



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter
October 2017

OUR ASSIGNMENTS by Linda Lynch, President



A new year of work and study and voter education and voter

registration and candidate forums and ballot measure explanations and great speakers is here! Like every new year, it is a good time to take stock of where we are and where we hope to go. The League of Women Voters of the United States is beginning the trek to our 100th anniversary in 2020. This trek requires

introspection - are we still needed? It requires planning - where do we go from here? It requires assessment - how do we modernize our infrastructure? It requires fundraising - we need to celebrate! All that work goes on at the state and local levels too.

One of our most important assignments continues to be the need for us to become more technologically adept. Not only do we need to fully embrace social media, we all need to be skilled at learning how it can multiply our impact and our visibility. We need to have easy ways to share information and data.

We need to branch out from the world of 9:30 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. There are people who want to help us in our work who are already busy during those hours. (See page 2.)

We need to remain vigilant against attempts to narrow rather than expand the electorate. That may be less of a specific problem in Oregon, with easy registration and vote by mail, but our Secretary of State has referred some questions of voter "fraud" to the department of Justice. I believe it is unlikely that any criminal charges will follow, but a lot of attention was given to that press conference.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is leading a campaign to educate voters about initiative petitions. *Think Before You Ink* attempts to make people realize how valuable their signature is. The campaign suggests questions that one should consider before signing any petitions. Is the proposal too complex? Is it clear? Who is behind it? Never sign a petition "just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it." There are more information and more questions to ask included in this campaign. *Think Before You Ink* brochures are available at the League office

(Continued on page 5)

THIRD THURSDAY by Nancie Fadeley OCTOBER 19, Valley River Inn, Eugene David V. Brewer, Supreme Court Justice, (Ret.) Speaking on

"Civil Discourse: A Tool For Getting the People's Work Done"

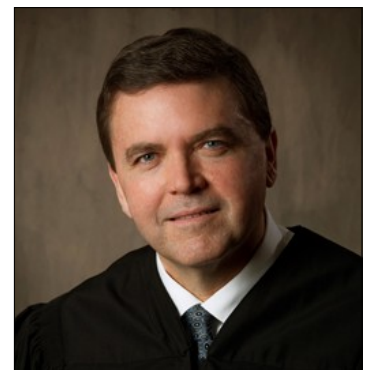
Justice Brewer has worked to promote civil discourse in public policy matters. He will discuss some examples of bridge building efforts in state government that helped build trust among differing factions.

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

Open to the public - reservations are required (see note below)

To RSVP call 541-343-7919 or league@lwwlc.org

Lunch \$17, beverage only \$5



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.

UNITS

Mary Keating, Chair

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2017-18

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KELI OSBORN

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JEANNE TAYLOR

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Program
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Public Relations
KATHY MADISON

Units
MARY KEATING

Voter Service
KELI OSBORN

Monday, October 9

10 am - S. Willamette

3433 Olive St (Oct. only)
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

5:30 pm - Downtown

Bill & Tim's BBQ **New!!!**
201 E. 13th
C- Charlcie Kaylor 541-686-0124

Tuesday, October 10

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, October 11

10 am - East Eugene

555 E. 15th
Central Presbyterian
H- Stephanie Winsor 541-342-8243
C- Diana Grandberry 541-342-8402

1 pm - Cottage Grove

Cottage Grove LCC
1275 S River Rd, Cottage Grove
H- Gayle Downing 541-942-1858

3 pm - S. W. Eugene

1375 Olive St., Apt. 606
H- Sally Weston 541-484-4404

Friday, October 13

10:30 am - Cascade Manor

Cascade View Room
C- Frank Carlton 541-434-4140
C- Pat McDaniels 541-434-4210

Unit Briefing

Tuesday, October 3rd, 3 pm
Atrium - Sloat Room,
10th & Olive, Eugene
All are welcome

BALLOT MEASURES

by Rhonda Livesay, Ballot Measure Committee Member

The ballot measure process will be the topic for this month's group discussion program. For many it will be a review but for some it will be a learning process.

What is a petition? How does it get on the ballot? Could I start a petition if I have a great idea that I think should become law? How can I keep a law from taking affect? What is the difference between a referendum and an initiative? Is it true that the people who circulate the ballot measure cannot have a criminal conviction? What is a sponsorship signature?

These are some of the question which we will be answering in October. You have to make it to a meeting to find out the answers!

What interested me when getting involved with the League was what is a draft ballot title? Simple but for some reason it intrigued me and then I was hooked into learning more about the entire process. I hope that you will learn some new things and be able to do your own research on a petition after our discussion.

EVENING UNIT DISCUSSION GROUP!!!

Many thanks to Pat Hocken and Charlcie Kaylor for looking for venues for an evening meeting that would be suitable for League discussion groups. **Bill and Tim's Barbecue at 201 East 13th Ave.** is graciously allowing us to use their venue space (to the right of the main entrance door) Monday evenings without guaranteeing a minimum number of people. The space is reserved for us for Monday, October 9, at 5:30 pm. There is parking, plus it is close to campus.

It has been quite a while since the League had evening discussion groups. Like any other unit, this is open to all members (even if you were not at a paying job all day). Program committee members and board members will provide some support for this unit, so if you are interested, just come!

Linda Lynch

VOTER SERVICE

By Keli Osborn, Chair

Yes, We Vote

National Voter Registration Day was September 26, which makes early fall a great time to remind League members and neighbors about oregonvotes.gov. This State of Oregon online resource allows a person to:

- Check voter registration status
- Update registration after moving or changing one's name
- Register to vote

How cool is that?

Last year, millions of Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. Across Lane County November 7, local governments will ask voters about a wide range of issues. But here's the thing: you can't cast a ballot on any of these measures unless you're registered to vote. The voter registration deadline for this fall's election is October 17. Help us get the word out!

Voter registration is just the first step. LWVLC is experimenting with ***Please Vote*** signs to encourage people to take the next step: voting. Thanks to ***Alice Davenport*** for the suggestion and to ***Gary Harmon*** for organizing.

2018 will be another big election year. We rely on volunteer power to educate community members about ballot measures and to coordinate candidate forums. As always, we welcome your

support. Voter Service will meet on Monday, October 16, 2 pm at the League office before taking a break.

Speaking of 2018, you might be seeing people with clipboards asking for your signature to help put a measure on the ballot. The League of Women Voters of Oregon has put together a handy brochure: *Think Before You Ink*. You can find it here: <http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/TBYI-For-Web-8-11.pdf>

10/9/2017	Out-of-state ballots mailed
10/17/2017	Voter Registration Deadline
10/19/2017	Ballots mailed; official drops sites open
11/7/2017	Election Day
11/27/2017	Last day for county clerk to certify election

**Voter Service
Committee
Meeting**

**October 16
2 pm
League Office**

Measure	District	Ballot Title Caption
20-273	City of Springfield	Five-Year Levy for Springfield Jail Operations and Police Services
20-274	City of Eugene	Amends Charter: Election to fill vacant Mayor or Councilor position
20-275	City of Eugene	Bonds to Fix Streets, Fund Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects
20-276	Oakridge School District #76	Oakridge School District General Obligation Facilities Bond
20-277	Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District	Local option levy for EMS and Fire operations
20-278	South Lane County Fire & Rescue	Renewal of current five-year local option tax for general operations
20-279	Lowell School District No. 71	Authorizes General Obligation Bonds for Lowell School District
20-280	City of Creswell	Regulation and Taxation of Recreational Marijuana Businesses in Creswell
20-281	Siuslaw School District No. 97J	Renewal of five-year local option levy for school operations
20-282	Rainbow Water and Fire District	Five-Year Fire Protection Local Option Levy

Question: In what year were the residents of Washington, D.C. granted the right to vote in presidential elections?

Answer: The passage of the 23rd amendment in 1961 granted the right to vote in presidential elections to residents of Washington, D.C.

LOCAL ACTION

By Pat Hocken, Chair

Action Committee Meeting

**October 4
9:30 am
Apt. #234
600 Waterford Way
Eugene**

**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.**

Launch for West Eugene EmX

On September 17, the West Eugene EmX began operating on a six mile route from Downtown Eugene to the Commerce Station, just west of Walmart, near the intersection of West 11th Avenue and Randy Pape Beltline. I had the opportunity in late August to take a sneak preview ride and was quite impressed with the experience.

The ride from downtown was completed in about 20 minutes, not bad for the distance in traffic. The new sidewalks, curb cuts, retaining walls, plantings, stations and wider rights of way are

attractive and functional. The new route will provide ten minute service on weekdays and allow riders to travel seamlessly from West Eugene to Peace Health Hospital north of Springfield.

Here are the numbers: \$100 million project cost, 26 new stations, three new bicycle pedestrian bridges, gain of 200 trees, five miles of new and rebuilt sidewalks, two new signalized pedestrian crossings, 187 accessible corners, 35 stormwater filtration planters, six rain gardens. The hybrid electric vehicles feature level boarding, specific bays for walkers and wheelchairs, and interior bike racks.

The League was one of the proponents of the project when it was approved in 2012. I encourage you to try out the ride soon.

Eugene Bond Measure for Roads

As reported in last month's *Argus*, the League of Women Voters of Lane County is supporting the City of Eugene bond measure for road maintenance and bike and pedestrian improvements that will appear on the November 2017 ballot. The League is submitting a voter's pamphlet statement in support of the measure in coordination with Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation and AARP -SW OR.

**Want a League take on Oregon legislative action during the last session?
Check out this link.**

<http://lwv.or.org/home/take-action/legislative-reports/legislative-report-sine-die-number-24-september-2017/>

MEMBERSHIP

by Betty-Coe de Broekert, Chair

Thanks to the members of the Membership Committee who contributed the extra effort it takes to make our Fall Luncheon a success. Special thanks to **Kathy Merwin-Gonzales** and **Anne Best** who, again, took on the details unique to this event.

The next Membership Committee meeting will be (third Tuesday) Tuesday, October 17, at the League Office from 2 to 3:30 pm. Primary agenda items will be a debrief of the Membership Committee roles and planning of the Annual Luncheon. We will also be discussing a New Member Kit and another League 101 Orientation. Join us!

Membership Committee Meeting

**October 17
2 pm
League Office**

League of Women Voters of Oregon Fall Workshop 2017

**All members
are welcome!**

Saturday, Oct. 21

9:30 to 3

Building #19

Lane Community College

The day's theme is

"Mediating the Message - The League's Role in the 21st Century"

Cost for registration and lunch is \$35. Deadline for registering is October 12.

Morning Workshop

"Journalism, Information and Misinformation"

with **Professor Regina Lawrence**

Discussing current trends in media and how we can improve our own practices to support a well-informed public



A buffet lunch will be served at noon with a presentation by

Lorena Reynolds.

Ms. Reynolds, an attorney based in Corvallis, will speak about strategies for empowering young leaders.

Afternoon Workshops (*Choose 1*)

"How to Watch Your Legislature at Work From Your Home"

with **Peggy Lynch**

Come prepared with a charged laptop to learn how to navigate the Oregon Legislative Information System.

OR CHOOSE

"The League's Transformational Journey"

with **Norman Turrill and Alice Bartelt**

The League is undergoing a transformation that will ensure continued success in our second century. Learn more!

To register go to - <http://lwvor.org/event/fall-workshop-2017/>

Continued from President's Column page 1

and will be available at October unit discussions.

This campaign could not be more timely. The Secretary of State is proposing to modify the petition process to allow signature gathering before a ballot title is certified. LWVOR comments on the proposal stated, "it is most important, even crucial, that voters at every stage should have a clear idea of what they are signing on an initiative petition."

We need to be more transparent and more relevant to our new members. The League is a complex organization. Historically, we have liked it that way! But that complexity creates barriers to easy access to all that we know and do. We have to be more nimble and more open to help when it is offered by nonmembers.

The good news is that we know what our assignments are. Your challenge is to think of the one or two things you can do to help the League advance its mission. Just for starters, there are voters to register, ballot measures to explain, and research to complete. See you soon!

FALL LUNCHEON

By Darla McVay

More than 100 people attended the LWVLC'S annual kickoff luncheon on Thursday, September 21, to hear Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis speak on the topic "Local Politics Matter." Mayor Vinis spoke of issues facing the City of Eugene, updated attendees about some of the work currently being done, and shared her thoughts on Eugene's role.

One of the primary issues being addressed in our community is that of housing. The city faces a challenge of providing housing to meet a range of needs, but of primary concern is that of the need for "middle housing," which would include duplexes, 4-plexes, townhouses and clusters. The Mayor expressed that we need to create affordable housing for those who may not qualify for section 8 assistance, but who can't afford the single-family home market in Eugene.

Homelessness is also an important issue in our community. While the City of Eugene has worked to develop programs such as "rest stops" to provide safe places for the homeless, Mayor Vinis believes we need a permanent low barrier shelter. The city was recently awarded \$50K to fund a feasibility study for a permanent shelter will be working to identify types of shelter to consider, costs associated with building and maintaining, determining who would be served, and developing resource partnerships within the community.

Social equity and economics were also addressed in the presentation. Eugene made it through the recession and managed to revitalize downtown, as well as grow our food and technology industries, but we need to ensure that all members of our community are given oppor-

tunity to succeed. The new EMX line serves many people who cannot afford a car. It is important that housing is properly weatherized, both for comfort and for environmental efficiency. Everyone needs access to safe parks and outdoor spaces for health and well-being. Mayor Vinis wants Eugene to "be a better community where people live better lives."

The Mayor shared with us some of the things being worked on by the city including the search for a new police chief, the opportunity to reevaluate options for City Hall, a \$51.2 million road bond, plans for Parks and Rec, efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the city and to educate the community about climate change, and work being done to gather information for a neutral discussion of the role of a city performance auditor. All are encour-

aged to visit the City of Eugene website for opportunities to get involved, volunteer, or be informed.

Mayor Vinis stressed that in our current political climate it has become increasingly important to realize that the work we do here in Eugene reflects our values as a community. National turmoil means we as a city need to address climate change and what kind of planet we leave for our children and grandchildren, supporting our immigrant community, how we uphold promises made to Dreamers in our community, homelessness, women's rights, diversity, and other important issues.

As Vinis stated, "Our local work relates to our fundamental values." The World Track and Field Championships 2021 will be hosted in Eugene. This will bring the world to our community and give us an opportunity to demonstrate our core values.

Thank you to Mayor Lucy Vinis for sharing her hopes, plans and visions for Eugene with the LWVLC.

Thanks to Darla, a new member, who agreed to write about the Mayor's talk.



**Lucy Vinnis,
Eugene Mayor**



**Linda Lynch,
LWVLC President**

Barb Carter photo

Cayle Downing photo



Barb Carter photo

FRUIT SALE

by Marj Maxwell, Loop Leader

Fruit Sale: Everyone wins when they buy and sell yummy fruit from LWVLC! We are happy to announce that we are going to be able to offer apples from Detering's Orchard, along with citrus. Boxes of apples will be about the same size as the ones for oranges and grapefruit and will be a mix of Braeburn and Granny Smith apples. Both these varieties keep well in a cool environment.

Sale information and order forms will arrive in your mailbox in early October. Grapefruit from Texas, oranges from Florida and apples from Oregon all sell for \$30/box. Discounts are available for orders of 50 boxes or more. Please help support your League by selling or buying two, three or more boxes of fruit. Approach friends, neighbors, colleagues and business acquaintances and offer them a chance to experience luscious grapefruit, sweet juicy oranges and crunchy apples. Use the [white order form](#) for these orders. Be sure to order for yourself!

Can't use a whole box of fruit or want to support two organizations with one purchase? Use the [green order form](#) to order fruit boxes for Food for Lane County through this sale and the League will make sure the fruit gets to them plus we will send buyers a letter documenting the donation to Food for Lane County for tax purposes. (Psst ... businesses and

friends can order fruit to be donated to Food for Lane County too.)

Orders are due by Thursday, November 16. Fruit is expected to be ready for pick up shortly after Dec. 1. Buyers will receive an email/phone message with pick up times when the fruit arrives at the League office. Pick up times could be on a weekend so consider this when supplying/obtaining email and phone contact information. Email and phone numbers will not be used for any purpose except to notify buyers about an order.

For more information contact Marj Maxwell or any of our fine Fruit Loop Committee members: Merle Bottge, Janet Calvert, Barbara French, Mary Keating, Phyllis Loobey, Linda Lynch, Sally Mills, Sharon Posner, Sue Reynolds, Linda Roe and Sheila Sundahl. Fran Boehner continues as an honorary member.

Every member is an important part of this project!



CIVIL DISCOURSE

By Marge Easley, LWVOR Civil Discourse Portfolio



The dangerously divisive political rhetoric we've been hearing lately underscores the importance of the state League's decision to focus on civil discourse in the coming year. Here's the first in a

series of articles on the topic.

Congressional Town Halls

Town hall meetings provide one of the few opportunities to directly pose questions to elected officials. Yet they are becoming increasingly rare, because many are fearful of the media optics of being confronted by angry constituents. Did you know that 167 members of Congress have not held a single in-person town hall this year? Some

are turning to virtual or online town halls, while others are forgoing them completely. This does not bode well for civil discourse in our country. Please make sure you're on the mailing lists of your elected officials, turn up to town halls, ask probing questions, and take a leadership role in encouraging thoughtful and respectful dialogue.

Getting a Balanced Perspective on the News

Our political biases often give us a one-sided look

at issues, since we tend to choose media sources that reinforce our world view. This can fuel anxieties and increase the "us vs. them" mentality. One of the ways to get a more well-rounded perspective is to step outside our media bubbles on a regular basis. To do this I highly recommend the website www.allsides.com, which provides stories on important issues from the left, right, and center.

Give it a try!

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 100, 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/>

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.

**CALENDAR
OCTOBER**

- 3 - 3 pm, Unit Briefing (page 2)
- 4 - 9:30 am, Action Committee (pg. 4)
- 9 to 13 - Unit meetings (pg. 2)
- 16 - 2 pm, Voter Service Committee (pg. 3)
- 17 - 2 pm, Membership Committee (pg. 4)
- 17 - Voter registration deadline
- 19 - 11:30 am, Third Thursday (pg. 1)
- 19 - Ballots mailed
- 21 - 9:30 am, LWVOR Fall Workshop (pg. 5)

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*



Mail the form and
check payable to
LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 W 11th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters of Lane County

Membership Form - July 2017 thru June 2018

- Individual \$ 70
- Household (two people at the same address) \$105
- Student \$ 20

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)