

ARGUS

SEE YOU SOON AND OFTEN! by Linda Lynch, President



To borrow from Charles Dickens, we seem to be experiencing the best of times and the worst of

times. In the ways that it is the best of times, our membership continues to grow -- weekly! Equally important, this membership growth is true for all local Leagues. This makes our voices louder. We are stronger because more people are turning to the League. It is the best of times because

this growth creates many opportunities.

The election of 2016 galvanized these new members to sign up, become involved, do something -- in the same way continuing members were first attracted to the League.

In the ways that now is the worst of times, we are required to be more visible, to continue to speak truth to power and do the work with which we are associated: creating and supporting an informed and active electorate. We must harness the energy our new members bring to the organization.

To that end, there are many activities planned.

◆ The Membership Committee is planning an evening event with a local author who has written about political speech in a historical context. This is a way to enrich your membership experience and have some time to socialize.

◆ The Voter Service Committee is considering a panel on the electoral college, including who and how to lobby for passage of the National Popular Vote compact.

◆ The Action Committee has begun the work to support continuation of the Lane County Jail levy.

◆ The Program Committee has tackled a com-

plex local issue for this month's units, Homelessness in Lane County.

◆ The Nominating Committee is recruiting volunteers for those board positions with terms expiring this year.

As our visibility increases, so do our responsibilities. All those committees above need help; they need more people to accomplish our mission! Our individual responsibilities are to:

◇ Respond to Action Alerts from the state and national Leagues. Write those letters!

◇ Attend legislators' field

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THIRD THURSDAY

March 16

Valley River Inn

Reservations required!

Call the League office at 541-343-7917 by the Monday before, March 13.

The program is free and open to the public.

Lunch is \$17

Beverage only is \$5

Lunch begins 11:30 am

The program begins at noon

March Third Thursday Speaker

Our speaker will be

**Andrew Heben, Project Director
for SquareOne Villages**

His subject will be

**"Tiny House Villages:
A New Affordable Housing Option
for Lane County"**

by *Nancie Fadeley*



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: **PLEASE NOTE** - If you know you will be attending Third Thursday, please notify us whether you will be lunching, just
: want a beverage or neither but want to attend. This will help the staff set up the room to better accommodate our needs.
:

MARCH UNITS - by Paula Bassett, Chair

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2016-17

President

LINDA LYNCH

Secretary

JEANNE TAYLOR

Treasurer & Office Mgr.

PHYLLIS LOOBEY

Action

KAPPY EATON &
PAT HOCKEN

Argus Editor

CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance

JANET CALVERT

Historian

GAYLE DOWNING

Membership

BETTY-COE de BROEKERT

Nominations

ELLEN MADDEX

Program

LINDA FERDOWSIAN &
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Public Relations

KATHY MADISON

Units

PAULA BASSETT

Voter Service

RHONDA LIVESAY &
KELI OSBORN

Don't miss March units for our topic of Homelessness and Housing. Your unit may also be finalizing plans for April Unit Choice. Be sure to bring your Everymember material with you.

We had a better showing in February with 52 members and five guests attending units for discussions. Our topic, Public Post-Secondary Education in Oregon, is one near and dear to the hearts of so many of our members who have been career educators. Thanks to all of you who spent the extra time needed to get through all the consensus questions.

Wednesday, March 8

1 pm - Cottage Grove

Cottage Grove LCC

H- Gayle Downing 541-942-1858

Monday, March 13

10 am - S. Willamette

430 E. 46th Avenue

H- Flo Alvergue 541-344-3430

C- Anne Best 541-343-5124

2 pm - Harlow Road

394 Cherry Drive

H- Barbara French 541-485-9090

C- Mary Keating 541-344-4889 &

Chris Donahue 541-344-2803

Tuesday, March 14

9:30 am - Coburg Rd.

2135 Rocky Lane

H- Dorothy Cruickshank 541-342-2577

C- Linda Ferdowsian 707-208-6007

Noon - Springfield Unit

Springfield Chamber of Commerce

101 South A Street

Brown bag lunch

H- Flo Alvergue 541-344-3430

Wednesday, March 15

10 am - East Eugene

555 E. 15th, Central Presbyterian

H- Stephanie Winsor 541-342-8243

C- Diana Grandberry 541-342-8402

3 pm - S. W. Eugene

1375 Olive St., Apt. 606

H- Sally Weston 541-484-4404

Friday, March 17

10:30 am - Cascade Manor

Cascade View Room

C- Frank Carlton 541-434-4140

C- Pat McDaniels 541-434-4210

Unit Briefing

Tuesday, March 7, 3 pm

Atrium - Sloat Room,

10th & Olive, Eugene

MARCH UNIT TOPIC HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Linda Ferdowsian & Susan Tavakolian, Program Co-chairs

March units will be discussing homelessness in Lane County and some of the community services which help provide shelter and housing.

Everyone is invited to March 7 briefing to hear Pearl Wolfe, Lane County Health and Human Services, speaking about shelter and support services in Lane County.

April is Unit Choice month, so share any suggestions with your unit members.



VOTER SERVICE

Rhonda Livesay & Keli Osborn, Co-Chairs

How much do you know about the National Popular Vote?

In March, we plan to host a public seminar on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV). We will discuss the history behind the development of the Electoral College, what is the NPV, how it started, the pros and cons, and if we should adopt it for our state. We have a commitment from Priscilla Southwell, who heads the Political Science Department at the University of Oregon, and are firming up other speakers and format.

We are in the final stage for printing our *TRY: They Represent You* brochure, and it should be ready by the time you read this. If you pick up brochures to deliver to your favorite places, please sign

out how many and where you are taking them. The VS committee is trying to put together a list of where we are placing the brochures. **The TRY information has already been updated on our website.**

We are also looking toward the May 2017 elections. A Lane County jail levy will be on the ballot, and Junction City will have a proposed renewal of its fire levy. School board elections will be on the ballot. We hope to have information from the candidates to publish online. All our local offices are important, and we do need to be engaged.

As always, what is needed most is **you**. As a committee, we have many wonderful ideas; however, we can only act upon them when

we have people power. We need help. Now is the time to step up. Won't you help us in the fight to educate and inspire?

In addition to the NPV forum, we hope to schedule a spring presentation on how to influence local, state and national officials. We've heard from League and community members who want tips on everything from writing letters to meeting personally with elected representatives. And we'd like to compile information on running for office. Interest is growing at the grassroots!

The Voter Service Committee meets on the second Friday of the month, 2 pm, at the League office. Our meeting typically lasts one hour. Join us in the struggle! **And, fun - don't forget the fun!**

ATTEND A UNIT IN MARCH AND CONSIDER...

In 2014, 1.49 million people used homeless shelters, and 578,424 were recorded as being without shelter in the United States

Fifty percent of the homeless population is over the age of 50.

While homelessness across the nation continues to decline, ***Oregon has the highest percentage of homeless families with children*** not living in a shelter.

The number of ***Oregon students who can't go home to a safe place*** to call their own ***has grown to a record 21,340***, or 3.7 percent of the state's public school enrollment.

Questions to be considered at March units:

What are the major causes of homelessness?

If some homeless people have drug, alcohol or health problems, how should they be best served?

How might the homelessness be different in Lane County than it is in other parts of the country?

How do you answer people who think most of the homeless are scamming the system?



LOCAL ACTION

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday,
March 1,
9:30 am
League Office

Please contact Pat Hocken at 541-343-1138 or jphocken@comcast.net if you have questions.

All League members are welcome to participate on the committee.

League Supporting Jail Levy

The League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) Board has approved League support of the Lane County ballot measure to renew the local option levy for jail operations. The measure, on the May 2017 ballot, would continue the authorization for property taxes in the amount of \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five more years. This is the same rate authorized in the existing levy adopted in 2013, but the county has reduced the rate to \$0.38 per \$1000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year due to higher than anticipated revenue and lower than anticipated expenses. The revenue would continue to be restricted to provide at least 255 local adult jail beds as well as additional beds for youth services. The owner of a home with assessed value of \$200,000 would pay approximately \$110 annually if the levy were renewed.

According to the Lane County Sheriff, the existing levy has been highly successful. Currently there are 317 local adult beds compared to 125 beds available in May 2013 before the levy's passage. This increased capacity has reduced capacity-based releases by more than 63%. As a result, no pre-trial inmates held with Measure 11 charges have been re-

leased since July 2013 due to lack of capacity. Similarly the jail has not released, due to capacity, any pre-trial inmates held on violent felony charges. The expansion of detention beds has allowed Youth Services to hold those who are the highest public safety risk, and the enhancement of funds has allowed females to be served in residential treatment, formerly a critical gap.

The lack of capacity releases has reduced costs for local law enforcement because police no longer need to find and re-arrest those who fail to appear at court hearings. In addition, according to the executive director of Sponsors, Inc, the revolving door has been replaced by treatment for inmates, re-entry services, supervision, and prosecution, in short by intervention. Although the current levy does not expire until June 2018, approval in 2017 of the renewal will provide more stability for the hiring of Sheriff's deputies who often have multiple job offers to choose from.

League support is based on the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) position on Adult Corrections, which states that a full range of correctional programs should exist for adult offenders, and on the LWVOR position on Juve-

nile Justice which advocates for a range of services for juvenile offenders and segregation from adult offenders.

Adoption of Eugene's Comprehensive Plan and New Urban Growth Boundary

The LWVLC Board has also approved testifying in support of the City of Eugene's staff recommendation to adopt a new comprehensive land use plan and a new urban growth boundary (UGB) using the Envision Eugene policy framework. The City is in the final stages of adopting its first separate UGB, independently from Springfield, and a new comprehensive plan that reflects the separate UGB. On March 7, there will be a joint public hearing before the Eugene Planning Commission and the Lane County Planning Commission. The planning commissions will each make a separate recommendation to their respective elected officials. Later this spring there will be a joint public hearing before the Eugene City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Final adoption is expected in July before the summer recess.

The League has testified about ten times since 2012 on various aspects of the Envision Eugene Plan. The League's primary message will be that after many years of stud-

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STATE OF THE STATE

by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

Elections

One of the Secretary of State's priorities this session is legislation which addresses the liability of campaign treasurers. SB 225 has been drafted to address some of the problems. Steve Trout, the Elections Division Director, is overseeing the issues.

It is difficult to take the proposed legislation seriously because some bill sections are not reasonable or even believable. For example several **HB 2351** sections are curious: One would establish a civil penalty of 10% of campaign monies improperly converted to personal use in circumstances where conversion is accurately included in timely filed statement of contributions and statements of expenditures.

HB 2349 is somewhat better, but still odd. It prohibits printing or circulation of imitation voter pamphlet unless it is marked on every page "unofficial."

SB 225 makes campaign treasurers personally liable for defaults or

violations. Who would take the job in the future?

In **SB 226** an independent (non-affiliated) elector must apply for a major party ballot prior to the primary by completing a request and submitting by mail, electronically or in person.

SB 229 is the annual "housekeeping" bill which deals with a number of routine issues.

Hope springs eternal. **HJR 5** is the continuing effort to pass the constitutional amendment allowing the legislature or initiative to bring forward the necessary legislation to limit campaign contributions. There is solid organizational support, but we still must get the Senate up to sixteen votes. The house will pass it if it is sent over and the Governor will sign.

Ballot Access Issues

Thus far Oregon has avoided challenges to getting access to ballots which are plaguing voters in eleven states. Bills to improve access have been introduced in

Georgia, Illinois, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Kansas has already passed improved ballot access. There have been various improvements in states such as - having the number of signatures required to legalize other parties (than Democrat or Republican), setting up a committee to study a state's access laws, more recommendations for changes, and changes for Independents.

National Popular Vote Update

NPV has passed in 11 states and is now being discussed and pending in 16 states. The proposal, a compact, has the same wording in all the discussions. The pending states are Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Local Action

(Continued from page 4)

ies, analysis, community outreach, and interim council decisions, it is now time to adopt the draft comprehensive plan and related studies. In particular, League testimony would address the following:

- Support for the draft Comprehensive Plan that provides new policies for Economic Development, Transportation, Administration and Implementation (including Monitoring), and the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary
- Support for expansion of the

Urban Growth Boundary by 924 acres in the Clear Lake Expansion Area to include about 650 acres for industrial purposes, 222 acres for a community park, 55 acres for a school and by 35 acres in the Santa Clara for a community park

- Support for the Clear Lake Overlay Zone in order to preserve the large lots in the expansion area and to address the potential impacts of siting new industrial and employment uses near residences, parks, schools
- Support for no UGB expansion for commercial or housing pur-

poses; and

- Support for changing the Eugene Code to increase the minimum density in the R-2 (medium density) residential zone from 10 to 13 units per acre applicable to parcels over 0.5 acres in size.

Taking this action would be based on the LWVOR position on Land Use, which supports compliance with the 19 statewide land use planning goals and the LWVLC positions on Sustainable Economic Management, Housing, Urban Services, and Planning and Zoning.

MEMBERSHIP

Betty-Coe R. de Broekert, Chair

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017, early evening.

We are excited to announce that Eugene-based author and linguist Rosemarie Ostler will be featured at a League-sponsored event Wednesday evening, May 3, 2017 at Tsunami Books.

Language and style have become a topic of conversations in this era

of what some describe as “rude politics.” Ostler, a former librarian, writes about the rich history of the American language and its usage including word origins, grammar and style. Her most recent book, *Founding Grammars: How Early America’s War over Words Shaped Today’s Language*, explores our obsession with grammar, the power of grammar rules and the historic

personalities who shaped the American language.

Ostler is also the author of *Slinging Mud, Let’s Talk Turkey*, and *Dew-droppers, Waldos, and Slackers*.

Stay tuned for more information about this special event.

*Flo Alvergue and
Betty-Coe R. De Broekert*

FIRST CALL TO STATE CONVENTION!

The biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of Oregon will be held May 5-7 in Wilsonville. LWVLC is entitled to nine voting delegates plus observers. It is the preference of the Board that not all delegates be Board members, so please consider all the work you have been doing and how you want to talk about it with League members from around the state.

Observers cannot vote but can have the privilege of speaking, and we are not limited to how many can attend. There will be more information soon, but if you are interested, please email Linda Lynch, lindalynch28@gmail.com.

Linda Lynch

JOIN THE EUGENE PLANNING COMMISSION

Help Shape the Future of Eugene

The City of Eugene is seeking motivated volunteers from around our community to serve on the Eugene Planning Commission.

Participation on the Planning Commission is an excellent way to get involved in local government, and is an interesting and challenging experience that can truly make a difference. Previous experience with planning or

development is NOT a requirement. The unique perspective of community members and a willingness to learn about different aspects of the planning process help the City better consider the impacts of City decisions.

The Planning Commission is a seven member group that meets about two to four times per month. Meetings are typically held on Mondays from 11:30am to 1:30pm with an occasional Tuesday Evening meeting.

There are two openings with four year terms beginning July 1, 2017.

To learn more about the Planning Commission visit <https://www.eugene-or.gov/833/Planning-Commission> or contact Alissa Hansen at 541-682-5508 or alissa.h.hansen@ci.eugene.or.us. Applications are being accepted by March 31, 2017. For application materials, visit <https://www.eugene-or.gov/86/Boards-and-Commissions>

President’s column

(Continued from page 1)

hearings and town hall meetings.

As the stories of those meetings are reported, your presence will make you an expert witness to what happens, and what promises are made.

◊ Carefully read the Everymember material and attend unit meetings!

Join the discussions that form our positions and are the basis of our actions.

◊ Volunteer in new ways. Take a regular shift in the League office. It is not always exciting, but having someone there when we say we will support our credibility. Lead a study or program next year, based

on the program to be adopted at our annual meeting.
◊ Help out at a candidate forum or panel presentation.

The LWVLC Board remains grateful to all members who do so much work now to support our goals. We hope to see you at March unit meetings!

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Story and photos by Barbara Carter

An important day. It was a naturalization ceremony day. Three LWVLC members attended the ceremony: Miriam Aiken, Stephanie Winsor, and Barbara Carter. Twenty-six people from ten countries became US citizens. Most of the new citizens came from our neighboring countries: Mexico and Canada. The rest came from Bolivia, China, India, New Zealand, Taiwan, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Judge Thomas Coffin gave a heartwarming and inspiring welcome speech on the importance of our country's principles/values and concluding with remarks on what the pledge to the flag means to a citizen.

One of the citizens could not speak when it was her turn to say her name and country of origin. She quietly sobbed. Judge Coffin told her to take her time. It was very humbling for those of us who were citizens. Reminds you how lucky you are to be a US citizen. of our country's principles/values and concluding with remarks on what the pledge to the flag means to a citizen.

Miriam Aiken and Stephanie Winsor





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LANE COUNTY

336 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401



<http://lwvlc.org/get-involved/donate/>

For the latest information about League events, meetings, positions and the ARGUS, visit our website lwvlc.org

CALENDAR MARCH

- 1 - 9:30 am - Action Committee, League office (pg 4)
- 3 - 9 am - Forum on Tax Proposals (pg 4)
- 7 - 3 pm - Unit Briefing, Atrium (pg 2)
- 8 - 1 pm - Cottage Grove Unit (pg 2)
- 10 - 2 pm - Voter Service, League office (pg 3)
- 13 - 17 - Unit meetings (pg 2)
- 15 - 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 16 - 11:30 am - Third Thursday (pg 1)
- 17 - Midnight, ARGUS deadline for submissions
- 20 - 2 pm - Membership Committee, League office

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

SAVE THE DATE

April 29, 9am to noonish - Annual Meeting

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11 am - 1:30 pm

*Thanks to our
2015-16 Directory
Advertisers*

- Lane Forest Products*
- Baker Bay Bead Co.*
- Eugene Hotel Retirement*
- Alterations by Maria*
- Aayres Appliance Repair*
- Christine Dambach,
Farmers Insurance*
- Coburg Road Car Wash*
- Dot Dotson's*
- Eugene's Flower Home*
- Long's Meat Market*
- Maria's Alterations*
- Studio d Hair Salon*
- Unique Properties*

**Please give this
to a friend**



As a member of the League, you will receive the monthly newsletter from LWVLC (*Argus*), which has information about our monthly and unit meetings, and the quarterly newsletter from the Oregon League (*Voter*).

Mail the form and check payable to LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 West 11th Ave, Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters of Lane County

Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address)	\$97.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual after February 1st	\$32

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)