



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

PROTECT DEMOCRACY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 VIRUS

While the COVID-19 virus has disrupted our lives, we must not lose sight of what the virus could do to our democracy. The most effective tool we have to protect our democracy is to vote. But directives of social distancing and to shelter in place as well as postponed elections may discourage voting, diminishing its significance and making it seem irrelevant. In the time of COVID-19, the LWV motto, Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy, has never been more poignant and important.

The COVID-19 virus relief bill recently approved by Congress gives states \$400 million upcoming elections against the pandemic threat. It will allow states to expand mail-in and early voting, as well as online voter registration and help secure in-person voting sites. The money is far less than the \$4 billion some believe is needed to ensure the voting rights of everyone, however.

To vote in Oregon’s primary election on May 19, you must be registered with your current name and ad-

dress by April 28. If you have moved (even if you just changed apartments), you must update your registration. You can register or confirm your registration and that it’s accurate online at <https://sos.oregon.gov>.

See what’s on your ballot at <https://www.vote411.org/>. Get info about measures in LWV’s or local voter guides and meet the candidates at City Club of Eugene’s virtual forums (co-sponsored by LWVLC). They air on Fridays at noon on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CityClubofEugene/> or shortly after on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityClubEugene>. The forums repeat on KLCC 89.7 at 7 pm on the following Monday. See box below for the schedule.

You can expect to receive your ballot in the mail around the first of May. Then VOTE! And encourage others to vote!

Our democracy may depend on it

Kathy Madison

CC of E FB & YouTube	KLCC	Office	Candidates
March 27	March 30	County Commissioner Position 3	Joel Iboa, Laurie Trieger, Sandra Bishop, and Matt Moore
April 3	April 6	City of Eugene Ward 1	Emily Semple, Eliza Kashinsky, Tim Morris, Sean Dwyer, Daniel Williams, and Candice King
April 10	April 13	City of Eugene Ward 8	Randy Groves and Ryan Moore
		County Commissioner Position 4	Andrew Ross and Pat Farr
April 17	April 20	City of Eugene Ward 7	Claire Syrett, Cliff Grey, and Douglas Barr
		City of Eugene Ward 2	Matt Keating and Kate Davidson
April 24	April 27	City of Eugene Mayor	Lucy Vinis, Robert Patterson, Zondie Zinke, Benjamin Ricker, Stacey Westover, Matthew Yook, and Thomas Hlur

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2020-21

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Webmaster
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CONTRARY TO VICIOUS RUMORS...



...I did not incite a world-wide pandemic as a marketing tool for a new, LWVLC book club!

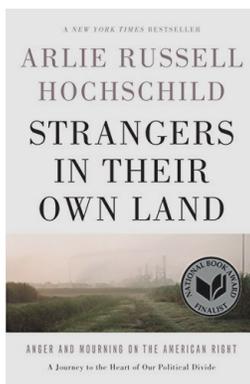
But since LWV members are curious (in a good way, not as in 'odd') and already passionate readers, a book club seemed like a good idea. The quid pro quo (there's always one of those, right?) is that a book club pusher would be required to serve in some junior capacity on the board. Back bencher.

This book club would focus on non-fiction. Of course, you could still read, recommend, and review something trashy for those times like colonoscopy prep when nothing else will do. (Mary Kay Andrews is my author-of-choice during those 'trying times').

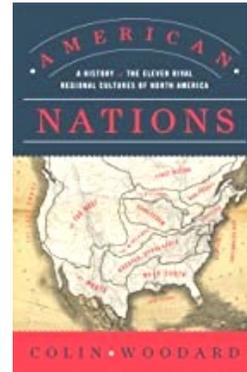
My curiosity got a kick in the pants while reading *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James W. Loewen.

It occurred to me that I didn't know as much about my own country as I presumed. I looked to the library for answers.

First book:
Strangers in Their Own Land Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Russell Hochschild. Dr. Hochschild is Professor Emerita, UC Berkeley. This book National Book Award, 2016. Dr. Hochschild is 80 years old; just sayin'.



Second book *American Nations a History of the Eleven Rival Cultures of North America* by Colin Woodard, Kinda wished I read these in reverse order, so I did when I re-read them. Outstanding. Why did I not know this stuff? I was a history major before I was a sociology major! Duh.



O.K. here's the best part Talking about these books with Nancy Mills who is, as you may know, a Really Smart Person. And a LWV member. So, we're walking to the bus station to catch the bus to Third Thursday and I mention these books. What She's really excited and wants to read them, too OMG.

I mentioned the Book Club idea at a unit meeting chaired by Linda Ferdowsian. Linda is some kind of stealth weapon; if you drop a crumb on the floor, she sees it. If you mention an idea, you're in charge! Then Linda sends in the Closer Jeanne Taylor. Oh, sure; send Jeanne with charm to spare. I'm toast.

So, if you'd like to read a non-fiction book of interest, write a review, and pass it on to membership, let's try this on and see what happens!

Meanwhile, if you need some ideas for interesting books, try watching Book TV on C-SPAN 2, Television for serious readers. I once watched a three-hour interview of Doris Kearns Goodwin, in her home office! So much better than anything the Kardashians could produce. For comic/tragic relief, try the biography, *Molly Ivins* by Bill Minutaglio and W. Michael Smith. Molly, quite the role model, except for a few life-style issues.

Read on!

Sherrill Kirchhoff

ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

The March 4 Action Committee meeting occurred *before* widespread social distancing in our community; growing number of COVID-19 cases and health threats here and elsewhere; and profound, uncertain economic impacts. What will this mean for the work of Action, the LWVLC, and the partners, issues, projects, and agencies we try to pay attention to? We will be learning, along with you, as we go forward.

During our March meeting, we discussed **transportation**. Among questions and ideas: 1) pay attention to data; 2) be careful about substituting ride-hailing (Lyft, Uber) for public transit, because more vehicles means more congestion; 3) acknowledge potential benefits of EmGo and similar efforts; 4) suggest that more park-and-ride lots could encourage transit ridership; 5) include the university in public transit changes, recognizing that increased student ridership can make a big difference; and 6) keep equity in mind. LTD and other local agencies are modifying services and evaluating projects as they address public health priorities. Stay tuned.



How will COVID-19 affect the work of **Lift Every Voice Oregon** (LEVO), which is tackling another

public health crisis, gun violence? LEVO's Jim Jagger visited the Action Committee to update us on Oregon initiative drives to prohibit the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. Three measures have been appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court; the coalition had been hoping one or more would be okayed to circulate for signatures and place on the November 2020 ballot. The organization is reviewing the situation. To learn more about their efforts, visit the LEVO website: <http://www.lifteveryvoiceoregon.com/>



On another public health front, Action also hosted a short presentation by AlexAnn Westlake, a certified nurse midwife and founder/executive director of **Our Community Birthing Center**. She provided a status report on efforts to establish a community-based nurse midwifery birth center and health clinic in Lane County. We no longer have such a facility, and her nonprofit organization is undertaking an education and capital campaign to reestablish this option. AlexAnn shared research about positive outcomes for babies, mothers and families from general and preventative health care, family planning, lactation services, newborn care, and health education in community birthing center settings. To

learn more, visit the center's website: <https://www.ourcommunitybirthcenter.org/>

Looking ahead, committee members noted that no apparent Action chair or pair of co-chairs has emerged to take the reins June 1. (hint, hint) We anticipate a number of local and statewide ballot measures this fall, possibly requiring analysis and resulting in potential recommendations for advocacy. The committee and LWVLC also could be working on housing, transit and transportation, and redistricting—and responding to other issues that may emerge.

Next Action Meetings

Considering how best to do our work, within the context of changing individual and collective needs, must be part of our discussion in the coming months. Our next meeting would occur Wednesday morning, April 1. We'll evaluate whether to skip or conduct as a remote meeting—in conference call or via email over several hours.

