



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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January 2017

Take Action for a New Year

by Lola Britton, LWVUT President



It's a new year, and we are all looking ahead to warmer weather after one of the coldest Decembers on record and the second highest snowfall on December 25. Hopefully we can now move forward to spring and the League can continue to forge ahead with our work.

How can the Utah League make the biggest impact, serve the most voters, and best promote

our democracy regardless of the challenges? The League is faced with protecting voters' rights, as well as educating and engaging voters. Central to the issue of voters' rights is redistricting. It is not too early for the League to engage in ensuring fair and equitable drawing of the boundaries of Utah's congressional and legislative voting districts.

The Utah Legislature's 2017 Session begins January 23. The League encourages our members to take part, either in person or via the Utah website, to observe daily committee meetings and floor sessions, then summarize significant observations for distribution to the League legislative electronic mailing lists.

We have scheduled the 2017 Utah League of Women Voters Convention for April 28-29. That's approximately 110 days ahead. Do put it on your calendar and plan to attend. I hope each of you will begin thinking about issues the State League should be studying or updating. I urge each of you to take time to learn about the issues and take action.

Two new Utah studies have been released. *Sexual Sexual Violence in Utah* and *Public Defender Services in Utah*. Both are consensus studies. Once local league members have reviewed and discussed them and submitted their answers to consensus questions, we will have a position to use to promote legislation.

The League of Women Voters of the United States will hold its 2017 Council June 22-25 at the National Conference Center, Leesburg, VA.

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The “blueprint” for the League’s organization-wide transformation is to strengthen the League of Women Voters’ role in the American elections process by 2020. The Utah League will have representation at the council so look forward to more information.

From January 25-27, the LWVUS will hold a first-ever leadership summit. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together national, state, and local League leaders to develop an organization-wide strategy to reclaim the League of Women Voters’ role in the American elections process by 2020:

- LWV is known as the organization to register and turn out new citizens and the next generation of women to vote
- LWV is the authoritative voice on election reform, and
- LWV helps to create an electorate representative of the diversity of the U.S. population.

It is imperative for the Utah League to be fully engaged in the American elections process as outlined above. I hope each of you will find your place in this process and become active members of the League. Contact me or one of our board members to learn more about how you can help.

We Need You to Be Part of Legislative Action Committee

by Vickie Samuelson, LWVUT Legislative Action Committee Co-Chair

It is time to talk about our plans for the upcoming 2017 Legislative session, which begins on Monday, January 23. As in past sessions, the League will continue to meet for lunch in the cafeteria every Wednesday at 11:45 am. This is a great way for anyone interested in what we do to learn from members who are observing legislative committee meetings. We would love to have you join us and for you to learn how our government works.

We will have a legislative training session with a University of Utah Osher group on Friday, January 27 from noon to 2:30 p.m. in room 350 in the Capitol, followed by a tour of the Capitol building. Add this to your calendar if you would like to come. You can bring a lunch or buy one from the cafeteria on your way to the session.

Our most urgent need is for a volunteer to prepare a daily Legislative Action Committee email which contains agendas for each Legislative Committee meeting every day of the session. This task involves simply cutting and pasting from the le.utah.gov calendar, but it is extremely helpful for League observers as they plan their day and prepare lobbying presentations. It can be done from home five days a week and takes about an hour each time. We can provide one-on-one training. It's a great way to help out and at the same time learn what is going on in the committee meetings. Please consider helping the League with this task.

Local League Presidents

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We also could use help attending Legislative Committee meetings, so if you have the time and interest please contact Nickie Nelson nickie.nelson@gmail.com or Vickie Samuelson vsam0236@gmail.com. Any committee meeting can also be followed by listening online from home, either live or after the meeting. Go to the Legislature's website at le.utah.gov, then go into the calendar to find the committee, then go to audio to listen. We are also willing to give you one-on-one training on how to do this if you would like.

Remember, interacting with your local government is one of the best ways to make changes that improve your community. Join us in this interesting and productive League effort.

League Public Defense Study Published

by Kathy Fitzgerald, LWVUT Development Director

Did you know that in many counties in Utah the public defender is paid with funds from the county attorney's office? This means that the person defending the accused is paid by the same office — the County Attorney's office — that prosecutes the accused. Certainly, this arrangement has the appearance of a conflict of interest. In many Utah counties, the County Attorney's office actually selects, hires and fires the public defenders. Often the County Attorney's office decides whether funds are available to the defense for such things as carrying out investigations on behalf of the accused or hiring expert witnesses.

The 6th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution guarantee all defendants, both in federal and state courts, "the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, ... [the right] to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense."

