



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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June 2018

Convention Provides New Officers, Plans



by Catherine Weller, LWV-UT Co-President

Members of the League of Women Voters from throughout Utah gathered in the stately boardroom of the Utah State Capitol on Saturday, May 12. Local Leagues from Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake were represented by 29 members who reported on their Leagues' works, heard other Leagues' reports, approved the Utah League incoming board members, and helped determine the state Leagues priorities for action in the coming year. We were fortunate to be joined by three guests; Karen Nicholson, Utah's liaison to the national board and member of the Texas League, and Jen Christensen and Naomi Watkins from the nonprofit group Better Days 2020.

Utah League program priorities for 2018-2019 are as follows:

- Promote voter education and participation in the election process, focusing on the candidate selection process, participating in the Vote 411 education effort, and education on the 2018 ballot measures
- Promote transparency in government, including:
- Observe and report to members and the public on General Sessions and Interim Meetings of the Utah Legislature
- Monitor and protect Utah's GRAMA laws
- Promote League positions at the Legislature
- Actively participate in efforts to establish a bipartisan advisory redistricting commission and principles for redistricting for the 2021 redistricting process
- Promote a sustainable lifestyle to preserve a Utah environment beneficial to life, emphasizing air quality, energy issues,

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- transportation, public land, water, seismic issues and climate change
- Promote community awareness of health care, with an emphasis on care for the underinsured and uninsured and support for full Medicaid expansion in the State of Utah
- Monitor and promote justice reinvestment including sentencing reform, drug courts to reduce incarceration rates, programs to prepare inmates to successfully return to society, and expand mental health treatment and parole reform
- Monitor the Inland Port Commission
- Study Utah agriculture land and water use, including what is grown and used or exported, and
- Promote a tax system that is fair, simple and transparent

The LWVUT will also do the following and act as needed:

- Monitor revisions to Utah’s election laws and ensure the integrity of elections that use electronic voting equipment and mail-in ballots.
- Monitor campaign finance reform, with a primary focus on campaign contribution limits for candidates for State office
- Monitor the processes for selecting candidates for State office. (i.e., monitor the candidate selection process enacted by the 2014 Legislature, SB54)
- Monitor Utah’s citizen initiative process
- Monitor issues of the Utah public education system, focusing on curriculum, elective, fiscal, and governance matters
- Monitor the implementation of the new Utah State Prison and support improvements to prison programs, and
- Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, and combat discrimination and poverty.

Convention attendees approved three state studies for this year; an educational recycling study to be chaired by Nicola Nelson, a voter privacy study chaired by Peggy Carrico, and a two-year study on the State Board of Education chaired by Shelly Pace. Once completed, all studies except for recycling will be sent to all local Leagues so that they may meet to review them and vote for consensus. As always, studies need volunteers from any local League within the state to help with research, writing, and layout. If you’d like to help study any of the above issues, please contact the study chairs to find out how.

I am thrilled with the very capable women who will join our board this year and look forward to working with them and with the women currently filling the second years of their positions on the Utah board. As you can see from the approved program, we’re going to get a lot done this year.

Lola Britton, chair of this year’s Utah League Nominating Committee, presented four nominees to fill positions on this year’s board. They are:



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& Ann Johnson

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& Barb Lacy

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Co-President: Vickie Samuelson
Vice President of Programs: Nicola Nelson
Secretary: Jackie Morgan
Treasurer: Sally Aulakh(returning for a second term)
Director of Legislative Action: Emily Walsh

The Utah board continues to seek members to fill the Public Relations Director and Co-Director of Legislative Action positions. The Utah board will vote on the approval of those incoming officers.



Karen Nicholson from the national League presented information about changes afoot at the national level. They primarily stem from what has been dubbed the “Transformation Journey” that began at last year’s Council meeting. The Transformation Journey is an affirmation of values and a blueprint for

change that will help ensure the League’s viability and relevance for the next century. Key components of it are increased efforts at data gathering and telling our story to the public, an effort to try new things (and a commitment to not be afraid to learn from those actions whether we succeed or fail), national-state partnerships for fundraising, and a renewed commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Jen Christensen and Naomi Watkins from Better Days 2020 joined us at noon to give a lunch presentation about their many efforts to gain greater recognition for the historic battle for women’s suffrage and the largely forgotten roles of many women leaders in Utah history. Besides spearheading the effort to send a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon to Washington, D.C., Better Days 2020 is working on a curriculum for the 4th- and 7th-grade state history programs and making plans to commemorate the anniversary of women’s right to vote in the state of Utah.

