



**Co-Presidents:
Anne Zeigler
Linda Johnson**

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August 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Initiatives, Initiatives, Initiatives! Frustrated by the lack of response by the Utah Legislature to their concerns about legislative redistricting slated to occur in 2011 and ethics, two citizen groups are organizing to undertake the arduous task of collecting 95,000 signatures to ask voters to approve the initiatives on the 2010 ballot. Both initiatives concern issues dear to the League's heart.

First, the organization *Fair Boundaries* is supporting the creation of an independent advisory redistricting commission. The Legislature has the constitutional responsibility of creating new districts every ten years to reflect the census results. No matter what state one lives in, where one party dominates the district lines favor that party and incumbents. This is a national phenomenon with troubling implications for those citizens who believe in representative, civilly accountable government. Legislators are interested in creating safe districts for themselves and their parties and the 2001 Utah boundary maps demonstrate this clearly. Although many have characterized the *Fair Boundaries* efforts as partisan, the real issue is accountability and the citizens ease of access to their law makers. Among the most egregious 2001 redistricting outcomes were dividing Salt Lake City residents among all three congressional districts, dividing Tooele county into four Utah Senate districts and dividing Moab down Main Street into two Utah House districts.

The Utah League has had a position supporting an independent, advisory redistricting commission since 1980. The Utah League board announced its continued support at its June meeting. The redistricting initiative is the subject of the Salt Lake September unit meetings—don't miss this one! League members are urged to participate in collecting the signatures for Salt Lake County.

A second group, spearheaded by former Representatives David Irvine and Kim Burningham, has organized to promote ethics legislation. League members Sandy Peck, Gigi Brandt, and Bountiful member Nancy Cooper have been attending meetings as the initiative has been written. It was announced on August 12 at a noon press conference (see page 5). David Irvine spoke to the Utah convention. The initiative covers many ethical and good government issues that Utah League has lobbied for many years.

Anne Zeigler, Co-President

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

**Observers continue attending local government meetings
even through the summer**

Summer livin' at the City and County Councils is relatively mellow. The one tempest in a teapot: On June 23 the County Council passed its budget including a property tax increase, which Mayor Carroon vetoed, accidentally negating the whole budget agreement. Kathy Fitzgerald was present July 14 when the entire budget minus the property tax increase was re-passed by the Council, with much self-congratulation all around on how well the Mayor and Council cooperated to pass legislation enabling the real intentions of both parties to stand legally.

Sherilyn Bennion and Kathy have observed the following discussions: an ordinance to penalize property owners who leave garbage cans on the street too long; the controversy over zoning for backyard chickens; and the presentation of a nifty financial maneuver that will allow the County to reduce the cost of a new library for Magna by \$1.6 million.

Meanwhile, at Salt Lake City Council on July 7, public housing projects and an underground pipeline across the Lowlands Conservancy Overlay District were discussed. Come on out and join the fun. Check the LWV Salt Lake webpage for time and location of your favorite local entity's meeting, drop in for an hour or two, and email me to let us know what transpired, so we can report to other members.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, Chair Local Government

LOBBYCORPS NEWS—AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE

The Legislators have been meeting in Interim sessions since May, and the League has been there to watch the deliberations about Health Care, Education, Elections, and Environment and Natural Resources.

To make it easier for people with limited time to be a part of the Lobbycorps, we have created small groups to focus on issues. To date, we have formed a Healthcare Group and an Education Group. These groups meet during the Interim meeting day, plan out who will go to which committee, and who will report to the overall Lobbycorps during lunch at the Capitol Cafeteria, in the East Building.

The idea is to allow participation in one area, without being flooded with information about everything that the Legislature is doing. In August, we hope to organize an Environment/Natural Resources Group and in September, an Elections Group.

Please let Sherilyn Bennion (lcbscb@q.com) or Alice Steiner (akarsteiner@aol.com) know if you would like to be part of one of the issues groups.

Alice Larkjn Steiner, Co-President, LWVUT

**LWVSL'S WATER STUDY:
A Preview to Think About**

**WHAT
CONCERNS
DO YOU
HAVE ABOUT**

WATER?

**WHAT'S THE
MOST
IMPORTANT?**

Culinary Use?

Recreation?

The Environment?

Agriculture?

Other?

The Water Study Committee of LWV of Salt Lake has been hard at work this summer. We will have a report ready for discussion by October. The Salt Lake League will use the material for their October and November unit meetings and there will be consensus questions. We are convinced the state league should have a more robust water position and the study consensus questions are the means for you to tell us what you want IN THAT POSITION

The study is long and packed with information. Even so we cannot include or explain everything there is to know about water in Utah so it is especially important that you participate in discussions and presentations this fall. I suspect that each of us already has a fairly well thought out water policy of our own. My personal emphasis is on protecting the environment and I hope many, if not most, of you agree with me. However, it is critical that League members have their facts straight and can speak thoughtfully to those who may disagree rather profoundly on particulars. Most everyone in Utah enjoys the outdoors in one way or another. No one wants to damage our environment, but we do not always agree on what that means. Think of the current controversy over tapping groundwater in Snake Valley. Ranchers and county governments are opposed but the chief state steward of the environment in Utah, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, believes that it would not be harmful to exploit this water source.

"First in time, first in right," "prior appropriation," and senior and junior rights are terms of water law we may not say much about or perhaps omit altogether as not being critical to our discussion. However, they are intriguing legal constructs that have made sense in the past in dry western states. The system is that the earlier (by date) water rights are senior to those that come later in time. If yours is the very most recent appropriation it is the most junior. This is not arcane nonsense. In times of drought the more senior water rights get their full appropriation and so on down the line until the water runs out. The more junior rights may get none at all. If this seems unfair, think of farmers lined up to get water from most senior to most junior. If the inadequate water were allotted evenly among them, it is very possible that all their crops would fail from too little water. If the holders of more senior rights receive their full allotment, their crops will prosper and at least some of us can eat. Junior water right holders are out of luck. This is a simple way to solve what might be the tremendously difficult dilemma of which farmers of which crops deserve adequate water and which not and other complications that would confound a Solomon. This system has served western states in the past; perhaps it is not what you would choose for the future. This fall will be the time to discuss such difficult issues and express your opinions.

Ann O'Connell, Water Study Committee

oconnell@xmission.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

IN MEMORY OF:

*** Peggy Shaw
Nancy Melling
Sharon Walkington**

*** Dottie Bintz
Nancy Melling
Sharon Walkington**

*** Natalie
Mallinckrodt
Nancy Melling
Sharon Walkington**

*** David Blackbird
Nancy Melling**

IN HONOR:

*** Sue Gordon
Kenneth Roach**

OUR THANKS

**to those who helped
fold, staple, and
label the May
VOTER
for mailing:**

**Irene Freyer
Marie Fulmer
Sandy Peck**

VOLUNTEER CORNER

**Opportunities to be Involved
With Small Commitments of Time**

1. Be a caller for our "calling tree"
2. Stuff envelopes at LWV office
3. Pass out petitions for Redistricting Initiative. Working with our *Fair Boundaries* partners:
 - ◆ obtain petition packets
 - ◆ be trained and then train LWV members about signature collection procedures
 - ◆ track petition distribution
 - ◆ ensure that signed petitions are received and returned to Fair Boundaries personnel by the deadlineThis will require 3 hours per week through November 1.
4. Attend a Naturalization Ceremony.
The ceremony is a moving experience and increases your appreciation of being an American citizen through hearing from some of the NEW citizens what it means to them.
 - ◆ Attend ceremony
 - ◆ Hand out Voter Information to New Citizens
 - ◆ Email Joyce at dojogreen@msn.com to schedule a date
5. Write Thank You letters for donations, etc.
6. Help with Fund Raising for the League

A few more ways to help can be found on the next page...

THE LEAGUE LOST A FRIEND THIS SUMMER

In Memoriam—David Blackbird

David Blackbird passed away On July 3, 2009 at age 79. A memorial service was scheduled for Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church on 13th East, with Sandy Peck, our Executive Director, as one of the speakers.

After retiring from the US Air Force, David became a full time volunteer. The League was fortunate to be one of the organizations he joined and volunteered for. David served several terms on the Salt Lake League Board. He loved politics and will be remembered for his twinkly eyes as he made good humored political observations. I will remember his exhortations to League members to serve as election judges and to donate their salaries to the League!

Gigi Brandt

**THANK YOU
to our
CONTRIBUTORS:**

**Gigi Brandt
Bette Arial
Anne Palmer
Peterson
Linda Johnson
Gina Rieke
Barbara Kitchens
Ruth and
William Ohlsen
Joel Bown and
Marilyn Bown
Marelynn Zipser
Liesa Manuel
Tina Hose-Sumner**



**The League of
Women Voters
thanks
Xmission
for their
generous
contribution of
Email
services**

Volunteer Corner Opportunities—continued from previous page....

- 7. Join Local Government Observer Corps. Sign up for your local city council meeting, Planning & Zoning, school board meetings. Email Kathy at: Kathryn.Fitzgerald@yahoo.com
- 8. Join Legislative Observer Corps.
 - ◆ attend Interim meetings at the Capitol on 3rd Wed. of the month.
 - ◆ Observe at committee meetings on Health Care, Education, Natural Resources, Tax & Revenue, etc.
 Email Sherilyn at: lcbscb@q.com or Alice at: akarsteiner@aol.com
- 9. Go on-line to "VOTE18.org" and present lesson plan at local high school. Help with booth at UEA Convention Oct.2-3 and Social Studies Seminar in Oct.

Email Nancy at: ncooper@maderahills.net for more information
- 10. Join a committee: Membership, Natural Resources, Health Care, Education, Local Government
- 11. Help get signatures for Ethics Initiative Petition.
- 12. Help at Democracy Store located in Main Library in October. There will be a voting machine, and registration forms. Help people who drop in locate their voting location and get signatures on the petition for Redistricting. Email Barbara at: maxineandbarbara@aol.com

Please call LWV office – 801-272-8683 and offer your services

LWV of Salt Lake Board

Utahns for Ethical Government Calls for Reform*

Standing on the steps of the Utah State Capitol, representatives of Utahns for Ethical Government [UEG] on August 12 at noon announced a citizens' initiative to reform the ethical standards and processes governing the Utah State Legislature. The initiative would enact a strict code of ethical standards for Utah lawmakers and create an independent ethics commission to apply the code and make enforcement recommendations to the Utah State legislature.

Utah is one of only 10 states that lack an independent ethics commission, and one of only 6 states with no limits on campaign contributions. The proposed 5-member commission would be chosen by drawing from a hatful of 20 non-political nominees agreed on by the House Speaker, Senate President and minority House and Senate leaders. Campaign contributions would be limited to \$2,500 per individual and \$5,000 per PAC. Contributions from unions and corporations would be prohibited. Personal use of campaign funds and donating them to other legislative candidates would be disallowed. All gifts from lobbyists except light refreshments of minimal value would be prohibited, and former legislators could not become paid lobbyists for two years.

.Ethical Government—Continued on page 8...

**INTRODUCE
YOURSELF
TO
NEW
MEMBERS:**

***Make a
New Friend***

**WELCOME!
NEW MEMBERS—May 2009**

HEATHER BENNETT, 801-363-1355, Cell 801-809-9542,
heatherbennett@xmission.com
909So 8th East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Heather grew up in Salt Lake and graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in English Literature. She did editing for publishers for a bit but now is the Editor of a Consulting business and does editing for individuals with manuscripts requiring editing. Heather is on the Salt Lake City Board of Education. She has several friends in the League and appreciates the newsletter. In her spare time she enjoys reading and biking.

JENNIFER JOLLEY, 801-583-7074, jenniferjolley@gmail.com
2224 Blaine Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Jennifer is a native of Salt Lake. She served as an intern for House Minority Leader Frank Pignanelli and the Workers Compensation Task Force. She was on the Utah Board of Juvenile Justice for 12 years. She is a member of the board of Utah's Challenge to Do the Write Thing, a national violence prevention initiative for middle school students. Jennifer worked on the campaign staff of Cong. Bill Orton and has been a treasurer for the SL County Democratic party. She is currently a Vice President of Zions Bancorporation.

JANET FRASIER, 801-541-3122, janet@umnh.utah.edu
1581 S 1300 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Originally from Southern California, Janet has a degree in English Literature from UCLA. A job in Sales and Marketing in the Computer Industry brought her to Utah. She is now the Director of Marketing for the Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Utah. Kathy Biele convinced her she needed to join the League and she feels strongly that the League helps people understand the political process. She feels the need for transparency is greater now than ever.

DENISE BEGUE, 801-918-0333, Bus – 801-323-6919,
denisebeque@mac.com
678 5th Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Denise grew up in Atlanta and came west for adventure. She has a BA in English from the University of Georgia, a BS in Psychology from the University of Utah and a Masters in Business from Westminster. She worked for Utah Opera for a while but for the past six years she has been the Development Director for Ballet West. Her husband is a sculptor and woodworker and they are naturally drawn to the arts. In her spare time Denise enjoys tennis, swimming and hiking.

Continued on next page...

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displayed gives more
information about
membership
OR
donations.**

**Be sure to press the
SUBMIT
Button.**

**The “Next” screen
asks for your credit
card information on
a secure web page.**

New Members—continued....

DEBORAH FEDER, 801-364-3856, selkiedog@gmail.com
354 S 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Originally from Niagara Falls, NY Deborah has been in Salt Lake for 22 years. She got a BA in Anthropology from Columbia and an MA in Applied Linguistics from Columbia Teachers College and also a degree from Berkeley in Applied Linguistics. She will graduate from the University of Utah Law School in May. She now works at the Innocence Center and enjoys working for Non Profits. Deborah enjoys hiking and writing fiction.

GERALYN DREYFOUS, 801-560-8224, gdreyfous@comcast.net
2233 Fairdown Ave, Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Geralynn grew up in Haverhill, Mass and attended Harvard University where she got a BA in Political Science. After college she worked at the Kennedy School of Government. She started the Philanthropic Initiative in Boston and has continued with it in Salt Lake. This is an entity which helps families with wealth align their wealth with charities matching their social values. Geralynn believes democracy need to be re-invented. In her spare time she likes to hike, watch movies and read books.

JOANN SVIKHART, 801-281-5785, eghart@msn.com
670 E 4129 So, Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Originally from Illinois, Joann moved to Utah in 1981. She took a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois and did graduate work at Northwestern. She taught school in San Francisco and in the northwestern suburbs of Chicago. In Salt Lake Joann volunteered many hours for the Utah Symphony and ended up as the Associate Director of Development of the Symphony. She started the Planned Giving Society for the symphony. She enjoys reading, is active in her church and in PEO – an international organization for women with a focus on education for women.

KATHIE MILLER, 801-487-7788, kmiller@markmiller.com
3113 Carrigan Canyon, Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Kathie grew up in Ogden and has lived in Salt Lake for 40 years. After receiving a degree in English from Utah State, she taught Remedial English in Jordan Junior High for five years. She gave up teaching to raise a family and to help her husband with his new car dealership. In the past she has been active in Utahns for Choice which is now Planned Parenthood Political Action Council. In her spare time Kathie enjoys golf.

ELLEN MAYCOCK, 801-487-9271, 801-531-7090,
emaycock@kimrlaw.com
2735 E Aspen Circle, Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Ellen grew up all over the country as her father was an engineer who was frequently re-located. She took a BA and went to Law School at the University of Utah. After becoming a lawyer Ellen worked at Snow, Christiansen and Martineau but left there to start a new law firm Kruse, Landa and Maycock which is where she now practices. Ellen feels that re-districting is the only thing that is going to change the Legislature. In her spare time she enjoys gardening.

Phyllis Frankel & Margo Thurman, Membership Co-Chairs

The League of Women Voters thanks BandCon for their generous contribution of Web Hosting & Database Services



**Ari Benowitz,
CEO**

Ethical Government—continued from page 5....

Citing public concern about legislative ethics and inaction on the part of the legislature, UEG representatives asked Utahns to join in the effort to demand responsible behavior from their legislators. "The Utah State Legislature's failure to enact meaningful ethics reform and to effectively monitor its members necessitates action from the public," said Kim Burningham, a former Republican legislator.

A group of active supporters, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, including former legislators attended the launch. "Utahns from all walks of life are concerned about this issue", said David Irvine, another former Republican legislator. "The time is now for citizens to step forward and address the lapses in legislative behavior that are demeaning our democratic form of government."

"Additional impetus for the initiative came after former-Governor Huntsman, in response to a request from legislative leaders, withdrew ethics reform from the issues to be addressed by his Commission on Strengthening Democracy," Burningham noted.

In addition to Burningham and Irvine, also providing remarks were Chase Peterson, former President of the University of Utah, and representing the Citizens' Council; Karen Hale, former Democratic State Senator, and Rob Ence, AARP Utah State Director.

The initiative petition was delivered to the Lieutenant Governor's Office for review and will then go to the legislature's budget office to determine a fiscal note. Seven public hearings will then be held statewide, probably in late September to inform Utahns about the effort. At the completion of the hearings, the initiative petition will begin circulating throughout the state. More than 100,000 signatures will be sought to ensure that the initiative will be placed on the ballot for the 2010 general election.

It was exciting to be on the Capitol steps and hear details of the initiative and answers to questions from the media. Public opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of Utahns supports many of the initiative provisions. And as Senator Hale said, although most legislators show exemplary conduct, the initiative would restrain unethical practices by the few who do not. This would be good for the legislature as a body, making them more accountable to and respected by voters.

Should the League support the initiative? Please check out initiative highlights, a list of initial UEG supporters, as well as the full text of the initiative and other aspects of the code of ethical conduct at www.utahethics.org

Sandy Peck, Executive Director

*This article is based on a press release from Utahns for Ethical Government

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SALT LAKE CALENDAR August—November, 2009	
<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p> <p>05 SL BOARD Meeting 05 SL August VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to both VOTER Editors 08 UT BOARD—Calendar Mtg. 19 Legislative Interim Meetings at Capitol 26 Women's Equality Day</p> <p>August 26 of each year is designated in the United States as Women's Equality Day. Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and first established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER Unit Topic: REDISTRICTING</p> <p>02 SL BOARD Meeting 02 SL (& UT) September VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to both VOTER Editors 07 Labor Day 11 Patriot Day 15 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY 16 Legislative Interim Meetings at Capitol 17 Constitution Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER Unit Topic: WATER</p> <p>1-2 UEA Booth 03 Fall Fete 3-5 p.m. at Home of Nannette Benowitz 07 SL BOARD Meeting 07 SL October VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to both VOTER Editors 12 Columbus Day 14 General Meeting for All Jeff Niermeyer, Speaker on Climate & Water 21 Legislative Interim Meetings at Capitol</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER Unit topic: WATER / ELECTION LAWS</p> <p>03 GENERAL ELECTION DAY 04 SL BOARD Meeting 04 SL November VOTER Material—Deadline Emailed to both VOTER Editors 11 Veteran's Day 18 Legislative Interim Meetings 26 Thanksgiving</p>

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**League of Women Voters
of Salt Lake**
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Salt Lake City, UT 84106
(801) 272-8683, www.lwvutah.org

SALT LAKE VOTER

AUGUST 2009

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September Unit Meeting Schedule **Mark your Calendar!**

Topic: Redistricting

We have 4 units meeting at the following locations.
You are welcome to attend any of these units as the subject matter is the same for all.

Nite Owls ~ Monday, September 21, 7:30pm

862 E Harrison (1375 S)

Judi Short, Unit Leader 801-487-7387 judi.short@gmail.com **NB: new email**

Bench Bunch ~ Wednesday, September 23, 9:30am

LWV Office

CarolynDunn, Unit Leader --- 801-278-9409

Girl Scout Unit ~ Monday, September 28, 11:00 am

Girl Scout Headquarters 445 E 4500 S

Anne Ziegler, Unit Leader --- 801 944-4163 aziegler@xmission.com

Library Unit ~ Thursday, September 24, Noon [BR / LUNCH: 11:00 at Les Madeleines, 216E. 500S.]

Main Library 200 E 400 S

Joyce Barnes, Unit Leader 801-278-2296 jbarnz@xmission.com

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.