

February 2021



State of Affairs

By Dr. Leah Murray

On January 6th, the United States Congress gathered to certify the results of the Electoral College vote. This has happened every time we have had a presidential election since 1788. This was not the only year in which there was excitement: in 1800 Vice President Thomas Jefferson presided over the certification of an Electoral College that made him President in the first peaceful transfer of power and in 1876 the United States Congress chose a slate of votes from states Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina

and Oregon that gave the Presidency to Rutherford B. Hayes, who had not won the popular vote. This Electoral College certification, however, was the most controversial in recent memory.

President Trump refused to concede the election that gave the presidency to Joe Biden in November. No losing president in modern times has refused to concede. For example, even though Al Gore had won the popular vote and lost the Electoral College vote in 2000 and had disputed and litigated the Florida election, he conceded when the Supreme Court ruled in *Bush v. Gore*. In 2004, members of Congress objected to certifying Ohio's Electoral Votes, but again, John Kerry had conceded so it did not matter. What made January 6th so much in focus this year was President Trump refused to concede.

In addition to refusing to concede, President Trump told followers of his that Vice President Mike Pence could intervene in the

certification of the Electoral College vote and deliver the presidency to Trump. As a result, thousands of people arrived in the nation's Capital to protest the certification of the Electoral

College. Unfortunately for President Trump, the Vice President does not have that power, but members of Congress can object. Republican Congress members rose to object to certifying the Arizona Electoral Votes and a number of Senators signed on. This triggered an automatic two-hour debate and members of both houses recessed to their own chambers to debate whether to vote to certify. During this debate, hundreds of Trump followers attacked the United States Capitol in order to disrupt the proceedings. Five people died as a result and hundreds of people were arrested.

The National League of Women Voters issued a statement on January 8th that President Trump should be removed from office and never allowed to run for another public office again. On January 13th, the House of

Representatives impeached President Trump. On January 19th, Senator Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that President Trump had egged on a violent insurrection at the Capitol. President Trump leaves office with the lowest approval rating of his term and without many of his allies attending his farewell. He is also the only President since Andrew Johnson in 1869 to refuse to attend his successor's inauguration.

To what extent history will judge what happened on January 6th remains to be seen, but the violence at the Capitol has caused America to pause and assess how it handles political disputes. Our nation is designed to solve our problems through elections and the use of power exercised through checks and balances. Perhaps, most importantly, what January 6th demonstrated is that the United States is at its best when we use political voice and is at our worst when we use political violence.



“Terrorists Attack on our Nation’s Capital”

By Anne Freimuth



A horrible headline. More horrible because it was domestic terrorists, and the very worst is that they were invited to our Nation’s Capital by our President. This may be the worst act of treason and betrayal in our nation’s history.

Why did this happen? The Capitol is the symbol of our Republic and an awe-inspiring building with many historic moments in its past. Fallen leaders have lain in state in the Capitol’s rotunda for the American people to honor. When domestic terrorists overran the building at the urging the President, who cannot accept his losing the election, it seems even more sad for our country. In addition, it adds to the work for the new administration to clean up and help heal a very divided country.

This all started with the election of an individual that was not fully qualified and had little understanding of the Constitution and the three branches of government. He is a President who mocked, and name called people and lied constantly about winning the Presidential election of 2020 and caused distrust of the election results. He and his followers conveniently rejected the results of the Presidential election, while still accepting the Senate and House results that were favorable to them.

Now as more information from law enforcement on site that day and videos are shared, we see how very violent and dangerous the terrorist attack was. The members of Congress surely knew they themselves were targets of this mob. As a mother I can only imagine how terrified members of our Congress were, worrying about family members and staff on site. No one should have to be in danger while doing their Constitutional work.

As citizens of the United States, we all need to be part of the healing of our country. Party affiliations should not define us; humanity should.

This must never happen again, and it is a warning for all of us to be on guard. What we say and how we act matters. As members of the League of Women Voters, we need to join in calling for the end of this reign of terror and work for social justice. I still

believe that we can be better than this.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Authors Unknown



Ruth's name is Joan Ruth Bader and she was born on March 15, 1933. She passed away on September 18, 2020. Her tenure as the second woman on the Supreme Court was from 1993 to 2020. She was called "Ruth" by her classmates to differentiate her from other people named Joan, and it stuck.