The Utah League of Women Voters' study *Public Defender Services in Utah* traces the problems mentioned above and others across a sampling of varied Utah counties. It then compares the delivery of services in Utah to those provided to indigent defendants by four of Utah's neighboring states. The purpose is to understand where Utah falls short of its constitutional obligations and to consider what the state might do to address the shortcomings.

The study is posted on the League website LWVUtah.org. Consensus questions were emailed to local presidents and Salt Lake unit leaders on January 2. Consensus reports from local leagues and unit leaders should be emailed to the study committee chair, Marilyn O'Dell, maodell2@gmail.com by February 15.

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We look forward to lively and informative discussions at our January consensus meetings. We want to develop a position on public defense in Utah before the current legislative session ends. Your input is vital!

Utah League Position on Sexual Violence

Following this year's consensus study and league meetings on sexual violence, the Utah League has reached the following position:

"Acts of sexual violence have significant psychological and economic social costs. The League believes there must be a comprehensive approach to mitigate these costs, including raising community awareness, prevention and treatment for victims and offenders.

"The League supports age-appropriate education in the schools on rape prevention, including but not limited to safe dating, abusive behaviors and grooming victims for assault. The program should include parents.

"Sex offenders should receive treatment throughout their incarceration, tailored to their individual needs, using treatment methods known to be effective.

"All adults are required to report sexual abuse or trauma of children and persons with disabilities. The League does not support additional legal action efforts for those who do not report."

- *Kathy Stockel, LWV-Davis, President*

Lunch and Learn about Climate Solutions in February

by **Carole Straughn, LWVSL Co-President**

Probably every League member you've met shares deep concerns about the carbon pollution that threatens a livable world for our children and grandchildren. Many of us already view with alarm the droughts, wildfires and dwindling snowpack and shrinking Great Salt Lake due to the warming that has already taken place. But how do we get a hand-hold on such a vast, amorphous challenge — especially in light of the declared policies and Cabinet choices of the incoming federal administration?



We'll get a chance to choose some effective, practical steps toward curbing carbon pollution at the "green bag" lunch on Thursday, February 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Girl Scout Office, 450 E. 4500 South, Salt Lake City.

Help Wanted! Action Corps Needs You

The League's Legislative Action Corps is looking for a willing volunteer to prepare a daily Legislative Action Committee email containing agendas for each Legislative Committee meeting every day of the session. This task involves simply cutting and pasting from the le.utah.gov calendar, but it is extremely helpful for League observers as they plan their day and prepare lobbying presentations. It can be done from home five days a week and takes about an hour each time. We can provide one-on-one training. It's a great way to help out and at the same time learn what is going on in the committee meetings. Contact Nickie Nelson

nickie.nelson@gmail.com
or Vickie Samuelson
vsam0236@gmail.com.

The Salt Lake League is hosting Dr. Robert Davies of the Utah Climate Center (USU) who will show us the maps of what carbon pollution is doing to North America and the projections for snowpack and soil moisture under various scenarios, depending on how well we curb carbon pollution in the next 20 years.

Dr. Davies is a physicist and educator whose work focuses on synthesizing a broad range of Earth Systems science through a lens of human systems sustainability and planetary boundaries. Over the past decade Dr. Davies has developed and delivered hundreds of public lectures on climate change and human sustainability. He is an associate of the Utah Climate Center and adjunct professor in Utah State University's Department of Plants, Soils and Climate. He has taught on the faculties of three universities; worked as project scientist for Utah State University's Space Dynamics Laboratory; as technical liaison for NASA's International Space Station project; and served as an officer and meteorologist in the United States Air Force. He is also co-creator of The Crossroads Project, a communication project weaving together science, imagery and music, bringing to bear the power of performance art on the topic of human sustainability.

Two activists will respond with practical approaches to personal and political action, and we will get to choose how we will add our effort — small or large — to the growing number of Utahns working together for a livable future. Ryan Stolley will explain the mission of the newly formed Utah Climate Action Network, which LWVUT recently joined. And Steve Glaser will give us the gist of how Citizens Climate Lobby's federal Carbon Fee and Dividend bill would speed up the transition to clean energy while protecting the middle class and sparking job growth. Glaser will also invite us to the CCL Unit Meetings later in the month, where the experienced advocates he recruited will drill down on the details of building impactful relationships with our elected officials.

So bring your lunch, grab a drink and join the action. It's not a sprint. It's not even a marathon. We are hiking the kind of long, rocky trail that Utahns love.

