



October 2008

Co-presidents: Joyce Barnes Phyllis Frankel

Exec. Director Sandy Peck

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President's Letter

One month to go and for the first time a woman and an African American are on the ballot. My wish is that the issues be discussed more fully than the less important gossip-type hype.

League members are busy with voter registration and helping with debates. If you have time to volunteer please call Mary Fogg at 258-4347 or the League office at 272-8683.

Usually at this time of the year we have our Fall Fete. Well, not this year. Since everyone is busy with election activities we're postponing our fun fund-raising activity until winter when everyone is more relaxed (we hope).

The Democracy Store at the Salt Lake City Main Library will be open from **October 13** to **November 4.** Phyllis Frankel is organizing this annual event; AAUW is helping out; please volunteer a few hours to provide education to voters. Information on how to use the voting machines, how to locate the Voter Guide and the national League site, VOTE411, will amaze people and even gain a few new members.

Millie Peterson, our new Social Policy Director, is following up on the Mental Health Study done last year by Angelique Goodhue. Angelique has moved to Canada; units discussed her study last spring and strongly recommended that action be taken to inform public health officials and other policymakers about the findings and their implications for better services. Millie's extensive experience as a former state senator and work with Valley Mental Health makes her uniquely qualified. She not only knows who to talk with but what to talk about. We appreciate her efforts in behalf of those who often have no voice or power to speak on their own behalf.

Patti O'Keefe is tracking education, specifically merit pay, charter and private schools, and whatever mischief is at hand before the upcoming legislative session. We are lucky to have such a knowledgeable member willing to put in the time to keep us (and members of the legislature) informed.

Kathy Fitzgerald is coordinating local government activities. Many members are taking a couple of hours monthly to observe city and county council meetings. Sometimes they can be dull, but often they are very interesting, amusing and confounding. Let her know if you're interested in participating.

PRESIDENT continued on next page ...

The League of Women Voters of Utah

3804 Highland Drive, Suite 8-D, Salt Lake City, UT 84106

OFFICERS

1st VP Program TBA

Education Patti O'Keefe

<u>Local</u> <u>Government</u> Kathryn Fitzgerald

Natr'l Resources
Polly Hough
Ann Wechsler

Social Policy Millie Peterson

2nd VPs Voter Service Mary Fogg Ruth Gardner

Public Relations
Sue Lind
Missy Bird

SL Voter Katharine Biele Pat Klentzman

3rd VP Organization Anne Zeigler

Membership Phyllis Frankel Margo Thurman

Arrangements Mary Buchanan

<u>Secretary</u> Linda Johnson

<u>Treasurer</u> Stuart Gygi

Ride FrontRunner with the League

Our September unit meetings will be a fun trip on the FrontRunner to Ogden on September 24th (Wednesday), and lunch at the Athenian. Our speaker will be Marc Heileson, Sierra Club who will give us a brief history of the Legacy highway and the FrontRunner. A truly "go-see" tour.

Here is the schedule:

LV FrontRunner station (250 S 600 West) - 10:55 (train runs every 30 min.)

AR Ogden - 11:53

Lunch at the Athenian in Ogden (Ogden LWV members will transport us if needed).

LV Ogden 14:08 (or when ready – leaves every 30 min.)

AR SLC 15:07

Cost: \$3 one way for Senior (65+) — includes TRAX fare of \$1 \$5.50 — regular fare — TRAX and bus fare is \$2

You can go on-line: http://www.rideuta.com/ridinguta or call RIDE-UTA 743-3882 to get the schedule and more information. Take TRAX to the "SL Central Station," get off TRAX, walk to the outside self-serve machines to buy FrontRunner tickets and be sure to get there in plenty of time. There are restrooms in the Intermodal Hub building at that SL Central Station at the FAR end of the building (far North). The Sierra Club, with its excellent background, worked with the League of Women Voters (Ann O'Connell, thanks for all your efforts) to make this very educational. Your friends, relatives, etc., are welcome. It will be a nice outing to let people know what we do in the League.

