



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County

May 2017

THANK YOU, EVERYBODY! by Linda Lynch, President



It's time for our annual meeting. It's spring. It is a time we all try to take a really deep breath, appreciate

our surroundings, take stock, and plow ahead. Plow ahead with renewed purpose, even when the work remains unchanged. Plow ahead, hoping for the creativity and the energy to tackle the work and also to insulate ourselves from disappointments.

But it is in that moment just after the deep breath that I try to remember to say

thank you. Thank you, **everybody!** Thank you to all of you who send me hyperlinks to articles you found interesting or think I will find interesting. Thank you to everyone who wrote about other organizations with whom the League would seem to be a natural partner. (Lots of these since November) Thank you for notices of marches, rallies, protests, lawsuits.

Thank you to Sue Boyd and Merle Bottge for reading and editing so many pages of material - Everymember, the *Argus*, cover letters, letters to the editor, testimony to the state legislature, city councils, planning commissions. (This column too.)

Thank you to the large team of people it takes to produce

each Third Thursday. Nancie Fadeley cajoles such interesting speakers. Phyllis Loohey, Marj Maxwell, Rhonda Livesay and Jeanne Taylor have all helped with payments, cash, checks, deposits. Rhonda has quietly made it possible for you to use a credit card at these events! Hurray! Betty-Coe DeBrokert, Anne Best, Kathy Merwyn-Gonzalez, Flo Alvergue and Veronika Walton all greet people, help with name tags, direct questions to the right people. Louie Levy prints all those name tags and greets people outside Valley River Inn, pointing all in the right direction. Jim Dotson sets up a reliable, professional sound system. This saves us considerable expense and helps when media covers the event. Thank you to Pat

Hocken who helps with the accounting and the contract for these lunches. Thank you, **everybody!**

Thank you to the similar teams for Candidate Forums, the Naturalization ceremonies, reviewing local and state government activity to decide where we should raise the League's voice and take action. Thank you to the study committees that produce research for unit discussions. The material that Susan Tavakolian and Linda Ferdowsian have produced and helped produce has been used by other Leagues, neighborhood newsletters, in op eds and letters to the editor. Thank you to them from everyone who reads the study mate-

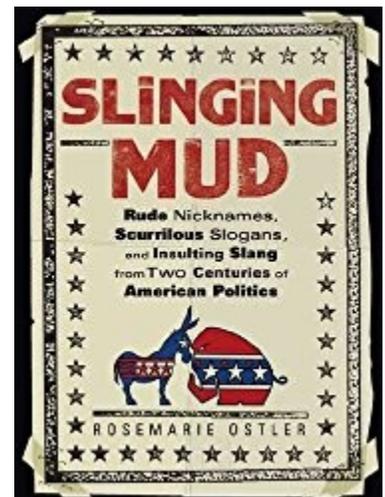
(Continued on page 5)

Negative Campaigning: an American Tradition

This is a "don't miss" event by Eugene-based author and linguist **Rosemarie Ostler** sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lane County.

Described as entertaining, knowledgeable and humorous, Ostler will talk about five historical political campaigns that seem to have some parallels with recent times. The respected linguist will be reading from several of her books. (More on page 6.)

AUTHOR PRESENTATION
at TSUNAMI BOOKS
2585 Willamette St, Eugene
5:30 to 7:30 pm
May 3rd



UNITS - Paula Bassett, Chair

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- Units**
PAULA BASSETT
- Voter Service**
RHONDA LIVESAY & KELI OSBORN

There are no regular unit meetings in May but don't miss out on the many other scheduled League events. Check the League website calendar. We will have a long break until units start again in October.

Below is one of the unit choice options in April.

Community Supported Shelters

Fifteen members from the Harlow Road and Coburg Road units saw firsthand the variety of housing options offered to homeless residents by the Community Supported Shelter organization. During the two-hour orientation and on-site visits, members were impressed by the "step up" in housing options available to some people who had no "home." For tent dwellers, having a platform off the wet, cold ground was a real improvement. The doors on the Conestoga huts now have locks that keep resident belongings secure, a major factor in feeling "at home". The groups of shelters are fenced with a monitor at the gates that provide residents with added security. The organization is funded totally by local donations of cash, materials and labor. During initial interviews with potential residents, their special needs such as

addiction, medical or mental health issues are identified and the individual is referred to appropriate community resources. Group meetings of residents and discussions about group rules and expectations are an important part of gaining confidence and the ability to live in a community.

