



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters  
of Utah

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**May 2019**

## **LWV Volunteer Power Pushes Us Forward**

**Kathy Biele, LWVSL President**

As our program year winds down, let's reflect on our accomplishments.



More importantly, let's reflect on who did the accomplishing. It was you, the amazing members of the League of Women Voters. Funny thing — many observers play down the role of a volunteer organization, and yet it is an enormous economic force.

You don't believe it?

"All-volunteer organizations (AVOs) are a major social and economic force, but are seldom given credit for their work. Through all-volunteer organizations, people conquer alcoholism, clean up beaches, care for the dying, coach basketball teams, advocate for

gun control, rescue abused animals, raise their voices in song, publish literary journals, raise scholarship funds, preserve local history, serve as volunteer fire departments, organize protest marches, exchange heirloom seeds, host visitors from foreign countries, change public perception about the disabled, help adoptees and birth parents find each other, and in thousands of ways make our communities work better," says Walter Hoadley, former chief economist for the Bank of America.

Let's start with Salt Lake's State of the Community Luncheon, and give it the credit it's due. A handful of volunteers work tirelessly to put together this annual event. This year, some 220 people attended the lunch to hear former Utah Chief Justice Christine Durham speak about the importance of voting and adding these inspiring words: "Think anew; act anew."

That kind of thinking prompted the First Annual LWV Fun Run last year, and makes way to the Defending Democracy Fun Run in September. This event, also coordinated by a small but dedicated group of

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volunteers, drew more than 100 runners and walkers. And it was a learning experience as we created puzzles and information about gerrymandering.

Let's not forget the Legislative Action Committee and their work at the Legislature every year. They conducted three legislative wrap-ups in Weber/Davis, Salt Lake, and Park City, not to mention the many bills they influenced positively.

Our Voter Services volunteers not only register new voters, they attend Naturalization ceremonies and teach civics classes at high schools. Oh, and of course, they are the engines behind the League's Vote411.org voters guide and candidate forums.

Volunteers host and conduct unit discussion meetings, research studies and arrange programs. They are the powerhouses behind our communications platforms, our membership outreach and our development efforts. And of course, they are the ones who keep an eye on our growing environmental concerns.

So don't ever think your contributions go unnoticed. Volunteering not only helps our community, it helps us. Even the smallest tasks can make a huge difference. Volunteering brings us together for a common goal—not only to Make Democracy Work, but to make us better people.

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## 2020 Centennial Promises a Year of Discoveries

**Vickie Samuelson, Co-President LWVUT**

Our 100th anniversary is coming up fast and we need to get moving. So I wanted to let you all know what we are working on so far.

First, in an exciting collaboration with Salt Lake Acting Company, we will be sponsoring a play about the Suffragette movement. Called "Women Talking About The Man Under The Sheets," it is written by local playwright Elaine Jarvik.

The Salt Lake League is planning another fun run event, this year with the theme of Defending Democracy.

We have some plans that we are working on with the Legislature on our anniversary.

This will be a yearlong celebration, so if any of you have ideas on what we can do to get our name out there we would love to hear from you.

To the local leagues please let us know at [presidents@lwvutah.org](mailto:presidents@lwvutah.org) what you all are planning and if we can help.



### Local League Presidents

#### Davis County

Kathy Stockel  
& Ann Johnson

[davispresidents@lwvutah.org](mailto:davispresidents@lwvutah.org)

#### Grand County

Darcey Brown  
& Barb Lacy

[GrandLeague@lwvutah.org](mailto:GrandLeague@lwvutah.org)

#### Salt Lake

Kathy Biele

[president@lwvsl.org](mailto:president@lwvsl.org)

#### Weber County

Terri McCulloch

[weberpresident@lwvutah.org](mailto:weberpresident@lwvutah.org)

## State and National Conventions Approaching

**LWV of Utah:** Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, 2019

**LWV of the United States:** June 2020

**Ann O'Connell, LWVSL Natural Resources Chair**

This May, Utah League members will be asked to approve a small study of a consensus proposal for the 2020 national League convention. Members from the LWV of California and the LWV of Oregon are proposing that delegates to the 2020 convention approve a general position statement on election reform that would give all leagues a position from which they can apply to any election reform proposal that they judge fits league principles. As we know in Utah, election reform proposals can pop up unexpectedly and with time constraints. A local or state league might need to scramble to find a position or do a hurried study to react in time.

