



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE LEAGUE?

Some Meetings and Events Shift to Online Platforms, Others Go On Hiatus

National Convention

The 54th LWVUS Convention, originally scheduled for late June in Washington, DC, instead will be a *virtual* event. League members and others will be able to participate in the convention online.

- Business sessions will be held June 25-27 and LWVUS is planning the agenda with consideration towards all time zones.
- There will be a full plenary, and a parliamentarian is working on guidelines for a virtual space. All requirements around delegates, quorum, and how business is conducted will remain the same. Detailed instructions will be sent to all delegates ahead of the first plenary session.

Registration for the virtual convention will open in early May. LWVLC plans to participate, and Paula Grisafi has volunteered to represent us. If we have more slots to fill and you also would like to "attend," please contact Keli Osborn by May 15.

State Convention

The LWVOR Convention will occur on Saturday morning, May 16. Members from around the state will meet "remotely" to ratify the LWVOR 2020-2021 budget and to hold elections. Keli Osborn and Freddi Weishahn will participate as local delegates.

LWVLC Annual Meeting

We are planning to shift our springtime business meeting to an *online platform*, on May 30. Please read on page three for information, and watch your email inbox for details. The meeting agenda will include consideration of the 2020-2021 budget, 2020-2021 program, 2020-2021 officers and directors, and bylaws.

LWVLC Unit Meetings

We've cancelled in-person unit meetings for this spring. Although it's too soon to say whether members will be able to meet in person this fall and next winter, we will explore options that could give members other ways to prepare and discuss materials with one another. Please contact your unit leader if you'd like to help figure this out.

Cybersecurity study: The League of Women Voters of Oregon hopes to set up online discussions about the cybersecurity study. Watch for information from LWVOR about how you would participate in one of these virtual meetings to discuss consensus questions and use the online response form. (See page 2) For those who requested printed copies of the study, those should be arriving in your mailbox. You also can find the study online:

<http://lwvor.org/studies/>

Third Thursday Luncheons

Do you miss joining other League members to hear engaging, smart people? This monthly luncheon is another large-group gathering on hold. Stay tuned for 2020-2021 plans. In the meantime, you can

listen to candidate forums on KLCC (Monday evenings) and watch via Facebook. Please see the Voter Service article on page four for details.

The League of Women Voters US hosts regular webinars (which you can view "live" or at your convenience) on everything from digital organizing to gender identity. Watch for your emails from LWVUS or visit the national website: <https://www.lwv.org/League-management/leadership-development/lwv-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-webinars> <https://www.lwv.org/covidguidance>

LWVLC Board and Committee Meetings

Since mid-March, we've used a combination of email and conference calls to share information, deliberate on issues, develop recommendations, and tally votes. Until it becomes safe for groups to meet in person, we anticipate using these tools and video-chat software.

Not all committees meet each month, but we are trying to keep up with critical items. As always, if you have questions and suggestions about issues and League work—or want to participate in a committee meeting—please contact a board or committee member.

Yes, important work continues. Priorities can become clearer. As we come together in different ways, we also must remember to take care of ourselves and take care of one another, in real time and for the future.

Keli Osborn, Vice President

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

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OPEN

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KELI OSBORN

Secretary
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Treasurer
GARY HARMON

Action
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Argus Editor
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NANCY O'KIEF

Nominations
BETTY-COE DE BROEKERT

Program
GARY HARMON
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

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KATHY MADISON

Unit
MARY KEATING

Voter Service
PAULA GRISAFI

Webmaster

UNITS

PROGRAM CHANGES

As we all deal with the coronavirus, there have been changes in both the local and state program for our League. We had originally planned to study the topic of child care for the April unit discussions, using the materials prepared by Jeanne Armstrong, Jeanne Taylor, Freddi Weishahn and Susan Tavakolian. However, that topic will now be rescheduled to a future date.

At the state level, the study *Privacy and Cybersecurity Today* has been mailed to all members. In addition, a copy of the consensus questions was included in this *Argus* mailing. The study is also available online at <http://lwvor.org/studies/>. The consensus for the cybersecurity study was originally due at the end of May, but that will not be possible now. The state

leadership has indicated that they are organizing a way for individual members to participate virtually using the internet during the summer to provide their input on the consensus questions. As more information becomes available on how to participate virtually, we'll keep you informed.

A virtual approach may be difficult for some of our members, and so another option is to let each unit decide whether to meet in person or participate virtually in responding to the consensus questions. If your unit decides to meet in order to respond to the cybersecurity consensus questions, then your unit would email the responses to the state and provide a copy to our League.