At the organization's headquarters, 1160 Grant St., Pujita Mayeda pointed out the areas used to construct and store building materials for the huts, platforms and other structures, store donated clothes, and food.

The League members were impressed with the dedicated staff trying to provide suitable temporary housing for the homeless. We also left feeling very thankful for whatever home we were privileged to have.

Photos and story by Janet Calvert



APRIL THIRD THURSDAY

Kappy Eaton and Peter DeFazio



The League's Third Thursday program provided Congressman Peter DeFazio with a community forum. During the Congressional recess, he has been traveling throughout his district, answering questions and discussing the dynamics in Congress today. He is a very senior Member of Congress and has been a Representative longer than any other person in Oregon's history. That makes him both knowledgeable and candid. From his position as the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he was able to discuss both the math and the dynamics around a possible future infrastructure bill.

Congressman DeFazio's talk marked the end of the Third Thursday talks until the membership luncheon in September. Stay tuned for more information about that!

Linda Lynch



VOTER SERVICE

Rhonda Livesay & Keli Osborn, Co-Chairs

When is a break not a break?

The Voter Service committee did not hold its regular meeting in April, but the work continues! The League co-sponsored with the Eugene 4J Parent Leaders Network an April 17 public forum for school board candidates. The school boards in Lane County communities wield important fiscal and policy responsibilities that affect all of us, whether or not we have children in local schools. Thank you to the hardy band of volunteers who helped make the forum happen.

National Popular Vote

We hosted an informative public forum in March on how we elect the U.S. President, featuring Barry Fadem from National Popular Vote (NPV) and Priscilla Southwell, a UO Political Science professor and expert on electoral methods. Our thanks to volunteers, presenters and attendees!

Did you know:

- Five out of our 45 Presidents have come into office without receiving the most popular votes nationwide.
- State winner-take-all laws are the reason why a candidate can win the Presidency without winning the national popular vote.
- The NPV would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The League of Women Voters believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. To make that change, the League of Women Voters of the United States endorsed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in 2010.

Public support is growing in Oregon for the NPV, but key legislators must be convinced to move forward a bill to add Oregon to the compact. Do we still have time this legislative session? For up-to-date information, please visit the Action tab on the League of Women Voters of Oregon website: <http://lwwor.org/>

Looking ahead

Voter Service is set to meet at 2 pm on Friday afternoon, May 12. Join us to plan and carry out voter engagement and education. Ideas welcome: livesay.lwv@gmail.com or kelimosborn@gmail.com.

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. -

Amelia Earhart



The League's Day at the Legislature included Representative Greg Smith (R - Heppner) addressing state revenue needs.

STATE OF THE STATE

by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday,
May 3,
9:30 am
Unit 234

Waterford Grand
600 Waterford Way,
Eugene

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

All League members
are welcome to
participate on the
committee.

GOVERNANCE

Fiscal Policy The legislative session began with a \$1.6 billion deficit in the budget for the 2017-19 biennia, and the Democrats (Ds) and Republicans (Rs) are far apart in ways to address the problem. The major issues are

- ♦ Business tax reform - broader base
- ♦ Transportation package - gas tax increase
- ♦ Provider tax expansion
- ♦ Property tax reform - inequities

Significant issues blocking solutions include tax credits, property tax exemptions, tobacco tax and other nicotine delivery mechanisms, pass-through lower rate eligibility, tax havens (off-shore shelters) and corporate apportionment. The Ds have put forward draconian cuts in services such as education, health care and services to veterans and seniors if Rs don't agree with proposed solutions. The Rs denounce the plan and advocate for a freeze in hiring non-essential workers and administrative efficiencies which could save up to \$790 million per biennium, half of the short-fall. Ways and Means is currently reviewing all state agency budgets as bills must move through one chamber to the other.

The final revenue forecast will be presented May 16. It is the final one upon which the budget for the 2017-19 biennium will be based. May 18 is the deadline for committees to schedule work sessions on measures that originated in the opposite chamber, and June 2 is the deadline for committees to hold work sessions originating in the opposite chamber. The targeted adjournment of the 2017 Legislature is June 23, with July 10 the Constitu-

tional deadline.

Elections The Secretary of State surprised both legislators and Oregonians with his plan to add 60,000 voters by changing the purging time for citizens who haven't voted in five years. Currently any registered voter who hasn't cast a ballot in five years is automatically stricken. Voters will now not be removed for 10 years. More than 300,000 have been added since 2016 with the "Motor Voter" law that adds voters through the DMV.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate Change SB 557, clean energy jobs (cap and trade) is in Senate Business and Transportation (probably to die), while similar HB 2135 had a work session April 17. Greenhouse gas emission reductions was discussed in both House and Senate Environment committees April 19 with Oregon business leaders. The 10 year moratorium on fracking, HB 2711, is moving towards approval. Work on keeping the Elliott Forest in public hands continues with Governor Brown expected to present a plan to the State Land Board on May 9. There are several troublesome land use planning bills having work sessions. They would allow rural eastern Oregon counties to opt out of the statewide land use system, change the definition of high value farmland and allow construction within landfill and drainage facilities.

Transportation bills are moving for safe routes to schools and also the annual Connect Oregon legislation. Several water bills are being considered: repealing the

moratorium on using motorized mining equipment on rivers, requiring a water rights management fee, requiring high hazard dams have emergency plans, and a safe well proposal.

The Regional Solutions program is still being monitored to assure there is public access and opportunities to participate in the discussions. Meeting times and places are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/regional-solutions/Pages/default.aspx>

SOCIAL POLICY

Housing Moving are bills that fund the preservation of low cost housing such as complexes that can be purchased for seniors and disabled or families. A measure to add \$5 to the Document Recording Fee of \$20 for each real estate filing at the county records is on the approval docket.

Human services bills moving include the General Assistance Program for adults needing disability benefits and modifying the license requirements for providers of treatment for dependent children. Also approved is the Office of Oregon Ombudsman, including long term care, Residential Facility Ombudsman, Foster Child and Foster Parent Ombudsman, and Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator, all in one office.

Several bills under **Public Safety** are of interest. HB 3078 provides strategies for alternatives to prison and probably would decrease both men and women prison populations. Currently only the one women's prison is at capacity. The Family Sentencing Alternative could keep

(Continued on page 5)

LOCAL ACTION

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Envision Eugene

At the League Action Committee meeting on May 3, the committee will receive an update from Eugene Planning Department staff on adjustments made to the Envision Eugene documents following the public hearing and direction from the Planning Commission, which held three meetings in April on the subject. The Eugene City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners are expected to conduct a public hearing and take action on the proposal, including the new urban growth boundary, this summer.

Future Money Measures?

The City of Eugene is considering two money measures that may appear on future ballots. In November 2017 voters may be asked to approve a bond measure for street repairs and maintenance to continue the work of the two previous bond measures. One sce-

nario would retain the same property tax rate.

Measures to provide operational and capital funding for city parks may appear on the May 2018 ballot. At this preliminary stage of planning, four scenarios have been developed. In these scenarios, the funds generated for annual operating costs range from \$2.3 million to \$5.7 million. A possible accompanying bond measure would provide up to \$100 million for capital construction to renovate existing facilities and develop new ones. Potential renovation projects include Echo Hollow Pool, Campbell Senior Center, River House Outdoor Center, Sheldon Community Center/Pool, Petersen Barn, parks and community gardens. New construction might include a multi-field sports complex and an additional community center and pool.

The League will be following these proposals as they are refined and sent to voters. If you have a particular interest in one or more of these issues, please join the Action Committee in tracking them.

Housing Issues

League's March unit meetings were devoted to local housing and homelessness issues, which continue to be important topics for the community as solutions are sought. During April the Eugene City Council scheduled two work sessions on aspects of the problem. One work session covered the need for a public shelter for emergency housing, and the other addressed inclusionary zoning, a policy typically implemented at the local level to incorporate units affordable to low or moderate-income households in market-rate developments.

State Action

(Continued from page 4)

mothers with their children in the community and decrease new commitments.