Please email Anne Zeigler at azeigler@xmission.com or call 801-944-4163 if you plan to join us. It would be nice to let the restaurant know how many to expect.

...PRESIDENT continued

Remember that we're a non-partisan group. Only the State President can speak for the League. But—you can volunteer to help candidates and be active in political parties; just don't do it on behalf of the League. One of the reasons we are so respected by politicians, policymakers, journalists and others is that we vigorously protect that non-partisan stance. If you ever have a question about what can or can't be done (i.e. writing letters to the editor, speaking to a committee, etc.) just ask Sandy or any of the officers; we can help.

Happy Halloween—my costume is a T-shirt that says "Do not meddle in the affairs of dragons, for you are crunchy and good to eat!"

— Joyce Barnes

October Unit Meetings

"Energy Alternatives for Today and Tomorrow" will be our October unit discussion topic (See back page). The study will be sent out to you in early October.

SCOWCROFT TO BE INDUCTED

On Oct. 23, 2008, Lt. **General Brent** Scowcroft will be inducted into the Hinckley Institute of Politics Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place at noon in the Hinckley Caucus Room (OSH 255). Brent Scowcroft served as National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush and is one of the country's leading experts on international policy. He will be the ninth person to be inducted into Utah's only political Hall of Fame.

Local Government Observation: What can you expect?

Here's the report from first time observer Sue Click. Simply by attending a meeting at a time she had available, she heard discussions about some fascinating topics.

Tuesday Sept. 9, Kathy Fitzgerald, Sue and Dave Click, League members, attended the work session of the Salt Lake City Council Meeting from 5-7 p.m. in room 326 of the City Hall at Washington Square downtown.

Discussed was the continuing development of Art in Transit with an interest in making "art in design" a way to make each TRAX and Frontrunner stop structurally distinctive to the character and history of that area. Much has already been done to existing stops that feature bronze, stone, steel and ceramic tiles, durable, distinctive structures, both integral to the stop riders' needs and to the character of the community being served. Council members praised the organization's efforts.

The Good Landlord Program, a partnership among city, landlords, tenants, and neighbors was presented by the Landlord Association with the hope the council will vote to link licensing landlords, then give a reduced fee to those who voluntarily join the Good Landlord Program. There would also be a link to do background checks on prospective tenants entering into a community of renters, as well as neighborhoods potentially affected. Crime reduction, expedited evictions, and other conditions are promoted as benefits of the plan. The Council will consider the program further at future meetings.

The Tracy Aviary presented information to the Council about the bond we will see on the ballot for \$19,600,000. The Aviary is hoping to be able to retain AZA accreditation to continue the legacy, replace antiquated exhibits, and become a year round destination for local and out of town visitors. We need to go there to see the gray little flamingo chick trying to learn to stand on one leg. For a small annual \$2.50 increase in individual taxes we can support the major renovation necessary to update the central portion where closed cages still surround the inner pond. The new structures will be more natural habitats that are year round accessible, and appropriate for the 219% visitor increase anticipated with the passing of the bond. The Deseret News called the Aviary an Urban Gem, a heritage center for the State. Since the Great Salt Lake is a crucial stop on the Western Hemispheric flyway, and since it is a County/City/Private cooperative venture, this is something to consider carefully as we work toward League goals for the upcoming election. We should be sure that voters have an opportunity to be informed on this issue. They will be seeing it on the Ballot in November.

Georgia Baddley

7996 Emigration Canyon, SLC 84108; 801-581-9066 Georgia, who has an MBA from the University of Utah, has worked for 21 years for the State Division for Disabled Persons. She likes hiking and reading British fiction. A League friend convinced her to join, and she said that, considering the state of affairs, she felt she needed to become more involved.



VOTERS' GUIDE CAN HELP

Check out the
League of
Women Voters of
Utah website for
the 2008 Voters'
Guide. Find out
who's running for
what in your
area, and read
their thoughts on
important issues.
www.lwvutah.
org

Erica Dahl

5121 S. Cottonwood St.; 801-507-9527

Erica is Director of Community Relations for IHC Hospitals and a proud mother of a one year old. She feels strongly about how LWV is non-partisan and disseminates information. Erica does voter registration and information drives at all IHC sites. She has also been publicizing the needs for poll workers and has helped to enable her employees to take part as poll workers. We are gratified to have Erica as a new member.

