



WATCHDOG

2013 Fall Issue

Message From the President

Summer is winding down and another year for the League will be beginning soon. I hope that you all had a restful and relaxing summer and will be ready to jump in and participate with us this year. The great thing about our League is the fact that no one has to donate all of their spare time to make us successful. Everybody does a little part, whether it is serving on the board or attending meetings.

The Weber League was able to participate in the Membership Development Training presented by members from the National League. This training was excellent and was focused on increasing membership in today's busy society. The National League has made a commitment to help all state and local leagues in increasing membership and participation. The Utah State League has been assigned a state coach, and we have been assigned a local coach, Jill Lesh. It was my pleasure to get the opportunity to begin to work with her and see the value of her outside perspective. She will be a support tool for us and will be working closely with me and Leah to continue to improve our league.

A very blatant fact was present at the training this summer concerning our league. We definitely do more with less and continue to be one of the actively operating leagues in the state. I felt fortunate to be able to represent this organization. Our possibilities are endless, and I encourage everyone to reach out and show other people in our community the value of being a member.

The board has planned some good meetings and activities for this year. Please mark the dates on your calendar and make a commitment to attend. At the same time, bring anyone that you think would be interested in the topic. Don't shy away from dragging your friends to meetings if you believe they would enjoy learning or participating.

I would like to see our membership double this year – and this is only possible if we show the pride we have in our organization to everyone we associate with. I am as guilty as the rest of not wanting to appear pushy concerning joining, but that does not radiate the pride I have in our group. I am changing my perspective and challenge all of you to do the same.

Welcome back to another excellent year for the Weber County League. I look forward to seeing you all.

Terri McCulloch



DATES TO REMEMBER

League Social – August 29, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. – Alleged, 205 25 Street

Membership Meeting – September 14, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. – Jaycee Park, 2465 Fillmore

September 24, 2013 – National Voter Registration Day

National Education Study – October 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Weber Library Main

United Promise Project – November 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Place TBD



STUDIES, STUDIES, STUDIES BY MARILYN O'DELL, MEMBER OF EDUCATION FUNDING COMMITTEE

Our League will have the opportunity to answer consensus questions on three studies between now and April 2014. Two of the studies were approved at the LWV Utah Convention in May. The third study is actually an update of a national policy approved at the National Convention in 2012.

The first study, "Education Funding", is scheduled to be ready by October 1st. As I write this, the committee is in the final throes of completing the document. As the last time the LWV Utah studied Education was in 1982, this is a timely study. League members who followed the State Legislature felt there was a need for good information and a position to guide the League in lobbying. To make the study a project that could be completed during the summer, it was confined to funding. We're planning to present the study, get consensus and have a revised position before the 2014 Legislative session.

The second study on relocation of the state prison is now scheduled for completion sometime in January. At the last Legislative session, a bill was passed to study a proposed relocation of the prison. A Prison Relocation Committee, set up by the Legislature, is currently meeting. No one knows how fast this idea will proceed but there is definitely support within the Legislature. The reason given by the Legislators in support of this proposal is that the present location is on land that would give more of a return if used for commercial purposes.

The national Agriculture Update Study has a deadline of April 4, 2014 for consensus. National studies have, in the past, asked for response to consensus questions from each local League. There are currently "Suggested Readings" for this study posted on the national website. The "Suggested Readings" contain a report, a policy brief, a short article and 3 websites to help understand the issue.

You can also access the links page at www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-readings. The current League position is on the state League's website, www.lwvutah.org, on the Positions page. On the national website and under Complete Position Reports for the League of Women Voters of the United States, you can read the full position and history.

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

For National League information, www.lwv.org – This is a great resource to see positions, activities, etc.

For State League information, www.lwv.utah.org – This highlights state activities including each local league.

For Weber County information, www.weberleague.com – This focuses on local information in Weber County

For all League studies throughout the country, <http://clearinghouse.lwv.org>

For Basic Information on how a League Operates, <http://www.lwv.org/cotnet/league-basics>

For a Great Video on Women's Suffrage, www.youtube.com – got to SOOMA



WEBER COUNTY JOINS THE SOCIAL MEDIA

With tons of thanks to Jenica Jacobsen, we are now on Facebook and Twitter. Go to these sites and “like” them as well as invite all your friends to do the same. Since a good many of us are computer challenged, ask Jenica or Leah next time you see them. We are foolish not to use these forms of communication as most of the younger generation lives on them. See if you can get at least one person out of your friends to “like” us!

MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

We are having an end of summer social on Thursday, August 29, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. at Alleged located at 205 25 S Street. We will be on the rooftop bar portion. Bring a friend or two and just hang out with everyone and visit. The view is beautiful from this location and the atmosphere is great. Food and drinks will available at the bar. Hope to see **ALL** of you there!



MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK

We have scheduled the annual membership potluck for Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 11:00 at Jaycee Park located at 2465 Fillmore. Our speaker will be our own expert on educational funding, Lou Shurtliff. She will talk about how educational funding works, where the money comes from, how it is disbursed, etc. Do not leave home without a friend to accompany you, your \$45 check for membership dues, and a potluck item to share. Let’s get this year started off great with excellent attendance!

MAIL IN VOTING

We have been in contact with Jennifer Morrell, Weber County Elections Director, concerning the impact of the mail in vote. Jennifer has graciously agreed to provide us some comparison data and her opinion on the effectiveness of voting by mail. Look for this in the next issue. We thank Jennifer for her support.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

The Weber League has signed up with the National League to participate in National Voter Registration Day on September 24. There are currently 220 leagues participating. Leah Murray is our Voter Registration Vice-President and will be organizing events for registering voters in Weber County. Leah’s plans include using members as well as community people to get people registered. We can all help her by encouraging everyone we know to be sure they are registered to vote.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

On August 26, 1920 the 19th amendment became law and women gained the right to voter. Carrie Chapman Catt, the League of Women Voters founder, exclaimed to all women – “Progress is calling to you to make no pause – Act!” Our leagues have continued in this drive and have worked tirelessly to make democracy work for all. Happy Women’s Equality Day!

MARCH ON WASHINGTON ANNIVERSARY

August 28 marks the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. The National League is planning an event celebrating this day on March 26 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The theme will be centered on the fight to protect everyone’s voting rights and League members will march to represent us. The Supreme Court’s recent decision to erase some fundamental protections in the Voting Rights Act aimed towards racial discrimination, has given an opportunity for anti-voter laws in all states to be challenged. Everyone needs to tell our members of Congress to work quickly to restore the Voting Rights Act to its original form so that all elections are free, fair and accessible to all. We have worked too hard to get where we are to go backwards.



STOLEN FROM LEAH MURRAY

When someone asks you what the league is, tell them it is where Women’s Suffrage left off!

SEE YOU AND A FRIEND ON AUGUST 29 AND SEPTEMBER 14

