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Voters of Utah

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November 2019

League Delegates Report on UN Conference



By Catherine Weller, LWV-UT Co-President

Thirteen members of the League of Women Voters of Utah were honored to comprise a delegation to observe the United Nations Civil Society Conference in August. It was the first time a Civil Society Conference held in the United States convened outside of New York City. More than 5,000 people from around the world attended the conference, making it the

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largest Civil Society conference to date. Members of the delegation were Sally Aulakh, Kathy Biele, Donnie Davis, Linda James, Jeanne MacKenzie, Helen Moser, Wendy Molteni, Rachel Ridge, Vickie Samuelson, Carole Straughn, Emily Walsh, Catherine Weller, and Norma Wills.

The opportunity to represent the League was truly a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. We were required to attend a phone training with the LWV-US United Nations Observer and submit a report to the UN Observer, Rosalee Keech. Below is the first of a two-part summary of the report we submitted. Contributors of particular paragraphs are noted parenthetically at each paragraph end. Look for the second summary in next month's Voter.

Opening Plenary August 26

The 68th Civil Society Conference established the following as its goals for the sessions to come. First, we must engage with civil societies around the world to address the complexities of urban growth and to build momentum for climate action. Second, there must be a unilateral approach to our global crisis when space is shrinking and intolerance is on the rise. Third, the conference's 17 Sustainable Development Goals attempt to cover "all humanity" and create a "world that works for everyone." — *Linda James*

Since half the world's people is under the age of 32, the Conference ensured that 40 percent of participants would also be in that younger age group. Salt Lake City was chosen as the first city outside New York to host the UN Civil Society Conference in 75 years because of its progress in sustainability and the welcoming of diverse populations, including immigrants. Native Americans performed traditional singing, drumming and dancing, including hoop dancing. Charismatic speakers included: Jackie Biskupski, mayor of Salt Lake City; Luke Mullen, actor and climate activist; Astrid Tuminez, president of Utah Valley University; Hanko Kiessner the CEO of Packsize International; and Maruxa Cardama, chair of the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. — *Carole Straughn*

Outcome Document Town Hall August 26

Participants volunteered suggestions on several topics included in the Outcome Document. Discussions included the effects of poverty on mental health and incidences of depression in specific populations. A lack of commitment to better building materials was mentioned in regard to early failure of infrastructure. Some felt that individuals are the most important stakeholders in terms of change, and therefore human dignity should be emphasized. It was also noted that the document itself should not be made any longer. — *Linda James*



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Building Inclusive Communities Through Education, August 26

The big ideas in this session were also the most fundamental: the consideration of dignity and the worth of the human person, the use of education to inculcate hope and foster the inclusion of marginalized students, and meeting students where they are academically, especially when working with globally diverse populations. Knowledge should be considered a powerful tool in creating change. Finally, the session considered the demand that governments fund education in a way that is sufficient, transparent, and accountable. — *Linda James*

Peaceful Societies—Recovering from Conflict and Nurturing Peace, August 27

The moderator of this session was Alejandra Y. Castillo, the CEO of YWCA U.S.A. The panelists were: Samira Harnish, founder and executive director of Women of the World; Mirella Dummar Frahi, Civil Society team leader at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Yinka “Lamboginny” Lawanson, founder of Saving All Lives Together (SALT); and Manav Subodh, co-founder of 1M1B; Global Senior Fellow at U.C. Berkeley. This was another great thematic session. We learned about the programs each panelist runs and what common thread runs through each issue. The refugee crisis, global corruption, and criminal justice reform share a common contributing factor in lack of employment opportunities. The panel then discussed how economic empowerment can reduce each of these issues and what that looks like in various countries. Education, transparency, a willingness to fail in order to grow and leveraging the internet and its various platforms were all touched on in the course of the conversation. The session ended with calls to action from the panelists: support resettled refugees, make donations to causes you support, never give up on your work, be watchdogs, forgive people, use social media to help others, remember to think small, and NGOs need to have business models and allow for failure to happen. — *Emily Walsh*

Climate Change – Communities in Action – Jackie Biskupski, mayor of SLC, reminded us that when President Trump signed out of the Paris Accord, mayors from all over the US, including her, committed to reach 100 percent renewable energy. SLC’s energy provider is standing with the city to reach this goal. 450 cities in the U.S. are committed to this goal to deal with the impacts of climate change. Mayor Biskupski also reminded us that the ozone layer is healing due to direct action taken for this cause. She said that Utah is warming at twice the global rate and losing snowpack very quickly, which is a loss of water for the state. — *Donnie Davis*



