



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women
Voters of Utah

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January 2020



Volunteers Power League Accomplishments

By Kathy Biele, LWV-SL President

Don Albrecht, director of the Western Rural Development Center, was frankly surprised that his audience was mostly volunteers. Following a recent League climate event, he told Natural Resources Director Carole Straughn how impressed he was with the attendees.

This is often the reaction when people come in contact with our organization whose boots on the ground have been working tirelessly for almost 100 years. And we do this not for money, but for our shared devotion to democracy.

I often tell people that I work with people who are intelligent, committed, and yes, opinionated. We share these diverse opinions with one another, we study the issues and ultimately come to consensus on how to effect positive change in the political realm. We do this without party affiliation or candidate support.

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According to the 2018 Volunteering in America report, 77.34 million adults (30.3 percent) volunteered through an organization last year. The League is one of those, and we have registered tens of thousands of new voters last year alone. We take our motto seriously: to empower voters and defend democracy.

You will hear more during our coming Centennial year about our accomplishments in Utah because our state holds strong to a long history of women voting – firsts in many cases.

We all lead busy lives, and this can give us pause when someone asks us to volunteer. Here, however, are a few fun facts on why volunteering is important:

- It decreases stress. Just ask the Mayo Clinic, which published the 6 Health Benefits of Volunteering. (<https://mayocl.in/2spV1R1>)
- It increases your confidence
- It expands your connections

But then you ask, what have you accomplished? The photo accompanying this article shows the Salt Lake City Council presenting its resolution on the Equal Rights Amendment to the Salt Lake League. The ERA has been a goal of the League since our inception, and we continue to fight for its ratification.

And there's more:

Salt Lake:

- Ran a mock ranked choice vote for the mayoral election. It was easy – and picked the actual winner,
- Has been front and center at all the Naturalization ceremonies, where we register new citizens,
- Sponsored its second annual 5K Fun Run – this year Defending Democracy.

Davis:

- Sponsored Meet the Candidates events in North Salt Lake, South Weber (yes South Weber City is in Davis County), Syracuse, and Bountiful,
- Held panel discussion on the intricacies of recycling,
- Met with Rep. Tim Hawkes jointly with Weber league about legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

Grand:

- Partnered with the Census 2020 Complete Count Committee to help raise awareness and educate the public,
- Held the 39th annual Candidate Forum for City Council elections,
- Created "What's Up with the League" monthly member email.



Local League Presidents

Davis County

Nickie Nelson

davispresident@lwwutah.org

Grand County

Carey Dabney,

grandpresident@lwwutah.org

Salt Lake

Kathy Biele

president@lwwsl.org

Weber County

Terri McCulloch

weberpresident@lwwutah.org

Weber:

- Continued working with the Student Group from Weber State University, and had two interns,
- Focusing on the elections, had letters to the editor or articles in newspapers at least once a week,
- Continued to support the change in local government.

Volunteers. The League is nothing without you.

By the way, Carol Straughn was not only the Utah League's representative at the COP25 Madrid climate summit, but also the only League representative from the United States. Read about her experience in the following pages.

Salt Lake Took Journey to 'The Other Side'

By Donnie Davis, LWV-SL Program Director

The Salt Lake League Holiday Social was abundant with good food and good cheer, meeting up with old friends and new ones. The holidays bring joy, memories, family, friends, longings and yes, sadness too. A myriad of emotions arise during the holidays and this year we took a journey to the other side.

Tiffany and Sharon began the journey with a description of what The Other Side Academy has accomplished since taking up residence in Salt Lake. It is a peer-to-peer vocational and life skills training program with a two year commitment to hard work. Students must be willing to make a transformative change after a lifetime of addiction and/or criminal behavior. Students often begin life without a stable home environment, or parental care. They lack formal education and often have suffered various forms of abuse. They struggle for survival in a difficult and unforgiving environment, making poor choices and inevitably end up incarcerated. Students must voluntarily apply to the Academy and may come in as an alternative to incarceration. They must be willing to make a huge change in their lives and commit to 2 years of continuous work and education. Students learn to support one another; they receive vocational training, exercise pro-social skills, learn problem solving, and come out on the other side with productive, accountable lives with a true purpose. Now, that was a good holiday story!

To support their mission, shop at the Other Side Academy Thrift Boutique, 4290 S. State Street in Murray, and consider hiring their top-rated moving services, The Other Side Movers at 801-893-1972.



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A conversation among three humans from the ends of the Earth: Tamani Rarama, of the Fugui Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Mwanahamisi Singano, a Tanganyikan from FEMNET, based in Nairobi, Kenya; and Carole Straughn, from Utah, observer for the League of Women Voters of the United States.