* * *

LWVUT Joins Utah Climate Action Network

Look for the Utah League's name among the two dozen organizations making up the Utah Climate Action Network (UCAN). The state League joined the network of cities, universities, businesses, and other non-profits last month in solidarity with an effort to defend our region from the effects of global warming. The network will meet next in



March 2017. For more information browse the website and sign up for regular emails.

www.utahclimateactionnetwork.com

Join the Salt Lake League for 'Green Bag' Lunch

Girl Scout Offices, 445 E. 4500 South, SLC
Thursday, February 2

11:30 Welcome

11:35 Dr. Robert Davies -
"Iceberg Dead Ahead:
Climate Collision or
Course Correction"

12:10 Dr. Ryan Stolley -
"Transition to Clean
Energy: the Utah Climate
Action Network"

12:20 Steve Glaser -
"Invitation to Advocacy:
February Unit Workshops"

12:40 - 1:30 Audience
Response - Questions,
Answers and Pledges

Bring your lunch, grab a
drink, and join the action.

Remember the League

Have you considered leaving a gift for the League of Women Voters in your will? You have probably been a League supporter for a long time, and you can continue supporting the League by including it in your estate planning. Your gift may be made to the National League or to the Utah League, and you may designate what your gift is to be used for, if you have a specific purpose in mind.

Typical wording in a will is “After fulfilling all other specific gifts and bequests, I hereby give, devise and bequeath _____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate (or \$_____ if a specific amount) to The League of Women Voters of Utah, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation incorporated under the laws of Utah and currently having offices at 230 West 200 South Ste 2114, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84101. Tax ID #87-6121782. The League may also be designated as a beneficiary of your IRA.

Of course, you must discuss any gift plans with your lawyer. There may be other ways to support the League in your estate planning. As you know, most of the League’s work is accomplished by volunteers, but financial gifts are always needed and put to good use. Please consider the League as you prepare your will.

-Nickie Nelson, LWVUT Legislative Action Committee Director

Lifestyle Choices Examined at Meeting with UPEC

by Ann O’Connell, LWVSL Natural Resources Director

In October, Utah Population and Environment Council (UPEC) board members talked with Salt Lake League unit members about the consequences of population growth and how UPEC has worked to educate Utahns about the impact of population growth on the environment. Each unit discussion was led by a different UPEC board member and came to somewhat different conclusions and recommendations. However, there were common themes and proposals.

League members noted that our highly consumptive lifestyle also makes a truly dangerous contribution to the deterioration of the biosphere. There is much we can do in our daily lives to decrease our consumption and in our League work to affect public policies that impact growth of both population and consumption. Salt Lake members will learn more about lifestyle choices in the February unit meetings on climate change.

We will continue to support and publicize UPEC presentations, studies, and educational activities. Please pay attention to League notices about UPEC activities and do let UPEC know about opportunities to speak to or work with other groups.

Access Utah League Studies

To view previous Utah League studies and to access the League’s Handbook for Writing a League of Women Voters Study in Utah, visit our web site at

<http://lwwutah.org/get-informed/league-studies>

A unit suggestion that would perhaps require more courage would be to sponsor (with UPEC and others) a seminar or convention on population. The LWVUT was a co-sponsor of such an event many years ago. Then LWVUT president, Karil Frohboese, was instrumental in making this a memorable event. It is something that badly needs to be done again. Note the frequent letters to the editor on population growth. These people need to know that they are not alone. Do the LWV and UPEC have the courage to take on such a project?

LWV Utah lobbying efforts often reflect League positions that bear on the population growth issue. We continue to fight for a woman's right to make her own reproductive health decisions whatever she chooses to do. We may again be able to lobby for a reduction in the number of children allowed for a family's tax deduction. League member and former Sen. Pat Jones sponsored a bill in the past. It appears a bill may be introduced this year.

It would be very helpful to the Utah Population and Environment Council if League members would regularly visit [the UPEC website](#) to see what the council is doing and to make suggestions. It is also easy to do a web search with *Utah Population and Environment Council*. League members have interesting stories to tell. Let UPEC know about them.

Theater Partnership A Success

by Tina Hose, LWVUT Membership and Leadership Development Consultant

The Salt Lake League partnered with Salt Lake Acting Company (SLAC) on a special matinee performance of *Winter*, local playwright Julie Jensen's beautiful play about family and end of life choices. The play created a forum for an ideal union of the LWVUT January 2016 *Death with Dignity Study* and an extraordinary post-play panel discussion.

Thanks to the promotional efforts of LWVSL members Vickie Samuelson, Carol Jensen and Tina Hose, the 160-seat theater was sold out for the November 5 League-hosted *Winter* performance. The three women each made personal contact with 12 groups potentially interested in the topic of end of life choices including the University of Utah School of Nursing, the University of Utah School of



Behavioral Science, AARP, The Free Thinkers from the Sandy Senior Center, Hospice, and the Utah Chapter of Compassion and Choices.



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/>

KUER News Director Terry Gildea moderated the post-play panel discussion. Panelists were University of Utah professor and author of *Ending Life: Ethics and the Way We Die* Margaret Pabst Battin; Utah State legislator and sponsor of Utah's End of Life Options Act Rebecca Chavez-Houck (D-Salt Lake); *Winter* Playwright Julie Jensen and LWVSL member and hospice representative Liana Teteberg. After each panelist provided her point of view in an opening statement, audience questions were accepted and discussed for almost two hours.

The League took advantage of its visibility in this partnership with SLAC to distribute promotional materials. SLAC provided the League a table in the lobby throughout the six-week run of the play. There the League distributed 25 hard copies of the League's *Death with Dignity* study, 54 one-page Executive Summaries of the study, 79 referral cards to access the study on-line, 63 LWVSL membership forms and LWVUT membership brochures, and 10 LWVUT Ten Minute Activist sheets.

This event succeeded in two ways: it generated discussion of and interest in End of Life Options and it increased the League's visibility. Having 160 attendees is extraordinary for a local league event. The Salt Lake League is looking forward to having future opportunities to partner with Salt Lake Acting Company.

Electoral College Debated in Weber County

by Terri McCullough, LWV-Weber County, President

Together with the Olene Walker Institute at Weber State University, the Weber League sponsored a debate on the Electoral College. Dr. Leah



Murray and Thom Kuehls, both political science professors at Weber State University, were the debaters. The room was filled beyond capacity and both participants began by giving a short synopsis of how the electoral college came to be and their opinions on it. This was followed by a question-and-answer session, which generated many questions from students and the general public. The energy

in the room was amazing and the information presented was far above what was expected. We are going to have this same type of debate at Convention this year so all League members can participate. Convention is on April 28 and 29 so mark your calendars so that you can also be a part of this educational, informative event.

Save the Date: 2017 Utah League Convention

The Utah League of Women Voters Annual Convention will be hosted by the Weber League on April 28 and 29.

Friday - April 28 - Tour of the New Roy Library with member Sarah Lovato. Dinner and wine in community room at the library followed by a debate on the electoral college. League member, Leah Murray, will be one of the debaters. [see Weber County News, p.8]

Saturday - April 29 - Formal Meeting at the Ogden Nature Center in the Visitor's Center Discovery Room - 9 to 3. Continental breakfast and catered lunch.

Davis County League Activists Spread Information

by Ann Johnson, LWVUT Secretary

Last fall Davis Unit members were asked to participate at open houses for senior centers in Kaysville and Bountiful and present effective ways to contact state legislators. Sixty-six people stopped by our table at the Autumn Glow Senior Center in Kaysville where Kathy Stockel and Nickie Nelson showed photos of League activities and gave a one-page handout "Becoming a Ten-Minute Activist." They met Marie Fulmer, a former Salt Lake League member, and invited her to our November meeting.

Peggy Carrico and Ann Johnson did not get an exact count of participants at the Golden Years Senior Center in Bountiful, but several dozen people talked with us and one of the program coordinators asked to be put on our email list. At both senior centers, we were surprised at the number of active participants who did not know the names of their own state legislators. Obviously, the League has work to do.

On November 17, Shelly Pace from the Salt Lake League presented information on the Social Security Disability Program and the difficulties which disabled persons face in signing up for it. Three potential new members attended and participated in a lively discussion on how to effect positive change in our government.

Davis League members enjoyed an entertaining and informative holiday social open house Sunday, December 4 at Nickie Nelson's home in North Salt Lake. Bright holiday decorations welcomed the guests who contributed potluck items for a luscious smorgasbord. This year we made a special effort to invite Davis County legislators and interested non-League



members from our email list. Three potential members, Marie Fulmer, and Julie and Mark Sprague, joined us to contribute to lively discussions with three of our state legislators.

State Sen. Todd Weiler and Reps. Ray Ward and Tim Hawkes dropped in to share their insights about what we can expect the 2017 Legislature to enact during the upcoming

session. Meeting our legislators in a relaxed, social setting is much different from seeing them briefly at Meet the Candidates and Town Hall meetings. We bombarded them with questions ranging from what bills they are

Utah Voter Dates For 2017

February

Articles due: 1/13/17

Publication: 1/25/17

March

Articles due: 2/17/17

Publication: 2/25/17

April

Articles due: 3/17/17

Publication: 3/25/17

May

Articles due: 4/14/17

Publication: 4/22/17

June

Articles due: 5/12/17

Publication: 5/20/17

introducing this year to how politics and personalities function in the Legislature.

We feel our holiday social was an effective way to show appreciation to local legislators for their service and to let them know of the League's concerns. Interacting with our legislators on this occasion gave League members greater insight about how the legislature functions and how we can make our influence felt. Potential members had an opportunity to learn about the League and the issues we support.

Our January meeting will be Saturday, January 7 at the South Davis Fire Station. We will hear a report on the Indigent Defense Study and vote on consensus.

Grand County Debates Minimum Wage, Faces Issues

by Barbara Hicks, LWV-Grand County, President

Darcey Brown, LWVGRC Vice President, arranged for the Grand County High School debate team to debate raising the minimum wage. The event on November 14 at the MARC was attended by about 100, including League members and general public. County and city officials plus representatives from the schools and hospital spoke on the subject after the debate. The silent auction and bake sale were very



successful and raised about \$1,000 for the High School Debate Team. The Moab Times-Independent wrote up the event

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

At our November 14 board meeting, we discussed the need to find ways to heal the divisions in our community and nation that this election has worsened. We did not have time to discuss this in depth, but encouraged members to attend the multicultural gathering for solidarity and peace at the MARC on the November 15.

On December 8, Elizabeth Gore hosted the Christmas Social for League members and spouses at her beautifully decorated home. There were about 30 people in attendance. A fun time was had by all. Elizabeth thanked the members for their participation in the LWV and encouraged everyone to keep fighting for what is right.

NEW MEMBERS



Salt Lake League

Beverly Grotsky
Laurie Hoffman

Weber County League

Gail Meakins
Huntsville UT

Sarah Steimel
Ogden UT

The January general membership program will be January 9. Barb Lacy, LWVGRC board member, invited David Everitt, interim Moab City Manager, and Kalen Jones, Moab City Council member, to speak to our League about current issues facing the city and residents, such as traffic and parking concerns, noise abatement, code violation and enforcement, affordable housing and the proliferation of overnight rentals and problems they create in our community.

Housing Challenges Highlighted at League Social

by Carol Jenson, LWV-Salt Lake 1st VP-Programs



Salt Lake League members learned about the critical housing concerns facing the county and its growing, diverse population. On December 5, 2016, many members of the LWVSL met at the Three Fountains West Clubhouse for the annual Holiday Social and donor event. Despite the chill in the air and some small difficulties in finding the clubhouse, the evening was a success. A potluck dinner was enjoyed by the members present and offered a nice variety of great food. Following the dinner hour, our guest speaker for the evening was Steve Erickson of the Crossroads Urban Center. Erickson spoke of the housing concerns and needs for Salt Lake County now and in the future. As affordable housing becomes more and more scarce, the

need for targeted financial appropriations to address those needs becomes critical. Members presented to Erickson a generous donation to benefit Crossroads in its efforts. As a league, we will continue to support housing needs and concerns in the near future and remain vigilant in our help in that regard.

Take the Interest Challenge

The League of Women Voters of Utah is asking you — members and prospective members — to fill out our [Interest Survey](#). This is a short survey to help us know you and how you would like to serve the League and our community.

It only takes a minute. You may also find the Interest Survey on our website: lwwutah.org



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Climate Solutions

TOWN CLUB UNIT– Wednesday, February 8 - 11:00 A.M.

Town Club - 1081 East South Temple

Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193

akarsteiner@aol.com

BENCH BUNCH – Wednesday, February 22 - 10:00 A.M.

Holladay Library

Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118

ngmelling2@gmail.com

WEST SIDE UNIT – Wednesday, February 22 - 6 to 8 P.M.

Hunter Village Club House, 3440 So. Bambrugh Way (6845 W.)

West Valley City 84128

Unit Leader – Vickie Samuelson – 801-250-9210

vsam0236@gmail.com

SANDY UNIT – Thursday, February 23 – 10:00– 11:30 A.M.

Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East

Unit Leader - Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585

janice.gygi@uvu.edu

LIBRARY UNIT – Thursday, February 23 - 12:30 P.M.

Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East

Unit Leaders – Kathy Fitzgerald 801-521-5790; Carole Straughn
– 405-590-6982

klrfitzgerald@gmail.com

GIRL SCOUT UNIT – Monday, February 27 - 11 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Girl Scout Headquarters, 445 East, 4500 South

Unit Leader: Anne Zeigler 801-944-4163

abzeigler@centurylink.net

NITE OWLS – Monday, February 27 - 7:30 P.M.

862 East Harrison Ave.

Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387

judi.short@gmail.com

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