I am asking that the LWVUT undertake a consensus process of our own on this proposal. The wording thereof will be in the LWVUT Convention Handbook. The LWVSL could devote a unit meeting to a discussion of the proposal and other local leagues can design their own process. I am suggesting that we add a quick survey of how ranked-choice voting has worked here in Utah and other places and, perhaps more important, a description of proportional representation. Both are frequently discussed by voting reform advocates so it is important for us to understand the pros and cons for them.

If you would like to be involved in this effort, please contact me at [oconnell@xmission.com](mailto:oconnell@xmission.com). I hope that this will become a LWVUT priority for next Fall. We will need to make any decision by very early Spring if we want to influence the June 2020 national league convention.

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### Plan now for LWV State Convention

**Kathy Stockel, Co-President LWV Davis**

This is the last Voter before we join at the League of Women Voters' state convention. It's time to register for the Friday evening social event as well as the Saturday business meeting. I pulled up my digital calendar and marked in the Friday evening event (May 3) and the Saturday business meeting (May 4).

On Friday from 6 to 7 p.m. we will gather to enjoy light refreshments and beverages as we mingle, meet new League members, and have the chance to chat with current League members.

Some of you may prefer to take the FrontRunner to the Woods Cross



### Utah League

#### Co-Presidents

Vickie Samuelson  
& Catherine Weller

[presidents@lwvutah.org](mailto:presidents@lwvutah.org)

#### Executive Director Emeritus

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Trixi Sieger

[office@lwvutah.org](mailto:office@lwvutah.org)

station. Those who wish to do so can call 801-299-8347 on or before May 2 to reserve the shuttle to/from the station. For those who wish to drive or carpool: The Radisson Country Inn is at 999 N. 500 West in Bountiful.

Friday at 7, we will introduce our speakers. Jennifer Yim is the executive director of JPEC (the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission.) Diana Allison is a JPEC commissioner. I believe you will enjoy both speakers.

The cost of the Friday event is \$30 per person and the cost for the Saturday meeting is also \$30 per person. Saturday we will begin with a continental breakfast, and then will have a catered box lunch from Zupa's with food choices on the registration site.

You will find the registration site for both Friday evening and Saturday on the League [website](#). I reserved my ticket to both Friday and Saturday. I scrolled down after the information about community luncheon at Little America and found the payment information for state convention. From there, it was easy to process using PayPal.

The convention program/handbook is available online for you to print. Printed copies can be reserved online. Saturday will begin our business meeting at 8:30 a.m. We plan a 2:30 p.m. conclusion. During the day we will discuss and adopt the program for the upcoming year, elect officers and board, and adopt our yearly financial plans, among other tasks.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention!

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## Build Relationships During the Legislative Interim

### Emily Walsh, Legislative Action Director LWVUT

The period of time when the Legislature is not in session is called legislative interim. Interim is the best time to get to know your legislators and converse with them on topics important to you. They have more time during Interim and they are less likely to be overwhelmed by information. You could create a relationship with your legislator that may lead to them being more responsive to you during the session.

### Making Contact

First, know who your legislators are. You can find out who your legislators are and their contact information by going to the legislative website [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov). There is a feature on the website that will automatically tell you the legislators for the computer's location. If you are not at home click on the gray "My Legislators" tab towards the bottom right of the screen and a box for you to fill in your home address will pop up. You will know what to do from there.

Second, you need to figure out how your legislators prefer to be

## Donors Honor Roll March 2019

The League of Women Voters of Utah expresses its deepest gratitude to all of our generous donors.