The **Judiciary Committee** has passed several interesting bills. They include direction to the Oregon Ombudsman, mandating grant recording, and continuing the role of child welfare work-

ers in court hearings without representation. Also a proposal adding pregnant women and women with custody of children to those eligible for the Family Sentencing Alternative was approved. Another prison decrease bill increases transitional leaves from 90 to 180 days.

Health Care An important health bill

mandates that Coordinated Care Organizations be non-profit entities, maintain reserves, and/or spend funds on community health improvement. The CCO boards will be required to have open meetings with transparency. There will be more discussion prior to the 2018 session.

President's column

(Continued from page 1)

rial.

Thank you to all the unit hosts, discussion leaders, and coordinators. You are the foundation for the League's mission.

Thanks to all the office staffers who make copies, make phone calls, answer questions and hold the fort for the League.

I hope you get the idea. This list could go on. Board members, donors, fruit sellers and buyers, the whole voter service team - question vetters, time keepers, greeters, ballot measure presenters. I've named about half the people who should be named or ignored half the work that some people do. Collectively, you make this such an outstanding, vital organization. You make our numbers count. It is humbling if not staggering to think there are 800 state and local Leagues

making similar efforts. That does not diminish anyone's contributions. It magnifies them.

You can see why we are always looking for more people to help with more jobs. It's because so many people are doing so many great things. Don't quit now! Our work has just begun - again.

MEMBERSHIP

Betty-Coe R. de Broekert, Chair

Membership Committee Meeting

Next meeting May 23
(note the one time date change)
2 to 3:30 pm

followed by
Chat 'n Chew
3:30 pm

Both at the Cafes in
Fifth Street Public Market

Please contact
Betty-Coe de Broekert
Busybee78@comcast.net
Or 541-357-4443 (H)
503-780-3454 (cell/text)
if you have questions.



**Negative Campaigning: an
American Tradition,**
presented by Eugene-based
author and linguist
Rosemarie Ostler
5:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday,
May 3
at Tsunami Books,
2585 Willamette St. Eugene

The Membership Committee is seeking additional members. The committee is described by some as the “lifeblood of the League.” We are seeking additional members to carry out the committee’s stated mission.

The main duties of the committee are membership recruitment and retention activities, supporting the work of the League, and planning membership events including the fall luncheon. The League’s commitment to developing a diverse membership is a major challenge to the Membership Committee. Responsibilities of the committee fall into four distinct areas: the annual fall membership luncheon, a mid-year membership event, mentoring new members, and recording and tracking

new and continuing members. Committee member roles vary from serving as chairs or co-chairs of special events to collecting and reviewing member interest surveys, to being greeters at events or reaching out to new members.

Chat ‘N Chew

The Membership Committee sponsors a quarterly, Chat ‘N Chew, an informal gathering that provides the opportunity to ask questions about the League, discuss a current or emerging topic of interest, and meet other members. New members are especially welcome and encouraged to attend. The next Chat ‘N Chew is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 beginning at 3:30 at the cafes in the Fifth Street Public Market.

SLINGING MUD

Described as “entertaining, knowledgeable and humorous,” Rosemarie Ostler, will talk about five historical political campaigns that seem to have some parallels with recent times. The respected linguist will be reading from her book *Slinging Mud: Rude Nicknames, Scurrilous Slogans, and Insulting Slang from Two Centuries of American Politics*.

Quoting from the cover of *Slinging Mud*, “We bemoan the loss of civility in public discourse these days, but mudslinging is an American tradition as old as the republic. Not everyone admired the Father of Our Country. President Washington’s enemies called him a cheapskate, a hyena, a horse beater, a spoiled child, and a tyrannical monster, among other epithets.”

Terms such as *wingnut*, *loco-foco*, *carpet-baggers*, *bushwhacker*, *copperheads*, *Hoovervilles*, *peaceniks*, *loose cannon*, *nervous Nellie*, *lunatic fringe*, *pork barrel*, *lame duck*, *latte liberals* and many more political insults all have roots in what some describe as “rude politics.” Every era has its share of politically moti-

vated insults. *Slinging Mud* is a collection of memorable words, expressions, and historical stories from two centuries’ worth of going negative.

In her book, Ostler concludes, “Mudslinging is simply part of that time-honored democratic process – the American way of politics.”

Rosemarie Ostler, is also the author of *Founding Grammars: How Early America’s War over Words Shaped Today’s Language*; *Dewdroppers, Waldos, and Slackers: A Decade by Decade Guide to the Vanishing Vocabulary of the 20th Century*; and *Let’s Talk Turkey: The Stories Behind America’s Favorite Expressions*. Many of her articles on language have appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Verbatim*, *Whole Earth*, and *Writer’s Digest*, among other publications. She holds a doctorate in linguistics, has taught at the University of Iowa, and worked for the New York Public Library and the University of Oregon Library.

Betty-Coe R. de Broekert

ANOTHER HOUSING PROBLEM: Missing Middle Housing

by Barbara French

On April 12, 2017 our League co-sponsored an event put on by AARP called "2017 Livability Solutions Forum: The Future of Housing, Eugene/Springfield." Among the 100 attendees were the mayors of both cities, a city councilman from Creswell, several architects, land developers, and members of such organizations as 1000 Friends, Oregon Law Center, Lane Council of Governments, University of Oregon, and Charlcie Kaylor and I, representing our League

The main speaker was architect and writer Daniel Parolek, who has coined the term "Missing Middle Housing" to express the idea that we need denser, affordable housing to accommodate

people. He pointed out that 7,000 people per day are turning 65 and 75-80% of housing will not have children living in them by 2025. He explained that the majority of housing in our area was created for single families in the 1950's in Eugene and the 70's in Springfield. They set the face of our neighborhoods, which needs to be counteracted by reconfiguring how people can live within our urban growth boundaries.

His solution involves creating multi-home buildings but not the flat-faced apartment boxes that people often hate to see springing up everywhere. He introduced us to the idea of having more attractive, mixed styles of build-

ings such as stacked duplexes, courtyard apartments, bungalow courts, townhouses, and multiplexes disguised as big, two-storied homes no one would ever guess contain four to six dwellings.

He emphasized that achieving this kind of infilling will require cities to rewrite their building codes, something that is not easy when most councils are filled with mature representatives who tilt toward single family dwellings. I laughed when he said "**Oregonians hate sprawl and density,**" but he convinced me we have to figure out acceptable ways to house more people, and the higher density option makes housing more affordable.

LWVUS REDISTRICTING POSITION

Attention to two special elections for US House of Representatives seats in the past few weeks has led to questions about the political makeup of the US House and state legislatures. CNN estimates that only 72 of the 435 House seats are competitive--that is, could elect either a Republican or a Democrat. Congressman DeFazio stated that only 65 were competitive. These low numbers reflect the Redistricting process, which has become very political, and which is the responsibility of individual states. There are various methods used to achieve Congressional districting after each census.

At the LWVUS 2016 Convention members concurred with the position recommended by the LWVUS Board and the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force.

Linda Lynch

Redistricting Position in Brief:
Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Redistricting Position:

1. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including

citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

2. Every redistricting process should include:

a. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;

b. Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption:

i. Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process,

ii. Should be subject to open meeting laws;

c. A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;

d. Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule:

i. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review,

ii. The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.

3. The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:

a. Be enforceable in court;

b. Require:

i. Substantially equal population,

ii. Geographic contiguity, and

iii. Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.

c. Provide for (to the extent possible):

i. Promotion of partisan fairness,

ii. Preservation and protection of

"communities of interest," and

iii. Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.

d. Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria

e. Explicitly reject:

i. Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent's address, and

ii. Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

This position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position.

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

For the latest information about League events,
meetings, positions and the ARGUS, visit our website
<http://lwwlc.org/>
Remember to "like" us on Facebook!

DONATE NOW

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

CALENDAR

MAY

- 3 - 9:30 am - Action Committee, Waterford Grand (pg 4)
- 3 - 5:30 pm - "Slinging Mud" (pg 1 & 6)
- 12 - 2 pm - Voter Service, League office (pg 3)
- 17 - 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 19 - Midnight, ARGUS deadline for submissions
- 23 - 2 pm - Membership Committee (pg 6)
- 23 - 3:30 pm - Chat 'n Chew (pg 6)

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

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.

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Unique Properties

Please give this
to a friend



Mail the form and check
payable to LWVLC to:

LWVLC
338 West 11th Avenue
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) _____