



WATCHDOG

Message From the President

I can hardly believe another year is almost gone. It seems like just yesterday I started writing 2017 on things and now it's changing. Reflecting on the last year for the League, I remember a lot of accomplishments. Our meetings were excellent – election wrap up, legislative wrap up, redistricting, global warming and climate change, voter apathy, and a successful state convention. 2018 will include medical marijuana, health care, public lands, and legislative wrap up. We also have seen an opportunity for getting the local government initiative on the ballot, which I never thought would happen. We participated in National Voter Registration Day again partnering with the Democracy Project at Weber State, as well as registering at events. There can be no argument that our small league is a viable member of the community and provides a great service to the community.

Our holiday social is December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Bob and Marcia Harris' lovely home. Bring a favorite treat and friends and join us for a few hours of socializing. It would be great to see everyone – so mark your calendar!

Please take the time over the holidays to cherish your family and friends. Our world moves so fast that we often forget to stop and remember our support systems. I wish all of you a safe and peaceful holiday season.





Dues

Just a reminder that our dues are due for 2018. Please take a moment and make sure you have yours in. They are \$45 and should be given or mailed to Evelyn Bertilson. At 1047 East 5675 South Ogden UT 84405.

Weber League Hosts City Council 'Meet the Candidates'

By Carole Lapine, LWV-Weber County Treasurer

The Weber County League of Woman Voters (WLWV), in conjunction with the Junior League of Ogden (JLO), held a "Meet the Candidates" night for Ogden's City Council. The event was held at the Ogden Amphitheater on historic 25th Street on the evening of July 26. This is the first time that WLWV and JLO have partnered to hold such a forum for the citizens of Ogden. Weber County will hold an election on August 15 to choose among 16 candidates for seats on the City Council. Wards 1 and 3 and At Large seats A and B are on the ballot this year, with Ward 3 and the At Large seats to be decided in August and Ward 1 at the general election in November. All but one of the candidates responded to the invitation and attended. Each candidate had one minute to answer each of a series of questions of interest to the general public. The more than 100 people in the audience were treated to a lively and sometimes comical discussion of the issues. Candidates introduced themselves, then answered the following questions:

1. If elected to City Office, what are your specific plans for revitalizing the city?
2. What are your plans to work with the newly formed Diversity Commission of Ogden?
3. What is your position on allowing chickens to be owned by residents of Ogden? 4.

Other than a family member, who is the most influential woman in your life? The Standard Examiner, Weber State University, social media, and email were instrumental in advertising this event to the public. We were pleased with the turnout as many other activities were also being held that evening. WLWV and JLO plan a debriefing meeting in early August to discuss the event and what we can do to improve our plans for the next election event. This will not be the last "Meet the Candidates" night that we hold for a primary. We were so pleased with the turnout and the response of the candidates that we plan to make this an annual event.



Dates to Remember

December 15 – Holiday Social – 6:00 p.m. - 6075 Spring Canyon Road – Bob and Marcia Harris’ home – Bring family, friends, and a treat to share

Happy
Holidays!

January 8 – Medical Marijuana – 7:00 p.m. – Southwest Library in Roy

February 12 – Health Care – 7:00 p.m. – Pleasant Valley Library



BEHIND THE SCENES VOTE PROCESSING TOUR

by Marilyn O’Dell

Processing piles of mail-in ballots looks like a tedious job, but it is part of ensuring that the election process is fair and all rules are followed. A tour of the processing procedures impressed our League members with the careful attention given to making sure that every ballot is tracked and signatures are carefully verified.

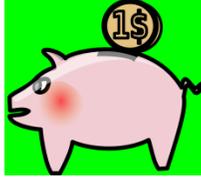
Open house tours were offered by the County Election Office to give citizens a chance to review what happens to their ballots after they leave their hands. Ricky Hatch, County Clerk, opened the tour with a short video and Michelle Jackson, Assistant Elections Director (and League Member), took us through the process.

First the barcode on the outer envelope is scanned to give vote history of the voter. Then the signature is compared to the voter’s signature on file. If the reviewer doubts that the signature is valid, the ballot is placed in a bin to be reviewed again. All the ballots that pass this test are passed on to the next station. Since the ballots are processed in groups of 50, any ballot that doesn’t pass inspection is noted on the tally sheet that accompanies the group to account for the smaller number. Finally, the signature is removed and the ballot is anonymous.

Since the county provided support for many different cities and districts, many different ballot styles are processed. After the votes are counted the ballots are run through a scanner in a room that is locked and only accessible to a few election officials.

Michelle told us that all ballots and other election records are kept for 22 months. This ensures voting results can be checked if there is a challenge but gives the election office two months to prepare for the next election.

League members appreciate the opportunity to see what happens behind the scenes. Anyone concerned about the validity of our system should take the opportunity to see it in action.



State Fundraiser

The State League has signed up to be part of Smith's Inspiring Donations program. It is for organizations that are 501c3, which we are not yet. The state, however, is. Any purchases made at Smith's can earn money for the league. Go to <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> to sign up. You do need to have a rewards card. This is a painless way to donate money, and it would be tax deductible.

Redistricting

The state study on redistricting resulted in the following position statement:

The League of Women Voters believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

We have been actively working with Better Boundaries to get enough signatures to put the redistricting initiative on the ballot. If anyone is interested in helping, please let me know and I will submit your name to the state.

It is exciting to see this issue actually come to a point where there is a real chance we will see it on the ballot.

**HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE SOCIAL
ON DECEMBER 15 AT 6:00 P.M.**