Keli Osborn
action@lww.org

CHECK OUT OUR THIRD THURSDAY AUDIO PRESENTATIONS

While you are at home, take the time to review our 3rd Thursday Speaker's audio presentations. New audio's have been uploaded to a website called SoundCloud. This link will take you to a page with a list of all the audio presentations available. <https://lwwlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>

Rhonda Livesay
Webmaster

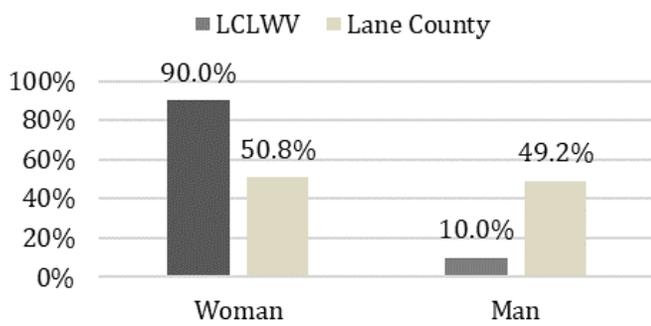


In January, we sent a survey to 188 members, to collect demographic information to provide a snapshot of our membership. The results are in.

The survey found that the majority of LWVLC members are women (90.0%) and identify only as white/Caucasian (97.1%). Over 95 percent of LWVLC members are 55 years of age or older, with 61.9 percent of respondents indicating they were “born before 1946” and another 33.8 percent indicating they were “born between 1946 and 1964.”

To determine how closely the LWVLC membership reflects Lane County at large, we compared our findings to the most recent U.S. Census data for Lane County.

Gender Identity



Lane County is 50.8 percent female and 89.1 percent white. As of 2018, 19.3 percent of the Lane County population was 65 or older.

The vast majority of LWVLC respondents indicated having some college or advanced education (98.6%). Reported annual household income fell into multiple categories, with 56 percent under \$100,000, more than a third under \$75,000, and more than 20 percent over \$150,000. According to U.S. Census data, Lane County’s median annual household income for the years 2014-2018, in 2018 dollars, was \$49,958.

Process

The League of Women Voters—national, state, and local—is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Including diverse voices strengthens democracy. In November 2019, the Membership Committee and LWVLC Board authorized a membership survey. Collecting demographic information can give us a clearer picture of who we are now, information that will be useful in setting goals for membership, voter service, and advocacy.

In January, the survey went to 188 members; this included the second member identified in each household membership. In early February, a second request was sent to members who had not responded. All responses were “anonymized” to ensure privacy and encourage honest responses. Of the Lane County League’s 188 members, 142 responded (78.9%).

We can’t thank enough our two volunteers, Alan Meyer and Kathleen Beardsworth, who prepared the data and analysis. The U.S. Census offers more data for comparison. You can visit the agency’s website: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), and search for Lane County, Oregon (select QuickFacts): <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/lanecountyoregon>

What’s next?

The LWVLC Board recommends that the Membership Committee encourage household memberships and follow up with partners of active members to learn whether and how to engage them in the League. We also are looking at ways to add and listen to missing and underrepresented voices, including a potential Scholar on Board (university student placement), expanded partnerships in preparing studies, and more intentional assessment about equity impacts of League positions and projects on community members and community relationships. Thank you to those of you who were able to participate.

Helen Beardsworth & Keli Osborn

TAX BENEFITS FOR DONORS

Members receiving a stimulus check may have a number of charitable organizations they wish to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. The stimulus bill contains a one-time, above-the-line deduction for cash contributions of up to \$300 made to certain qualifying charities.

All taxpayers are eligible to take the deduction, even people who use the standard deduction. The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and would be claimed on tax forms next year. The new deduction would not apply to noncash gifts or to gifts contributed to donor advised funds.

Our League’s mission of promoting fair and accessible elections is more important than ever. Let’s keep our League strong and committed to this cause. Any amount will help.

*Charlcie Kaylor,
Development*

COVID-19 DISRUPTS LEAGUE EVENTS AND MEETINGS

The following LWVLC events have been postponed, canceled or modified due to concern for spreading the COVID-19 virus. Updated information will be provided as soon as possible.