We began the day hearing about the many accomplishments of the last year and ended it with a newly approved program, budget, and board members, as well as a list of instructions to the board and a renewed sense of purpose for the year to come. I’d like to thank all of the women who took time on a sunny Saturday to do the League’s work at Convention. I’d especially like to thank members from the Salt Lake League who hosted this year’s Convention. Our evening speaker, former newsman Rod Decker, offered political insights with his signature humor. LWVSL’s hours of effort were handsomely rewarded by a convention appreciated by all.



Utah League

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National Brings Message of Growth, Hope

by Katharine Biele, LWV-SL president

What's the word from National? "Interpret Liberally," "Break the Rules!"



That was the message from Karen Nicholson, vice president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, who recently visited the state for the Annual Convention of the League of Women Voters of Utah.

Nicholson, who is also Education-Advocacy Committee Chair, spoke about the opportunities presented by the LWVUS' Transformation Journey, an attempt to show the world that we do things that make a difference. There has been "a lot of fight for a symbolic nice," she said. While voting has always been our focus, it is now important for the League to "flare" out, remembering that we are speaking with one voice and that it is

a nonpartisan voice.

The League, because of our concentration on research and the deliberative process, can be off-putting to some people. Remember that our reputation is our intellect, she said. As we increase our visibility and raise our voices during this Transformation Journey, we are honoring and building on "the League Way."

2018 Voters Guide an Exciting Milestone

by Jan M. Brock, LWV-SL Co-Vice President of Voter Services

The Salt Lake League has invested in the online voting platform VOTE411.org this year to prepare our annual Voters Guide. This will be the first year that our league will have an integrative web-based system that will pose questions to candidates and collect their responses so that voters can gain a clearer impression of who the candidates are and can learn about their platforms.

VOTE411.org was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October 2006. It is an invaluable resource for election information, with state-by-state resources including a polling place finder, a voter registration tool, and information about candidates and ballot measures. Currently, Utah voters already turn to VOTE411, even without candidate information. In 2016, nearly 13,000 sessions were initiated in Utah locations from Smithfield in Box Elder County all the way to Kanab in

League Begins Study on Recycling

Do you ever wonder where the materials you put in your recycling bin actually go? A small group of League members is beginning an educational study on recycling along the Wasatch Front to answer that question and many others. Our goal is to educate League members and the public about recycling in their communities and its effect on our environment. We will be meeting with officials in cities along the Wasatch Front and with non- and for-profit recycling companies.

The League position is that we support policies to reduce the generation of and promote the reuse and recycling of solid waste, so we hope to find things that the League can do to increase recycling in our communities. If you have questions or comments please contact study lead Nickie Nelson at 801-231-7326 or nickie.nelson@gmail.com.

*-Nicola Nelson, LWV-UT
Legislative Action Corps
Co-Director*

Kane County. This election year, VOTE411 will take advantage of nearly \$500,000 in Google Ads grants to drive even more voters to the site.

The Salt Lake League has invited all 46 candidates who are running for office in Salt Lake County to participate in our 2018 online Voters Guide. This includes elections for County Council, Auditor, Clerk, District Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff and school board elections in five Salt Lake County school districts. Only one of these elections, Jordan School Board 3, will involve a primary, which will be held on Tuesday, June 26. We will publish our VOTE411 Voters Guide on Monday, May 28 for this election. Once it is published, voters will be able to go to VOTE411.org, enter their address and learn about the three candidates who are running for this election if they live within that district area, assuming that they all respond to our invitation to participate.

All of the other candidates who have been invited to participate in the VOTE411 Voters Guide this year are running in the general election, to be held on Tuesday, November 6, and will have until Friday, July 6 to respond to our questions. Their answers will then be published on Monday, July 9 and will be available online at that time.

Please invite your friends and family to visit VOTE411.org this election season. The Utah League and our local chapters will also be using the VOTE411.org platform this year. This powerful voter information tool represents an exciting milestone for us. If you are interested in volunteering to help the Salt Lake League with the preparation of the VOTE411 Voters Guide, please contact us at voterservices@lwvsl.org.

Grand League Considers County Government Changes

by Barb Lacy, LWV-Grand County Co-President

The Grand County League hosted a meeting on May 14 to provide information on a new law that was recently passed by the Utah State Legislature. HB224 amends the process counties must use for local government. Grand County is one of the several counties that has been directly impacted. As a result of the law, the county must now adopt one of four mandated models of county government. Locally, there has been a lot of tension, rumor, and innuendo surrounding the bill, and the Grand County League sought to provide an informational program to educate citizens on the actual impact of this new law.



Redistricting Initiative Likely To be Certified

On Friday, June 1, Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox is expected to certify that the requisite number of signatures has been collected to place the redistricting initiative on the November. At that time he will assign a number to the initiative for the ballot. Members of the Utah League from around the state collected more than 40,000 signatures, and dedicated countless volunteer hours to signature verification.

After June 1, Better Boundaries and the League will begin the next phase: educating the public about the initiative. Members who need a refresher about the specifics of the initiative can go to <http://betterboundaries.org>

And don't miss our 5-K Gerry-Meander Fun Run/Walk to get the vote!

-[Gigi Brandt](#), LWV-UT Co-Vice President, Programs

The program featured Gavin Anderson, deputy district attorney for Salt Lake County. He explained the four mandated models, listed the pros and cons of each one, and gave subsets of options for each one. He also told the meeting about his own experience with various forms of county government and referenced his knowledge of the various form to advise which form might work best for Grand County. Chris Baird, former county council member, and Andrew Fitzgerald, county attorney, also provided background information. All speakers made themselves available for questions and discussion after the program.

More than 80 people attended the program, and feedback from attendees was positive in that accurate information was provided and rumors were dispelled. The Grand County League will continue to provide information on HB224 as it becomes available. An audio recording of the meeting will be made available on our [Facebook page](#) and our [website](#).

League Observers Track Interim Legislative Meetings

by Nicola Nelson, LWV-UT Legislative Action Corps Co-Director

The Utah League is proud to have provided 12 observers at the Capitol, and others listening from home, for the first legislative Interim meetings of 2018 on May 15 and 16. At least one League member covered each Interim committee.



Interim committees are joint with both senators and representatives present, and occur once a month during summer and fall. Committees hear reports, audits, and other information, and open bill files for proposed 2019 legislation. For example, May meetings included discussions of redistricting, the future of Utah coal, whether DACA recipients can take the Utah bar exam, litigation against opioid manufactures, affordable housing, the census and many other topics of interest to the League.

The next set of Interim meetings are Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19 and 20. Go to le.utah.gov, then click on 'calendar,' for more information. Agendas will be on the website a few days before the meetings. We will have our legislative lunch at the Capitol on Wednesday, June 20. Come join us and bring a friend.

Mark Your Calendars July 11: *Dark Money* Screening

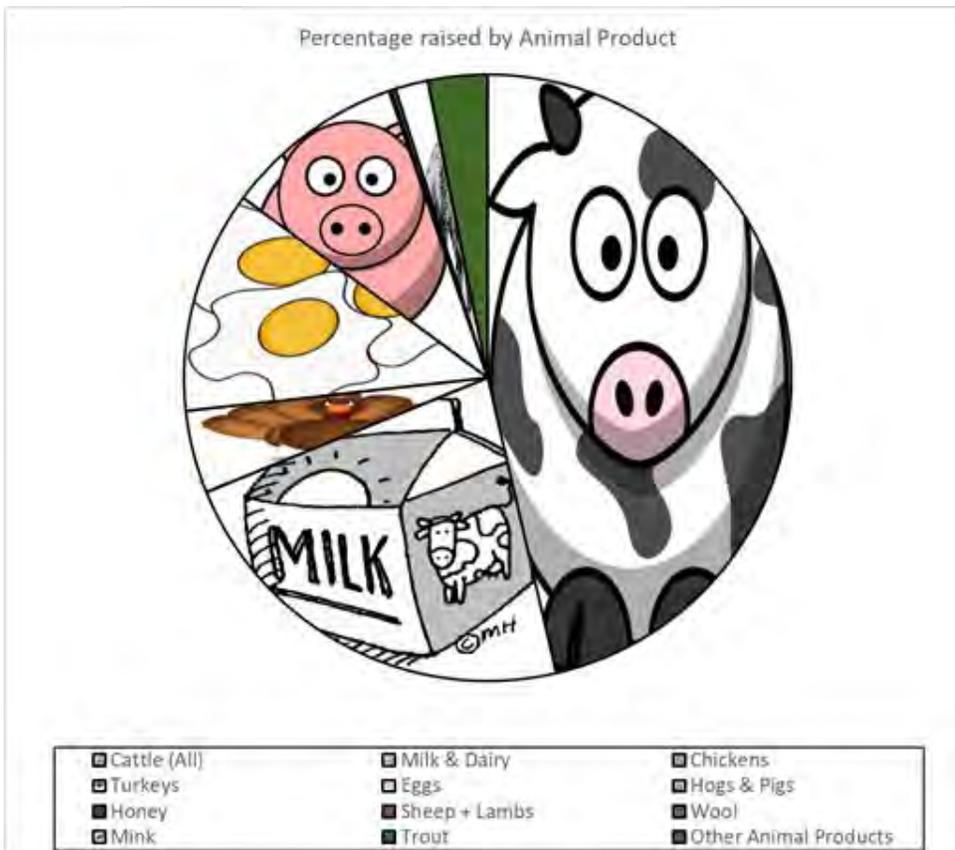
The documentary *Dark Money* will be presented by KUED on July 11 at the Rose Wagner Theatre. A panel discussion will follow the film.

Where Does Your Food Come From?

by Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Natural Resources Chair

Recently, the League Agriculture Study Committee decided that it was important to know where our food is grown outside of Utah. Unfortunately, we have failed thus far to find a source for that information. We ran into the term "proprietary Information" when researching eggs, and suspect that is the source of the problem for most imported groceries. Food suppliers do not make their product information public. At least, not in a manner where the information is collected anywhere that we could find. We do know that much of what we see at the grocery store is at least packaged, if not grown, in other states and much is imported from other countries. California produces half of the nation's fruits and vegetables and Holland is second only to the United States in exporting produce.

This fall, we will launch a project to ask you to keep an informal record of where your groceries come from, but in the meantime, here is a humorous rendering of the meat, dairy, and poultry produced in Utah. For reference, see this chart, created by Wendy Molteni of the Salt Lake League:



Salt Lake League Invites You to Join Them at Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Salt Lake takes the opportunity every year to get together and plan its agenda for the coming year. You can be part of this exciting exercise as we look at redistricting, civics education, our environmental challenges, and much more. For example, did you know we are planning a 5K fun run called the Gerry-Meander for September? Join us to help educate voters about important issues and have fun while you're at it. Our Annual Meeting is open to all Salt Lake League members. We need you and your ideas, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Monday, June 4

Time: 6 p.m. potluck dinner/meeting

Place: Girl Scouts of Utah headquarters, [445 E. 4500 South](#)

-Kathy Biele, LWV-Salt Lake Co-President

Davis League Rocks the Vote, Meets the Candidates

by Ann Johnson, LWV-Davis County Co-President

On April 28 at the Farmington Fire Station, Davis League members quizzed



County Elections Clerk Brian McKenzie about the role of our county clerk's office in registering voters, certifying initiatives, and conducting fair elections. We learned that while 85 percent of registered voters in our county vote, only about 60 percent of our citizens are registered. Obviously, we need to continue our voter registration efforts. We also learned how much labor is involved for the clerk's office to verify voter signatures

on initiative petitions. We left feeling that Davis County's election process is safe and secure.

Davis members and friends worked on registering new voters in May. We conducted Rock the Vote lessons on the importance of voting and registered students in social studies classes at Bountiful and Layton High Schools. Students responded favorably and the 17- and 18-year-olds look forward to receiving their ballots to vote in the upcoming primary. We also registered new voters at Davis Applied Technology Center in Kaysville.

We look forward to a busy spring and summer. We will be holding two primary election Meet the Candidates events in May. One for county commissioners and one for Legislative Districts 19 and 20. Our annual planning meeting will be Monday, June 4 where we will plan Meet the Candidates events for the general elections and brainstorm ways to encourage and assist more potential voters to register.

Salt Lake League to Sponsor 5K Fun Run

by Carole Straughn, LWV-Salt Lake Co-President

"Voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around." That is why the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake is sponsoring a 5-K Fun Run/Walk to draw attention to the problem and get out the vote for an independent advisory commission on redistricting.

We will gather at the soccer field at Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School, 843 Lincoln. Participants should be there by 7:30 a.m. We'll give folks a chance to check out the sponsor tables, grab snacks and T-shirts, and hear pep talks from Republicans and Democrats, all of who want to "slay the Gerrymander" in Utah. At 8 a.m., we will start our "Gerry-Meander" circuit through four Utah House Districts, switching back and forth among them an

Take a Run at Gerrymandering

Come join the Salt Lake League's 2018 5K "Gerry-Meander" fun run and walk on Saturday, September 29, beginning in the historic 9th & 9th area to help pass independent redistricting reform on the November ballot!

To volunteer, email 5K@lwwsl.org and direct your ideas to Miriam (logistics) or Carole (education) – or just ask how you can help!

incredible nine times in one neat rectangular route that traces 900 South, 900 East, 200 South, 1300 East, and back to 900 South.

We'll stop along the way to ask "where's Gerry," hear him explain why he's tired of "Gerry-meandering," and earn prizes to pick up at the finish line. Back at our starting line, we can browse the vendor stalls, get more snacks, play games and learn how we can help stop gerrymandering in Utah.

The Salt Lake League 5K was sparked by a brainstorming session last November in the Long-term Planning and Development Committee, led by Salt Lake League Director of Development Nancy Wingelaar. The group heard a webinar by the Asheville, NC, League describing how their 5K (also held on behalf of independent redistricting) drew dozens of national media reports. Held between two congressional districts that run right down the middle of their small town, with mysterious cuts, juts and jags to include a few houses here or there, the Asheville League's fun run helped walkers and watchers experience how confusing politically motivated and secretly drawn voting district boundaries can be. After hearing how the Asheville 5K chairwomen had organized the event and how they urged other leagues to try the idea, the Salt Lake League Development Committee decided that we should also launch our own 5K this fall.

The Development Committee believes that this 5K could become an annual event and make an ongoing contribution to the League's mission. The 5K could focus on a different reason to "Get out the Vote," and bring a new generation to the League to strengthen our visibility and financial stability.

The 5K's route has been approved by the Salt Lake City Events Permit Manager, the use of Rowland Hall's soccer field and parking are secured, sponsors are being recruited, and T-shirts and promotional and educational activities are being designed. The 5K Committee figures it will need at least 50 volunteers for the event.

Stay tuned for more information and sign-up opportunities on our website: lwsl.org.

Opponents of Inland Port Speak Out

by Vickie Samuelson, LWVSL Health & Human Services Co-director

Opposing sides of the Inland Port debate faced off on Wednesday, May 23, and the League of Women Voters joined the call to stop the proposed development. A press conference followed an Envision Utah meeting on the future of the Northwest Quadrant at which supporters talked about all the good that will come to the state with this port as far as jobs and economy. They touched on being able to make it mostly net 0 in the use of energy. However, Deeda Seed of the Center for Biological Diversity said we are years away from having the technology to make that happen.



Thanks to the Girl Scouts of Utah for their generous in-kind donations to the League of Women Voters of Utah and the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake.

Opponents said they will hold representatives accountable for their hasty position on the Port.

Technology is not even close to applying it to anything at this time, said Denni Cawley, Executive Director of Utah Physicians for Healthy Environment. Lives are being lost because of the bad air in this state.

Steve Erickson of the Utah Audubon Council talked about how this will affect the wildlife. Birds and their habitat will be adversely affected by the tall oil and grain containment structures that are planned. There is also danger of environmental accidents as oil tankers and trains move through neighborhoods.

Dorothy Owen, chair, Westport Committee warned that legislators did not understand the bill they passed, as it flew through the Legislature in the last days of the session after being changed many times in both houses. Promises to fix the law later are falling on skeptical ears.

Why the League Sends Those Pesky Donation Letters

by **Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWV-UT Development Director**

Four times a year you receive a letter from the League of Women Voters of Utah asking for donations. Why, you may ask, does the League ask for donations in addition to annual membership dues?

Your membership dues are divided between the national, state, and local leagues, with the Utah State League receiving only \$10 from each membership. With 400 statewide members, dues contribute about \$4,000 to our budget. This is 18 percent of our operating expenses of \$19,000. With that slim budget, the state League accomplishes amazing work.

- More than 20 members attended or in listened to every legislative committee responsible for League issues, and testified at least 10 times during the 2018 Legislative Session.
- We attended every monthly interim committee that dealt with League Issues.
- We communicate our unique insights via KRCL radio, email, Facebook and Twitter with our members, legislators and the public.
- We collected 6,180 signatures for the successful Better Boundaries ballot campaign.
- We are producing the Utah Agriculture Study, continuing the League's tradition of basing positions on well-researched data.
- We keep our dues so low to ensure that League membership is available to as wide an economic range of people as possible. You, our members and friends, are our only source of revenue.
- We appreciate every member and encourage those of you who can to donate beyond your dues so we can meet our expenses.

Donors Honor Roll

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our loyal donors. Our amazing work is accomplished by hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the invaluable help of our part-time office manager, but we depend on our generous donors to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. Thank you to this month's donors:

Dixie and Robert Huefner
Marie and Terry Horner
Trust
Peggy Carrico
Emily Walsh
Karen McCormick

We also thank those who have set up continuing monthly donations:

Jean Roestenburg
Paul VanDenBerghe

And those who have signed up with Smith's Inspiring Donations program.

— **Kathryn Fitzgerald, LWVUT Development Director**

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