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Last Legislative Interim of 2019 Arrives



By Emily Walsh, LWV-UT
Legislative Action Director

The Utah League's board recently held a strategic planning meeting in which the Legislative Action Committee was recognized as one of our greatest strengths. Thank you to everyone who has built the

committee up over the years and who is currently contributing! You are why the committee is an asset to the League and its membership. If you have ideas on how the committee could better empower voters and defend democracy, please let me know. If you would like to help us create some social media outreach we can use during the session, please email me at actioncorps@lwwutah.org.

On Wednesday, November 20, bring a lunch and join us for our final legislative interim lunch meeting of 2019. We will be in the cafeteria of the Senate Building at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. We will be discussing observations and potential bills and can answer any questions you might have about the legislature. The 2020 legislative session is looking like it will be quite interesting.

We do legislative updates on KRCL 90.9 FM's RadioActive at 6 p.m. before and after interim days. You can watch for posts from us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you would like to join the Legislative Action Google Group to participate in observing or to get reports on the committees we observe call 801-272-8683 or email office@lwwutah.org.

Please watch your email (or junk mail) for the link to the 2020 Legislative Priorities Survey. Make sure you submit a response. We look forward to knowing which issue positions are most important to League members.

Utah League Moves to a Single Renewal Date in 2020

We are pleased to announce a streamlined method for membership renewals. Beginning in 2020 we will use a single renewal date of October 1 coordinated through the LWV-UT Office. Membership renewal notices will be sent to your email with options to renew online or through the mail beginning in August 2020. Local Leagues will continue their process



December Holiday Social

Please join us to celebrate the holidays on Monday, December 2, from 6-8 p.m., at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 261 S. 900 East. We will hear speakers will be from the Other Side Academy who will tell us about their mission and their personal stories. Please bring a dish to share. Donations will be accepted for the Other Side Academy.

**-Donnie Davis, LWV-SL
Program Director**

through the end of 2019.

The goal of this change is to reduce office workload and provide consistency across the state. If you have concerns or questions, please email office@lwvutah.org.

Salt Lake League to Host Fall Orientation and Brunch

By Helen Moser, LWV-SL Membership Committee Chair

Are you new to the League of Women Voters or thinking about joining? Or, in the spirit of the American suffragette movement, are you ready to channel your passions and concerns into activism? We invite you to participate in the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake.

You will be joining a nearly 100-year-old organization which, In February 1920, was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt. The League had for 72 years worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters, the League encouraged its members to participate in shaping public policy. From the very beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose members believe that voters should play a critical role in advocacy. This holds true today.

Board members will be there to discuss our mission and the breadth of programs we currently undertake to empower voters and defend democracy. Meet us and learn about the many ways you can get involved and make a difference in our community.

Please contact Membership@LWVSL.org to RSVP.

Vote18 Off and Running

By Marilyn Brown, LWV-SL Vote18 Chair

The Vote18 Committee is currently looking for volunteers for this academic year to teach and assist with the one-day interactive lesson plan in charter, private, and public high schools for 2019-20. Volunteers for each of the five SLC school districts are also needed. The next Vote18 training session will be Monday, Jan. 27th from 10 AM to noon at a location to be determined. If you prefer another time of day or evening for training, please contact Marilyn Brown at Vote18@lwsf.org or 385-900-5159.



SALT LAKE LEAGUE ORIENTATION

Saturday, November 16 -
9:15-11:30 a.m.

St Paul's Episcopal Church
261 S. 900 East. SLC



Defending Democracy Fun Run Rocked

By Carole Straughn & 5K Team

Salt Lake's second annual Fun Run turned out be-costumed families and hearty volunteers who wended their way through the beautiful International Peace Gardens, defying the threat of rain. Runners were sent off by Salt Lake District Attorney Sim Gill who recalled that after immigrating from India, his family took their first photo under the Peace Garden arch.

Last year we identified five goals for holding a fun run, and this year, as well, we met all of them:

- 1) Engage a wider demographic - look at the age range - toddlers to great grandmas; ethnicities and culture; Fun runs are the only League events where I've seen a rock band, and those guys were good!
- 2) Engage the community - having it on the West Side; good job getting many non-profits. What a fulfilling feeling to connect with so many allies! And what an amazing corps of volunteers. Kudos Melissa!
- 3) Enhance League branding and awareness of our mission - Defending Democracy. The Superhero theme was timely and impactful. And advance our mission - we raised awareness that democracy needs defending, and we showed some ways to do that.

