



Grand County League of Women Voters 2018-2019 Presidents Report

Grand County LWV is currently 72 members strong and enjoyed a busy year with elections, citizen initiatives and voter registration as well as our regular unit meetings.

Our first order of business fall 2018 was hosting a Candidates Forum on September 24. Positions for Grand County School Board, County Attorney and three County Council seats were on the November 2018 ballot. The forum also provided an opportunity to educate voters about the various ballot issues.

The passage of HB 224 caused a great deal of confusion among residents of Grand County, as it will be required to change the form of government and adopt an approved form as mandated by the state. LWV took on the task of educating and clarifying the issue and identifying a path forward that insures residents have a say in the outcome.

Six LWV members worked diligently in 2018 with Better Boundaries, carrying petitions in support of the redistricting initiative. LWV provided education materials and presented a program to help voters understand the intent of this initiative. GC LWV supports the move to improve the electoral process for all Utah voters and insure fair and equitable redistricting.

Environmental issues are of concern to Grand County LWV members. Vice President Darcey Brown organized two outstanding programs.

Our December meeting featured the Grand County High School debate team. This is the third year we've hosted the team, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for them to practice their skills and gives us an opportunity to connect them with LWV mission and platform. The team researched and debated carbon taxes. The students were joined by Jack Green and David Ryser of Salt Lake Citizens Climate Lobby. We are pleased that this event motivated several audience members and students to form a chapter of CCL in Grand County!

The March unit meeting presented "Recycling Realities" to a standing room only crowd. Vice President Darcey Brown arranged for a panel of experts to speak about issues, concerns, and success stories around recycling. Kate Baily of Boulder's Eco Cycle Company explained the challenges of single stream recycling and finding places to send our materials as China is less willing to take our waste. She talked about the need to tackle the problem on the consumer end. She applauded Moab's recent implementation of a plastic bag ban.

Renewology is an environmental company with a plant in Salt Lake. Spokesperson Grace Szczepaniak described how the company has developed a process that converts plastics to fuel. She explained that the company is motivated by disturbing amounts of plastics that turn up in our oceans and their process can reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our precious waters.

We will end our meeting calendar with the annual business meeting and board retreat in May. We will elect new officers and craft our program calendar for 2019-2020. Our focus for the coming year: voter registration, the 2020 census count and diversifying our membership. Plans include "outreach" to USU students, local civic groups and the Moab Multicultural Center.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Lacy President Grand County League of Women Voters