Our amazing work is accomplished by hundreds of hours of volunteer labor with the invaluable help of our part time office manager, but we depend on our loyal donors to pay office expenses like phone, computers, office rent and salary. Thank you to this month's donors:

Gigi Brandt  
Maxine Haggerty  
Janice Miller  
John Weisheit  
Mary and Evert House  
Eggal Foundation  
Barbara Ross

— *Kathryn Fitzgerald,*  
*LWVUT Development director*

contacted. Write all of their contact information down or put in in your phone. The first-time you contact your legislator use your preferred method of communication. You may be fortunate enough have it be their preferred method. If you don't get a response after about a week you will need to follow up in one of two ways: try another method until you get a response or ask them in-person at a public event or at the Capitol.

Obviously waiting for a public event isn't always an option. The first time I emailed my representative I heard nothing back. Two weeks later I went to a town hall the next city over and I asked him if he had a preferred communication method. He gave me his cell number. He prefers to text with his constituents. I also followed up with my senator at the same meeting. He prefers to communicate by email, but only has time to adequately respond on Fridays. Being aware of how my legislators prefer to communicate has made communicating with them less frustrating.

Third, make sure your legislator knows you are a constituent. The best way to do this depends on your communication method. If you are emailing list your address and put 'constituent' in the subject line. If you are texting or calling list your street and city. If you are on social media rely on the platform's system, if it has a way to show you are a constituent. Please, avoid putting your address on social media.

### **How You Communicate Matters**

Be concise. Get straight to the point and do not attempt to discuss more than three points. They may not have time to read/discuss more than this and they are unlikely to remember more than three points. You will have to choose what is most important to you. This concept is especially true during in-person interactions. Generally when you receive an Action Alert from the League we send you our concise position on the issue.

Be civil in your communications. Legislators are people. Being an effective advocate/citizen lobbyist is dependent on having good relationships with them. You don't need to agree on everything, and you can disagree in a civil manner. Remember to thank them for their time—even when they disagree with you. Your legislators will be more likely to productively engage with you during the session if they feel you appreciate and respect their time.

Persist but don't be exhausting. You are one of about 42,000 House or 110,000 Senate constituents. You may be in the minority of voices on any given issue in your district, but being a minority doesn't mean you are not being heard. Even if you are consistently a minority voice in your district you should speak up and ask questions of your legislators on issues. Accountability is important, not every issue is partisan and there is always the possibility that disinterest on an issue will put you in the majority. The old cliché about picking your battles applies here. If you focus on what matters most to you, you will be less likely to become fatigued and your

## **LWVSL Orientation Date Changed**

Plan on joining the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake for our bi-annual Orientation. We welcome members old and new, people who are just curious about the League and what we do, and your friends and family.

Directors and committee members will be available to answer your questions and help you get active in our community.

Questions:  
[membership@lwvsl.org](mailto:membership@lwvsl.org)

**Saturday, April 27  
9:30 a.m./brunch  
St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church, Parish Hall  
261 S. 900 East**

voice is less likely to be diminished during the session.

We hope you will make time to contact your legislators during Interim. If you would like to join the Legislative Action Google Group to participate in observing the Legislature or to get reports on all of the committees we observe call (801) 272-8683 or email [actioncorps@lwwutah.org](mailto:actioncorps@lwwutah.org).

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## Proposition 4 Still Faces Ongoing Challenges

**Jane Harrison, LWWUT Voter Services Director**

The League of Women Voters has studied redistricting since the 1960s. The League supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

In November 2018, a majority of Utah voters passed Prop 4. The Utah lieutenant governor certified the election, and Prop 4 is now law, entitled "The Utah Independent Redistricting and Standards Act." Prior to the passage of Prop 4, Utah had virtually no rules to govern the redistricting process. The prior rules were limited to equal distribution of population and the Voting Rights Acts. This absence of rules leads to gerrymandering, a process by which those in authority manipulate the redistricting process in ways that can disenfranchise voters.

The bipartisan Proposition 4 and the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission and Standards Act call for an independent commission to advise our legislators and, if the legislators do not follow the commission's advice, asks legislators to explain why. It also provides redistricting standards and allows for legal redress if a citizen feels these were not followed. Note that under this Act, the Utah legislature retains the constitutional power to create federal and state legislative boundaries.

Utah is not alone in addressing this issue. As of 2018, 18 other states had adopted some form of redistricting reform to reduce the effects of gerrymandering. Additionally, in 2018, voters in Colorado, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio approved changes in the redistricting process to make elections more fair and representative.

Prop 4 is subject to ongoing legislative and legal challenges. The Legislature may attempt to undermine or even overturn the law in any general or special session. The law may also be challenged in the courts. These measures can take place any time up until the implementation of the law in 2021 when the next redistricting process takes place sometime after the 2020 national census.

The League of Women Voters of Utah supports Proposition 4 and the law it has become. We can show our continuing support by signing the Fight for 4 petition on the Better Boundaries website, asking our legislators respect the will of Utah voters and honor the law as enacted.



### Hinckley Forums

are held in the old College of Law Building, 332 South 1400 East, Bldg. 73 Room 101, in the Moot Courtroom, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/calendar/>

## Ranked Choice Voting Should Not Be Opportunity Lost

**Catherine Weller, LWV of Utah Co-President**

The League of Women Voters of Utah co-presidents encouraged cities in Utah and Davis counties to participate in the Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project. We sent letters to the councils of Kaysville, Payson, Salem, and Vineyard in advance of their council meetings to discuss continued participation in the pilot project. Letters were sent to the city mayors and recorders as well. They informed the officials of the [LWVUT position on ranked choice voting](#) (RCV) and pointed them to [our study on the League website](#).

City Council						
Rank up to 6 candidates.	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Fourth choice	Fifth choice	Sixth choice
Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Valarie Altman Orange Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
George Hovis Yellow Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Althea Sharp Purple Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mary Tawa Lime Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joe Li Tan Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Phil Wilkie Independent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The state League studied ranked choice voting in 2017. Local Leagues around the state met to discuss the study and came to a consensus supporting RCV. The League believes RCV could be a fair and representative elections system that could be a better option than the current system. We also believe RCV would give more voters a larger voice throughout election campaigns and in the selection of final winners in the voting process.

Ranked choice voting is a system that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the first rankings, she wins. Without a clear majority winner, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate have their votes for their second ranked candidate counted. You can read more about how RCV works [here](#).

The state League will continue to communicate with city leaders throughout the state as they consider ranked choice voting. The pilot project presents an opportunity for municipalities to not only potentially save money, by eliminating the need for a primary election, but to elect officials with broad support from the electorate.

## National Poll Points to 2020 Challenges

**Hoya Saxa, Executive Director, Georgetown Inst. of Politics & Public Service**

The Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service just completed our first national poll of the 2020 cycle, and we wanted you to be among the first to know of the results, which revealed voters are already engaged at levels usually not seen until days before a contested election.

## The Case for Ranked Choice Voting

Invented by an American, MIT professor W.R. Ware, around 1870, ranked-choice voting is now used in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Malta. Although Maine 2 marked the first time RCV decided a congressional election, [the method is now used](#) in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Louisiana in congressional primary contests with more than two candidates and to ensure that military and overseas ballots are counted in run-off elections. As of 2019, RCV has been adopted by [about 20 cities](#), including Memphis, Minneapolis, Santa Fe, Sarasota, and San Francisco.

— **From The Hill**

[Read more](#)

The poll found that a full 82 percent of voters indicate that they are extremely likely to vote. The poll also found no partisan enthusiasm gap between Republicans (85 percent extremely likely to vote) and Democrats (83 percent extremely likely to vote).

The survey of 1,000 registered voters also confirmed a highly polarized electorate and revealed clear opportunities and challenges for both major political parties as the 2020 campaign begins.

See the full poll results, including the questionnaire, charts, tables, GOP and Democratic analysis and our press release [here](#).

The Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service Battleground Poll is a national bipartisan survey measuring political opinion and civility among registered voters in the United States. A reliable tool for measuring voter sentiment and opinion, the poll has been conducted by Republican pollster Ed Goeas of The Tarrance Group and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners since 1991, with each offering their own unique analysis of the data.

Stay tuned for more details on the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service Battleground Poll, including the release of the inaugural civility poll, gauging voter opinion on the state of civility in our national political conversation, on April 24.

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## Rural Participation Key to Seeking Climate Action

**Carole Straughn; Chair, LWVSL Natural Resources Climate Subcommittee**  
Strong voices from rural Utah can turn the tide for climate stability. The League has constituents in key districts and their legislators are starting to hear from them.

As a resident of Salt Lake City, I often hear how global warming is already making our unusually severe droughts and dwindling snowpacks ever more likely. I realize that unless we stabilize climate many of us city-dwellers will be breathing heavy metals and other pollution in the dust blown in from the dry beds of a shrinking Great Salt Lake. We will miss the gentle flows from the canyons watershed fed by slowly melting snow pack, and we will wonder if we'll ever have another Winter Olympics. We urban dwellers feel we can talk to our legislators about the climate threat. They get it.

Then this year, I learned more about what weather extremes, intensified by the changing climate, are also doing to rural areas of our state. Observing meetings of the Appropriations Sub-Committee for Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality, as part of the LWVUT Legislative Action Committee, I heard legislators and other officials describe the growing costs of long-term drought and flash floods in rural

## LWVUS Wants to Know About Bundlers

Presidential candidates are under no legal obligation to reveal the identities or activities of bundlers often ultra-wealthy, well-connected political fundraisers — who collect checks from friends and associates and present the loot to a presidential hopeful in a tidy five-, six- or seven-figure “bundle.”), unless they’re federally registered lobbyists who bundle at least \$18,700 — and most are not.

“Voters have a right to know who’s trying to influence their vote,” said Jessica Jones Capparelli, the League of Women Voters’ policy and legislative affairs senior manager. Bundlers “get ambassadorships, positions on commissions and may buy their way into the next administration.”

[Read more.](#)

areas.

Two examples throw the situation into bold relief.

### **The Climate Crisis boosts rural woes - predators, fires, floods**

First, for years, the state fully compensated farmers and ranchers for livestock losses due to wild predators, but in the last few years the claims have grown so much that the budget only covers 70 percent of the losses.

Why are losses to predators growing? Because the predator population - bears, cougars, wolves, and eagles - is growing . Why so? Because, as one legislator explained, drought weakens the prey animals, making them easy to pick off, so the predators, have more to eat and to bring home to their young, enabling a predator boom.

Second, clean water sources have been challenged. Money was also sought to restore the water system for city of Panguitch which had always had pristine drinking water until the Brian Head Fire of June 2018 burned the watershed, followed by a July flash flood that washed debris, soot and firefighting chemicals into the water system. The water tower filled up with unsafe water. The sheriff tweeted, "Culinary water in Panguitch is contaminated with mud and other contaminants from the Brian Head Fire. DO NOT DRINK THE WATER until further notice."

Fortunately, the Appropriations Subcommittee this year found internal sources of funds to mitigate these two disasters. Predator control staff will be increased, and the Panguitch city water system will be restored. This funding will not have to wait for the giant tax bill HB441 to be passed in a special session.

Dorothy Uherka, a League member from Iron County where the Brian Head Fire and flood happened, urged her representative to support HB304 Fossil Fuel Amendments, and got her friends to do the same. Her representative was one of the unanimous votes of the Revenue and Tax Committee to hold and study the carbon tax. What if League constituents in every corner of the state started a conversation with their own legislators about how the changing climate affects their district? Would we see a new urgency for climate action?

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### **Weber League Learns About Recycling**

**Terri McCulloch, LWV Weber President**

The Weber League sponsored a meeting on residential recycling and owners of Recycled Earth, Dave and Amy Rawson, presented excellent information about their facility and recycling in general. Recycled Earth is the residential contractor for curbside pick up in Ogden.

The owners started this business to make a difference in our environment

### **Poems from Children on Frontline of Climate Change**

*I am water and I am so  
good.*

*I am a soul,  
and a brain.*

*I am so beautiful and I am  
a tree.*

*I am a brain and I am the  
heart.*

*I am it, and I am all.*

[Read more](#)

and it has grown to be one of the most successful residential recyclers. They have recently upgraded their equipment to state of the art conveyor systems to separate cardboard, paper, and plastic. This has made their services a little more expensive but much more efficient.



China used to buy most of the bundles of waste but recently has ceased this procedure for many items. This has put a strain on the company to make sure the material they recycle is something that

is able to be resold. Even our most avid recyclers learned new things about what should be put in the residential cans. Primarily the appropriate things include: cardboard; paperboard, such as cereal boxes but not pizza boxes; paper such as newsprint and office paper (NO SHREDDED PAPER); plastics 1 and 2 such as soda and water plastic bottles, milk jugs, laundry jugs, and aluminum and tin cans.

The biggest items that should not be included are: plastic bags or wrap, beverage paper cartons, food waste, glass, disposable diapers, medical waste, grass, foam cups or containers, clothes, toys, batteries, and dead animals. Some of these make perfect sense, but we were surprised to learn that shredded paper and plastic bags of any kind clog the machines are not good recyclables.

This informative meeting was excellent and explained some of the details and requirements of residential recycling and how to make the program the most effective as possible.

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## Salt Lake Takes a Look at Recycling Study

### Kathy Biele, LWVSL President

In the past, we have recycled much of our used paper, plastics and other scrap materials; secured it into bales; and shipped the bales to China for processing. But as part of a broad anti-pollution campaign, China announced last summer that it no longer will import “foreign garbage.” Since Jan. 1, 2018, it has banned imports of various types of plastic and paper and has tightened standards for the materials it does accept.

## John Roberts Might Save Democracy

Read Esquire Magazine's [interview](#) about the U.S.

Supreme Court's gerrymandering case, and why Justice Roberts may be the one to turn the tide because “he’s sick of gerrymandering cases.”

Utah recyclers are facing issues of finding new markets. Waste managers and recyclers have to deal with mixing of recyclables (called contamination) with materials that cannot be recycled. Contaminated recyclables are given to the local landfill, because labor costs to separate non-recyclables (such as when a non-recyclable plastic bag is used to hold aluminum cans) are high.

We, the home-recyclers are clearly confused. In an attempt to help demystify the process in our own backyards, the League of Women Voters of Utah conducted an educational study on recycling.

The Salt Lake League will venture into the recycling weeds at our various unit discussion meetings next month. Plan to attend one in your neighborhood. The Town Club unit will be discussing "Red Notice," a book by Bill Browder. Check out these units on recycling and find directions on our calendar:

**Bench Bunch:** April 24, 10:30 a.m.

**Nite Owls:** April 22, 7:30 p.m.

**Anderson-Foothill Library:** April 25, 12:30 p.m.

**Sandy:** April 25, 10 a.m.

**Park City:** April 23, 11 a.m.

A general meeting on recycling is being rescheduled for September. A special Go-See Tour of the Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste facility, 6030 California Ave., has been arranged for Wednesday, May 15 @ 10 a.m. Please let us know if you plan to join: [program@lwvsl.org](mailto:program@lwvsl.org)

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## Weber LWV Learns of Vaping Dangers

**Susan Skordos, LWV Weber County**

The League presented information on the dangers of smoking e-cigarettes, or vaping. Presenters were Bryce Sherwood and Kristi Jones from the Weber-Morgan Health Department, and David Burt from Weber School District.

It is reported that Weber County has the highest rates of vaping, particularly among teens, in Utah. Weber County also has more vape shops compared to other cities in Utah.

Vaping products contain nicotine and are addictive, and because they come in flavors, such as cinnamon sugar and watermelon, teens are attracted. The flavors and fragrances also mask the smell of tobacco, so many kids smell like "Fruit Loops." Additionally, attractive packaging makes the products "cool."

