



WATCHDOG

Fall/Winter 2016

[Message From the President](#)

It is time for another major election where we elect leaders of our community, state, and country. Please be sure you have cast your ballot by Election Day so that you can be a part of the decision of who leads our country into the future. There were many people who worked hard for our freedom and right to vote, so it is important that we follow through on their work.

The Weber League has had some excellent meetings to begin the year. While attendance was not as good as I hoped, those who did attend learned a great deal. Marian Horna discussed air quality and the need for a real look at diesel emission testing. Mike Vaughan gave a powerful presentation on intergenerational poverty. Ann Milner spoke about partisan school board elections and how the law came into place. All of these meetings were filled with excellent information that was not common knowledge. I want to encourage everyone to come to meetings and learn about things that impact our lives and community.

The bond for renovating and building libraries in our county has been a controversial one. The new library in Roy is complete and renovations are continuing in some locations. We have

scheduled a tour of the Roy library and one or two others for Saturday, November 12 at 10:00 a.m. Brunch at the Lighthouse Lounge will follow. Please try to join us and look at the great way our bond money has been spent to help members of the community.

With the holidays approaching, we are having our annual gathering at Bob and Marcia Harris' beautiful home. It starts at 6:00 p.m. on December 10 and bring a treat to share. This is one of the highlights of my holiday season as Bob and Marcia are fantastic hosts and the company is great.

As President of Weber County League, I would like to thank each member and supporter for all you do to keep us be visible and active. I appreciate the time spent attending meetings and following up on other duties. It is a pleasure to work with our members. Please be safe and surround yourself with people you cherish for the holidays. Life and family are precious!



LIBRARY TOUR

We are sponsoring a tour of two libraries in Weber County that have been built or renovated due to the library bond. It will be on **November 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** We will meet at the Roy Library where Sarah Lovato will take over. Immediately following this, we will go to brunch at the Lighthouse Lounge on 25th Street and enjoy their great food, wonderful Bloody Mary bar, and good local talent. Upon arrival at the lounge, we will conduct a short business meeting. All board members should be present as well as any member who is joining us.



MY VOTE DOESN'T COUNT

Many people, especially the younger generation, believe their vote doesn't really count. There are some interesting statistics that prove that statement to be invalid. In 2014, the overall turnout was around 42%. The breakdown of these voters was looked into and 1 out of 10 Asian and Hispanic citizens between the ages of 18 to 24 voted. Also, 52% of citizens earning above

\$150,000 a year voted in 2014 and only 25% of the public earning less than \$10,000 voted. Between 18 to 24 years olds making less than \$30,000, there was only a 12% participation rate. Voters over 65 with income over \$150,000 came in at 65%. Typically, young people who did not vote would have chosen more progressive and liberal candidates and ideas. In a poll, 22% of older voters believe government should be responsible for ensuring jobs and income for citizens. In comparison, the younger generation support this policy at 34% to 42%. The rich are more likely to vote, which puts a bias on programs and issues surrounding money such as raising the minimum wage. Race and income are separated into different areas of concern, yet a lot of people from areas needing the most attention do not vote. Imagine what differences would occur if people from the underrepresented groups were to voice their opinion. Programs that would help these individuals would have more support and problems could be addressed. Yes, every person's vote matters as it represents beliefs from age, religious, economic, etc. areas that need to be heard. In order to really represent the entire public, everyone has to vote so that the real majority can be heard.



HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Who: All Members and Friends

What: Holiday Social With Friends and Members

Where: Bob and Marcia Harris' House – 6075 Spring Canyon Road

When: December 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a treat to share!





OGDEN'S GOOD LANDLORD PROGRAM HAS CHANGED

by Marilyn O'Dell

Last spring, our League sponsored a very interesting meeting on the Good Landlord Program with Mark Johnson, Ogden's Chief Administrative Officer, and Anna Brower of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah. The Good Landlord program in Ogden gives a discount on business license fees to owners of rental property who agree, among other things not to rent to anyone with a recent criminal background.

