

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake

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The Salt Lake Voter

Pat Nielson, President

Gigi Brandt, Editor

April, 2005

**April Unit Meetings
Political Decisions and Nuclear
Waste Storage in Utah**

April units will discuss *Political Decisions and Nuclear Waste Storage in Utah*, a LWVUtah study. As Marelynn Zipser, study chair, points out, "The Governor and the Legislature (and the new owners of Envirocare) have driven a 'silver stake through the heart' of Class B&C Low-Level Waste storage. BUT that does not mean that we should abandon the issue we have spent several years studying. There will be many nuclear (and dumping) issues in the future."

Members receiving material via e-mail will find the material at the LWV Utah website, www.lwvutah.org under publications.

State of the Community Luncheon

Patrick Shea, former director of the Bureau of Land Management under President Clinton, will be the featured speaker at the Annual State of the Community Luncheon, April 14th at the Little America Hotel.

Former Governor Olene Walker will receive the League's Community Service award.

Learn about our Watershed in May
By Linda Metke

Mark **May 18** on your calendars! Come to a Watershed Education general meeting for all Salt Lake area members and interested friends at 5:30 p.m. at the Salt Lake City's "Committee of the Whole" Room 326 in the City-County Building. Thomas Ward, Water Resource and Watershed Manager, (Continued on page 2)

Please mark your calendar

Salt Lake League Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2005, 5:30 p.m.
Holladay United Church of Christ
2631 E. Murray-Holladay Road

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President's Letter

By Pat Nielson

Individual liberties vs National Security: is that the choice we have before us as the US Congress debates the renewal of some provisions of the Patriot Act. Our own Senator strong supports strengthening some provisions of the Act. Equally conservative Republicans and most Democrats favor revising or eliminating approximately 12 provisions of the Patriot Act.

So, do we have to choose between individual liberties and national security? As is so often true, the answer is not yes or no. It is, I think, some of and none of both. How do you like that double speak? Let me be clear. The law is aimed at International Terrorists. However, it has been expanded under the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, 1987(FISA)* to include access to business, library, and medical records (Section 215) when those records are said, by the FBI, to be relevant to investigation of terrorist activities. How then, are we to make some reasonable decision on what we want the Act to do? I will need less gratuitous secrecy for starters. Secondly, I will need competent investigative agencies. Reports on the efficacy the CIA and FBI have been hugely underwhelming. Further, I'd like a real and unchanging definition of what or who a terrorist is. Some of us have had dogs, cats and children who were considered terrorists. Hopefully not what or whom Attorney General Gonzales has in mind.

I don't believe the sacrifice is about giving up even ONE civil liberty. I do believe that it is about making a personal commitment to pay attention to all of the news and then acting on the information. Each of us knows how to do this. It is a matter of giving up lazy, uninvolved ways and

picking up the flag of "things must change and I must be willing to ask the hard questions and/or take what maybe uncomfortable actions." Status quo is comfy but often neither rewarding nor satisfactory. I think it was B. Franklin who said, "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

In June 2005, LWVUS Council will convene. Because the Patriot Act was number one or two at our 2004 Convention, I anticipate that we will have study information from Council. I look forward to receiving solid and coherent information from League. Take every care. I have been honored and rewarded beyond my imagination at being your president for the past four years. No, I won't be like an old soldier. I will remain actively involved in League. In case you haven't noticed, it's addictive. I hope each of you will be a delegate to the LWV Utah convention, April 29 and 30. Please call me if you would like to attend, 583-6932.

Editors note: In a press release dated April 5, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) announced its support of the Security and Freedom Enhancement (SAFE) Act of 2005, and commended Senators Larry E. Craig and Richard J. Durbin for their leadership in introducing this important legislation. "The League believes that the SAFE Act will address the concerns of the American people about the excesses of the USA Patriot Act. By placing limits on "sneak and peek" searches and "John Doe" roving wiretaps and requiring increased public recording on the use of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the SAFE Act will protect innocent Americans from unrestricted government surveillance."

For more information, visit www.lwv.org, and the ACLU website, <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=17913&c=206>.