Ellen Hartz

130 S 1200 E SLC 84102; 801-359-2659

A retired alternative high school teacher, she transferred from the Iowa League. She is very interested in science and the environment. She is a volunteer who helps disabled people to participate in outdoor activities. She loves camping, hiking, biking and snowshoeing.

Nancy McGee

1818 Holladay Farm Lane, SLC, UT 84117 (801)-274-3588

As a new member, Nancy has been very active. She is already working the Democracy Store and will be assisting at Naturalization. Nancy works at home, yet she has clients from all over the country. She administers Human Resource Software. She has also done poll work and has assisted voters in qualifying. A few of her favorite activities are hiking, biking and reading. Nancy shared how excited she is about being involved with the League, and we are very pleased to have her.

Ronda Rose

7177 S. Tico Drive, W. Jordan 84084; 801-282-0841

Ronda feels strongly about the importance of voter registration and getting out the vote. Ronda serves on the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) State Board and is currently the Community Involvement Commissioner. She previously dealt with Health and Child Welfare issues. Ronda has also had many years of experience lobbying the legislature. She assists at West Hills Middle School with in-school suspension and takes care of her family. We are pleased to have access to Ronda's knowledge and experience.

ELECTION ANALYSIS

Wed. Sept. 24, 11 a.m. Hinckley Forum and Ilive RadioWest broadcast with Doug **Fabrizio** Dan Jones. Professor/Lecture. Political Science Department, U of U; President, Dan Jones and Associates: Kirk Jowers, Director, Hinckley Institute of Politics; partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm Caplin & Drysdale; Frank Pignanelli, Foxley and Piganelli Attorneys-at Law: **Political** Columnist, Deseret News: Ted Wilson, Executive Director, Utah Rivers Council; Director, Hinckley Institute of Politics (1985-2003)Co-sponsor -

U of U Alumni

Voter Re-registration Can be Confusing

Voting from retirement homes has been the focus for many League members this past month.

In fact, many residents of retirement homes are not aware of the requirement to re-register to vote when they move, so League members have determined to help get the word out.

The League is urging retirement home residents to Vote by Mail, since the County Clerk's Office has not received any new voting machines and is expecting long lines on Election Day.

The deadline for registration forms for Vote by Mail is **October 6**. Ballots will be mailed starting the week of **September 29**. All League members are also urged to Vote by Mail for convenience and efficiency. It's easy to see what is on the ballot and to just mail in the completed ballot.

Helping with this project are: Sue Lind, Stuart Gygi, Pat Klentzman, Colleen Wooten, Linda Johnson, Margo Thurman, Sue Click, Alice Steiner, Emily Hall, Corrine Wunderli, Kathy Migliaccio, Joan Little, Tina Hose, Anne Zeigler and Kathy Dorn.

— Anne Zeigler

... MEMBERS cont.

Nichola Nelson

36 Ironwood Drive, NSL 84054

Nicola is a transfer from Virginia, retired two years ago, and a member of technical staff at Aerospace Corp., nonprofit federal research center which assists government and Air Force with the space program. She has master's in electrical engineering, likes to ski and do yardwork, home decorating and reading.

Geneva Thompson

777 South 2300 East, South Weber, 84405 801-940-0381

Geneva will be a student at the University of Utah this fall, majoring in history and political science. She's involved in modern dance, is president of her history club and is a history "guru." She joined at the suggestion of one of her professors.

www.hinckley. utah.edu/

and Human Displacement in India A conversation with: Kanchi Kohli, Indian Activist Ritwick Dutta, Supreme Court Advocate Tues. Sept. 23 The Criminalization of Mental Illness Honorable Judith Atherton, Judge, Third District Court; 9:10 a.m. HINCKLEY Sim Gill, Chief City Prosecutor, Salt Lake City; Brian Miller, Ph.D., Salt Lake County Mental Health Director; **FORUMS** Detective Ron Bruno, Crisis Intervention Training Program Director, Salt Lake Police Department Held in Orson Co-sponsor – NAMI Utah as part of Mental Health Week Spencer Hall, Room 255 and Wed. Sept. 24 **Election Analysis** broadcast Panel and live KUER broadcast See Page 5 for details 11 a.m. weekly on KUER FM 90.1. All forums are Wed. Sept .24 Cleaning Up Utah's Air free and open The Honorable Olene Walker, Former Governor, State of 1 p.m. to the public Utah; Bryce Bird, Planning Branch Manager, Utah and are Division of Air Quality sponsored by the Hinckley Thurs. Sept. 25 **Utah's Energy Future** Institute 10:45 a.m. Raul Deju, President EnergySolutions; Ted Rampton, of Politics and Government Affairs Manager, Utah Associated Municipal The Sam Rich Power Systems (UAMPS) Program in Co-sponsor - Utah Foundation as part of the Utah International Priorities Project. *Other panel participants to be Politics (select announced forums). Check out the Fri. Sept. 26 Vietnam – U.S. Relations online audio. Ambassador Le Cong Phung, Ambassador Extraordinary 10:45 a.m. podcasts, video and Plenipotentiary of the on demand, Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States pictures, and media coverage Tues. Sept 30 Campaign 2008 - The Race for Attorney General of past Hinckley Mark Shurtleff vs. Jean Welch Hill 10:45 a.m. **Forums**

Mon. Sept 22

2 p.m.

Hinckley Institute Presents ...

Industrial Development, Environmental Damage

GET ACTIVE

"The more citizens are engaged in politics - from running for the school board to meeting with state legislators to volunteering on a presidential campaign - the less opportunity narrow special interests have to fill the vacuum."

> —Christine Durham

Stronger Civics Education would aid American Citizens

By Christine M. Durham reprinted from the *Salt Lake Tribune*

This week's anniversary of the signing of America's Constitution provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the health of our democracy, both on how far we have come and on the work that remains to be done.

We face many challenges as a nation. Energy independence, health care, terrorism and competition in the global marketplace are all serious issues that demand serious deliberation.

While our leaders have an obligation to address all these challenges, the responsibility cannot lie with them alone. Our students are America's future leaders, and - more importantly - America's future citizens. What can we do to instill in them the habits of engaged and informed citizenship?

One answer lies in civic education. More than 40 state constitutions mention the preparation of an enlightened citizenry as the reason for establishing public school systems, and our schools affect more citizens on a daily basis than any other institution. By teaching civics to every student, our future citizens will acquire the knowledge and dispositions that self-government demands.

The 2006 National Civics Assessment demonstrated that we must do better preparing our youth for citizenship when it revealed that less than a fifth of high school seniors could explain how citizen participation benefits democracy. If students don't understand why participation matters, how can we be surprised at how many passive citizens there are?

While until the 1960s most high schools offered three civics courses, today students only take a single course. Recent education policies have exacerbated this trend. Three-quarters of schools reported a decrease in the amount of time spent on civics as a result of federal No Child Left Behind's requirements. While civic learning is becoming an afterthought of our educational system, circumstances demand that it be restored as a cornerstone of our educational system in order to protect the integrity of our democracy.

The more citizens are engaged in politics - from running for the school board to meeting with state legislators to volunteering on a presidential campaign - the less opportunity narrow special interests have to fill the vacuum. A democracy of activist citizens is the only way we can ensure government heeds the voice of "We the People." Civics also helps students develop the critical-thinking skills that make them more discerning consumers of news. When our fellow citizens demand more thoughtful news analysis and less sensationalism, the media will listen and respond. Effective civic education can help all of us to persuade the media to re-emerge as a forum for debating the great issues of our time.

LEARN YOUR CIVICS

Learn more about civics education and programs to strengthen democracy at the Center for Civic Education http://www.civic ed.org/

... CIVICS continued

Incivility and extreme partisanship have worsened as citizens wall themselves off from those of differing opinions, receiving their news from limited sources and only engaging in discussion with those who already share their views. Civic education provides a common base of knowledge and a shared language for speaking about American democracy. Civic education helps students engage with others of differing views. Debates in the classroom demand that students consider the arguments on both sides of an issue. The process of civil deliberation that leads to reasoned conclusions is not only a vital skill for students' own development, but it is at the heart of the process of self-government.

Here in Utah, a group of our citizens have joined together to strengthen civic education for all of our students. The Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Academic Service Learning is a network of organizations, universities and state and federal agencies committed to helping Utah schools K-16 in accomplishing their basic civic mission. In addition, the Legislature has created the Commission on Civic and Character Education, chaired by Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert, which unites representatives of the three branches of state government and members of the public in efforts to foster, encourage and lead the mission of civic education.

Preserving the process of civil deliberation for the future ultimately lies not only with government, but also with an engaged citizenry. To ensure that every student has the knowledge and tools they need to become active citizens, we need to support schools in fulfilling their civic mission.

School districts, state government, and the federal government can grant more funding, institutional support, and flexibility to schools that want to pursue civic learning for every student. Schools should offer students civics classes and opportunities for experiential education grades K-16.

The anniversary of the signing of the Constitution on Wednesday provides an opportunity for policymakers at every level to join together in support of the civic mission of schools. Our ability to meet this challenge will not only determine the future course of education policy, but the long-term health and survival of our democracy.

* CHRISTINE M. DURHAM is the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court.

Presidential Debates Scheduled

The Presidential Debates have been scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. ET and last 90 minutes as follows:



- **September 26, 2008:** Presidential debate with domestic policy focus, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
- October 2, 2008: Vice Presidential debate, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- October 7, 2008: Presidential debate in a town hall format, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- October 15, 2008: Presidential debate with foreign policy focus, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

In the meantime, consult **factcheck.org** to check the accuracy of what presidential candidates have been saying about each other.

Keep registering those voters!

You should know that besides helping residents of retirement homes register to vote conveniently by mail, League members have also been busy registering at American Express, ARUP, the University Hospital, Salt Lake Community College, Westminster College and Job Corps, with outreach to Zions Bank branches, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, African-American churches, community organizations and targeted radio listeners. It's all part of the League's effort to be sure that all citizens — especially undervoting groups like minorities, the young and low income — get a chance to participate in choosing their leaders.

If you have ideas about where we can register voters before **October** 6 or would like to help, be sure to call Mary Fogg (268-4357) or Marie Fulmer (428-5150).

Voter registration by mail ends October 6. Application forms are available in post offices and libraries, on page 47 of the phone book, and on line at elections.utah.gov. Or pick some up at the League office.

You can also register in person at your County Clerk's office until October 20. In various Salt Lake County locations, satellite registration will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **September 27** and **October 4.**

Donors

Sue Gordon Jean Hill Mimi Levitt Beverley Cooper

UTAH FOUNDATION STUDIES WATER CONDITIONS

Utah is the second-driest state in the nation and home to over 2.6 million people. ...To help voters and candidates understand the issue better, this brief provides information on drought conditions, precipitation, water storage, water usage, and water quality in Utah.

http://www.utahfoundation.org/br iefs/2008 08 wat er.html

White House Run on the Agenda

The Thursday, October 9 ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) meeting will be a breakfast meeting 8-10:30 a.m. at the Little America Hotel, Ballroom A (500 South Main Street in SLC). The topic will be:

The 2008 Presidential Campaign/Candidates: Potential Impacts on Utah's Political Landscape & Key Issues

Stan Lockhart, Chair, Utah Republican Party Wayne Holland, Chair, Utah Democratic Party Suzanne Gelderman, Utah State Director for Obama for America Representative for the McCain Campaign (TBA)

The 2008 presidential race is setting up to be one of the most engaging and dynamic in recent history. It will directly and indirectly affect all levels of government and public service. We invite you to join this panel discussion on the impact the presidential election and the presidential/vice-presidential candidates themselves may have on Utah's political landscape, its state races, and on Utah's key issues such as education, transportation, energy and health. The panel will move beyond platitudes and platforms for an indepth, academic discussion of public issues and how our members, in their various public agencies and assignments, might be affected. A Q&A session will follow.