Ruth went to Cornell University on a full scholarship and met her future husband, Martin, there. He became a very prominent tax attorney and was a very important influence in her life because of his strong support of her intellectual pursuits. Two professors at Cornell University also had major impact on her - Vladimir Nabokov, who fosters her skill in writing, and lawyer, Robert Cushman, who was the inspiration behind

her pursuing a legal career. She finished her law degree at Columbia Law School, where she was on the first woman on the editorial staff of the Harvard Law Review.

Ruth had a difficult time finding a position as a lawyer because of her gender and the fact that she was a mother – at that time women weren't encouraged to have a career resulting in a small number of employed women lawyers. She did manage to get a clerkship with the help of one of her Columbia law professors. She went on to be hired by the Rutgers School of Law as an assistant professor. The dean of the school actually asked her to accept a low salary because her husband had a good paying job. When she became pregnant, she wore large clothing to cover it up for fear she would be fired.

It wasn't until 1970 that Ruth became involved professionally in gender equity. She worked with the ACLU on a case about an Idaho state law that men should administer the estate of people who die without a will. Reed vs Reed became the first gender statute that was struck down because of "equal protection." Ruth went on to become the founding counsel of the ACLU Women's Right Project, co-wrote a book on gender discrimination, and became the first tenured female faculty member at Columbia Law School. She was successful in five out of six cases

she argued at the Supreme Court level.



Jimmy Carter appointed Ruth to the U.S. Court of Appeals where she developed a reputation as a thoughtful liberal. She gave lecture concerning the Roe vs Wade case stating that she felt that the Court should have issued a more limited decision leaving room for state legislatures to determine ways to comply with the law, which she felt would have reduced the controversy.

Bill Clinton nominated her to the Supreme Court in 1993 and she was unanimously endorsed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and confirmed by a 96-3 vote by the Senate. She loved participating in oral arguments and was known for her majority opinion collar and her dissent collar.

Ruth was never afraid of voicing her opinion and standing up for what she believed in. When she dissented on a vote, she would say "I dissent" rather the usual "I respectfully dissent." She became an important support for women and was labeled as a feminist folk hero.

Because of her outspoken comments, some people believed she should retire due to her advanced age and health

problems. She conquered cancer twice in her life. Her vigorous exercise program and the fact that she never missed an oral argument won out and she choose to remain for as long as possible. She even went to work the day after her husband died because "that was what he would have wanted her to do."



RBG participated in Supreme Court activities until September 11, 2020 – albeit over computer due to the pandemic. She had overcome everything, so people were shocked that she had actually taken such a downturn. Her granddaughter was by her side and took down one of her last comments "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." She did all she could to stay long enough for that to happen.

Members Corner

What did RBG mean to you?

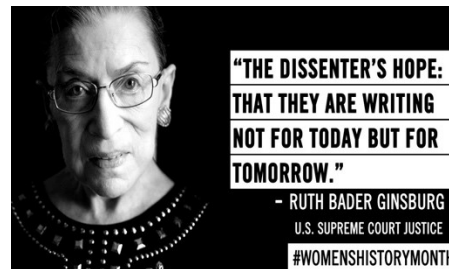
I have a life-sized cardboard cutout of Ruth in my living room, along with an "action figure" of her that I kept in bubble wrap, hoping it would keep her safe. I even have RBG earrings that I wear in her honor. What a loss! Ruth Bader Ginsberg made me feel

safe as a woman. She protected my rights and gave me hope for integrity. She was an inspiration to all young women and set an example for how men should work in a world of equality.

~Katharine Biele

She meant never giving up. Persistence, perseverance, in the face of ever present 'norms' that she challenged. She was an incredible role model, even as an elderly woman on the supreme court- she knew her importance and she never gave up. She knew her voice and rationale and expertise were needed. She spoke for the unrepresented and voiceless, relentlessly fair and just. To me, she was the idea of what a supreme court justice should be.

~Jenica Wilcox



RBG exemplified courage, strength, and perseverance against many people who didn't believe in equality and justice. Small in stature but extremely powerful. She used wit and a bit of sarcasm to get her point across and did not bend when she believed in something. She was one of the most influential people in our country concerning equality and women's rights. A small piece of many hearts went with

her when she left her mortal existence.

~ Terri McCulloch

My grandmothers, Margaret and Eunice, could not vote until they were in their thirties. I have often wondered how they accepted this, if they saw it as the discrimination that it was, or if, to them, it was just the way life was. Margaret, whom I never knew, was the president of the Kansas State PTA, so I imagine she chafed a bit when her brothers and father and husband marched off to vote and she stayed home.