- March Third Thursday Luncheon (March 19) – canceled; the speaker, former Eugene mayor Kitty Piercy may be rescheduled.
- Redistricting Public Forum (March 19) – postponed to a date TBD.
- History Trivia Night (April 1) – postponed to a date TBD.
- April Third Thursday Luncheon (April 16) – canceled; speaker, Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis may be rescheduled.
- Unit meetings (April 13-17) – canceled.
- Unit meetings (May 11-15) – will be evaluated.
- U.S. Congressional Dist. 4 candidates' forum (April 16) – postponed to a date TBD.
- U.S. Congressional Dist. 4 candidates' forum (April 17) – postponed to a date TBD.
- Other Voter Service forums may be conducted as live-streamed events or online Interviews watch your email for more information.
- LWVLC annual meeting (April 25) – postponed to a date TBD
- Remaining March and April committee meeting - Membership, Action, Voter Service, Nominating may conduct remotely or cancel (contact committee chairs).
- May committee meetings – will be evaluated.
- March and April board meetings – conducted online.

Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair
voterservice@lwvlc.org.

CYBERSECURITY AND YOUR HOME OFFICE

Working from home security tips from Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum

- Start with cybersecurity basics like **Do Not Click!**
 - Keep your security software up to date.
 - Use passwords on all your devices and apps.
 - Make sure the passwords are long, strong and unique: at least 12 characters that are a mix of numbers, symbols and capital and lowercase letters.
 - **Secure your home network.** Start with your router. Turn on encryption (WPA2 or WPA3). Encryption scrambles information sent over your network so outsiders can't read it.
- WPA2 and WPA3 are the most up-to-date encryption standards to protect information sent over a wireless network. No WPA3 or WPA2 options on your router? Try updating your router software, then check again to see if WPA2 or WPA3 are available. If not, consider replacing your router. For more guidance, read [Securing Your Wireless Network](#) and [Secure Remote Access](#).
- Keep an eye on your **laptop and cell phone**. If you're using a laptop or a cell phone to work, make sure it is password-protected, locked and secure. Never leave it unattended - like in a vehicle or at a public charging station.
 - **Securely store sensitive files.**
- When there's a legitimate business need to transfer confidential information from office to home, keep it out of sight and under lock and key. If you don't have a file cabinet at home, use a locked room.
- **Dispose of sensitive data securely.** Don't just throw it in the trash or recycling bin. Shred it with a micro-cut shredder. Paperwork you no longer need can be a treasure to identity thieves if it includes personal information about customers or employees.
 - **Follow your employer's security practices.** Your home is now an extension of your office. So, follow the protocols that your employer has implemented.

According to the Register Guard headline: **2020 Oregon Legislature's final tally: 3 bills passed, 255 abandoned.** Gun Safety bill HB 4005 was one of those abandoned. The bills that passed are:
 HB 4061-increasing the charge for cultural services specialty license plates
 HB 4106-a fix related to a parks and recreation district in Clackamas County
 HB 4140-directing Department of Education to create a form to be used when students are diagnosed with concussion/brain injury, establishing appropriate accommodations.

On the positive side: four gun safety initiative petitions have cleared several hurdles and are in the hands of the Oregon Supreme Court. (IP 40, 60, 61, and 62). It is hoped that the ballot titles will be approved by the end of the month so that the 112,020 required signatures can meet the July 2 deadline.

Of course, the foregoing all changed with the surge of the Coronavirus since even if the court cleared the

title challenges social distancing would preclude gathering signatures. Then too, more restrictions are imminent-most likely the order to shelter in place.

A title from Oregon Public Broadcasting dated March 16 reads: **Oregon gun sales surge as virus spreads.** According to one gun store owner in Southeast Portland gun purchases are in such numbers that the Oregon State Police background check system can't keep up.

As a nurse I cared for hospitalized AIDS patients in San Francisco before there were any drugs to treat HIV/AIDS. After the public learned the risk factors the panic lessened so hopefully this is something we can all look forward to when more information is known concerning the Coronavirus.

In the meantime be well.

Donna Michel

NOTES FROM THE LWVLC MARCH BOARD MEETING

During these days of COVID-18 social distancing the Board of LWVLC was masterfully led by Vice President Keli Osborn through a cyber Board meeting and a conference call to take care of March business.



As usual, chairpersons and officers had provided, in advance, written reports (minutes for February, Action, Public Relations, Membership, Treasurer, Voter Service, Business, Development/Fundraising, list of meeting cancellations/postponements and By-

laws revisions as well as notices from the presidents of LWVOR and LWVUS) so the Board members were prepared.

Decisions were made to approve the minutes from February, meeting changes, single signature on checks during the COVID-18 virus emergency, the proposed budget for 20-21, contract for next year's Third Thursday luncheons at Valley River Inn although the price for lunch would increase to \$20, to explore alternative dates for the Annual Meeting, ask the membership survey committee to engage spouse/partner next year and to not make the arrangements to attend the state council or national convention at this time.

In addition, the Board decided to continue the *Argus* with both digital and mailed versions in some

form. Decision was deferred as to whether to continue to print *They Represent You*, and there was almost a tie vote on whether to send a letter to the editors in support of the LCC bond measure. (We had already paid for an argument in the voters pamphlet.)

A committee had written proposed revisions to the bylaws, and following the conference call, a version of revisions will be ready for the *Annual Meeting Workbook*. (All the members vote on bylaws changes.)

As the Board figures out how to navigate through the COVID-18 emergency and complete League business, you will be advised.

Meanwhile, stay safe!

Jeanne Taylor, Secretary

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Lane County Leaguers on March 7 joined others in a Salem ballroom to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Our contingent included more than a dozen from the Eugene-Springfield area, Florence, Medford and Portland, as well as Heather Buch, Lane County Commissioner and LWVLC member, and one among many elected officials at the event.

Focusing on women in leadership, former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts spoke and moderated an inspiring panel discussion by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson and Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters. Each spoke about the benefits of empathetic leadership and a problem-solving orientation in public service—and the qualities of mentoring, collaboration, participation, diversity and engagement.

The celebration also honored Merilyn Reeves with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award and Norma

Jean Germond with the Distinguished Service Award. Their stories and accomplishments are impressive.

Merilyn joined the League 61 years ago in South Dakota, and later worked on water, air pollution and other issues in Minnesota and Maryland, lobbying legislators and serving on numerous agency committees. She moved with her husband to Oregon in 1983, and she and others organized The Friends of Yamhill County to better protect farmland and forestland. Appointed to the State Building Code Structure Board, she advocated for such public interest issues as requiring installation of sprinklers in apartments. Merilyn also served on the Hanford Advisory Board, serving as chair for six years.

A former teacher, Norma Jean joined the League in New York, and moved to Lake Oswego in 1970, joining the LWVOR Board in 1973 as Environmental Quality Chair. She also has served as local and state League president, and

was the first paid LWVOR legislative coordinator. Active on energy issues in the Pacific Northwest, Norma Jean was appointed by then-Governor Tom McCall as a public representative to the Energy Advisory Committee to Oregon's Public Utility Commissioner, later serving as chair. She's served on the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, Portland Community College Board of Directors and more.

February 14, 2020, marked 100 years since the League of Women Voters was founded to empower voters and defend democracy. For a view into the League of Women Voters of Oregon, be sure to check out the "100 Years Strong" video:

<https://vimeo.com/390036985>

The video was created by Metroeast Community Media in Gresham, and led by Margaret Noel of the LWV of Portland with help from numerous others including Debbie Runciman and Jane Gigler.

Keli Osborn



Roberts, Walters, Rosenblum, Hoyle, and Petersen

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For the latest information visit our website <http://lwvlc.org/>

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**LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
(except holidays)
11 am - 1:30 pm**

DONATE NOW

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

MEMORIES OF ROSEMARY (ROSIE) JANZ

I first met Rosie in the mid-1980s when we were members of the Eugene PC Jr. Club. Her husband, Phil, was a school principal in the Bethel School District, and Rosie was a retired counselor. We became good friends at that time.

I got to know Rosie very well when we decided to embark on an adventure with them and about 10 other people to paddle our canoes 250 miles down the Missouri River. I was so impressed with her ability to make plans for the trip. She had all the meals assigned to two different people each time who would plan their menus, purchase the food, prepare it, and clean up afterwards. It all worked like clock-

work. It was truly a well-organized adventure!

Rosie joined the League and soon became responsible for printing the *Argus* and getting it mailed out every month. She had that job and did it well for several years.

Rosie left us on Tuesday night, March 10 after a brief illness. She had recently been with a lot of her family at the wedding of her daughter Casey and Wayne Deeter. She is now where she wanted to be, with her husband, Phil. We can feel happy for her, although she will be very much missed.

Elleen Levy