Preview Forum

By Mary Fogg

How do you find balance in an age of spin? That is the question posed by Preview Forum. Where do you get your news? NPR? Fox? The newspaper? Cable news? The Drudge Report? Preview Forum addresses those questions and more on their website previewforum@roundtablemedia.com. Preview Forum uses clips from recent and forthcoming films and television programs to focus on how advances in technology, ownership and government regulations have altered the new media landscape. How do we, as citizens, respond in this media environment?

The forum features previews of upcoming television and radio programs, new features and other national media projects to bring together news professionals and the public in local forums to discuss social issues relevant to the community. The goal is to use nationally broadcast media to promote dialogue and provide the opportunity to address issues that often become narrowly defined debates. Participating nation organizations include the American Library Association, Associated Press Managing Editors, League of Women Voters of the United States, National Civic League, On the Media, WNYC, Radio and Television News Directors Association.

The Forum will provide resources to organizations across the country to host Preview Forums. Free educational materials are provided that can be tailored to the needs of local community partners as well as national organizations. Videos, planning and topic guides, facilitator's training kits, flyers and postcards, press release and publicity templates, an online learning center and a website are available for organizations at no charge.

We are exploring the possibility of involving the Salt Lake League in unit discussions, in hosting local forums and/or in opening the Democracy Store as a resource for the community to address the many issues related to balanced news in the information age. We have made initial contact with the Bennion Center and the Hinckley Institute at the University of Utah, KCPW and the City Library in an effort to determine their interest in partnering with the League in hosting any of these activities.

If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, call Mary Fogg, 268-4537.

Watershed Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Salt Lake City Public Utilities Department, will talk about the history, development, and health of the city's watersheds. His powerpoint presentation will include an historical view of developing water for Salt Lake City residents, identifying and purchasing lands in our watershed (an on-going process), monitoring the water quality of creeks and streams, and dealing with issues created by the increasing public use of the watershed areas. Mr. Ward assured me there will be time for a Q & A period also. We expect this to be approximately a two-hour program.

So eat an early dinner, car-pool to the nearest TRAX station--or transport yourself to the Salt Lake City government building's east entrance, the door that faces the new library. Room 326 is on the north end of the third floor (turn right out of the elevator; room numbers are not logical, I'm told). This will be an informative evening, which provides us an opportunity to learn and ask questions about a range of watershed issues that deeply interest many of us.

Welcome to Our New Members

Dr. Diane Davidson
Department of Biology
University of Utah, SLC, 84112

Mary Sanderson
628 Aloha Rd, SLC, 84103.
519-2507

Colleen Harker
1588 E Yale Ave., SLC 84105
582-0897

Member News

Congratulations to our new honorary members, **Charlotte Newman, Esther Landa, Natalie Mallinckrodt and Jo Brandt**. Honorary members are those who have belonged to the League for 50 years.

Whoops--our apologies to Nancy Eisenman for misspelling her name in the March *Voter*.

Meet these new League members:

Diane Davidson is a professor of biology at the University of Utah. She specializes in tropical rainforest ecology. She has done research in Amazonia and presently in Borneo. She came to Utah from Pennsylvania to powder ski. She plays folk guitar for relaxation.

Irene Tannenbaum has worked in the fashion industry, modeling and as a consultant. She works for the McCarty Modeling agency as a consultant and has her own business, "It's the Look that Counts" Consulting. She has been a fashion model. She has a BA in marketing and taught at Stevens Henager Business College. She believes in the work of the League and likes the information on issues.

Mary Sanderson formerly practiced law in Trenton, New Jersey. She graduated from Rutgers Law School. She is currently a homemaker, caring for her four children. She has studied languages, including Japanese, Dutch and French and is spending time brushing up on these languages. She joined the League at the recommendation of a League member friend.

Millie Fletcher is a public education administrator, previously employed by the Salt Lake City School District and presently in the Davis School District. She is interested in environmental issues, especially radioactive waste. She likes snowshoeing and other outdoor activities. She likes to read and listen to books on tape, particularly biographies and mysteries. She recently finished an interesting one on Eleanor Roosevelt, which mentioned Roosevelt's role in the founding of the League after passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. She was looking for an organization working on important issues and found the League.

Speedy recovery to **Janice Gygi** who is recuperating from heart surgery.

In a Time of War Symposium

The Tanner Humanities Center will sponsor a symposium, In Time of War, on Friday, April 15, 10am- 5pm.

Philip Gourevich, former staff writer for *The New Yorker* and author of *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* will give a public lecture, "Writing about Wrongs" at 3 pm in the Dumke Auditorium. Museum of Fine Arts. Call 581-7989 for more information.

Local Government Report

By Anne Zeigler

Members of the Salt Lake League who attended the March County Council Meetings were Joycelynn Straight, Carolyn Dunn, Nancy Melling, Kay Papulak, and Anne Zeigler. We will be "watchdogging" again in April, and if you haven't had an opportunity to attend and would like to this month, please call Anne Zeigler, 944-4163. Note the agenda, in that the Committee of the Whole meeting room has changed.

One unit suggested that a member pick an issue(s) that they are interested in, and follow it through either the County, local City, Board of Education, transportation meetings, health, mental health, housing, Interim meetings, or wherever it might be discussed. If you would tell us what area you have a particular interest, we would assist you by notifying you when and where meetings occur pertaining to your subject. Please call Joycelynn at 485-4457 or Anne Zeigler.

Hinckley Institute of Policy April Events

Frontline: Karl Rove-The Architect, a Special showing, April 12, 12 noon. (also aired at 8 pm on KUED.)

After the Fallujah Fight and Election Day: The Way Ahead in Iraq, April 19, 10:45 AM: John Kael Weston, U. S. Embassy Representative in Fallujah, Department of State and Political Advisor to Lt. General Sattler, Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Public Opinion of Electronic Voting, April 21, 12:30 pm, Thad Hall, Political Science Department University of Utah, co-author

of *Point, Click, Vote: The Future of Internet Voting*.

All programs are at the Hinckley Institute of Politics Caucus Room (Orson Spencer Hall 255) and are open to the public Listen to Hinckley Institute programs on KUER-FM 90.1.

Quote of the Month...

"It is worth considering the strange media landscape in which political talk radio is a salient. Never before have there been so many national news sources—different now in terms of both medium and ideology...All this is well known; it's part of the Media Environment we live in. But there are prices and ironies here. One is that the increasing control of U.S. mass media by a mere handful of corporations has—rather counterintuitively—created a situation of extreme fragmentation, a kaleidoscope of information options. Another is that the ever increasing number of ideological news outlets creates precisely the kind of relativism that cultural conservatives decry, a kind of epistemic free-for-all in which 'the truth' is wholly a matter of perspective and agenda. In some respects all this variety is probably good.... But it can also be confusing and stressful for the average citizen...it is increasingly hard to determine which sources to pay attention to and how exactly to distinguish real information from spin.

...Whatever the social effects of talk radio or the partisan agendas of certain hosts, it is a fallacy that political talk radio is motivated by ideology. It is not. Political talk radio is a business, and it is motivated by revenue."

David Foster Wallace, "Host", *The Atlantic Monthly*, April, 2005, pgs.54-55.

Thanks to Xmission (www.xmission.com) for its donation of ISP services to LWV

Ethics Legislation in Utah 2005: Is there a Problem?

Common Cause is initiating a series of community forums, "Holding Power Accountable." The series will explore the issues that erode trust in government and seek ways to promote the ideal of government, of, by and for the people.

The first forum will deal with ethics legislation in Utah and is scheduled Saturday, April 16 from 2:30-4:00 pm in Conference Room C (lower level) of the Salt Lake City Main Library, 210 East 400 South.

April Units

Topic: *Nuclear Waste Study*

- April 19 **Challengers:** 12 Noon
Pat Eager's – 2229 Westminster
Marelynn Zipser - 578-2069
bring sack lunch
- April 25 **Old Farm** 10:00 – 11:30PM
Old Farm Community Center
601 East 4110 South
Anne Zeigler – 944-4163
- April 25 **University:** 12 Noon – 1:00 PM
Hinckley Institute, Rm 255,
Orson Spencer Hall
Phyllis Frankel – 582-8957
- April 25 **Night Owls:** 7:30PM
Judi Short's, 862 E Harrison
- April 27 **Bench Bunch-** 9:30 AM
League Office, 3804 Highland Dr.
Carolyn Dunn, 278-9409
- April 28 **Library:** 12 noon
Main Library, 210 E 400 S, Level 3
Alice Steiner – akarsteiner@aol.com - 363-9193

If you cannot attend your regular unit meeting, feel free to attend any unit.

**State of the Community
Luncheon
April 14, 2005**