One hundred years later, my granddaughter, Asia, said to me, as we discussed the election: Grandma, do you know who my generation likes for president? AO-C!!!

This, to me, is the legacy of RBG: a generation of women who not only expect to vote, but who expect to take part in governing; a generation of people who accept no limits of gender, background or age for themselves or those whom they entrust with power. Our grandmothers would be proud.

~Margaret Rostkowski



In Remembrance of Representative Lou Shurtliff

By Linda Mitchell



Weber County lost an important member and a true advocate for citizens this year. LaWanna (Lou) Shurtliff passed away on December 30, 2020 of an unexpected respiratory infection. This was 28 days before she was to begin her term in the Utah Legislature. She had previously served in the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2008. She did not seek re-election as her husband was ill and required her attention. When he passed away and after two Weber State students asked her to, she threw in her hat for the 2018 election.

I have known Lou for a number of years; first through the League, and later through the Democratic Party when I became an officer. The last time I saw her was at a Democratic Party event at Mt. Ogden Park last summer. She brought her lawn chair right next to mine. She was always such a warm, sweet person to everyone. She never failed to listen to the points of view and opinions of others. When the Democratic Party approached her to run the last time, I think she may have been somewhat hesitant, but she agreed to do it. She understood that the community needed her service, and she was a loyal and hardworking public servant. Our community and our State have benefitted greatly through her dedication and commitment to, and compassion for, women's and children's issues and education. Her recent successes were in the area of substance abuse and justice reform. I personally deeply grieve her loss and considered her to be a both personal friend and a role model. As she said from her hospital bed, "I've lived an incredible life" and so she did.



Voter Article

By Terri McCulloch



The year 2020 has provided us with many celebrations and challenges that many of us never expected to happen in our lifetime. When I was 24 and new to the league, I would not have comprehended that I would be around to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote. Even then I didn't realize what the right to vote for women really meant. Sure, I got to vote and express my opinions, but the work that made this possible didn't fully hit me until much later in life. In perspective, my grandmother was alive during this fight. While I can't ask her if she was involved, I can surmise she was knowing her beliefs. Because of the many (and I mean many) years in the League, I finally understand how difficult this really was and what this meant for our country. government, state government, and the media for the anniversary of National League and the 19th amendment.

Another celebration involves the feeling of camaraderie and support for others during the pandemic and the increase in

positive family interactions. Spending time with family doing puzzles, playing games, watching movies, helped to build family values in many homes. While facing the challenges of COVID-19, people and businesses were forced to create alternate ways to accomplish things. The first three months seemed to be a pause in everything. When the realization came that this situation wasn't going to be over soon, we had to come up with other ways to function. Zoom became something everyone had to have access to. Teachers turned classrooms to online instruction, government meetings were not held in person, religious ceremonies were done through the media, etc. Everybody became creative in how to continue to conduct business in a totally different way. I do not believe we will ever go completely back to where we were prior to the pandemic because some of the new "normal" actually made sense. I do look forward to in person meetings for the League again, but I also believe we will do them concurrently on zoom for people who cannot attend.

The recent events round out the year on a note of sadness that parts of society has become what it has. Pushing America past this is going to be the biggest challenge our country will face for a long time. We all need to work together to support change in a positive way. Being involved will be integral, tolerance and patience will need to be

optimized, and an open mind is essential. Our country hasn't run from other challenges and should not do so now as long as it is done positively. Stop and think of the things you can contribute and commit to doing them! I wish all a very safe, prosperous, and peaceful 2021.



Weber County COVID-19 Testing at Weber State University

By Kathryn McKay



Early in the Summer of 2020 we began to explore the possibility of testing various populations at Weber State University (WSU) – Ogden Campus. It became evident very quickly that periodic or targeted testing strategies would be unsustainable due to

the high cost of the only test available at the time, mainly molecular based diagnostic tests (known to the public as PCR testing).

Later that summer cheaper antigen-based tests started to be approved by the FDA and become available for use. These tests range from \$5-30 and made the prospect of mass testing on campus viable. Initially, in mid-October the university started performing rapid tests for symptomatic individuals on campus. This testing effort was meant to be a limited endeavor that only required a few days a week, with limited personnel, and resources. Yet developments just a few weeks later would completely change the face of testing at WSU.