The costs of vaping vary from just \$2 up to over \$100. Juul pods are the most expensive, and are marketed as a safe alternative to cigarettes. Tobacco and nicotine products, per new laws in Utah, cannot be sold to



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.

those under 21, but kids are able to purchase them online and through other sources.

Despite the “safe alternative to smoking” label given to vaping products, these products are in an “open” system that can be refilled and nicotine content can be as high as smoking an entire pack of cigarettes.

Additionally, smoke from vaping affects others who are near, just as exposure from second-hand smoke.

Nicotine affects heart rate, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Brain development in young people is likely impacted. Kids are also participating in “hot boxing,” in which many vapers crowd into cars and vape while smoke fills the inside air, giving everyone a nicotine high. Particulate matter contained in air from vaping can be 300-800 micrograms, while, in comparison, particulate matter in polluted air is much less at 35.

Vaping is becoming epidemic, and education about its dangers is much needed.

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## State of Community Lunch Focused on Women’s Success

**Susan Lind, LWVSL Community Luncheon Chair**

Tuesday, April 9 was a frenzied time getting all the publications printed—sponsor brochure, invitation, program, posters, guests’ list, table and food assignments arranged the day before. Our annual State of the Community Luncheon saw a wonderful turnout with approximately 220 guests and all seemed to go smoothly including the new hotel parking pass arrangements.

Our program was well received as Dixie Huefner introduced our honorees and David Irvine introduced our keynote speaker. Pat Jones received the **Community Service Award** for community involvement of both Pat and her late husband, Dan. Pat has been a Utah State representative and senator. Dan had been a celebrated professor at both Utah State and The University of Utah. Together they co-founded the Dan Jones and



## Help LWV Keep Up with Inland Port

If you are interested in the air quality along the Wasatch Front, you may want to join our Inland Port Google Group. The League has been active in trying to make sure our air quality issues are addressed. Let Ann O’Connell know if you’re interested:

[oconnell@xmission.com](mailto:oconnell@xmission.com)

The Air Quality meeting has been moved to Friday, April 26, 3-5 p.m. DEQ - 195 N. 1950 West., Boardroom

Associates in 1980, a public opinion and market research firm. As chair of the Women's Leadership Institute, Pat encouraged women to become more involved in Community Leadership positions, which would influence policies in our state and nation.

Erin Alberty and Salt Lake Tribune team received the **Community Service Award**. They reported on sexual assault on college campuses, especially Brigham Young University, and how it was handled by the BYU honor codes office. This has begun to open up related avenues which are being reported in current news articles.



Noah Rosenberg and Catherine Kanter received the **Making Democracy Work Award** for their roles in the Better Boundaries redistricting initiative. Catherine explained how they spent much time in the 2019 legislative session educating senators and representatives about the Initiative. Although they are both going in different directions career wise at this point, they are both very interested in staying connected with the direction this initiative takes in the next couple of years.



The Honorable Christine M. Durham was our keynote speaker. She highlighted by her interest in how young girls are educated and emphasized a need for girls to be educated in the home and in school, preparing them for leadership positions in business, communities- local and national. And, young men need to be ready to accept women in the workplace and in government. All should receive equal pay, advancement and amenities necessary to carry out their jobs. That means it is important that men be willing to share domestic responsibilities, including childcare. She mentioned that children need parental support without which they can grow up lost.

Our committee wishes to thank everyone including sponsors, guests, hotel staff, and honorees who made our luncheon successful.

## Program Planning Coming Up

Calling on all Salt Lake League members to step up and let your voices be heard! We are coming up on our 100 year anniversary and we want to have a "jam-packed" and relevant program for our 2019-2020 year.

The following are some possible focus points for the upcoming program: Campaign Finance, Housing, Health Effects of Climate Change, Updated Water Study, and Know Your County. Please share your concerns and possible topics to study for the coming year to [program@lwvsl.org](mailto:program@lwvsl.org).

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