Run with Us in 2020

As the League of Women Voters approaches our 100th Anniversary, we are already preparing a very special 5K Fun Run, celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Join us at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 19 at Liberty Park! We promise this will be an event to remember!



4) Raise funds for the League - this was incredibly successful. Kudos to the folks who got out there and talked to people, risking rejection, and really finding the folks who want to help the League and our mission.

5) Establish a new event that can build the camaraderie and staying power of the Community Luncheon for the long term while expanding to a new demographic. The most important thing was that we did the event a second time. Everyone had fun, and people are thinking of ideas for next year.

We had better attendance last year, but better fundraising this year. The more often we do it, the more we will be able to get all the elements working in concert. I am thrilled to have taken part.

Utah Board Needs Volunteers

By Catherine Weller, LWV-UT Co-President

This is an exciting year for the Utah League's Board. We're taking part in a nationwide redistricting campaign, working to increase membership throughout the state, and celebrating the League's 100th anniversary. Help the League grow into the next century by volunteering with the State Board!

The Utah League's Board has an open position for Director of Communications. This position typically requires no more than five hours a week and attendance at our monthly board meetings. Responsibilities include proposing, developing, and implementing communication in support of LWVUT priorities and campaigns, and promoting LWV-UT visibility through social media platforms.

Volunteers are also needed for a Development Committee, chaired by Director of Development Wendy Molteni. These positions would typically require no more than five hours a month and attendance at telephone or in-person committee meetings as scheduled.

Experienced League members are encouraged to contact Local Leagues Vice President [Julie deLong](#) or LWV-UT Co-President [Catherine Weller](#) about the opportunity to mentor future Leagues at Large throughout the state.



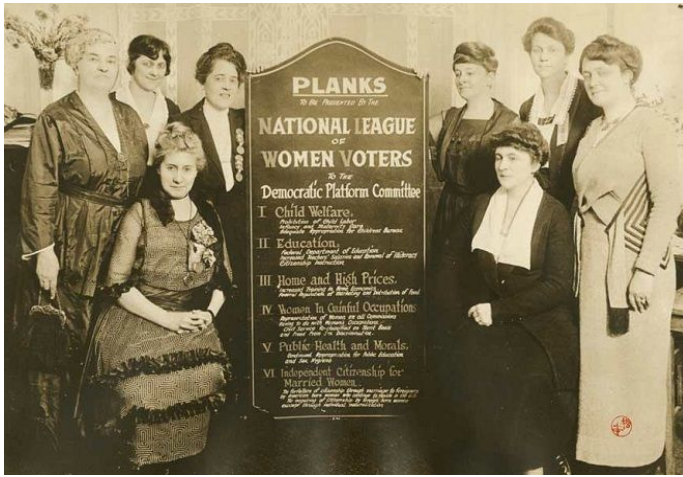
**Carolyn Dunn
1933-2019**

Carolyn Dunn passed away on September 23, 2019. For many years, Carolyn was active in the Salt Lake League of Women Voters, serving several positions on the Board. She was a Fall Fete honoree. I remember Carolyn's enthusiastic participation in a Salt Lake League study on campaign finance reform. She will be remembered for her smile, reputation for always being late, and her love of bridge, golf and, of course the League.

**-Gigi Brandt, LWV-UT
Redistricting and Money in
Politics Adviser**

Salt Lake Units to Discuss Voting Rights

By Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Natural Resources Chair



The Salt Lake League's October unit meetings will pave the way to the Utah League Convention in May in Moab and the League's National Convention in June in Washington, D.C. If this seems improbable, please attend an October unit meeting, most of which occur at the end of the

month. (Check the calendar on the LWV-UT website. Or simply find the best meeting from our website: <https://www.lwvutah.org/unit-meetings/>.)

At these meetings, unit members will discuss and take a general position on a Statement of General Principles for Protecting and Advancing the Voting Rights of the Citizens of the United States. That sounds fancy, but really it just means that we will be discussing a summary of principles that State and local leagues can apply to local circumstances. For example: would ranked choice voting work everywhere? Perhaps not. The discussion materials present the interesting example of straight ticket voting. Some state Leagues like it, some (such as Utah) do not. Find out why.

Another example of these discussion materials concerns the difference between consensus and concurrence. Even many experienced League members could not explain this to you. New members might question the need to do so. It is not as arcane as it may seem and concurrence is a useful tool that the League Legislative Corps may find very useful.

What does this all have to do with the state and national conventions? Again, come to your unit meeting to find out! The discussion materials for the unit meetings can be found [here](#). You can also go to the LWV-UT main page and click on Utah Leagues. There, in the drop-down menu, click on Units. On the units page scroll down to October and click on "See the unit materials."



Hinckley Forums

Gardner Commons
University of Utah
260 S Central Campus Dr
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Hinckley Offices
Room 2018
(Hinckley Caucus Room)

All forums are free and open to the public, sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

For more information:
<https://www.hinckley.utah.edu/calendar>

SLC Municipal Races Draw Attention to Money in Politics

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

Mail-in ballots for municipal elections are due to be mailed soon.

Concerned citizens who care about money in politics may want to wait until after October 29 to make their final choice of candidates. Candidate contribution reports are due that day. I know I will be looking at the list of donors, especially at the ratio of individual to corporate contributions before I make my final decision.

State law requires that contributions be publicly reported. Salt Lake City limits contributions to \$3,560 per individual for mayoral candidates and \$760 for city council candidates. Donor information can be viewed [here](#).

Inland Port Public Engagement Report Released

By Ann O'Connell, LWV-SL Natural Resources Chair

I am proud of League members' role in the Inland Port process so far.



League members have participated in the first citizen planning meetings, public forums, ongoing community meetings, Port Board meetings, and the Envision Utah Inland Port Public Engagement

Process. If you wonder if we have made a difference look at this introduction to the Envision Utah report below. I have taken this from the [Envision Utah website](#) where you can also find the formidable report mentioned in the sidebar (Four Key Issues).

From that report, it appears that Envision Utah has heard the voices of protest and concern. But if you go to the actual report (which you can access from the Envision site), my observation is not so well supported.

Here are some pithy remarks from Jan Striefel:

Four Key Issues

During Envision Utah's outreach, four key issues consistently rose to the surface:

Air quality. Primarily as it relates to port operations and increased traffic.

Ecosystem. Potential impacts to wetlands, habitat, wildlife, and water quality in the Great Salt Lake ecosystem.

Ongoing political conflicts. There is distrust among the public and stakeholders stemming from a perceived lack of transparency from the UIPA.

Fossil fuels. Some members of the public see the UIPA as a potential funding mechanism for fossil fuels to be processed, stored, or handled in Salt Lake County, although there is little market demand for such activity."

"One thing I sensed was that even though most of the public comment and concern focused on the environment, transportation, neighborhoods, and fossil fuels, a great deal of the report deals with development, tax increments, and how to make the Port happen. The rest of the report is also a little confusing because my primary interest and concern is the area north of I-80, which is the part the Northwest Quadrant Master Plan. A lot of what the report talks about probably relates more to south of the freeway, but they don't distinguish enough and it makes it difficult to sort out. Plus, they keep using the word 'jurisdiction' and that could mean the city, the port authority, or the wetland, depending on how you interpret it."

The last step in the Envision Utah process is to design five scenarios that reflect public input. These appear on page 15 of the report. I have learned from Envision that the public will have an opportunity to choose the ones they prefer but, at the moment, they are not giving out a timeline for this part of the process.

The whole report with appendices is 35.77 MB or 241 pages. It contains all the comments and minutes of the group meetings. You may want to look for yours! The Envision Utah process for collecting public opinion on the Inland Port is not finished yet, but construction on the project has begun and is ongoing.

Fall Fete Honors Anne Zeigler

By Nancy Wingelaar, LWVSL Fall Fete Chair

Anne Zeigler is the consummate Leaguer — always welcoming, always working the mission, always on task. She has worked tirelessly for the League in many capacities — as a leader, cheerleader, mentor, unit leader, and worker bee for many years.



On Saturday, October 12, the Salt Lake League honored Anne at their annual Fall Fete. Held at the Town Club members, guests and family were there to cheer her and give her a rounding "job well done." As it turns out, according to Anne and her daughters, they may come by their love of serving the community "genetically." Anne

related an interesting history of strong and accomplished women in her



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.

family who served the community going back to the 1600s. And her daughters are following in her footsteps. We are all better off for your extraordinary efforts.

The Fall Fete is also a time for Salt Lake Leaguers to come together and socialize after a summer hiatus. It was interesting to hear what others had been doing, what they were thinking, and where they thought the Salt Lake League should be headed this year.

As a fundraiser the Fall Fete was a resounding success. Many thanks to all those who helped, who attended, and who care about the League. It “takes a village” to make the League the extraordinary organization it is.

Renewable Energy by 2030? Forum to Discuss Possibilities

By Carole Straughn, LWV-SL President-Elect

You are invited to the Clean Energy Forum, sponsored by the Salt Lake, Davis County, and Utah Leagues. The panel will include clean energy leaders from the nonprofit, business, and government sectors that will need to collaborate on the path to clean energy.

You will hear Sarah Wright, executive director of Utah Clean Energy; Joelle Steward, vice president for regulation at Rocky Mountain Power; and Don Albrecht, director of the Western Rural Development Center at USU. The discussion will be moderated by Nicola Nelson, president of the Davis County League. (See *sidebar*)

League Centennial Coming to Salt Lake Acting Company

By Wendy Molteni, LWV-UT Development Director

Please plan on joining us on March 18, 2020, at Salt Lake Acting Company for *Four Women Talking about the Man under the Sheet*, a new one-act play by Elaine Jarvik. Combining historical and contemporary viewpoints, the play explores the tensions in the early suffrage movement and how we continue to struggle with the costs of achieving our ideals.

Prior to the play the League will host a reception and silent auction. If you have items or adventures that you would like to donate for the auction, please email wendy@pnmc.com. Your support will help fund the important work of the League as we celebrate our first 100 years. The coming year will also bring national and statewide League campaigns, and an important legislative session that will require our efforts on tax reform, redistricting

Renewable by 2030?

Saturday, November 9
1-3 p.m.

Marmalade Library
280 W. 500 North
Salt Lake City

Join us for a lively discussion on - **100 percent Renewable Energy by 2030.**

This will be a panel discussion with Carol Straughn and guest panelists. Is a renewable future a possibility? Come join us and find out!

For more information contact:

straughn@lwwutah.org

and implementing Prop 4, and ensuring a complete Census count.

New League-At-Large Option Now Available

By Julie DeLong, LWV-UT Vice President

Is there no League in your community? Start one with just four friends, some organizing, and some gumption! The Utah League has adopted a new League at Large (LAL) process. Any Utah community where we have at least five active members will be able to organize to impact their community by empowering voters and defending democracy.

With the LAL process, the Utah League takes on administrative functions so that your League can get started registering voters, getting out the vote, educating voters, and hosting forums and debates for your community. The process requires at least one chairperson and four additional members. You can skip the typical startup steps of establishing bylaws, incorporating, seeking nonprofit status, and establishing financial management policies, all of which are required to become a freestanding local League. I can send a document that explains how it all works: you can create a LAL in just four steps!

If you or anyone you know is interested in getting started establishing a League at large in your community, if you have questions, or if you would like to request the four-step process document, please contact Julie DeLong at juliedelong522@hotmail.com or 801-550-7785.

Ohio's Voter Purge Short-Circuited

By Nicholas Casey, the New York Times

It was largely because of the work of Jen Miller, director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, that the state released names of 235,000 voters it planned to purge from voter rolls in September. Her name was among them, although she had voted three times in the last year. Ohio has some of the country's strictest voting laws, from voter ID requirements to a "use-it-or-lose-it" provision that lets officials drop voters seen as inactive.

This year, a group of elected officials in the state, mostly all moderate Republicans, tried to answer the concerns with an experiment of their own: Rather than purge the voter rolls behind closed doors as had been done in the past, the government released the full list ... [Read more](#)

Donate for U.N. Climate Observer

The League of Women Voters of the United States chose Carole Straughn to join the U.S. League's six-member observer team at the 2019 United Nations Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Agreement on Climate Change. The Conference, called COP 25, will take place in Santiago, Chile, December 2-13. Carole, who is the Natural Resources Director for the Utah League, was accepted as an observer for the second week of the conference.

Because the national League provides no financial support for its UN observers, the League of Women Voters of Utah has graciously agreed to accept donations for the UN observer trip and reimburse Carole upon her return.

Please contact Peggy Carrico in the office for further information.

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.