Susan Tavakolian

Monday, May 11
10 am – 5. Willamette
Flo Alvergue 541-968-7854

Our unit, at the invitation of Nancy Mills, will have a Zoom conversation on Monday, May 11th, to discuss this month's study. I've asked Springfield members to join us as well. If anyone would like to join us, contact Nancy at nmills@trinity.edu. We'll "meet" at 10 am.

Flo Alvergue

Study Consensus Timing

Remember that our original cyber study timeline called for consensus meetings in April and May. Your responses are still very welcome in the original time frame. The board considered how busy our Leagues would be by May, distributing *Voters' Guides* and conducting voter service events for the primary and offered the option of delaying consensus replies until after the fall general election. Now with "stay home, stay safe", some members may have more time to read and discuss the study. Some Units might feel that devoting time now would still be preferable.

Becky Gladstone, President LWVOR



Next Action Committee Meeting

Our next regular meeting ordinarily would happen on Wednesday morning, May 6. We're hoping to hold a virtual meeting using web tools. Please get in touch if you'd like to join us or have questions/issues.

Keli Osborn, Action Chair

GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

We are planning the LWVLC Annual Meeting for Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. And, we've been exploring ways to have our annual meeting online. This will be a new experience for many of us and, for the foreseeable future may be the way we run seminars and meetings.



While our Annual Meeting Workbook will still be mailed to members, we want to make sure that we have an opportunity for discussion. A committee selected at our last board meeting—Paula Grisafi, Terry Parker and Freddi Weishahn—has found Zoom to be a user-friendly and broadly available video-meeting program. Hopefully, some of you have already tried it

out. The meeting workbook will explain our voting process.

PRACTICE

We plan to have one or two try-out meetings to test run how this works. Any member interested in a practice session should send their name to contact@lwvlc.org or call 541-343-7917 by May 11. You will be sent an invitation link with a date and time.

MEETING RSVP

To aid planning and help ensure we'll be able to meet quorum for the Annual Meeting, please let us know by May 11 that you plan to participate. You can send an email to contact@lwvlc.org or call 541-343-7917.

SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Portland and other Leagues are using online platforms and other methods for conducting annual meetings, too. For additional information about using Zoom, please visit this LWVOR page: <http://lwwor.org/covid-19-zoom/>

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

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

STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING REFORM - THE FORUM

People Not Politicians is proposing a ballot measure to reform Oregon's redistricting process and create a fairer, more transparent system. At its simplest, this initiative would create an independent citizen redistricting commission to draw legislative and congressional voting maps according to strict criteria. LWVLC has joined LWVOR and other local Leagues in endorsing this proposed measure.

Learn more on May 21. We're planning an online forum that day to find out what redistricting reform would mean for Oregon and to get the latest news on how the measure can move forward in this time of physical distancing. Please watch your email inbox for details about how you can participate in this daytime event.

**PEOPLE NOT
POLITICIANS**

Keli Osborn

BYLAW REVISIONS EXPLAINED

The LWVLC Board in our April meeting voted to adopt emergency bylaws addressing two sets of circumstances:

- conducting League business during this pandemic and possible future emergencies, while physically separated; and,
- fulfilling responsibilities when unable to fill certain positions.

The emergency bylaws do not replace existing bylaws but do revise a few provisions. Some circumstances are externally created, others self-imposed. The bylaws aren't permanent but would require member approval to extend beyond Dec. 31, 2020.

External circumstances: Given our uncertainty about the ability to conduct "traditional" meetings and events in the future (who, when, where and how to do so safely), board members thought it prudent to provide flexibility on an ongoing basis. LWVLC bylaws appear to

allow business to be conducted remotely through conference calls, video chats and other means. However, board members believe it's better to be explicit and transparent about using platforms other than in-person meetings—something supported by advice from the League of Women Voters US in a recent webinar for local and state Leagues across the country.

Internal circumstances: Leagues around the country use different leadership models, expanding perspectives and assets in sharing the work. Our local League often tries to pair members as co-chairs of committees and as co-presidents. The board wanted to make this clearer in the bylaws. When no volunteer stepped into the president's position last year, I fulfilled aspects of the role as vice president and, with Treasurer Gary Harmon and Secretary Jeanne Taylor, formed an executive com-

mittee to facilitate board action. Looking ahead, the board wanted to clearly create legitimate options that can respond to changes in volunteer numbers and capacity for board roles.

The board has adopted the revisions, and a few of the wordsmithing variety, on a temporary basis. On the advice of LWVUS, once again, we first reviewed the statutes that apply to nonprofits—in our case, ORS Chapter 65. The emergency bylaws will expire by Dec. 31, 2020, without member approval. We inserted the end date to help ensure a check-in with members at the annual meeting on May 30 or in a special meeting to be scheduled. The board believes member action is important on such governance decisions. *You can find the revisions and more information in your annual meeting workbook, coming this month.*

Keli Osborn

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The LWVLC Board of officers and directors, under the direction of Vice President Keli Osborn, has continued to carry out the work of the organization from homes via email and conference calls. Business Manager Linda Ferdowsian has maintained essential operation of the office and handled necessary non-virtual business by going to the office regularly. Board members like Paula Grisafi, Darla McVay and Kathy Madison have provided research and guidance regarding use of virtual systems and platforms like Zoom for meetings including the Annual Meeting. While some board members have had to do some serious stretching to keep up, others like Kathy Madison and Charlcie Kaylor as well as regular members Rhonda Livesay, Betty-Coe De Broekert, Pat Hocken,

Janet Calvert and Linda Lynch have provided valuable input and cheerleading as we scramble to manage during this challenging time to keep our organization viable.

At the virtual (online and phone) board meeting Keli organized things so the following could be accomplished:

- Emergency bylaws to temporarily allow for modified meeting formats and voting by email, audio, and video. Also, to accommodate emergency declarations and allow for accomplishing duties when an officer may be unavailable.
- Adopt temporary amendments to LWVLC bylaws regarding officers and directors.
- Renew the 12 and 18 month CDs.

- Send a letter to newspaper editors supporting the LCC bond measure on the May 2020 ballot.
- Approved a voter service promotional and spending plan for KLCC and print ads.
- Reschedule the child-care study for units in 20-21 and provide consensus questions regarding the LWVOR cyber-study with the next *Argus*.
- Approved a letter to newspaper editors regarding voter resources and voting.
- Canceled May Third Thursday and other meetings.
- Set the Annual Meeting to an internet platform on May 30 with email voting by members.

Jeanne Taylor, Secretary

SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES' FORUM

Springfield City Club will hold a candidate forum for candidates for Ward 3 on the Springfield City Council on Thursday May 7, at noon.

This forum will be held over Zoom. Invitations to the forum will be sent to all names on the City Club mailing list, to names on the mailing list of the League of Women Voters of Lane County, and to the City Club media list. Since our Zoom license does limit us to 100

participants, the forum will also be live streamed on the Springfield City Club Facebook page.

Each candidate will be given an opportunity for a two-minute opening statement, and then a one-minute response. Attendees at the forum will be encouraged to submit questions using the Zoom chat window. The questions will be read by a member of the City Club Board of Directors. We will monitor the live stream feed and attempt to insert

questions that those watching post as comments.

Each candidate will be given an opportunity for a one-minute response to each question and, if they desire, a 30 second rebuttal. Timing will be handled by another member of the City Club Board. At approximately 1 pm each candidate will be given the opportunity for a two-minute closing statement.

Paula Grisafi

ENCOURAGING INFORMED VOTING WHILE MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCING



**Voter Information
from the League of
Women Voters**

Get nonpartisan candidate information from a trusted source. Voter information from the comfort of your home. Go to **VOTE411.org**.

Physical distancing is changing the way LWVLC is providing information to voters about Oregon's May 19 Primary Election – but it's not preventing them from being informed.

Instead of public gatherings, LWVLC is co-sponsoring virtual candidate forums presented by the Eugene and Springfield City Clubs. Live streamed forums of City of Eugene and Lane County Commissioner candidates can be viewed at:

<http://www.cityclubofeugene.org>.

Recordings are at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityClubofEugene/>

A recording of the mayor of Springfield candidate forum is available at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pg/SpringfieldCityClub/videos/>.

Instead of distributing stacks of paper copies of the State League Voter's Guide* to libraries, churches and other community locations for pick up, LWVLC is using news releases, social media, letters to the editor, (See the April 21 edition of the Register Guard.) and purchasing print, radio and

Facebook ads to encourage folks to go to VOTE411.org.

The site's online voter's guide, available in English and Spanish, shows voters the issues and candidate races that will be on their specific ballot. It includes candidate's answers to League questions and other information provided by candidates. Ballot measures are also explained with pro and con arguments included on the site.

Be an informed voter without leaving home!

*A limited number of paper guides are available. Email Contact@LWVLC.org to request a copy.

*Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair
Kathy Madison, Public Relations Chair*

GUN SAFETY UPDATE

The League Gun Safety Coalition call on April 6 hosted Igor Volsky, co-founder of Guns Down America. His topic was *Increased Gun Sales Related to the Corona-virus Pandemic*. According to Volsky March gun sales in the United States increased by one million as compared to March of the previous year. Available data indicates that many of the purchasers were first time gun owners, suggesting limited even negligible previous gun use. The gun lobby was especially active during the early months of the pandemic and gathered widespread support for keeping gun stores open across the country, claiming gun stores were critical businesses. As a result gun stores are open in all states with the exception of a few stores in Washington, New Mexico and New York.