Ogden launched the Good Landlord program in 2004 and a dozen other Utah cities followed suit, narrowing the options for people being discharged from prison after serving their sentence when they looked for a place to live. The position of the ACLU is that this policy hinders an ex-offender's efforts to return to a normal life. The ACLU has been campaigning for a change in the program.

At our meeting last spring, Johnson said that a revision was planned, but it had not yet been introduced to the Ogden City Council.

According to an article by Cathy McKittrick in the Standard-Examiner dated 10/23/16, the city now has a pilot program, in conjunction with Adult Probation and Parole that allows those on probation or parole to obtain a waiver to the rental restriction from the city. The landlord must confirm the waiver's validity before approving a lease. Only those deemed low risk by the police and the Adult Probation and Parole office can qualify. The program began on October 1.

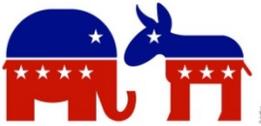
This may not be the last change in this program. Brower says she would have preferred that the criminal exclusion be eliminated leaving the decision up to the landlord. She said that the waiver adds another layer of bureaucracy for those hoping to leave their errors behind. The ACLU of Utah hopes the January legislative session will help to better address this issue.

Here is the link to Cathy's article: <http://www.standard.net/Government/2016/10/23/Ogden-Good-Landlord-Program-now-offers-certain-convicts-more-housing-choices>

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Here are some interesting facts that have happened during Presidential Elections.

1. It wasn't until 1856 that Congress removed property ownership as a requirement to vote.
2. During the 1872 election, Ulysses S. Grant ran against a corpse as his opponent, Horace Greely, who died before the election was finalized.
3. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony was arrested for attempting to vote in the presidential election.
4. George Washington blew his entire campaign budget on 160 gallons of liquor to serve to potential voters.
5. Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party ran for president six times – more than anyone else in history.
6. Until 1937, presidents weren't sworn in until March 4 because it took so long to count and report ballots.
7. When Democrat Stephen A. Douglas called Abraham Lincoln “two faced” during an election year, Lincoln replied, “If I had another face, do you think I would wear this one?”
8. The United States is ranked 139th out of 172 countries in voter participation.
9. Before 1804, the presidential candidate who received the second highest electoral votes became vice-president.
10. Ronald Reagan received both the highest number of popular votes and the highest number of electoral votes. No one else has surpassed this fact.



ELECTION REVIEW

The Weber League, together with the Alumni Association of Weber State University, will host an election review meeting on January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dumke Hall in the Hurst Center. Dr. Leah Murray will be the presenter and will provide insight into the ramifications of the results of the election. Leah is a dynamic speaker and extremely knowledgeable about this topic. Tell everyone you know to join us as well – it should be interesting!!



CLIMATE CHANGE IN UTAH

The climate in Utah is changing. According to the EPA, the state has warmed about two degrees in the last ten years. Heat waves are becoming more common and snow is melting earlier. This will decrease the flow of water in the state's rivers, increase wildfires, and affect the farming industry negatively. The major areas affected include:

1. Water Availability – the change in climate will increase the need for water in the state but reduce the supply.
2. Agriculture – as droughts will increase and heat goes up, Utah's farms and ranches will require more water from a diminishing supply.
3. Wildfires and Changing Landscapes – high temperatures and drought will extend the Great Basin desert to high elevations and expand the coverage on the surface. Forests will be affected and change to desert or grassland.
4. Pests – Warmer temperatures provide a better environment for pests to live, which can infest trees and other plants as they receive less water causing a decrease in ability to fight off these pests. Forests will lose many trees and the landscape will change.
5. Human Health – Heat can affect a lot of functions in the human body, especially the elderly. Hot air causes heat stroke and dehydration, which in turn affects normal operation of the body. It also increases ozone, which aggravates respiratory systems.

DON'T FORGET

November 12, 2016 – Library Tour – 10:00 a.m. – Roy Library

Followed by Brunch at the Lighthouse Lounge

December 10, 2016 – Holiday Social – 6075 Spring Canyon Road

January 9, 2017 – Election Review – 7:00 p.m. – Dumke Hall in the Hurst Center

February 11, 2017 – Consensus on Public Defense – 9:00 a.m. – Pleasant Valley Library

