



WATCHDOG

Message From the President

It's time to get started on another exciting election year. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and is ready to participate in our activities this year. The board met, and I believe we have excellent meetings scheduled, so hopefully everyone will be able to support them.

The first meeting is our annual potluck which we are having on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 7:00 at the Weber Parkway. We will be in the main picnic area. Our speaker will be Mayor Caldwell, who will give us an overview of where he sees Ogden now and where he hopes it will go. He is a very dynamic speaker, so we hope you will put this on your calendar, grab a food item and a friend, and come.

The next meeting will be on October 8, 2012 at 7:00 at the Weber County Library. It will be a forum/debate between Rob Bishop and Donna McAleer. On November 12, 2012 at 7:00, Dr. Leah Murray will be giving us an overview of the results of the election. This will also be at the Weber Library.

The National League's focus this year is to "Power the Vote." The state league has developed a Voter's Guide that will be available at <http://lwvutah.org>. The focus is on statewide candidates and will provide all of us with information that will help us encourage everyone we know to vote.

I hope all members can be at the potluck and get help us start our year out great. Please bring a friend – every one of us knows someone that would be interested in hearing Mayor Caldwell talk about the city we live in.

I look forward to a great year with great members.

Terri McCulloch

NEW MEMBER BIO

Ember Herrick – Ember grew up in West Weber and now lives in Riverdale in a cute little home built during the 1940's that she is restoring (she affectionately calls it the “money pit.” It sits on a three acre fruit orchard with 100 trees. She has cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, apples, and grapes along with a huge vegetable garden. She is currently employed as the Riverdale City Recorder and works part-time nights and weekends for FOX 13 as a news photographer. She has degrees in Political Science and Communications from BYU and a master's degree in International Relations from Nottingham Trent University in England. She says that she is a news and politics junkie, active in her church, plays tennis, runs to train for her next marathon, reads the classics, cooks new recipes, and cans/freezes fruit. She is working on a short film that she has written to enter into a local film festival.

Ember states: “A decade ago, when I was a student journalist, I was assigned to cover the political beat and attended my first meeting of the League of Women Voters of Utah County. I was impressed at the respect shown and the lively conversation about political issues in an environment where women could discuss and debate freely without being overpowered by their male counterparts, as if often the case. I also loved that the debate was not slated with any agenda or political party. I left the meeting very impressed with the organization and thinking to myself, ‘when I am older and can afford the membership dues, I am going to join that group.’ Today I am SO excited to be a new member of the local chapter, as I am confident my participation in

LWV will help me become a better informed voter and a more responsible member of my community and country.” We welcome Ember to our group!

LONG TIME MEMBER HISTORY

Janet Shipton – Janet joined the League of Women Voters in Iowa City, Iowa in 1957, the year she and her husband immigrated to the United States from Great Britain. Shippy, as she affectionately called her husband, was hired at the University of Iowa to start a biomedical core program. Janet’s next door neighbor, Mori Costantina, not only taught the new immigrant how to shop for groceries in the USA, but took her to LWV meetings. Mori, with her beautiful Italian married name, was Japanese-American, and her family had been interned during World War II and lost all their property.

The League in Iowa City had many studies and causes in the 50s and 60s. One Janet remembers was to get rid of the Unamerican Activities Committee. Janet was elected President in April of 1963 but was unable to sign documents until November when she and Shippy took U.S. citizenship. She served for three years, and under her leadership, the League supported several bond issues and published a brochure for the county.

She went on to serve on the Iowa League’s State Board. Janet credits the skills and techniques she learned in the League for her success in working with other groups. Janet was involved with 4-H Clubs, which allowed her the opportunity to come into contact with rural and disadvantaged women and girls. This helped her in her role on the Iowa Extension Board. She was also appointed to a consortium on health planning and worked with a retirement home to make sure it qualified for Medicare. She ran for County Supervisor (like the County Commission) twice and was successful the second time. She campaigned for this while riding on a bike, which attracted free TV coverage.

The Shiptons moved to Missouri in 1979 where Janet was appointed by the governor to the State Pharmacy Board, and she was the only non-pharmacist on that board.

In 2000, with Shippy's retirement and illness, they made the decision to escape the hard winters of MO and moved to Florida, where their daughter lived. In 2006, when expenses for Shippy's health needs became prohibitive, they moved to Utah near one of their granddaughters. Janet continued to stay active in the LWV in every place she moved. Her most recent move has been to a retirement home, Harrison Regency, where she enjoys the friendship of another long time League member, Luellen Withrow.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

The National League of Women Voters has designated September 25 as National Voter Registration Day. Please encourage everyone you know to be registered by that day!

SPECIAL PROJECT FOR THIS YEAR

We are going to have an exciting project again this year done by Weber State students. Dr. Leah Murray will be having her students during fall semester look up the old study on the structure of government used in Weber County. They will read the study and begin to identify the places that need to be addressed and updated. The spring semester students will continue the research and update the study so that it reflects the current structure. The support Leah always shows is very much appreciated, and her students learn so much by activities like these.

VOTE411.ORG

The National League has developed a website that provides personalized voting information. Simply type in voter411.org, put in your address, and you will get information about where to vote and other voting information.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Potluck-Weber Parkway Main Picnic Area- Mayor Caldwell speaking where he sees Ogden and where he wants it to go.

October 15, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library – Candidate forum with Rob Bishop and Donna McAleer.

November 12, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. – Weber County Library – Dr. Leah Murray will conduct a wrap up meeting on voter results.

OPENING POTLUCK SOCIAL

Date: Monday, September 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. – Mike Caldwell will be the speaker. Please bring a dish, a friend/neighbor, and join us.