Basically, over a weekend WSU went from testing a few dozen people a day to planning and implementing a testing system that could handle approximately 250 participants an hour. This massive increase in scale was needed because the state of Utah had mandated that all higher education students would have to be tested at least once a week. This was because the COVID-19 pandemic was starting to increase into a third wave and individuals 18-30 were found to be the main demographic of transmission. This massive testing of college aged students was meant to slow the spread across the state and identify those who were deemed "silent carriers".

Currently WSU has tested over 10,000 individuals across the two main testing sites, Ogden and Davis campuses. The testing efforts at WSU have only been successful due to the herculean volunteer efforts of faculty, staff, and students. Volunteers include LWV members Nicole Berthelemy and Kathryn MacKay.

Authors: Sally A. Cantwell, Ph.D., RN, Professor and Chair, Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing

Matthew J. Nicholaou, Dr.P.H., MT(ASCP), Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences

COVID-19 Vaccines		SANFORD HEALTH
DEBUNKING THE MYTHS		
VACCINE MYTH		VACCINE FACT
It was rushed and isn't safe		Researchers took no safety shortcuts. Large studies show the vaccine is safe.
It changes your DNA		It's impossible for the vaccine to change your DNA
It can give you COVID-19		The vaccine doesn't contain a live virus strain
It contains egg protein		It doesn't contain egg proteins and can be given to people with egg allergies
It causes severe side effects		For most, the vaccine causes mild side effects that resolve in a few days
It makes women infertile		There is no evidence that the vaccine causes infertility

- Adapt to and Be Creative About Ways to Get Information Out Online
- Continue to Provide Information About Candidates and Issues
- Have Presentations on the Two State Informational Studies
- Do a Candidate's Night Online and Modify Plan for the Future if Needed
- Increase Membership By At least Five Members
- Schedule Meetings That Are About Current Issues
- Attempt to Schedule Three Candidate Debates
- Increase Interest in Legislative Session
- Partner with Other Organizations in Community



University of Utah where I earned both undergraduate (Public Relations/Communications) and, eventually, graduate (MPA) degrees.

I next spent time in Minnesota for my husband's schooling and then we had the wonderful opportunity to live & work in the small southern Utah town of Panguitch.

When it came time to select a place to raise our family, we returned to Ogden. We came back for the spectacular natural setting and remarkable people.

I engaged in our community by serving on local boards. Eventually, I was approached to run for the Ogden City Council by community leader extraordinaire and mentor Sandy Crosland. I hesitated but soon embraced the opportunity to really put my community passion to work.

I served eight years on the Ogden City Council (2008-2015). I am proud of all that we accomplished together to enhance Ogden as well as spearheading projects to unify residents. While on the council, I was elected to council leadership four times and also served as President of the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

In early 2016, North Ogden Mayor and Army Major Brent

Weber County League of Women Voters 2020-2021 Goals

By Terri McCulloch

- Register Voters – Register Voters – Register Voters
- Partner with Voterise to Register Voters

New Member Caitlin Gochnour

I was born and raised in Ogden. I moved away for a four-year collegiate scholarship swimming career at the

Taylor persuaded me to run for the Weber County Commission. That campaign didn't turn out so well although I grew relationships and appreciation for the greater Weber County area.

We are on FB



Weber County League of
Women Voters

My public service experience prepared me to continue efforts making a difference in our community. I manage special projects for the Ogden Nature Center and administer the Olene Walker Statewide Scholarship for foster youth and refugees. I am also an engaged community volunteer — serving as the Utah Arts Advisory Board Chair and on the Catholic Community Services of Northern Utah Board. I also volunteer as the JustServe Specialist for Northern Utah.

Article Contributions to WCLWV Watchdog Newsletter

If you would like to write an article for our next Watchdog issue, please send via email to our WCLWV President- Terri McCulloch and if you have pictures of WCLWV events, please send those too.

Thank you!

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.

Upcoming Events

Recycling- Gina Hughes

Monday, February 8, 2021 @7:00 pm

Transfer of Public Lands Informational Study- Carey Dabney

Monday, February 22, 2021 @7:00 pm

Housing Crisis in Utah – Tara Rollins

Monday, March 8th, 2021 @7:00 pm

Five Year Plan for Weber County- Cathy Fuentes

Monday, April 12th, 2021 @7:00 pm

Annua Meeting-

TBD- May 2021

State Convention-

Saturday, May15th, 2021

<http://weberleague.org/index.phtml>

https: