



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter
September 2017

OUR NEW YEAR by Linda Lynch, President



Here we are in September. Our new year of study and advocacy begins with our opportunity to hear from

Mayor Lucy Vinis at the fall membership luncheon. *Think about who you should be inviting to attend - the first 20 potential new members are guests of the League.* This is such a great time to show people that we are both serious and fun. It's a chance to visit with people you might not have seen over the summer months. It is the most approachable aspect of the League - come listen to an interesting talk. You don't have to study ahead of time!

The beginning of the year's work in League comes at a time when the body politic is reacting to events in Charlottesville, Virginia. Unfortunately, what seems to be most discussed is not the event itself but the President's various responses to the event and the responses of people to his responses. This so-called public dialogue both glosses over the event itself and raises yet again the questions of what is the truth, who speaks it, and how can you tell. The League of Women Voters, far removed from the scene at the University of Virginia, is nonetheless in a place to help shape the appropriate discussion.

First is our work on civil discourse. We must all become more familiar with tools that can keep conversations from escalating into heated meaningless rhetoric. We need to expand our own personal toolkits. This topic will be

explored in November in our group discussion meetings (Units). In addition, some other activities centered on civility and civil discourse are being planned.

Second, we have to commit to the work that comes with improving our civil discourse, both one to one and at the national level. The work is different for each person, but it requires a commitment, no matter what. It might be taking on a League task, making time to read the study material, then finding a meeting where you can discuss it. The work for sure includes staying immersed in the news, as easy as it is to hide from it, especially when we are far removed from the center of the action. The work includes making certain we are listening to more voices than just ours and those who agree with us, checking our sources

and the context of news items.

The League is the perfect forum for this work. We work at being sure we learned both sides of an issue before we attempt to take a position on it. We pay attention. We are not immune from error, however, which is why it takes all of us to get it right. When planning the fall luncheon and looking at the third Thursday date, it would have been better if the lunch was not inadvertently scheduled over Rosh Hashanah. This is a close to home example of how paying closer attention to the whole community would have been instructive and could have changed the plan. It is a new year for all of us. There is lots to do, lots to learn, people to see, letters to write. I very much hope you will all be part of the work.

LWVLC'S ANNUAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 21, Valley River Inn, Eugene

Lucy Vinis, Eugene Mayor

Speaking on

"Local Politics Matter"

Doors open at 11 am - buffet served at 11:30 am

Open to the public - reservations are required
call 541-343-7919 or league@lwvlc.org

Buffet lunch is available for \$17

Beverage only, \$5



VOTER SERVICE by Keli Osborn, Chair

Mark September 26 on your calendar and make plans to observe National Voter Registration Day.

This will be our chance to remind neighbors about the importance of voting rights—and to encourage first-timers to register and those who’ve moved to update their registration. With an election set for November 7, those wanting to weigh in on local issues must make sure their voter registration is up to date.

Also coming up:

9/7	5pm filing deadline - measures at Lane County Elections
9/22	Out-of-country and military ballots mailed
10/9	Out-of-state ballots mailed
10/17	Voter Registration Deadline
10/19	Ballots mailed; official drops sites open
11/7	Election Day
11/27	Last day for county clerk to certify election

So far, two City of Eugene measures (Charter house-keeping, street bonds) and a City of Springfield levy (jail operations and police services) are on the ballot. Without presidential candidates or major state-wide measures, will area residents cast votes?

Voter Service invites your help this fall encouraging voter turnout. What actions can we take beyond social media, buttons, stickers and signs? (Consider this a warm-up for what could be a busy spring 2018!)

In the meantime, **Think Before You Ink**. The state League has produced a brochure offering tips for evaluating petitions circulating for future and possible ballot measures. Copies are heading your way or take a look: <http://lwvor.org/home/voterresources/think-before-you-ink/>

Come join us!
Keli Osborn, kelimosborn@gmail.com; 541-968-7628

THANK YOU - NOW AND IN FUTURE Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

Thank you for paying your dues. And a very special thank you if you wrote a dues check and added “a little extra” for League operations. So far, members have contributed \$785 in addition to their regular dues. Your membership and support are appreciated.

Planned Giving
It’s a fact. Every day each of us and our loved ones get older. The LWVUS has developed a web site that offers facts about planned giving. The simplest and one of the most frequent vehicles for

giving to League is a **bequest in your will**.

Go to <http://plannedgiving.lwv.org> for more information. You can also donate directly to our local League to honor a good friend, a loved one or to make a donation in memory of a special person.

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING - WHEN?

The LWVLC Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Therese Picado, who had planned to be Program Chair. Before she left, however, she led the board through planning a calendar for study topics for the coming year.

In October we will discuss the specifics of the local ballot measures that will appear on the November ballot. Because that is not a long list, we thought this would be a good time to discuss how the League happens to take positions on some measures and not on others and to review our dual roles of education and advocacy. The discussions should be of particular interest to newer members!

Other months and topics:

- November** - Civil Discourse
- December** - Program Planning
- January** - Hard Rock Mining (a state study)
- February** - Mental Health and Homelessness
- March** - Sanctuary (cities, schools, counties, states)
- April** - Unit Choice
- May** - Campaign Finance (will coincide with Oregon mid-term primary)

Linda Lynch

LOCAL ACTION

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Action Committee Meeting

**October 4
9:30 am
League office**

**(No meeting in
September)**

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.

The most exciting news is that in early August the two **Envision Eugene** ordinances were approved unanimously by the Lane County Board of Commissioners in the same form they were approved by the Eugene City Council. So after seven plus years, the new growth plan can be submitted to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development for acknowledgment (acceptance).

However, the League and some League members recently received a notice of intent to appeal the decision of the local governments, with regard to the sufficiency of the urban growth boundary for residential land. This notice was provided by the Home Builders Association of Lane County. The League was notified that, because of its prior testimony, it could participate in such an appeal if it chose to. The League has no plans to participate in this process.

City of Eugene Bond Measure for Roads

The League board has voted to support the bond measure for roads the Eugene City Council has placed on the November ballot. The measure would authorize the issuance of \$51.2 million of General Obligation Bonds to fund street preservation projects and bicycle and pedestrian improvements and the levying of property taxes to retire the bonds. This measure would extend for five years (beginning July 1, 2018) the road maintenance program that has been supported by two previous very similar measures.

The bond proceeds would be used for repairs and maintenance on 90 specifically identified street segments throughout the city. They could not be used for new road construction or expansion. In addition, the bonds would provide an annual average of \$1 million for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The required property tax rate is expected to be about \$0.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is approximately the same tax rate levied over the five years of the current measure. However, due to increased property tax assessed values, the annual cost to an average homeowner would likely increase from \$127 to \$148. The measure continues the requirement of an annual outside audit of the use of the bond proceeds.

A pavement report presented to the Eugene City Council in March calculated the backlog of repairs on improved asphalt streets as \$92 million, a reduction of \$79 million in the backlog since the 2008 bond was approved. Previous reports by the outside auditor have shown that the bond proceeds were spent in compliance with requirements.

League support is based on our local position on Capital Improvement Financing, which states "Local governments should strongly emphasize the maintenance of capital improvements."

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency Regulations

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) is proposing changes to its regulations pertaining to

outdoor burning with the goal of improving air quality throughout Lane County. The League board has approved the submission of testimony at a public hearing on September 14 in support of many of the amendments.

The Air Quality position of the League of Women Voters of Oregon states that all segments of society must share responsibility for improved air pollution abatement practices and that individuals need to be willing to accept restrictions on backyard burning. There is no doubt that the revised LRAPA rules are in agreement with that strategy.

The regulations distinguish between recreational fires such as small campfires and fires in fire pits or chimineas and residential outdoor burning for the disposal of waste. Recreational fires are allowed except in some areas on yellow and red home wood advisory days.

The proposed rules restrict residential outdoor burning as a method of disposing of waste materials but recognize the differences between rural and urban needs. Countywide, they prohibit the use of burn barrels and the burning of grass clippings because of associated pollution. In general, the residential outdoor burning season is from October 1 to June 15 on approved burning days. Within the small cities and the urban growth boundaries of Eugene and Springfield, woody yard trimmings are the only material allowed to be burned; the burning of leaves is no longer permit-

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THINKING AHEAD... TO OUR ANNUAL FRUIT SALE

by Marj Maxwell, Fruit Sale Chair

Buying and selling high quality fruit is a great way to support the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Fruit order forms will be mailed to members and community friends in early October with fruit available for pickup in early December. It's not too early to begin planning to ask others to purchase fruit and deciding how much fruit you will purchase for yourself and others. We will continue to offer the option of purchasing fruit to be donated to Food for Lane County.

Become a Loop! If you are looking for a fun way to meet fellow League members and want a defined, limited commitment, join our Fruit Fundraiser Committee, also known as the Fruit Loops. Contact Marj Maxwell, marjmaxwell@gmail.com, 541-521-3051, or leave a message at the LWVLC office.

ADVISORY BOARD

One way the League Board members keeps a realistic assessment of what Lane residents are concerned about is to listen carefully to comments from members of our Advisory Board. The League Advisory Board currently has members from a variety of professions and civic interests. We are seeking additional members who will more fully represent a variety of ages, ethnic backgrounds, professions and community interests.

Our current Advisory Board members include:

Susan Soonkeum Cox, Holt International Children's Services

Dan Egan, former Springfield Chamber of Commerce manager and current manager of Wildish Community Theater

Carrie Foster, CPA, Jones and Roth CPA's

Brett Rowlett, Lane Community College Director of Government and Community Relations

John Stark, General Manager of KLCC

Brittany Quick-Warner, Eugene Chamber of Commerce

Clair Wiles, North Eugene High School civics teacher

The Advisory Board meets at least once a year. We ask for their suggestions on how we can better serve the community with voter education and encourage informed voting. The Board reviews our active studies, action priorities, voter service outreach, efforts to increase League visibility and membership and whatever the board members want to discuss.

If you have suggestions for new Advisory Board members, please call Janet Calvert 541-686-2697. Thank you.

Janet Calvert



NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

August 12, members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse. LWVLC member, Stephanie Winsor and her two granddaughters assisted in welcoming 25 people from 14 countries as new citizens.

Local Action

(Continued from page 4)

ted except in rural areas. The existing complete ban on residential outdoor burning within the Eugene city limits will be expanded to apply within the Eugene urban growth boundary, which will be especially helpful in the patchwork River Road-Santa Clara neighborhoods.

Similarly, the restrictions on residential outdoor burning in the City of Springfield and the City of Oakridge will be expanded to apply within their

respective urban growth boundaries. Within the Springfield UGB, the burning of woody yard trimmings is still allowed on lots of one half acre or more on approved burn days from March 1 to June 15 and October 1 to October 31, that is, dates outside the worst winter pollution period from November through February. Within the urban growth boundaries of Eugene and Springfield, the outdoor burning of construction/demolition, commercial, or industrial waste continues to be prohibited.

Other items

The Action committee is following the EWEB water resiliency discussions and studying the City of Springfield local option levy for jail operations and public safety that will appear on the November 2017 ballot. We are also obtaining more information about and discussing the City of Eugene initiative petition to create an independent elected city auditor position that will appear on the May 2018 ballot if sufficient signatures are obtained.

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

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://lwvlc.org/>
Remember to "like" us on Facebook!*

DONATE NOW

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

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 8 - 2 pm - Voter Service, League office
- 19 - 2 pm - Membership Committee, League office
- 20 - 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 21 - 11:30 am - Fall Luncheon (see page 1 & 2)
- 22 - Midnight - **Argus** deadline for submissions
- 26 - National Voter Registration Day (pg 3)

OCTOBER 13 - SAVE THE DATE!

Third Thursday - Civil Discourse
The Honorable David Brewer,
Associate Justice of the
Oregon Supreme Court (Retired)

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.

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

*Thanks to our
2016-17 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**



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 - July 2017 thru June 2018

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address)	\$105
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$20

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)