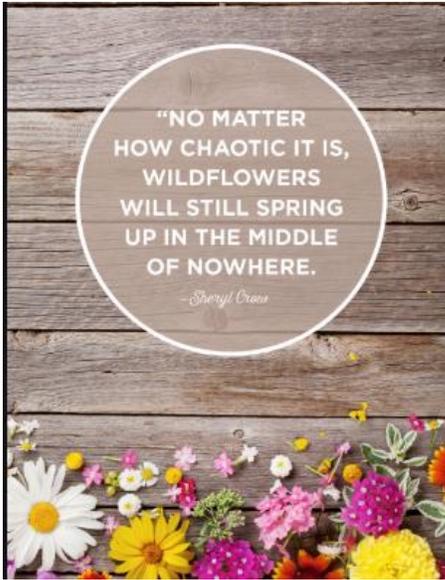


## Special Edition 2020

June 9, 2020



### A message from our President - Terri McCulloch

As most of us can say, this has been a stressful and strange year to say the least. From COVID-19 to earthquakes to violence, riots, lootings, and unnecessary deaths – the year 2020 will be forever etched into history. When everything shut down in March, I made the decision that we would do the same as a League and not jeopardize any of our members. It was also necessary that we focus on family and a new way of doing our daily activities. I have to say I was in a bit of a panic

when those of us deemed as essential workers were sent home and Hill AFB was a ghost town. Some of us have returned to work but things are was a ghost town. Some of us have returned to work but things are much different.

The League has been affected at all three levels – national, state, and local. Both national and state convention have or will be done virtually. We haven't been able to have any face to face meetings on many topics. Everything is being done by e-mail or zoom. The state has continued to function but at a lower level than normal. We are going to look at the situation at the end of June and determine if we could hold an annual meeting and planning meeting somewhere or if we need to do it with technology. I have found virtual meetings to be less conducive to real discussion, sometimes hard to maneuver, and difficult to follow. With time, I am sure this will improve. It will be important to make sure our membership knows how to maneuver through online

meetings so we can get good participation. The major pro has been that many more people are able to participate. How this looks is a decision I feel strongly should be made by the membership

Part of our success is our camaraderie and working together, and it is highly likely that we will have to do all or part of this by technology. Meeting places may have to change. Debates may not be a possibility. It is my hope that we can at least find somewhere where we could cater lunch and get Weber's business taken care of while still maintaining social distancing and sanitation. Communication will be different and we will rely on our website, newsletters and e-mails to keep people involved.

In my almost 63 years, I have never seen a situation like this and the League has never been impacted so much. What impresses me is that both national and state have moved quickly to make sure our work doesn't stop. Members of the legislative corps will be "attending" virtually, but the involvement will go on. The League is far too influential and

important to let it fade away, and we will be committed to stay involved in Weber County. How that will look will have to be determined as we move forward. My biggest concern is that our actual presence in the community will be limited and the impact totally different. Again, we will figure this out.

Please continue to be safe and take care of your family – they come first. We will keep you posted on how the annual and planning meeting will be accomplished in the near future. This situation has definitely taught me that communities and groups can pull together and support each other. Please never hesitate to reach out to me or any other member should you need help or support for anything. Most of Utah has handled this like the great citizens we are!

## The world will be forever changed!



The recent turn of events for the world has forced people to adapt to the use of technology in order to communicate and work. If this had happened 20 years ago, the picture would be much different. More people are working from

home, conducting meetings online, and communicating with others around the world. This means we can conduct any type of business at any time any place.

### **This access provides many benefits:**

- Flexible schedule
- Comfortable Clothes
- Control over environment
- Zero Commuting
- No office distractions
- Save money
- Decrease pollution
- No crowds or traffic

### **At the same time, there are some downfalls to having constant access:**

- Willpower to do what is needed
- Trying to stick to a routine
- Eating too much
- Boredom
- Bad internet connection
- No energy from fellow workers
- No real personal interaction
- Family distractions

Most industries will change to a different model of operations. Manufacturing will have more robotic work with programming and monitoring outside of an office. Shopping will move to online transactions. Much of education will be conducted via online classrooms. Malls and shopping centers will disappear along with many types of entertainment. Contact with family members far away will increase. While this pathway was in process prior to the recent events,

the virus has forced people to change and adapt to a different way of doing things very quickly and abruptly. This should be an interesting time for us all.

## Utah Alliance for the Determinants of Health

Back in April of this year, the Weber League sponsored a meeting explaining what Weber County is doing as part of the Utah Alliance for the Determinants of Health. Angela Choberka, league member and city council representative, is spearheading this project in our community.

The website quotes “Emerging evidence indicates that addressing key primary social determinants of health—including housing instability, utility needs, food insecurity, interpersonal violence, and transportation needs—can improve our well-being while lowering healthcare costs and making healthcare more affordable.” This concept intertwines with the project on intergenerational poverty, homeless services, schools, and all agencies working toward improving society. There are two pilot programs in Utah – one in Weber County and one in Washington County.

Angela explained that there can be as much as 10 years life expectancy difference in cities located in the same geographic area. This is caused by education, poverty level, and

household income. Statistics show that the lack of high school or college education and working at minimum wage jobs causing families to live in poverty help to differentiate between longer and shorter life expectancies. A person's make up contributing to longer and more enjoyable lives include 30% genetics, 10% health care, 20% social/environmental factors, and 40% individual behaviors. The last two make up 60% of things that affect lives. Those two things are all within a person's grasp to control. Currently, medical services make up about 90% leaving 10% to focus on healthy behaviors.

Primary social determinants consist of Interpersonal violence, food insecurity, utility needs, housing instability, and transportation. Where a person stands in each of these areas determines a person's ability to live healthy lives. Secondary determinants include education, family and social support, income and employment, and healthy behaviors are not basic needs but are what helps a person to realize their full potential. Developing these areas instead of relying on health care services is key to improving life.

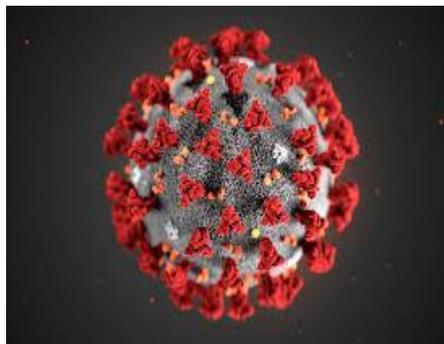
This organization has community health workers that screen at risk people for where they stand in the spectrum and provide help through local services – mental health, housing, meeting basic needs – and work with many

agencies in Weber County to tie services together.

It is exciting to see how the services that provide help in our community have ways of tying in together to help people that are at risk. It is very refreshing to see this becoming a pattern. As a physician once said, "I don't have problem patients, I have patients with problems." Addressing these will decrease health care costs and help promote positive lives.



## Members Corner



**We asked our Weber County LWV...** "What have you been catching up on during the pandemic?" or "How have you been spending your time during the pandemic?"

*"I have been busy, but I have plans of getting all these extra things done like getting my kitchen cabinets*

*clean. Guess I will do it tomorrow"*.

~ Lou Shurtliff

*"I am a homebody so staying home is not hard. My husband and I do have a few best friends (if you can call a store a best friend) such as Home Depot and Lowe's. Our yard is beautiful this year. Long awaited outside projects are finished, flowers have been planted everywhere, another little deck built, trees trimmed, and on and on. I have read at least 15 books, and cleaned every closet and straightened out items in our barn. Very productive time. We will self quarantine through June and see how we feel about venturing out in July but will more than likely continue ordering take out all summer. No big trips, no large social gatherings, and no shopping other than grocery, gardening, and project supplies and always will wear a mask when going out. Stay safe everyone".* ~ Carole Lapine

*"You don't want to know!"*  
~ Marcia Harris

*"At home I have been gardening, painting and walking with friends. Here*

*in So Utah, we spent a day in Zion Park on our bikes peddling the canyon. We're going to try to "do" N. Rim Gnd Canyon and Bryce before returning to Ogden. Folks are pretty casual about virus protections down state so I wonder how that will all play out. The only foreigners are folks from Calif. who are so happy to be here. Staying at Carmel Junction, a nifty air&b".*

*~Roberta Glidden*

## Utah's Transition to Clean Energy Study Executive Summary



The purpose of this informational study is to educate our members about the urgency of reducing fossil-fuel consumption

Climate change is upon us. In Utah, the climate has warmed 3 degrees F greater than national and global averages. It's not too late to mitigate the worst suffering

non action will entail, but the time is now. Experts say a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 are necessary to reduce climate damage. Utah has the motivation and the potential to benefit from clean energy. Motivation, because greenhouse gases contribute to the year-round air pollution that threatens Utah's economy and residents' health. Potential, because Utah's abundant solar and geothermal resources offer substantial clean-energy options; the state's superior outdoor environment attracts the workforce needed to problem-solve this transition; the natural beauty of many rural areas encourages tourism and outdoor recreation as alternatives to fossil-energy jobs. Utah's political will, however, has not caught up to its geophysical potential, although we see progress. Significantly, the 2019 Legislature appropriated \$200K for an air-pollution/climate-change study from the Kem Gardner Institute; The Utah Roadmap was presented in January 2020. But a 2020 bill supporting the Roadmap did not move out of the House Rules Committee, aptly depicting the challenges this topic faces. Rivalling the Roadmap in importance was HB 411, a 2019 bill passed by the Legislature that allowed communities to contract with Rocky Mountain Power for clean electricity. Twenty-four communities joined this effort, with a goal to create net 100 percent renewable-energy portfolios by 2030. Legislation

and government grants are also currently targeting a just economic transition for rural Utah, especially in counties whose lifeblood is coal. Assistance in education, job training, infrastructure, and connectivity are at the forefront of this effort. Real estate developers, the military, financial institutions, and colleges and universities are all moving forward with policies and projects that address GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions in varying degrees. Our higher education system, along with our growing technology industry, are fonts for innovative research on topics such as electric grid flexibility, battery storage, biogas, and sequestration. Nevertheless, significant challenges exist. Governor Herbert's 2020 budget offered \$100M for clean energy bills, yet only \$10M was funded, and the majority of clean energy / climate change bills failed. Particularly challenging to a clean energy transition is the proposed Inland Port, in Salt Lake City, which analysts say will exacerbate air quality issues in the Wasatch Valley and encourage coal mines to stay open. The League of Women Voters supports a sustainable environment and believes that climate change is a serious problem demanding attention. The authors of this study hope the information within will encourage League members to contact local, state, and national representatives while offering them clear talking points. By

mirroring changes we wish to see as well as advocating for wider actions, League members can contribute to Utah's transition to clean energy at both local and personal levels.

There are two versions of the study posted on the League's website study page at [lwvutah.org](http://lwvutah.org). One is the in-depth report for those who want to explore various topics in detail; the other is an abridged version providing a broad overview.

## Are you ready? June 30<sup>th</sup> Primary Update

By Shelly Jackson, LWV-UT Voter Services Director

The June 30 Primary will be different from past elections in Utah. Due to legislation passed in a special session to address the COVID-19 situation, voters need to be aware of a few important differences. Voters should make sure that their voter registration is updated no later than June 19. Ballots will begin arriving in mailboxes around Monday, June 15. Check the state website [vote.utah.gov](http://vote.utah.gov) to make sure your party address and party affiliation is up to date. Many counties will not have any in-person voting. Those counties that do have Election Day voting will have limited locations and Election Day Registration (EDR) is suspended for the Primary. Watch To learn

more about your ballot choices and your candidates, visit [vote411.org/utah](http://vote411.org/utah). Candidates will post answers to questions asked by the state and local leagues. Be informed and don't be left out! Verify your voter registration today!



## Virtual National Convention



As with a lot of things, the national convention has been changed to be presented virtually. It is scheduled for June 25, 26, 27 in the afternoon and evenings. Weber is allowed one delegate and no limit on observers. The registration fee is \$50 paid by our League. This is a great opportunity to participate in the national convention without the cost of travel. If you are interested, e-mail [terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com).

## Questions or Comments?

Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Watchdog edition! If you need to contact us, email us at [weberleague@gmail.com](mailto:weberleague@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

### Primary Elections

Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Local Precincts

### Virtual National Convention

Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

If interested reach out to Terri at [terrimcculloch@aol.com](mailto:terrimcculloch@aol.com)



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