
WOMEN'S STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of UTAH



NOMINEES FOR BIENNIUM 2015-2017

PRESIDENT (D)



Shauna Scott-Bellacomo has served as the President or board member of many Women's Organizations including: Chair of Salt Lake County Democratic Women's Caucus, Utah State President of Business and Professional Women, State President of Utah Women's Foundation, State President of Utah Women's Lobby, President of Salt Lake Council of Women, BPW Woman of the Year, WSLC Chair of Health and Human Services and Director of Business and Labor. She has advocated for women's rights from attending sessions of congress in Washington D. C. to lobbying at the Utah State Capitol. She is a frequent guest on the KSL radio program, A Woman's View, to discuss current national and local legislation affecting women. She is also known as the "red purse lady" advocating Equal Pay for Women and highlighting National Pay Inequity Day with proclamations from the Governor/Mayor with press events. She is married to Kevin McGeeney with two adult sons. They belong to the Scottish Society and enjoy celebrating their Scottish and Irish heritage. Shauna also looks forward to working as an Information Specialist/Pro at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City each year. She is employed full time with the State of Utah as an Account Specialist with UI Tax Laws and has her own business as a Disability Advocate. Shauna is passionate about women's rights and issues and proud to represent Utah women.

PRESIDENT-ELECT (R)



Suzanne Mulet

In addition to her leadership role in corporate America for 15 years, She has held leadership positions in numerous political and non-profit organization boards of directors. Her experience includes: Co-Chair & Chair- Business & Labor, Women's State Legislative Council; Vice-chair, Salt Lake County Republican Party; Vice-chair, Utah Hispanic Republican Assembly; VP/Membership- Professional Republican Women; UTGOP Caucus Ambassador & Silent Auction Chair; Executive Committee, Utah Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors & Chair-Development Committee- Boys & Girls Club of South Valley. She was also an active member of the Salt Lake City Rotary Club from 2009-2013. Her leadership roles and membership in these organizations has provided a broad network of resources and access to not only congressional leaders, but community activists and corporate executives. It has also provided her opportunities to adhere to By-laws and practice parliamentary procedures needed to run meetings in a thoughtful way.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT (D)



Donna Murphy teaches pediatric nursing at SL Community College and is active in her practice working per diem at Shriners Hospital. She was the lobbyist for Utah Nurses Assoc. during the 2005 legislative session and is currently active in UNA on the Government Relations Committee. She serves on the Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women as Legislative Commissioner. She was the 2010 Woman of the Year at Saint Thomas Catholic Parish, and has received Honors in Nursing from the University of Utah. Brighton High School recognized her with the Bengal Award for Volunteer of the Year. Her political interest began when she worked on a Safe to Learn/Safe to Worship coalition in 1999. She has been a Utah State & County Democratic delegate for 6 years. She has worked on political campaigns, including those of Pres. Barack Obama, Mayor Peter Corroon, gubernatorial candidate Scott Matheson, Congressman Jim Matheson, Reps. Karen Morgan, Tim Cosgrove, Marie Poulson, and Sen. Pat Jones. She served as WSLC Director of the Health & Human Services Committee and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Education Committee.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT (R) (Weber County Affiliate)



Carol Harley has been a member of the Women's Legislative Council of Weber County for approximately 14 years and has served in the capacity of four-year and two-year Director, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Timekeepers Chair, and Recording Secretary. She was President of the Weber County affiliate for four years. She has served on the board of several other organizations, and currently sits on the board of the Catholic Woman's League, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, The Church Women United of the Greater Ogden Area, and the state steering committee for Church Women United.

RECORDING SECRETARY (R)



Lorraine Turner graduated from East High School in Salt Lake City, after which she met and married Jerry Turner. They settled in Salt Lake City, where Lorraine embarked on service to her community with various causes dear to her heart. She is a long-time member of the Women's Republican Club (WRC) of Salt Lake City. Most notably, she carried out many assignments for RWC in support of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics Committee. She worked closely with Cottonwood Heights Police Chief Robby Russo for many years on the annual Night Out Against Crime, an annual event to increase public awareness of crime prevention, build bridges between law enforcement and the community, and send the message that neighborhoods are organized to fight back against crime. She was recruited by the candidate Orlean Walker to serve on her election campaign for governor. Lorraine has also received three service awards for her decade-long work on the annual Old Butlerville Days celebration in Cottonwood Heights.



Katie Witt earned an Associate's Degree from Bellevue Community College in 1992 and her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Colorado, Bolder in 2007. A cheerful, outgoing individual who looks for opportunities to make a difference wherever she goes, Katie was a Colorado National Delegate to the Republican National Convention, and served on the Longmont City Council (2009–2013). While there, she served as Liaison to Library Board, Transportation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Board. She also served as the City's representative to the Denver Regional Council of Governments. As a citizen, she has been an enthusiastic and able campaign field worker for both causes and candidates, as well as a candidate herself (Boulder County Commissioner, 2000; Colorado State Senate District 17, 2008). She is also a longtime member of Rotary International.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (D)



Gay Lynn Bennion completed an internship with the Federal Judicial Center in D.C. and provided 15 months volunteer service in Mexico prior to graduating Magna Cum Laude from BYU with an English major and a Spanish minor. She is married to Col. (Ret) James Bennion and is the mother of four children. She previously worked as secretary to the CFO of Carey Winston Company and as an educational technician at the USUHS medical school. She has many years' experience as a volunteer in various settings including public school, adult leader for both cub and girl scouts, and president over church organizations respectively serving children, youth and adults. Currently she is a homemaker and volunteers as a teacher for the English Skills Language Center and serves as WSLC's Director of the Energy/Natural Resources Committee.



Hilarie Orman earned a BS in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and did graduate study in Computer Science at UCLA. Her professional focus has been on the design and development of software and systems that protect data and communications. Her awards include: IEEE Computer Society Gold Core Member & IEEE Computer Society Meritorious Service. She was the program manager for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and a research scientist for the Computer Science Dept. of the University of Arizona. She Chaired the IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Security and Privacy, and is the Archivist for the International Assoc. for Cryptologic Research. Hilarie has held research positions at Novell, Trusted Information Systems, the Aerospace Corp., and System Development Corp. She has also served on the WSLC board as Director of the Energy/Natural Resources/Agriculture & Environment Committee.

TREASURER (R)



Renee Lowrey grew up in Sandy and graduated from Jordan High School and attended the University of Utah. As a banker for 25+ years, she became a lender, a financial planner and a personal banker. She has served companies with their payroll and accounting needs. She also owned a gluten-free bakery for a couple of years, eventually selling it to a

larger gluten-free bakery. She served as the treasurer for the Rotary Club in Montana for six years. She is now the lead Realtor for Cambria Property Management, their owners and their multiple investment companies. She cherishes being a mother to five wonderful adult children and seven grandchildren.



Jo Sjoblom is a resident of South Weber, Utah. She is married and has three children. With a degree in Secondary Education from Utah State University, she has taught high school art and also held many school offices, including PTA President and Community Council Chair. For the past seven years, Jo has been the producer of South Weber Kids' News (SWKN) at South Weber Elementary School. In this capacity she regularly interacts with community, school faculty, and children. She serves as chaplain of the Weber County chapter of the Utah Women's State Legislative Council, and as State Delegate for her legislative district. She has also served on the Art Education Accreditation Board for Utah State University.

HISTORIAN (D)



Josie Valdez currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Utah State Democratic Party. She has a long history of political involvement, which includes being a candidate for Utah Lt. Gov. and the Utah Senate. She is married to Utah Rep. Mark Archuleta Wheatley. Josie retired from the position of Assist. Director of the Utah Small Business Administration where she worked for 23 years. After retirement, Josie served as Director of Diversity in Mayor Rocky Anderson's cabinet. She has served on the following boards: Utah Small Business Development Council; Co-Chair, Future's Commission for Salt Lake City; Murray Center for the Blind; Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs; Founder, Entrepreneurship for Single Parents; United Way; Founder, Women's Network for Entrepreneurial Training; Phoenix Institute; Utah Bi-Partisan Hispanic Legislative Task Force; Governor's Board for Women's Economic Development; NAACP-Salt Lake Branch; Toastmasters International; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Utah Women for Building Community; Salt Lake County Hispanic Democratic Caucus; Salt Lake Community Action Program.

DIRECTOR (D)



Brandy Farmer is a Domestic Violence Prevention Specialist. She has authored the annual Domestic Violence Related Death Report since 2008. Western Community Policing and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center elected her to write domestic violence curriculum for law enforcement agencies covering an eight-state area. She also directs the efforts of 2,000 volunteers. She served on the Violence Against Women Advisory Committee for the National Association of Attorneys General. She has testified before legislative committees urging support of funding for domestic violence services, and statutes to protect victims. She has also appeared as a Domestic Violence Prevention specialist on NBC's John Walsh Show.



Kimber Gabryszak was born and raised in rural Alaska, the oldest of six children. Homeschooling and a demanding childhood 40 miles from the nearest road gave her an appreciation for hard work. She began her formal education in Alaska. She went on to obtain Associate's degrees in Mandarin Chinese, Geography, and International studies; a Bachelor's in Geography-Urban Planning; and a Master's in City and Metropolitan Planning. She has worked in the tourism industry in Alaska and China, and speaks Mandarin Chinese. After beginning her career in Urban Planning in Provo then Summit County, she is now the Planning Director for the City of Saratoga Springs. She is also actively involved in several women's groups, both political and apolitical. Along the way, she met and married her husband, Brad. Together they represented the USA for several years for as athletes on the US National Skeleton Team, from which they recently retired. They fell in love with Utah and decided to make it their home, and have lived near Park City for the last decade.

DIRECTOR (R)



Amelia Powers is a graduate of Weber State University. She is the Western Region Parts Manager-On Highway Truck for Caterpillar, manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. Ms. Powers has worked in various positions for Caterpillar for the past 10 years. In addition to being the Vice-Chair/Director on the Business Solutions Board of NOTCI, a jobs skills assessment company. Ms. Powers is a member of Stand4UT, a political non-profit. She currently serves as Co-Chair for Utah's Women's Legislative Council on the Energy/Natural Resources Committee. Ms. Powers resides on a lovely small farm near Payson, Utah with her husband and two sons.



Taylor Rosecrans is a Development Officer and Legislative Liaison at the Waterford Institute, an educational nonprofit based in Sandy, Utah. Though raised in Tennessee, she refers to Utah as her "adopted home state" and has grown to love the close-knit communities, political ideas, business environment, and overall culture of industry and innovation. Taylor's mom instilled her with a love of politics and took her along to work on nine different political campaigns during middle and high school. Taylor moved to Utah to attend BYU and had the time of her life working as a Legislative Intern to Utah's first female Speaker of the House, Becky Lockhart. Taylor enjoys a blissful marriage to her sweetheart, Derek, and they have a beautiful baby girl, Keira, who could reasonably be described as "practically perfect in every way." Taylor graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.A. in Political Science and is currently working on a Nonprofit Management certificate at the University of Utah.