



## **WATCHDOG**

### Message From the President

The Weber County League of Women Voters is ready to get back to work for the year. I hope all members had a wonderful summer and are excited to again be a part of a great organization by attending meetings.

Our participation in the last few years has been outstanding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for caring enough to come to meetings. We will continue to ask members to set a personal goal of bringing people with them to try to increase membership. We do amazing things with the members we have – just imagine what we could do if we added more members.

A big thank you goes out to Nicole Berthelemy for hosting the wine and cheese social in August. It was great to be able to visit with intelligent people in such a relaxed environment.

The board met in August and had a planning meeting for the upcoming year. The calendar for the rest of 2010 is included in this publication. Please take a moment and note the dates on your calendar and join us.

Thanks are in order to Jenica Jacobsen for setting up a page for the Weber League on Facebook to keep people informed through that venue. Just search Weber County League of Women Voters and updates will be on there.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve you again for two years. The Weber League has an excellent reputation due to past leadership, and it is my honor to work with you! Thanks for all you do.

### **MEMBERSHIP POT LUCK**

Our Annual Membership Pot Luck will be on Saturday, September 17, at 11:00. It will be held at the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Bowery (where there should be no soccer games going on). This is right behind the South Ogden City Offices on Country Hills Drive. The speaker will be Dr. Jeff Stephens, Superintendent of Weber School District. He will be talking about the future of public education and will take questions from the audience. With the national study on education and the state some of our local districts are in, this is a very timely subject. Many thanks to Evelyn Bertilson for arranging for him to speak to us. Please bring a friend, your favorite dish, and yourself to this activity. Plates, utensils, and drinks will be provided. Let's break last year's record for the number of attendees!

### **ACTIVITIES FOR MAYORIAL CANDIDATES**

There are 8 candidates running for mayor in Ogden City. We proposed a question for all of them to answer prior to the primary. The question was "What is your vision for Ogden during your term of office if you are elected?" The answers given are on the Weber LWV website, which is [www.weberleague.org](http://www.weberleague.org) under Voter Information and click on the top line directing you to the mayor responses. I encourage you to take a look at this. Once the primary is over, our league will be sponsoring a debate for the final candidates. The Standard will be co-sponsoring and covering the debate. It will be held on October 25, 2011 at 7:00 in the auditorium of the Main Weber County Library. It will be moderated by Dr. Leah Murray, and the questions will come from the audience. This should be a very interesting and informative event.

## **NATIONAL EDUCATION STUDY**

The National LWV has undertaken a study concerning the role of the Federal Government in public education. There are five major areas that need to be addressed. Consensus will be addressed after each topic is covered. The articles are on the national website, which is [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click "For Members" in the blue menu bar across the top. Go to Projects & Programs, then, find the Taskforces & Studies column on the right, click on the Education Study: The Role of Federal Government in Public Education. Click on Get Informed under Background Paper on the right side and the reports will be listed. We will print off and have some copies of the first one at the pot luck for members who need them. Our local league board decided that we would meet more often in September and October and participate in the full study. We are scheduling three meetings in September and October to accomplish this. We would love to have everyone come and give an opinion. All meetings will be at the Main Weber County Library on Jefferson Avenue. The meeting dates, topics, times, etc are as follows:

September 26, 2011 – 7:00 – Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives – Led by Evelyn Bertilson

October 10, 2011 – 7:00 – Common Core Standards and Assessment/Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who are Disadvantaged – Led by Heather Hill

October 24, 2011 – 7:00 - Funding and Equity Issues/Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding – Led by Lou Shurtliff

## **NORTHERN UTAH CHAMBER COALITION PRESENTATION**

On November 14, 2011 at 7:00, our meeting will be on the purpose and mission of the Northern Utah Chamber Coalition. The speaker will be Chris Dallin, and it will be held at the Main Weber County Library on Jefferson Avenue. I want to thank Pat Pearce for arranging this for us. Chris will give an overview of this new coalition and what the goals and aspirations for the future are.

## **WEBER COUNTY REDISTRICTING MEETING**

The Weber League was represented at the citizen meeting seeking input on the redistricting maps for Utah. The National and State League positions were read and the local comments from our meeting were presented. Members of the redistricting committee were encouraged to draw lines that do not split up geographic areas, show preference for any candidate or party, and that are transparent and accountable.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

September 17 – Membership Pot Luck – 11:00 a.m. – 40<sup>th</sup> Street Bowery

September 26 – Education Study Consensus Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library

October 10 – Education Study Consensus Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library

October 24 – Education Study Consensus Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library

October 25 – Mayor Debate – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library

November 14 – Northern Utah Chamber Coalition Presentation – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County  
Library