Following this discussion, the Center for Public Policy & Administration at the University of Utah will sponsor a panel on the topic:

How the Road to the White House Runs through the West

Panelists will talk about what to expect on Election Day — the strength of each campaign in the West, how each state will vote, what will happen in the swing states (Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada) and whether the West will matter in who is our next president. The speakers will be:

Dan Jones, Dan Jones and Associates Jeff Hartley, Political Consultant Matt Burbank, Professor of Political Science, University of Utah

The cost of the breakfast is \$15/\$8 for students. To register to go: www.cppa.utah.edu/aspa and click on the appropriate method of payment. Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than October 6. No shows will be billed. Limited free parking is available - carpool or ride public transportation where possible. Questions? E-mail jrandall@cppa.utah.edu.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE VOTE?

A national League of Women Voters study revealed one reason.
People don't see that voting directly affects their everyday lives.
But it's about "Your job. Your taxes. Your Social Security. Your children's education.
About you and your family."

Top 10 Reasons to Register and Vote

It's your money. The county commissioners, governor, state treasurer, legislators, president and members of Congress you vote for will decide how much of our wealth to invest in public services and how to fairly share the tax burden.

It's your children's education. You elect local and state school board members who set public education policy and budgets that will affect how well prepared your children and grandchildren will be for the future. Decisions by our legislators, governor, members of Congress and president also affect the public schools-- and the quality and cost of higher education as well.

It's your job. Congress and the president, the governor and your legislators all influence what job training is available, minimum wage, pay equity, fairness in hiring, health insurance through your employer, job and pension security, and workplace safety.

It's your health care. Action by the governor, legislature and Congress has made health insurance accessible to thousands, but more than 1 of 10 Utahns is still uninsured. The officials you elect make decisions on Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance laws that determine your access to health care.

They're your highways. Utah's population and traffic are growing rapidly. Your county commissioners, legislators, governor and members of Congress decide what highways are needed, what alternatives to highways such as public transit to support, and how to pay the bill.

It's your Social Security. The president and Congress decide how much payroll tax you pay, set cost of living increases and benefit schedules for your Social Security pension. They can change what Medicare services you receive and your share of the cost.

You breathe the air and drink the water. Your county, state and national elected officials set pollution standards, enforcement strategies and budgets. They plan and zone where roads and industries will be built and how public lands will be used--decisions that can determine how safe your air and water will be.

It's your neighborhood. Your elected officials and the judges you vote to retain make daily decisions about crime prevention, laws and law enforcement, safe and affordable homes, traffic patterns, and where to put schools, parks and recreation.

They're our children. We do our best to keep them healthy, fed, safe, educated and cared for when we are at work or unable to provide. The officials you elect can help or hinder Utah families trying to do their job.

It's your democracy. Make it work. Register and Vote.

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League of Women Voters of Salt Lake 3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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The League of Women Voters thanks



for its generous contribution of Internet services

Unit Meetings			
Oct.22 (Wed.)	Bench Bunch	ERGY ATIVES"	11 a.m12:30 p.m. lunch follows Anne Zeigler, Unit Chair 944-4163
 -	278-9409	Oct. 27 (Mon.)	Night Owls Judi Short
Oct. 30	Main Library	(1/1011)	862 E. Harrison
(Thurs.)	210 East 400 South, SLC Conf. (Room D) Level-1 Noon - Madeline's; meeting at 1 p.m. Kathy Dorn		7:30 p.m. Judi Short, Unit Chair jpshort@exolo.com 581-2401
Oct. 27 (Mon.)	kmd1965@msn.com 277-0897 Girl Scout Headquarters 445 East 4500 South	*NOTE: Unit Organization Chair: Anne Zeigler – 944-4163 azeigler@networld.com *It is understood that meeting time and place can change. Whenever possible it will be listed in the <i>Voter</i> .	

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT,