



# *The Bozeman Voter*

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Bozeman Area

September, 2020

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

**Rosanne Nash**

I hope everyone had a good summer. With fall fast approaching, it is time to get moving on our League activities again.

Faye Boom, Gerrie Beck and I have been working on a Voter Guide for the fall elections. It will be an insert in the Bozeman Chronicle in early October and it will be available online. Sally Maison is working with the Bozeman Professional Women, the Bozeman Library, the Belgrade Library and AAUW to conduct local candidate forums online in early October. Sally is also working with the Montana State League on candidate forums for the Montana Secretary of State race and the Montana Supreme Court race. All of the Montana Leagues will be advocating for the safety and security of the all mail ballot election.

In addition to the fall election activities, our League has a very active Observer Corps that attends City Commission and County Commission meetings either in person or online. You can contact Marilyn Klein ([Mjk22747@gmail.com](mailto:Mjk22747@gmail.com)) if you would like to be a member of the Observer Corps. Gerrie Beck has led the local effort to encourage Steve Daines to support the extension of the ERA ratification deadline. She has a few yard signs still available and an ongoing postcard campaign.

We will have an in person meeting on Sept. 14 at the Bozeman Ponds Park pavilion. This will be a general membership meeting where we will discuss the fall elections and other activities in more detail. We are looking for member ideas for future programs and projects. Jan Benham has lots of program ideas for the year but she is always looking for more.

I look forward to seeing you on Sept. 14.

## **September 14 Meeting**

**Rosanne Nash**

We hope everyone has enjoyed our Montana summer and is ready to get involved in League activities again. The Bozeman League will be meeting once in Sept. on Monday the 14th at noon. We are going to take advantage of the late summer weather and meet in person at the Bozeman Ponds Park pavilion. The Bozeman Ponds Park address is 550 South Fowler Ave. It is located directly behind Owenhouse Ace Hardware and Rocky Mountain Credit Union on west Main. We ask that you bring a mask to wear while getting setup or when it is difficult to stay 6 feet apart. There are picnic tables at the pavilion but you might be more comfortable if you brought your own lawn chair. The pavilion is large enough that everyone will be able to sit 6 feet apart while being out of the sun or rain. Bring your lunch and something to drink. This meeting is going to be a general membership meeting where we will talk about the fall elections and current League projects. We are looking for membership input on future projects and program ideas. This will probably be our only in person meeting for some time so please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

## **ZOOM MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 8**

Kristen Walser spoke to the LWV via Zoom on June 8, about facing climate change. She is with the Montana Citizen's Climate Lobby. Her interest was aroused about changes in climate in 1988. By 2007-08 the beetle kill in our forests focused her concern more. She wanted future generations to be able to enjoy those forests. She started changes in her own

life with a solar panel. In 2013 she organized the Climate Lobby.

The Lobby is a nonpartisan organization with 180,000 members. It is solutions focused. It is respectful of other people's ideas even if they don't agree with those of the Lobby. They concentrate on this one concern. She said that they are similar to the LWV in that they believe that democracy is the solution to climate change. She outlined the obstacles and solutions to their work.

The Lobby's goal is to cut emissions by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. She did a quick poll asking what is the most important solution to address climate change? This was a multiple choice question. Most of the interest from members was in energy efficiency, buying energy efficient appliances. Electrify everything, buildings, transportation, renewables, energy storage. Electricity grids need to be updated. More innovation with emerging technologies is required. Carbon storage in plants and soil is needed. She said that we need to prevent deforestation. Keep the trees to store carbon. Regeneration agriculture is the future.

Northwest utilities can save up to \$11 billion by upgrading the electrical grid and integrating with California. The cost of building large wind farms has declined more than 40% in the last 10 years. Solar development costs have dropped 80% since 2010. This improvement is more than was anticipated when it began. Carbon pricing makes other options look cheaper and should influence utilities to change their methods.

