

Memories of the League of Women Voters from current lifetime member, Betty Leslie

I had come to Idaho originally to teach Dental Hygiene at Idaho State University (ISU)...where I met my George who had been teaching Mathematics at ISU. I started attending LWV meetings in Pocatello the year our daughter was born...because they had child care available. Pocatello was an active legislative district, and I remember participating in candidate forums and voter registration. I joined that league in May of 1973.



Younger members of league may not recognize the names, but I met Sally Gibson there, along with Sallee Gasser, and then Joy Meyer and Judy Thomas. At that time, interest was high in the Equal Rights Amendment issue.

I become a member of the LWVID Board under Joy Meyer and Judy Thomas during their presidencies and served as secretary during their terms—using the League's electric typewriter(a precursor to all our latest electronic communication) for correspondence, minutes and other documents.

Our family moved to Troy in the early 1980's (we had been coming up to help farm a homestead there during the summers) and in 1981 we built a new home on the farm.

I had done a lot of volunteer work with the Troy Elementary School Library while my daughter attended schools in Troy, but I worked primarily as a dental hygienist in Moscow. I also did some substitute work in the county libraries.

I met Susie Matsuura from Blackfoot, Zoe Cooley's daughter (Zoe is the one who had originally urged me to run for the library board). At that time, it was a county board but it subsequently merged with the Moscow Public Library to become the current Latah County Library District. Supporting these merger activities was an interesting time for me.

I attended the LWV Moscow meetings at the UI about the time that the Roe v. Wade issue was being considered, and here we are 50 years later! I remember traveling to Boise, Idaho Falls and McCall for various state board and other meetings with Gladys Bellinger, Pat Scott and Louise Regelin. (At the time I took the bus from the old bus station across from Gritman for various winter meetings of the board.) Elinor Chehey (Boise) was busy with legislative activities even back then! I recall League being active in the initial study of Reapportionment.

One year I traveled to Albuquerque for a LWVUS workshop on changing the focus of how women were participating in League. They called it a *Paradigm Shift* to using talents in smaller bites to fit Women's workforce scene (as compared to the earlier women having larger bites of time as 'homemakers')

I've enjoyed the various educational noon meetings here in Moscow, as well as working with these LWVM members many years ago:

- Kathleen Warnick and her education funding activities. She was a LWVID board member at the time who studied school finance, and became so expert in the study area that the publication *Paying for Idaho's Public Schools* (1983), was used by legislators and departments in the state government for advice and testimony for many years.
- Katrina Berman with her interest and work on water studies, the Northwest Power Planning Council, and Snake River Adjudication. She served on the LWVID Board as well.
- Elaine Broyles starting up the studies for Moscow's School Age Child Care, and After School Activities for Youth. In addition, Elaine served as treasurer, and I remember our members personally visiting local businesses for funding to support our League (our original Finance Drives).
- Joanne Trail was busy with membership and the Moscow Welcome Wagon. One can never forget packing the Pea and Lentil boxes with Janet Fiske! I also remember the wonderful Winifred Dixon! Many of these members served as president of the LWVM.

Participation in Mock Election on a countywide basis gave me a chance to work with Dick Fredericks. Of course, Murf Raquet and Susan Ripley working as a team organizing these Mock Elections cannot be beat! I also enjoyed working as a poll worker during Latah County election activities in both Troy and Moscow.

I still drive donations from Winco Foods to the Troy Food Bank each week and have enjoyed working on quilt construction for World Relief with the Troy Lutheran Church.

Being a lifetime member of the League and procuring my certificate and letter from the LWVUS president seems a bit overwhelming--in retrospect of all the League has given to me!