COP25 Brings Friendship from Around the World

By Carole Straughn, LWV-UT Natural Resources Director

The most thrilling thing about the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) was the chance it provided to meet amazing, dedicated people from all over the world. In the photo above you see me in the middle of an hourlong interview with Tamani Rarama, a gender non-conforming activist from Fiji (left), punctuated by a bracing three-minute encounter with Mwanahamisi Singano, a feminist from Tanzania (middle).

Representing the League of Women Voters of the United States at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference, I worked within the group of civil society organizations called The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), where at one morning caucus about 50 human- and gender-rights activists introduced themselves. They hailed from many different countries. Activists from places such as Zambia, Tunisia, Madagascar, Thailand, South Korea, Laos, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Costa Rica, India, Canada, and the United States all worked in harmony as our two Co-Focal Points (Chairs), one from the Global North (the Bronx, NY) and one from the Global South (Johannesburg, South Africa) led a strategy session on how to get our demands for gender-just climate solutions into key documents being negotiated at the COP.

The group wove intricate and compelling plans together, sharing a deep knowledge of the documents, the country delegates, and how to engage other civil society groups like youth, indigenous, trade unions, faiths, and

Legislative Preview

Presented by the American Association of University Women of Utah and the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake

When: Saturday January 11, 2020, from 9-11 a.m.

Where: Girl Scouts of Utah 445 E. 4500 South,

9 a.m. light refreshments.
Panel at 9:30 a.m.

Guests are welcome!

Join us for an opportunity to ask your questions about issues that are important to you.

Questions will be posed by the moderator from submissions from the audience.

The panel moderator is Teri Jewell, AAUW of Utah.

researchers as allies.

Yet, the harmonious strength of the WGC involved not only their intellectual prowess, but also the social and spiritual strength drawn from traditions from all over the globe. For example, one morning we were led in a healing ceremony by a young indigenous woman from Alaska, who asked a Sami grandmother to lead the opening prayer. Twigs and flowers were laid in a circle on the floor, around which indigenous women from Africa, Latin America, Asia, North America, all in their traditional dress, joined hands.

We who are alienated from our indigenous roots formed a protective circle around them, while they grieved for sisters, their names written and placed in the center, who were missing, raped or murdered defending their lives and lands against brutal, illegal industrial extraction. We grieved together as well their lost animals, plants, forests, rivers, seas and lands. We bonded as one family united in defense of our lives in the face of encroaching climate emergency.

COP25 was billed as the Blue COP, embracing Earth's hydrosphere but unlike open waters, the predominant tone this year was a hardening and closing to the plight of the Earth's climate systems, its ecologies, and its peoples. Rich, polluting countries like Saudi Arabia, Japan and our own United States threw roadblocks into the efforts to embed the rights of both natural Earth systems and the humans who depend on them, into carbon trading schemes that make sacrifice zones of communities in the Global South and allow the Global North to keep emitting the greenhouse gases that are heating the planet.

One day, I heard a panel discussion, hosted by BINGO (Business and Industry Non-governmental Organizations) where the topic was "How much are the global carbon markets worth?" The point? How to make money out of the climate emergency. There was talk of holding global heating to 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels, but none about holding it to the 1.5 degrees necessarily to keep the planet as we know it today, a planet that still has a substantial cryosphere, water frozen in polar ice sheets, mountain glaciers, and permafrost. Without these planetary "air conditioners," temperatures will soar to intolerable heights on huge masses of land. Billions will migrate or die.

The countervailing force is the persistent voice of women and men calling for climate stability and climate justice. The work for democracy, human rights and a livable planet is all one mission. We of the League of Women Voters here in the United States and in Utah are part of that struggle. It is up to each of us to choose the piece that we commit to work on, for we must prevail.

Save the Date: Centennial Fundraiser

Our Centennial fundraising partnership with the Salt Lake Action Company is taking shape and before you know it, it will be here. The title of the play is "Four Women Talking about the Man under the Sheet" by Elaine Jarvik. The man is Frederick Douglass, the women are Susan B. Anthony, Helen White (Frederick's second wife), Rosetta (his daughter), and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It is a contrast between 1895 and 2020.

We have a firm date
and time:

**Wednesday, March 18
6-9 p.m.**

We are having a silent auction and opportunity drawings, nibbles, drinks and other goodies. Tickets will be on sale soon.

**-Vickie Samuelson,
LWV-UT Co-President**

League of Women Voters is Expanding to Utah County!

By Julie DeLong, LWV-UT VP Local Leagues

Do you or your friends/family live in Utah County? Whether you're a long-term member of the League, new to the organization or just thinking about joining, we invite you to participate.

Sharlee Mullins Glenn, founder of Mormon Women for Ethical Government, and Catherine Weller, Co-President of the LWV-UT, will address attendees about the history and mission of both organizations, alignment of our key priorities and complementary activities. Tay Gundmundson, chairperson for the Utah County LAL, and other leadership team members will be on hand to share their vision and next steps for the LAL.

Now is the time to empower voters. Help them find their voice and defend democracy in Utah County! Don't miss the kickoff event (see sidebar).

Contact [Julie DeLong](#) with questions or if you or someone you know may want to attend.

Contact the [Membership Committee](#) if you wish to assist with membership enrollment.

Why Give to the League?

By Judi Short, LWV-SL Unit Leader and Community Luncheon Treasurer

If you are a League member, I know you are involved in many efforts to better your community and your country. You give money and time to environmental organizations, helping the less fortunate, to political campaigns and many other efforts to better the lives of those around you and around the world. If you're like me, you find it hard to decide where to give of your limited resources, whether they be time or money or both.

So why do I give to the League? My reasoning is that so many of these good causes would be helped by better laws, and we can only get better laws if voters use their power to choose legislators that support what the voters want instead of special interests, big corporations, or political parties. More than 50 percent of Utahns want greater Medicaid expansion, support a tax hike for mass transit, want tax credits for clean energy and support physician-assisted dying legislation. The League can help voters understand how to make these things happen.

The League's mission is to "encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy."

I believe that if we, as League members, use our energy and resources to

Utah County Kickoff Event

Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020
1-3 p.m.

American Fork
Presbyterian Church,
75 N. 100 East,
American Fork

inform citizens, to encourage them to learn about issues and candidates and to vote, and then show them how to interact with their legislators, the other causes we believe in will be better off. If you agree, the League needs your time, your money and your energy -- and thanks!

Legislative Action Committee Prepares for 2020 Session

By Emily Walsh, LWV-UT Legislative Action Committee Director

The League had a great presence on Utah's Capitol Hill during Interim and the Special Sessions in 2019. Thank you to all of you who participated! Based on what we have observed during Interim, the 2020 General Session looks like it will keep us busy. Please, consider joining the Legislative Action Committee even if you are not able to attend in person. League members observing online, writing op-eds or letters-to-the-editor, and helping with social media outreach are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in participating with the Legislative Action Committee, email actioncorps@lwwutah.org or call 801-272-8683.

The Utah League's board approved the 2020 Legislative priorities in its December meeting. The priorities are as follows: Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest. Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Utahns. The 2020 Legislative Bill Tracker will post soon after the bills for 2020 become public. Watch for it on our Legislative Action page at lwwutah.org.

We will be doing Legislative updates on RadioActive with Lara Jones and Billy Palmer again this year. Tune in to KRCL 90.9 FM at 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday. We will post updates regarding the session on the League of Women Voters of Utah's Facebook page and, of course, on our Google group.

League Rocks the Vote at Schools

By Marilyn Bown, LWV-SL Vote 18 Chair

The Vote 18 Democracy Class Committee will host a two-hour training session for volunteers from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, January 27, 2020 at the Salt Lake County building at 2001 S. State. We will be in a room near the City Clerk's office. We will review the Democracy Class lesson plan and discuss teaching teams, i.e. lead teacher and assistants, to go into high school classrooms during 2020. The Vote 18 class focuses on the importance of voting with videos, a mock election, and registration of students to vote.

Please call Marilyn Bown at 385-900-5159 for more information. Email

Park City Unit Becomes Summit-Wasatch

The Park City Unit of the Salt Lake League has decided to change its name. After considering a number of alternatives, members decided on "**Summit-Wasatch Unit.**" The goal was to choose a name that better reflected the geographic distribution of attendees in Summit and Wasatch Counties (Park City, Heber, Midway, Kamas, and Woodland areas). We hope the new name will be welcoming to current and prospective League members!

**-Jill Lesh, LWV-SL
Summit-Wasatch Unit Leader**

VOTE18@lwvsl.org or marilynborn71@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Come one, come all for a lively morning!

Fall Brings Focus on Communication to Weber League

By Terri McCulloch, LWV-Weber President

The Weber League decided at our planning meeting that we would focus our fall activities on voter communication activities. We did articles and letters to the editor weekly about using your voice through voting.

We held a meeting led by Di Allison concerning Proposition 3, which was on the Weber ballot to look at the form of government for Weber County. We picked a community with a lot of growth and held a mayoral debate. North Ogden citizens showed up and filled the room, with many people standing.

We decided to try one of the smaller cities as the Davis County League does and see if it was successful. We picked West Haven, which is rapidly growing and an excellent choice. This became an opportunity to show what the League actually does in a professional manner. A citizen of the city had held a debate a few weeks prior and it was a fiasco. There were no real rules, people were allowed to shout out and stomp their feet, and basically it became a free-for-all against a couple of the candidates.

Through a lot of explanation about the League, we were able to get them to agree to hold a “real debate.” You could feel the tension when we first started, but once the format of a League debate was explained, things went very smoothly. We got an opportunity to educate these citizens on what a real debate is and how it should be held. I will bet we will hear from them again next year for the same thing. Weber plans to follow Davis’ lead and approach more small cities next election. If we could get citizens in all of these areas to vote, it would raise the statistics a great deal as many of them are not convinced their vote counts. We marked our fall activities as being successful – now to move on to winter!

California Redistricting Commissioners Visit Utah

By Gigi Brandt, LWV-UT Redistricting & Money In Politics Adviser

Two members of the California Redistricting Commission visited Utah on November 13 and 14. A grant from Harvard allowed the commissioners to visit states. Rebecca Chavez Houk, director of Better Boundaries, arranged several individual meetings with GOP legislators and a meeting with the Democratic caucus.

The commissioners presented at a meeting. California’s law is different from the Utah initiative. Who was to appoint commissioners was left vague, with only their qualifications specified. The political powers in the

Let’s Celebrate Joyce’s 90th!

Our Joyce Barnes, longtime League member and past president of the Salt Lake League, has the good fortune of celebrating her 90th birthday in the same year that the League of Women Voters turns 100.

Date: January 5, 2020

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Where: Memorial House. Memory Grove (Memorial House is located in Memory Grove Park, just north of downtown Salt Lake City, 375 N. Canyon Road. Parking available and accessible for all types of physical abilities

Other: Your presence is all the gift needed. The event is catered in buffet style.

Please RSVP to:

Barb Barnes

bbarneshelena@gmail.com

406-410-1444

state (including Nancy Pelosi) fought the work of the Commission all the way. Candidates had to apply. After the first culling, applicants had to write essays on why they were qualified. They were posted online so that people could provide feedback. Everything—applications, meetings, agendas—was posted online and available to all. California is already at work on those commissioners for the 2021 redistricting.

Lessons learned: Transparency, transparency, transparency. (Our 2011 final decisions were in the Republican caucus, which was closed.) The composition of the commission is important. Second, we will have a great deal of work following a commission in its process—and we thought collecting signatures was difficult!

Our initiative differs from California's. Members are chosen by the legislative leaders and governor. The decision to do this was to make the commission more palatable to the Legislature.

Rebecca reports that the main legislative concerns are the composition of the Commission and the enumeration of standards. One legislator told her the Commission would stand but revisions might be made to the composition on the Commission and the enacting of standards. Legislators don't like enumeration of standards because they might be the basis of a lawsuit if not followed.

Another note: Noah Rosenberg of Better Boundaries was invited (with expenses paid) to a meeting of the Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group (a project of Tufts University and MIT) to talk about his work with precincts.

LWVSL Lobbies for Protection, Conservation of Canyon

By Jan Striefel, LWVSL Natural Resources Committee

Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) is conducting the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (LCC EIS) which began Spring 2019. To date, they have completed a Scoping Process wherein they seek comments regarding the issues and concerns in the canyon so that the EIS can have some focus. Recently, they completed receiving comments on the Draft Purpose and Need statement and the Draft Screening Criteria.

The Purpose and Need Statement identifies the issues to be addressed in the EIS, and the Screen Criteria identify those criteria that will be used to evaluate alternatives. The next step in the EIS process is to identify alternatives and evaluate them to determine the most desirable outcome, so Screening Criteria are extremely important to the process and need to adequately reflect the priorities identified by the public process. Our

New Life in the League



Baby Jude Michael Anderson arrived on November 24. Congratulations to Hannah Anderson, LWVSL secretary.

analysis of the Draft documents resulted in the Salt Lake League submitting the following comments.

Regarding the Purpose and Need Statement: The Purpose and Need Statement focuses solely on the transportation/traffic/mobility issues and does not address the underlying cause of all of these problems — overuse due to the natural environment, the important recreational resources available in the canyon, and their close proximity to more than 1 million people. We believe strongly that the Purpose and Need statement should include language specifically directed at protection/conservation of the natural resources and environment in the canyon.

An addition to the Purpose and Need statement should be:

- Sensitivity of the natural resources and environmental quality in the canyon, most particularly water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat and migration patterns, sensitive soils and species, and the overall character and qualities of the canyon.

Regarding the Screen Criteria: Level 1 Screening Criteria most obviously leave out any reference to environment issues or quality. Environmental issues are mentioned in the Level 2 Screening Criteria, but we believe that their importance to the broader community and users of the canyon should require a higher level of scrutiny that is appropriate in Level 1 Screening Criteria.

An additional Level 1 Screening Criteria should include:

No net loss of environmental and natural resource quality.

- Impacts related to the Clean Water Act and other local water quality standards and policy.
- Impact to natural resources: acres of sensitive habitat, acres of floodplain and wetlands, acres of critical wildlife habitat and migration routes, acres of disturbed/revegetated/restored landscape elements.

The next step in the process is Alternatives Development and Refinement which will take place Spring 2020. At some point in this process, there will be a public meeting and a deadline posted for comments. When the Alternatives document has been produced and meeting dates and time frames have been announced, announcements will be sent to League members, and we encourage those that have an interest to review the documents and submit comments as individuals, knowing that LWV SLC will provide comments from the organization.



Thanks to the Girl Scouts of Utah for their generous in-kind donations to the League of Women Voters of Utah and the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake.



Salt Lake League Holds Fall Orientation

By Helen Moser, LWV-SL Membership Chair

Common themes of “wanting to make a difference,” “getting active around important causes,” “seeking change in this political climate,” “influencing legislative policy,” and “making my voice heard” were shared by attendees as the Fall Orientation of the Salt Lake League of Women Voters, which kicked off with a discussion of what drew individuals to our organization. Sixteen new and prospective members joined nineteen current members to learn about our history, mission, and what opportunities there are to channel their passions into activism.

During this pivotal centennial year, we are thrilled to have such a diverse and highly talented group of new members join our efforts to defend democracy and empower voters! Their experience is vast and includes fundraising, marketing, education, journalism, legislative advocacy, environmental activism, public relations, and social media. Participants were very genuine and contagious is their concern for our community and enthusiasm about a wide range of causes.

We were also reminded that when it comes to activism, “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.” Three sets of mothers attended with their daughters!

A special thanks to the following individuals who contributed to the success of the event: Hannah Anderson, Kathy Biele, Shauna Bona, Marilyn Bown, Teresa Carlson, Jesse Cox, Donnie Davis, Jeanine Kuhn Coker, Jill Lesh, Linda Menasco, Janice Mosby, Vickie Samuelson, Carole Sraughn, Catherine Weller, Norma Wills, Nancy Wingelaar, Anne Zeigler, and Hope Zitting-Goeckeritz. We greatly appreciate your willingness to help with venue set-up and breakdown, catering, décor, facilitation of the event and staffing interest tables.

Your ability to demonstrate the camaraderie of the organization, while sharing a compelling picture of our mission/work, reinforced for all that the League is the right place to be and now’s the right time to get involved!

LWVSL Unit Meetings to Consider Ballot Initiative Study

Join the Salt Lake League at one of our small group discussion meetings in late January and early February.

With three initiatives passing in the last election, the process and what follows is important. The League looks at whether initiatives are a good way to chart policy.

Check the study out on our website:

<https://www.lwvutah.org/study-the-issues>

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TOWN CLUB UNIT– Wednesday, Jan.8 – 11:00 A.M.

Town Club - 1081 East South Temple

Unit Leader – Alice Steiner – 801-363-9193

alice.l.steiner@gmail.com

NITE OWLS – Monday, Jan. 27 – 7:30 P.M.

Unit Leader: Judi Short – 801-487-7387

Please call for location in Sugar House area

judi.short@gmail.com

BENCH BUNCH – Wednesday, Jan. 22 – 10:00 A.M.

Holladay Library – 2150 East Murray-Holladay Road – 4730 South

Unit Leader: Nancy Melling 801-277-9118, Anne Zeigler, 801-944-4163

ngmelling2@gmail.com

SANDY UNIT – Thursday, Jan. 23 – 10:00– 11:30 A.M.

Sandy Senior Citizens Center – 9310 So. 1300 East

Unit Leader - Janice Gygi - 801-550-3585

janice.gygi@gmail.com

LIBRARY UNIT – Thursday, Jan. 23 – 12:30 P.M.

Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 So. 2100 East

Unit Leader - Linda Menasco – 865-693-8805

lindamenasco@yahoo.com

SUMMIT-WASATCH UNIT – Tuesday, Jan. 28 – 11:00 A.M.

Park City Public Library, 1255 Park Avenue, Park City

Unit Leader – Jill Lesh – 435-655-1965

jilllesh@me.com

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization
that encourages informed and active participation in government.