Obstacles to change are its cost and the polarization in Congress and in the country. The existing divergent ideas about what needs to be done is hard to change. How can that gap be bridged? A poll on these issues revealed that we need policies to reduce greenhouse emissions. Auto emission standards are needed. We lack the political will to act.

Walser asked what makes good climate solutions? We need to act quickly to stop CO2 emissions from fossil fuels. We need to work on a large scale. Incentives should be used to modify behavior. Policies need to be fair. They can't hurt the most vulnerable. Congress needs to approve solutions.

She then discussed the price on carbon and the return of revenues to households. If implemented the producer of fossil fuels will be charged a fee at their source. Then 100% of net revenue will be returned to households as a dividend. This is a progressive policy and it could work. 3,500 or more economists support this policy. Walser said that it is effective, it is simple and comprehensive and it works.

The cheapest source of energy today is natural gas. Costing it at \$60 per metric ton of carbon produced would incentive change. HR 763, the Carbon Dividend Act was introduced in the House in Congress with 80 cosponsors. The Climate Lobby supports its introduction in the Senate. This policy has more support than any other approach. The charge for carbon starts at \$15 per metric ton and increases every year. It is effective, provides incentive to innovate and applies economy wide. It is fair and lowers pollution and improves health.

Imported goods will pay a carbon adjustment and goods exported from the US will receive a refund. This will protect American jobs. It will create jobs, is popular and is revenue neutral. There will be a return of 10% of net revenue to families. There will be a limited adjustment of regulations on carbon emissions. This will prevent additional regulations on carbon. Polarization is reduced due to bipartisan support.

The LWVUS supports carbon pricing, but not any specific method. How can the rebate be made? COVID19 has helped us to learn how to accomplish this. It's easy to administer and everyone gets the same amount. It will help low income people.

In Congress the climate solutions caucus changes with each election cycle. The house bill has helped to organize their efforts. A Senate bill was introduced. There is a senate climate change caucus to work on it.

The Citizen's Climate Lobby works to build political will by educating legislators. Walsler ended her presentation by asking what we as League members can do. She is hoping that the LWVUS will support this effort. She encouraged us to write to Congress members in support of this legislation.

### **Free Recorded LWV Webinar Answers Questions about Montana's Political Future - August 20, 2020**

Dear League of Women Voters Member:

Could Montana gain a second seat in the House of Representatives after the 2020 census? How will Montana determine congressional and legislative district boundaries? The answers to these questions and much more about the redistricting process in Montana can be found in this free recorded YouTube webinar. If you missed the August 20th League of Women Voters event with Dr. Peter Miller, the recorded version is now available.

“A Second Congressional Seat for Montana? Redistricting after the 2020 Census”

A link to the recorded webinar can be found on the League of Women Voters Montana website, or by going to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNk3I4raE\\_w&t=402s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNk3I4raE_w&t=402s)

Dr. Peter Miller, a researcher for the Brennan Center for Justice who grew up in Billings, presents an in-depth explanation of the census, apportionment and redistricting, followed by a panel discussion of audience questions with three of Montana's Districting and Apportionment

Commission members. This free webinar is sponsored by the League of Women Voters Montana and hosted by the Brennan Center for Justice.

I encourage you to watch this free recording at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Leifer  
President, League of Women Voters  
Montana

### **Preview YouTube video Could Montana Gain a Second Congressional Seat?: Redistricting After the 2020 Census**



### **OBSERVER CORPS**

Judi Maloney

County Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 4

The meeting lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, which I attended “virtually”. Commissioner MacFarlane was absent.

There were 4 regular agenda items, 3 of which generated interesting discussion and public comment:

Public Hearing on the FY 2021 Preliminary Budget, presented by Justine Swanson, Finance Director. Presentations by department heads making additional requests to be put on the record for the budget process.

