



WATCHDOG

Winter Issue – 2015

Message From The President

We have had a good start for the 2015-2016 year. We are actually increasing membership and continuing to stay involved in the community. The first activity we had was our summer social at Alleged. The date conflicted with some other events, but the members that attended had a great opportunity to get to know each other.

This was followed by the membership social where Adrienne Andrews discussed the Diversity Connection Project that she is helping to design and implement. Since Ogden can celebrate so many different cultures, she has been putting together a large group of individuals representing as many different groups as possible. The goal is for the diverse groups to design and develop a plan to make sure every citizen of Ogden has equal access to all services and activities. An important objective is to celebrate the rich diversity that is present in our community. The Weber League has been involved and had the opportunity to register voters at a number of community events because of the networking. Not only has this been fun, it has given us a chance to get our name out there. Adrienne joined the League, and we are fortunate to get such a dynamic person in our group.



We also participated in National Voter Registration Day thanks to Leah Murray. She organizes a campus wide project with her students to get college students to register and get excited about politics and issues. It was a success as usual.



Prior to reaching consensus on the National Constitution Study, Leah Murray organized an excellent event during Constitution Week at Weber State University. She used the discussion questions to determine an outline and invited other professors to present information to students and the general public. We were very pleased with the turn out and the discussion was interesting and timely. The sandwiches were good, also. (Thanks Marcia Harris). It is great to be able to partner with Weber State to meet shared goals. At a later time, members met and responded to the consensus question. One of the many studies taken care of this year!!

Please mark your calendar for our holiday social at Marcia Harris' house at 6:30 p.m. on December 11, 2015. Bring an item to share, your friends and partners, and join us at one of Marcia's superb gatherings.

We continue to attend Weber County Commission meetings to monitor activity and decisions made. Many thanks to Marcia Thomas, Marilyn O'Dell, and Marcia Harris for attending and keeping us updated.

Our league will continue to work towards increasing membership, increasing community involvement, educating the public, and supporting important issues. As the holiday season comes upon us, I wish everyone a safe and peaceful holiday with family and friends. I am very thankful that I have this group and its' members in my life.



Celebrating Political Victories

Jolene Junk recently pointed out some excellent victories that have taken place recently in fixing our broken political system. Maine was involved in a drive to promote Clean Elections and recently voted for a powerful law to curb corruption. SF Friends of Ethics in San Francisco worked toward keeping dark money from running their city. This results in passage of a strict new lobbying law and beginning stages of an Anti-Corruption Act for their state. The Honest Elections in Seattle stopped a special interest attack campaign and passed a law modeled after the American Anti-Corruption Act. Last year, Represent Us members in Florida were successful in passing America's first Anti-Corruption Act. Next year, two more states will do the same. While it often seems as if we are stuck with corruption often present in government, these states proved that something can be done. Way to go!

VOTE411.org

The National League of Women Voters has designed this website and maintains it with information given by the states. It is an excellent resource for registering to vote, finding out ballot information for your state, and gaining knowledge about the candidates. Education Fund money from the national fund pays for related costs and personnel from the national office maintain the website. All members are encouraged to look at what is available on the website.

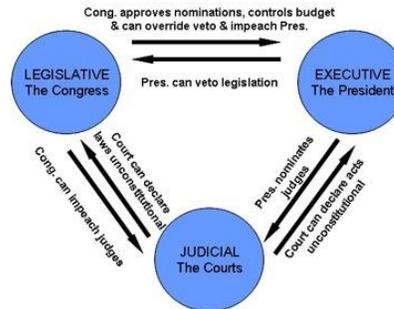


Holiday Social

Please remember our holiday social on December 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Marcia Harris' home. Bring a small pot luck item, any friend or family member that wants to come, and be there ready to enjoy yourself. Marcia is a delightful host and always has such an elegant atmosphere. Please mark your calendar and join us – it's great to just talk to each other.

RAMP Meeting

Marcia Harris has arranged for a public meeting on November 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library to explain and answer questions about the RAMP program. George Hall, or his representative, will explain what the program is, what the pros and cons of RAMP are, results of the program in Ogden, and answer questions. Bring anyone interested in learning about this subject.



Constitutional Amendment Study Consensus

The results of the National Constitutional Amendment Study are as follows:

1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?

We **should** consider whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

We **should** consider whether the amendment as written would be effective achieving its policy objective.

We **should** consider whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.

We **could not reach consensus** on whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?

We **agree** that the Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

We **could not reach consensus** that the representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

We **agree** that state delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

We **agree** that voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

We **agree** that the Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

We **agree** that only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

We **agree** that the validity of state “calls” for Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state.

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

We **do not agree** that the League should oppose an Article V Constitution for this reason.

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position under certain circumstances?

We **should not consider** a Constitutional Amendment if there are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed.

We **should consider** a Constitutional Amendment if it is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose.



Money in Politics State Study

The Money in Politics Committee will conduct an update of the League’s position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position. Utah’s website, www.lwvutah.org, contains the consensus questions and reading material so we can get the information now. We will meet on Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library to reach consensus for the Weber League.