



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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June 2017

## League Activism: Part of the Charge



*by Katharine Biele, LWVSL president*

In this era of noisy protests and political marches, you may be asked if the League of Women Voters is really an activist organization. You need only read our history to answer that question.

“From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy.” Read more at <http://lwv.org/history>.

Still, the League of Women Voters is a different animal from other political organizations, mostly because of the time and effort spent researching and coming to consensus on issues. It takes that effort to find the truth behind a problem, but once the League has done its due diligence, we cannot be stopped. We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties at any level of government, but we will speak up to any elected official regarding issues of importance to our members and to the public.

Through our Legislative Action Committee, all the Leagues in Utah can find their voice and lobby on subjects about which consensus was reached after thorough study.

We also encourage our members to be politically active as individuals, educating others and speaking out on matters of conscience. You can listen to our League president talk about our activism past and present at <http://bit.ly/2qj7dRx>.

The League has not backed away from hot-button issues pertaining to our current U.S. president, either. We were encouraged to join the Women’s March and advocate for fair treatment. The League also issues Action Alerts, for instance encouraging members to demand that President Trump back up his unlawful voting claims, to save healthcare

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and to sign a petition to stop voter suppression. Check out <http://lwv.org/get-involved>.

On the LWV Facebook page, we made this assertion: “We believe that women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights. We reaffirm our commitment to each other, and we ask our members of Congress to remember their own pledges to their communities and constituents. Today, join us in taking the #PledgeofLiberation.”

If you think the League is too slow and stodgy in its activism, you should seek out the many ways we have made a difference in our 97 years of history — and how we will continue to effect change.

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## LWV Utah Looks Back, Ahead in 2017 Convention



*by Lola Britton, LWVUT president*

Thanks to the Weber County League the LWV Utah 2017 Convention was a remarkable success. The convention was held at the Ogden Nature Study Center on April 29. The surroundings were a pleasant change from the hustle and bustle of our very busy lives.

Twenty-four delegates from three counties attended. After the convention was brought to order the delegates begin the day's tasks of the future business of the League. Gigi Brandt presented the board approved 2017-18 program. There was considerable discussion on getting out the vote, redistricting and ranked choice voting.

Kathy Biele and Catherine Weller announced the incoming Voter Newsletter Editors John Clukey and Charles Bernard. John and Charles are non-voting members of the board; however both will play a significant role in getting the word out about the important work the League does.

Nickie Nelson, co-director of the Legislative Action Corps, distributed a survey ranking the importance of the corps' work. The results of the survey ranked attending committee meetings and testifying as the most important Legislative Action Corps activities.

The slate of the nominees for vacant board positions was presented. The vote to accept the nominees was unanimous. Incoming officers are Co-President Catherine Weller, Vice President of Local Leagues Janice Gygi, Voter Services Director Jane Harrison and Secretary Aubrey Hanks. The new board has great potential, and I am sure our members will be behind them 100 percent.



### Local League Presidents

#### Davis County

Nelda Bishop

[nelda@xmission.com](mailto:nelda@xmission.com)

& Kathy Stockel

[khs\\_nodak@yahoo.com](mailto:khs_nodak@yahoo.com)

#### Grand County

Barbara Hicks

[barbmhicks@gmail.com](mailto:barbmhicks@gmail.com)

#### Salt Lake

Kathy Biele

[howze@xmission.com](mailto:howze@xmission.com)

& Carole Straughn

[carolefs222@gmail.com](mailto:carolefs222@gmail.com)

#### Weber County

Terri McCulloch

[terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com)

## Redistricting to be a League Priority

*by Gigi Brandt, LWVUT co-vice president, Programs*

The Utah League will be heavily focused on redistricting in the summer and fall months. We have two tasks: an update study and work on educating and collecting signatures for an initiative petition.

The convention approved an update of our redistricting position. We plan to have it ready for League discussion and consensus by the fall so that our members will be educated on the reasons for an independent redistricting commission as provided for in a ballot initiative. We need a committee to research, interview, write and do the other things needed for a comprehensive League study. If you are interested in helping with this study, please contact Gigi Brandt at [gigibrandt@xmission.com](mailto:gigibrandt@xmission.com) or at 801-582-1102. We hope to begin meeting in late May or early June. All members will be contacted for formation of this committee.

The Utah Board endorsed the independent redistricting commission initiative in March. The initiative is reaching the final stages of completion; it then goes to the lieutenant governor's office and the budget office for review. After that, seven public meetings around the state must be scheduled before the packets for signature gatherers are handed out. All of these activities are scheduled to be completed in a short time frame. The League will conduct training meetings for signatures gatherers, probably in early July. There may be some other volunteer jobs that members can take on.

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## Lola Britton — Bright Light, Great Laugh, Kind Word

*by Peggy Carrico, LWVUT president*



Lola Britton was recognized at the LWV Utah Board meeting in May for her three years of service as state co-president. There is a spark when you meet Lola. You know she is someone who is good to be around — a bright light, a great laugh, a kind word. When you've worked with her, you recognize the intelligence and experience she brings. Just like most of the people I work with in the League I sometimes find myself enviously thinking — "How do you know that?" Lola is a retired Naval Intelligence Officer — intelligence is even in her title.

During her career, she received several awards and medals. She has been in the League since 2010 and has made her mark here as well. She was Salt Lake League president and chair of the Prison Relocation and Development Authority Study for LWV Utah. As Utah co-president she has been hands-on, serving on the Public Defense

### Utah League

#### Co-Presidents

Lola Britton  
[lolabritton@comcast.net](mailto:lolabritton@comcast.net)  
& Peggy Carrico  
[plcarrico55@gmail.com](mailto:plcarrico55@gmail.com)

#### Executive Director Emeritus

Sandy Peck  
[sandypeck@xmission.com](mailto:sandypeck@xmission.com)

#### Office Manager

Trixi Sieger  
[lwwut@xmission.com](mailto:lwwut@xmission.com)

Study Committee, working on the website, setting up PayPal links, preparing convention materials, packing and moving boxes, appearing on television and radio, and writing alerts and press releases. Nothing is too big or too small for Lola — a fantastic trait for a volunteer organization. She has assured us she will still be here to help.

So thank you, Lola, our own local example of “nevertheless, she persisted.”

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## Davis League Works on Voting, Status of Women

*by Kathy Stockel, LWV Davis co-president*

On May 20, before this Voter is “put to bed,” Davis and Salt Lake League members will have conducted a joint voter registration effort at the Rose Park Festival. We are enthusiastic about sharing the effort to bring voter registration to the Rose Park neighborhood. Wednesday, May 24, will be the Davis Annual Meeting with election of officers and board members and planning our program year.



Saturday, June 3, Amberlie Phillips will lead a discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women. We look forward to this topic and everyone is invited to attend: 10 a.m. at the South Davis Metro Fire Hall located at 255 S. 100 West in Bountiful.

Two thumbs up for LWV Utah convention. Thanks to Terri McCullough and the Weber League for a terrific convention weekend. Davis members who attended included LWVUT state board members Peggy Carrico, Ann Johnson and Nickie Nelson; and Davis members Joanna Gleason, Emily Walsh, Nancy Cooper, Hilda Brown, John Logan and Kathy Stockel. A special thank you to Lola Britton, retiring LWVUT co-president, and Peggy Carrico, LWVUT co-president. Welcome to Catherine Weller, new LWVUT co-president.

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## Park City Starts Unit

Spurred on by growing interest in nonpartisan politics, Park City members of the Salt Lake League are exploring their own unit. A gathering took place recently, during which redistricting, the Equal Rights Amendment and more were discussed. If you're interested in joining the League in Summit or Wasatch counties, please notify Jill Lesh [jillesh@me.com](mailto:jillesh@me.com), or the office.

## Salt Lake Annual Meeting Reminder

Save the Date:

Monday, June 5 at 6 p.m.  
Girl Scout Headquarters  
445 East 4500 South  
Murray, UT

Potluck dinner. We will be firming up our program agenda for the coming year, electing officers and discussing our plans for what promises to be a very challenging year.

## Salt Lake Works on 2017-18 Program

*by Carol Jensen, LWVSL vice-president, Programs*

Plans are under way for the LWV-Salt Lake program for 2017-2018. As always, our group is focused on a non-partisan, fair-minded approach as we study current issues. Our criteria will include the following:

- a. do League members have an interest in this issue
- b. is the issue relevant to League goals
- c. and finally, what can the League change and what can we do now to facilitate that change.

Underscoring all our work is the commitment to educate our members, by making them aware of current issues and providing timely information.

The program will be presented to LWVSL members at the annual meeting on Monday, June 5 for discussion and adoption. We hope that many will attend and voice their support; the next year promises to be a challenging one.

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## Session Helped Workforce Services

*by Vickie Samuelson, LWVUT co-director, Legislative Action Corps*

Thursday, April 6 was the first meeting after the Legislature ended, and all the participants seemed happy. Workforce Services received more money this time around than in past years. Most of it will go to housing and the homeless. They also talked about some of the bills that passed that will help them deal with other issues:

HB 194 Federal Grants review and approval procedures for federal funds.

HB 212 Incentive for effective teachers in high poverty schools

HB 283 Child Homelessness prevention.

SB 100 Early childhood services coordination study to be completed 1/1/2018

SB 194 Establish the Utah Data Research Center as a program within the Workforce Research and Analysis Division within the Department of Workforce Services.



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## Grand County Plans Membership Social

*by Barbara Hicks, LWV Of Grand County co-president*

On Monday, May 8, we held our annual business meeting and elected new officers for the 2017-2019 term. Incoming Co-Presidents Darcey Brown and



## Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 S. 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/>

Barb Lacy surprised the attendees with a very clever and hilarious SNL-caliber skit thanking the outgoing officers Barbara Hicks, president, Cynthia Smith, secretary, and Melissa Byrd, treasurer, for their service.

On Thursday, June 15, we are planning to have a membership social at Darcey Brown's house. Dining al fresco on a warm summer night! The social will be at her beautiful farm south of Moab that she shares with her husband, lambs, horses and dogs.

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## Focus Stays on Intergenerational Poverty

*by Vickie Samuelson, LWVUT co-director of Legislative Action Corps*

My first meeting of the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee on Monday, April 17 left me with lots to learn about who is who and the ongoing process of this committee.

The committee was chaired by Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox who asked for an update on putting a process in place in all counties to collect data on how big this problem really is and how best to address the issue. It was reported that most of the counties now have people in place to help, so data will be coming soon. They do have five- and 10-year baseline indicators which I will touch on:

**Five-Year Goal:** Align all systems involved in early childhood development to ensure Utah has the capacity to prepare children at risk of remaining in poverty for kindergarten.

**10-Year Goal:** Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults are emotionally, cognitively and developmentally prepared for kindergarten.

**Five-Year Goal:** Align systems assisting with educational outcomes to ensure efforts are focused in schools disproportionately impacted.

**10-Year Goal:** Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults graduate from high school at a rate equal to the statewide rate.

**Five-Year Goal:** Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in a stable household with families able to meet basic needs.

**10-Year Goal:** Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living with families that are self-sufficient.

**Five-Year Goal:** Children at risk have access to quality health, mental health and dental care regardless of where their family resides in Utah.

**10-Year Goal:** Children in intergenerational poverty have access to quality health, mental health and dental care at the same rates as the statewide rates in each of those areas, regardless of where their family resides in Utah.

## West Side Unit Meets Through Summer

Our unit has decided to meet for May and June with our goal to have a Meet the Candidates event in September. We want to focus on the municipal races on the West Side. We want to bring attention to the Great Salt Lake and what impact the new prison will have on the area of Magna and the North end of West Valley City. If you know of anyone in that area please tell them about this plan and that they could help with the planning process.

My contact information is 801-750-2217.

— *Vickie Samuelson,*  
*Leader*

## Legislature's Interim Meetings Modified for 2017

by Nicola Nelson, LWVUT co-director, Legislative Action Corps

The Legislative Management Committee voted to slightly modify the Legislature's Interim schedule for 2017. More Interim days will be devoted to Appropriations Committees. As in all things political this year, schedules could change and the governor could call special sessions. You can find the legislative calendar at [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov) and the Legislative Corps will keep you apprised of agendas.

Our League lunch will be on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Capitol during Interim meetings. We are working to find a consistent room, but check your Legislative Corps email or the League calendar for the location each month. If you are not a member of the Action Corps, contact the League office at [lwwutah.org](http://lwwutah.org) or 801-272-8683 to be added to our emails. We still need observers for many committees. If you can help (you do not need to come to the Capitol, you can observe on your computer at home) please contact Vickie Samuelson at 801-750-2217, [vsam0236@gmail.com](mailto:vsam0236@gmail.com) or Nickie Nelson at 801-231-7326, [nickie.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:nickie.nelson@gmail.com).

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## National League Opposes American Health Care Act

by Sarah Courtney, LWVUS senior director of communications & digital strategy

National League of Women Voters President Chris Carson made the following comment on passage by the House of Representatives of the American Health Care Act:

"This bill is anything but American—it abandons the American values of fairness, community, and concern for all—and it certainly won't provide healthcare for all. This legislation only serves to benefit special interests and provide tax cuts for the rich, while leaving everyday Americans without access to affordable, quality health care."

If this legislation becomes law:

- 24 million Americans will lose coverage by 2020
- Medicaid patients will no longer be able to get the care they need
- Women will go back to paying more than men for basic care

We know the Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but it has successfully provided health care coverage to tens of millions of Americans who previously went without.

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We urge the Senate to reject this legislation.

<http://lww.org/press-releases>

## Interim Schedule

**June 20**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Appropriations  
Committees (8 of them)

**June 21**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Interim  
Committees (12 of them)

**July 25, 2 p.m.**

Executive Appropriations

**July 26**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Appropriations  
Committees

**Aug. 22, 2 p.m.**

Executive Appropriations

**Aug. 23**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Interim  
Committees

**Sep. 19**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Appropriations  
Committees

**Sep. 20**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Interim  
Committees

**Oct. 17, 2 p.m.**

Executive Appropriations

**Oct. 18**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Appropriations  
Committees

**Nov. 14, 2 p.m.**

Executive Appropriations

**Nov. 15**

**8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.**  
Standing Interim  
Committees

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.