Second, Public Hearing and Decision of First Reading of an Ordinance Prohibiting Parking on Willow Way, which was introduced by Sean Bowen, Deputy County Attorney. This street is near the campus and residents described issues

with year-round parking, but particularly on game days. Residents have been working with MSU University Police and county officials to resolve this ongoing issue with safety and destruction of property. There are “no parking” signs, but these are not being honored. Residents are asking for an ordinance (including a fine) to be established. The first reading was approved. The second reading will be held on 8-18-20 and, if approved, the ordinance will go into effect on 9-17-20. The third item that generated much discussion was the Public Hearing and Decision on a request for a Family Transfer Exemption from Subdivision Review for Donovan (Unzoned). Presentation by Regan Fruh, County Planner. Discussion included public comment/support of Sally Donovan, who was requesting transfer of parcels of her land into the names of her 2 children, all of whom were questioned by the Commissioners. The request was approved.

### **WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE AND ERA RALLY Faye Boom**

About 35 women, mostly from the Helena League, convened at the State Capitol on Tuesday, August 18. The purpose was two-fold, to honor the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment granting the right of women to vote, and to press for the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment into the U. S. Constitution. The required number of states have ratified the ERA but the national archivist will not add it to the Constitution because of the deadline passed by Congress in 1982. We are asking Sen. Daines to vote for the repeal of that deadline. Sen. Tester is co-sponsoring the bill to repeal and the House has already passed such a measure. Gov. Bullock has also intervened in a lawsuit to get the ERA into the Constitution, holding that there is no provision in the Constitution for Congress to impose a deadline.

Most of the women present wore white to honor the early suffragists. We met in the Rotunda of the Capitol to hear Lt. Gov. Cooney speak. Legal Counsel for Gov. Bullock, Raph Graybill, also spoke, after which we gathered to place yellow roses at the feet of the statue of Jeanette Rankin. From there we all went outside for a socially distanced, masked, walk around the Capitol with banners and signs proclaiming “Equal Rights Amendment Its Time” .

### **ERA NEWS**

**Gerrie Beck**

#### **LWV Book Group**

The book for September is *Queen Noor* and the discussion will be led by Gail. All are welcome to participate whether you read the book or not. We will meet at noon on Wednesday September 23, 2020, in the park off Fowler St. We had to change the day we meet for this year. Bring your own chair and lunch. If it is raining, we can probably go under the pavilion.

#### **ERA 2020**

As most of you know, the Montana LWV is working to encourage our senators to support the ERA when/if it come up for a vote this year. We have placed 100 ERA yard signs around Bozeman and 3 other major cities in Montana. We also have a postcard campaign which is detailed on the website. You can order a postcard kit on the Montana LWV website,

<<https://my.lwv.org/montana-league-women-voters/lady-liberty-era-postcard-kit>>

We are asking all Montana LWV members to send a postcard to Senator Tester and Senator Daines. The cards are preaddressed and there are a few sample talking points with the directions which can be found on the website.

#### **The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Expanding the Arc of Suffrage**

The Bozeman LWV has been a collaborator with numerous other groups in Bozeman to present a panel discussion of the history of Women’s Suffrage and where the issue of women’s equality stands today. This has been postponed from March 26 to September 19 and will be a zoom presentation. You will receive a link to the zoom meeting.

#### **Equal Means Equal**

The landmark film *Equal Means Equal* was shown live on August 26 as a part of the Bozeman Film Festival. It will be followed by a panel discussion about Women’s Equality issues and the need for the passage of the ERA on September 9, 2020 at 7 PM. The Montana and Bozeman LWV contributed to the cost of buying the film and presenting the panel discussion. The Bozeman Film Festival has generously offered this film free to the public. It will be available to view until September 9, 2020. The link for this film is :

<<https://www.bozemanarts-live.com47/equal-means-equal-broadcast>>

## Candidate's forums

### Sally Maison

Hi All, Here is the line-up for candidate forums for the fall:

State LWV Forum - October 1, noon to 1:00. This forum will take place virtually from the state legislature. It'll be broadcast by Legislative Services and we will send you more details when we have them.

The race is Supreme Court Justice and the candidates are: Laurie McKinnon and Mike Black.

Local Forums - They will all be by Zoom and we will alert you about how to log on. The time for each is 6:30-8:30

Sponsors: LWV, BPW, Bozeman and Belgrade Library and AAUW

Here's the line-up:

October 6 - House District 62 - Francis Wendt and Ed Stafman

House District 63 - Alice Buckley and Bryan Haysom

House District 64 - Doug Campbell, Jane Gillette, Brian Popiel  
Moderator: Sally Maison

October 7 - Senate District 31 - Christopher Pope and Nick Allevato

House District 65 - Jolene Crum and Kelley Fortum

House District 67 - Colette Campbell, Jedediah Hinkle and Andrew Schaefer

Moderator: Melissa Herron - BPW

October 12 - County Commission - Zack Brown and Carter Atkinson

PSC - Tom Woods and James Brown

October 13 - Ballot Issues

Moderator: Melissa Herron

Please, please join us. You will be able to ask questions or send in questions for the moderator to ask.

These are difficult times with

COVID. Clearly this is a new way to do a forum and we need all of you to help us make it a success.

## VOTER GIRL PROJECT

### Charlene Krygier

Members of both the Montana and Wyoming LWV have met via Zoom with representatives of the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming to plan workshops for scouts to help them earn their citizenship badges. The committee has decided to examine the licensed program created by the Kent, Ohio LWV. The Ohio half day programs offer activities developed for all six age levels of Girl Scouts. Other Leagues across the country have adopted it.

The committee, which includes Gerri Beck, Jan Benham, and Jan Young from Bozeman, is focusing on teaching the girls about the history of the suffragist movement and instilling in the girls enthusiasm for the power of the vote. The scouts will learn how to register to vote, take part in mock elections and at the end of the workshop, will receive their citizenship badges. This is a great opportunity for League members to showcase our great organization and maybe recruit new members from the ranks of the Girl Scout leaders and, when the scouts come of age, to encourage them to join League.

Due to the pandemic, the committee has tabled specific plans and will meet virtually again in December. Although discussion has included offering the program in a remote learning format, our hope is to hold in-person workshops when it is safe.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Priscilla Dysart

Checking Account	\$3,747.17
Savings Account	8,425.97
LWV Education Fund	<u>263.18</u>
Total Assets 8/31/2020	\$12,436.32

### 2020 Fund Drive

Fund Drive	\$1,690.00
Education Fund	<u>550.00</u>
Total	\$2,240.00

### October Membership Cycle

Members whose dues are due in October will receive an email reminder. Members can pay their dues (\$50) at the meeting on Monday, September 14 or mail a check to LWV, P.O. Box 371, Bozeman MT 59771.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
**OF THE BOZEMAN AREA**  
731 S. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59715

## **THE BOZEMAN VOTER**

### **September, 2020**

- Mon. Sept. 14      Noon – 1 p.m. Socially distanced meeting in Bozeman Ponds Park pavilion. General meeting to discuss programming for the year. Bring your lunch and a chair.  
1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Bozeman LWV board meeting
- Wed. Sept. 23      Noon, Book discussion of “Queen Noor”, at park off Fowler St. Gail Dillaway will lead the discussion.

### **October, 2020**

- Thurs. Oct. 1      Noon – 1 p.m. LWVMT virtual candidate forum for Supreme Court Justice candidates.
- Tue. Oct. 6      6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom candidate forum for House Districts 62, 63 & 64 legislative candidates.
- Wed. Oct. 7      6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom candidate forum for House Districts 65 & 67 and Senate District 31.
- Mon. Oct. 12      Noon – 1p.m. Zoom Meeting, Tonya Andreasen, City of Bozeman Housing Manager will speak about the city’s affordable housing plans.  
1 – 2 p.m. Bozeman LWV Board meeting
- Mon. Oct. 12      6:30 -830 p.m. Zoom candidate forum for County Commission candidates and Public Service Commission candidates.
- Tue. Oct. 13      6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom ballot issues forum.
- Mon. Oct. 26      TBA