We should research the elected official's legislative history to find common ground.
- We should start any discussion by referring to the common ground areas where we can support the office holder.
- We should begin an interview by asking the official or, more likely, staff member, what we can do to support him/her in the areas we have in common.

We must keep in mind that Sen. Orrin Hatch, as chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, has one of the most powerful positions in Congress, overseeing more than 50 percent of the federal budget. He also has historically supported clean energy. As individuals and an organization, we should communicate our views with him as the Senate begins its budget process.

At the local level, League members can follow the State Legislature and receive action alerts by joining the League's Legislative Action google group. Our Legislative Action Corps continues to work throughout the year

## Sue Brown Gordon 1930-2017

Sue Brown, a longtime member of the Bench Bunch of the Salt Lake League, passed away on February 26. League members will remember her intellect, her wit and her passion for many League subjects. [Her obituary](#) described her best—she was a “passionate community citizen.” A memorial parade at Mount Olivet Cemetery is scheduled June 10 at 11 a.m.

following studies and legislation considered by Interim legislative committees at their monthly meetings.



## Redistricting Intrigues, Energizes Davis Attendees

*by Kathy Stockel, LWVDavis President*

At our general meeting on Saturday, March 11, Dixie Huefner of the Utah Citizens' Council explained the pros and cons of a ballot initiative to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission as well as a federal litigation approach to avoid gerrymandering. The larger-than-normal turnout for this meeting, as well as the focused audience questions, suggest that many individuals are very interested in redistricting and may be ready to be involved as volunteers in an Initiative process should that become the method of choice.

Dixie mentioned the coalition of nonprofit organizations beginning to coalesce in the first stages of determining the most effective approach and the best timing for a ballot Initiative. The cost of a ballot initiative would be approximately \$1.5 million. The cost of litigation is less predictable but could be as much as \$2 million.

Wisconsin has a lawsuit (*Whitford v. Gill*) regarding redistricting that is on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. If litigation is determined to be the most effective route for Utah, we can hope for standards to be set through Wisconsin's suit that would define when or if partisan gerrymandering takes place. The distribution of population throughout Utah would be an issue to be addressed in determining fair and equitable district maps for the Utah Legislature and Utah's congressional delegation. The Utah Legislature under the state constitution has the ultimate authority to choose which redistricting map is selected.

Dixie is a member of the League of Women Voters as well as a member of the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Advisory Commission and Utahns for Ethical Government.

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## Orientation Set for New, Prospective Members

*by Anne Zeigler, LWVSL Membership Director*

The Salt Lake League of Women Voters is hosting an "Orientation" for new and prospective members on Sunday, April 2 from 4-6 pm at The Club House, 850 E. South Temple. The Club House is located in the old Ladies Literary Club, a building from the early 1900s that has been renovated by the Utah Historical Society. The orientation will be a great opportunity to meet the people who keep the League up to date on current issues, meet the officers of both the local and state leagues and generally learn what the

## Salt Lake Meeting Schedule

There will be no unit meetings in April and May. Don't forget Program Planning on Tuesday, May 2 - the day before the May Salt Lake board meeting. And plan on attending the Annual Meeting on Monday, June 5.

LWV is all about. It will also offer the opportunity to meet others who have concern for the country after this past election. We have had a total of 34 prospective and 40 new members in the past year.

Officers and directors will give a short talk on their area of expertise, and our caterer Paul Buese will have some delectable appetizers. Beverages and wine will be available. Parking is available on East South Temple and on 225 S. 900 East behind the ENT Building. We're looking forward to a delightful afternoon.

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## **Tell President Trump to Produce Evidence**

For months, President Trump has made unsubstantiated claims that millions of illegal votes were cast in November.

Without proof – he continues to perpetuate that voters crossed state lines to illegally vote in the 2016 election. [It's time for President Trump to produce evidence of his claims.](#)

... Federal Election Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub has sent a letter to President Trump insisting the president produce evidence to back up his outlandish claims that millions voted illegally in the 2016 election.

That's why the League is joining with allied organizations and [calling for the President to produce evidence to support his unlawful voting claims – or put these claims to rest.](#)

We know that widespread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that restrict voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our election process.

[If you agree, add your name as a co-signer of Commissioner Weintraub's letter now.](#)

Tell President Trump it's time to stop spreading misinformation and undermining voter's faith in our elections.

— **Chris Carson**  
**President, League of Women Voters of the United States**

[P.S. The League is hard at work, fighting to protect voting rights. Please join us by making a generous donation today!](#)

## **Calling All Utah County Members**

We have a new member in Utah County interested in getting a unit started again. If you know of anyone you think might be interested, please let them know about this opportunity and let the office know their contact information.

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