



Message From The President

As another League year begins, I find myself thinking about the previous one. We had some great opportunities for members to be involved in the community and to learn about issues that affect all of us. While not everyone was able to take advantage of these opportunities, we live in a country where you have the right to choose. Your opinion is your own and not forced upon you. Instead, we are able to look at offerings and choices and make our own decisions. I do hope that we have picked program ideas this year that will interest you and bring you out once a month.

The world has become such a strange place in the past year. We have experienced a new President that shakes the country up regularly, plane crashes, earthquakes, hurricanes, and fires. There are a couple of things that stand out through situations such as these. One of the most evident and inspiring is the way the American people pull together to help others in need. Citizens are opening their doors to families – airlines are lowering prices – animals are being rescued along with people. Democracy has made all of this possible. Even though there are barriers between people because of race, religion, beliefs, etc., the country is willing to drop these barriers and be caring individuals.

The second thing you see is how the American people rebuild their lives after a tragedy. People pull together to reconstruct homes and neighborhoods. With so much negativity in the world today, seeing these things proves that America is full of caring people. It helps to bring back the faith that we all inherently have in each other.

These behaviors come from that fact that our country is run by the people, even though sometimes we wonder if that is true. We get to choose what to do with our money, our time, and our energy. The League has always given me an opportunity to spend time with individuals I respect and are willing to help me learn. I hope all members of the League and the community is able to take advantage of these opportunities as well! Attending the meetings I have in the last 35 years has brought me so much knowledge and friendship that I wouldn't trade it for the world. I encourage everyone to participate and attend at least half of the functions we sponsor.

I wish anyone who has been affected by the happenings around us the peace and comfort that they need and the energy to go on.

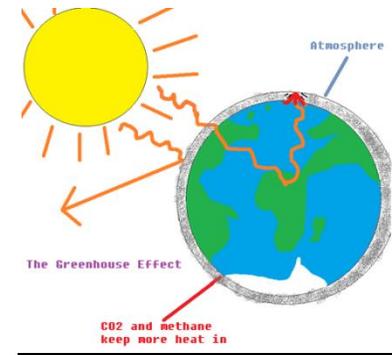


Redistricting

Our local League began our program this year with a presentation from Andrew Roberts from Better Boundaries on the topic of redistricting. We were able to partner with the American Democracy program at Weber State in this endeavor. This topic is very hot in our state right now. Currently, the legislature has a committee that determines the voting boundaries. This is a definite conflict of interest and provides no checks and balances that lines are drawn fairly. In fact if you look at the different geographic areas in the state, you can see that some cities are broken into two or three different areas. This often results in people feeling as if their vote doesn't matter. Better Boundaries is a group of people who are working to get a new proposal on the ballot for citizens to vote on that would move this process out of the legislature into a more impartial group. A major part of the beginning of our country involved checks and balances. Our current system for determining voting boundaries has none, which needs to be addressed. Better Boundaries will work with different entities in the state to get petitions signed to put this issue on the ballot. The Utah League has supported this project, and it is the hope that all local leagues will be involved.

Mr. Roberts explained the current process and the proposed one showing the benefits of change. Allowing the citizens to vote on the proposition gives everyone the opportunity to let their opinion be known. Once things get in full swing, notifications will be sent to everyone so you can help if you so desire.

The Utah League's position after the redistricting study on this topic is: 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.



Global Warming, Climate Control and Their Impacts on Utah

Thanks to Azenett Garza, we have Dan Bedford from Weber State University presenting our October meeting on global warming and climate control. This will be held on October at 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Library. Dr. Bedford teaches physical geography and atmospheric science. He has become an expert on the topic of the climate. This issue is one that we need to look at as our state and country grows larger and more populated. Hopefully everyone can take the time to attend. It will be worth 1.5 hours of your time.

National Voter Registration Day

Once again, the Weber League will be participating in National Voter Registration Day. Most of the efforts will be at Weber State University and local schools. Together with the American Democracy Program at Weber, we will have voter registration tables set up all across campus. Please encourage anyone who needs to register to come and see us. We have had good success the last few years and want the same this year.

Initiatives in Utah

This year brings a possible three initiatives that could be on the ballot in 2018. A ballot initiative has been filed to create an independent commission in Utah that would draw the lines for congress, state legislature and school board. Better Boundaries is the sponsoring group and they are now actively seeking signatures on petitions. Through donations, they will utilize paid and unpaid signature gatherers.

Medical marijuana supporters in Utah received a go-ahead from state election officials recently to start gathering signatures needed to qualify this measure for the November 2018 ballot. Utah Patients Coalition is spearheading this project and signature gathering is just beginning.



The third initiative concerns raising taxes to increase funding for education. The initiative, which would appropriate money raised through a tax increase to public schools and require annual academic improvement to receive full funding, is being proposed for the 2018 general election ballot. This has not been drafted yet and signature gathering isn't planned until after the legislative session.

Meet Candidates for Ogden City Council

Together with Ogden Junior League, Weber LWV sponsored a candidate forum for the primary for Ogden City Council. With help from Becky Rice from the Junior League, we successfully organized this event. Becky arranged to get the Ogden amphitheater, which was a great setting. Carole Lapine recruited the candidates and all responded positively – 14 of them. The League moderated the debate with pre-approved questions. This is one of the first times we have held such an event during the primary. We are in the process of setting up community debates between the winners in the primary for the final election. This was a great partnership idea.



Dates To Remember

September 26, 2017 – National Voter Registration Day

**October 9, 2017 – Global Warming, Climate Control, and Their Impact on Utah
Dan Bedford - 7:00 p.m. – Pleasant Valley Library**

**November 13, 2017 – Voter Apathy
Leah Murray – 7:00 p.m. – Pleasant Valley Library**

**December 2017 – Holiday Social
Date and Time To Be Determined
Bob and Marcia Harris' House
6075 Spring Canyon Road**