Here in Oregon once again gun safety measures failed. HB 4005 the safe storage measure died when a group of Republican legislators walked out of the



session, following an impasse with Democratic majority leaders over climate action legislation. Currently, two-thirds of lawmakers must be present in order to conduct business.

Likewise initiative petition 40, the equivalent of HB 4005 failed even with a certified title from the Ore-

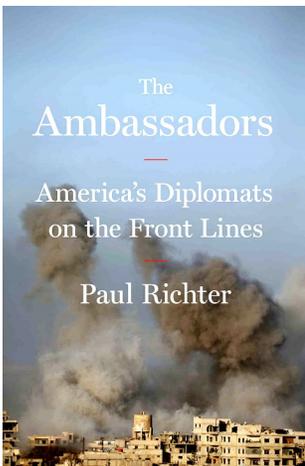
gon Supreme Court. By the time signature gathering could begin social distancing measures associated with the pandemic were in place, making gathering signatures impossible.

Henry Wessinger, president of State of Safety Action, is optimistic and is already looking ahead to the 2021 Legislative Session after receiving assurances from key legislators that HB 4005 will be reintroduced as a priority.

Donna Michel

BOOK REVIEW

The Ambassadors: America's Diplomats on the Front Lines



I'm willing to take up Sherril Kirchoff's challenge to write about a book we might have read recently. This book was selected by the dozen political junkies of my book group. We concentrate on political books and have loud disagreements about what makes a book political. One person is adamant that history is not politics. We can sometimes explain the connection, but she frequently refuses to participate when she thinks our focus has blurred. Sometimes

you have to look for the politics within the story, and that is certainly the case with this book.

I viewed diplomacy as protecting and advancing America's interests worldwide. That obviously oversimplifies the work by thinking of the mission as the work. This book explains that the most clear goal for America's diplomats is to promote stability around the world, government by government. How to achieve stability in the volatile region of the Middle East is the task of the ambassadors whose careers are the subject of the book—Ryan Crocker

(Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon), Robert Ford (Syria, Algeria), Anne Patterson (Egypt, Pakistan, Columbia, El Salvador) and Christopher Stevens (Libya).

Ambassadors move around. Many stay in a region their whole careers but move from one national capital to another. They know and respect each other. They are friends. It happened that among these four; they had often worked at the same embassy more than once, with one serving as ambassador, another as chief of mission, then perhaps vice versa at another embassy.

Their stories are told by Foreign correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times* Paul Richter. He clearly admires them all a lot, particularly Ryan Crocker who sacrificed his health to his career. He tells stories and reveals the dramas, risks, intrigue, and yes, American politics as they influenced America's decisions in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and with some tidbits about Kuwait, Bahrain and other posts. Ambassadors inform Washington decision-making, but there is no guarantee that their advice will be heeded. Ambassadors are instructed, have a lot of discretion, but the limits of their authority can restrain them when they see a need to act.

Linda Lynch

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT DURING THE LIFE OF ALICE PAUL

In order to achieve freedom from legal sex discrimination, Alice Paul believed we needed an Equal Rights Amendment that affirmed the equal application of the Constitution to all citizens.



In 1923, in Seneca Falls for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the 1848 Woman's Rights Convention, Alice Paul first intro-

duced the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment, which was called the "Lucretia Mott Amendment" at the time. It stated: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction." The amendment was introduced in Congress the same year.

Although the National Woman's Party and professional women such as Amelia Earhart supported the amendment, reformers who had worked for protective labor laws that treated women differently from men were afraid that the ERA would wipe out the progress they had made.

In the early 1940s, both the Republican and Democratic parties added support of the Equal Rights Amendment to their political platforms.

Twenty years after she first introduced it, Alice Paul rewrote the ERA in 1943. It was given a new title — the "Alice Paul Amendment" — to better reflect the language in both the 15th and the 19th Amendments. The new version stated:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

But the labor movement was still committed to protective workplace laws, and social conservatives considered equal

rights for women a threat to existing power structures.

In the 1960s, over a century after the fight to end slavery fostered the first wave of the women's rights movement, the civil rights battles of the time provided an impetus for the second wave. Women organized to demand their birthright as citizens and persons, and the Equal Rights Amendment rather than the right to vote became the central symbol of the struggle.

Finally, organized labor and an increasingly large number of mainstream groups joined the call for the Equal Rights Amendment, and politicians reacted to the power of organized women's voices in a way they had not done since the battle for the vote. The Equal Rights Amendment passed the U.S. Senate and then the House of Representatives, and on March 22, 1972, the proposed 27th Amendment to the Constitution was sent to the states for ratification. But as it had done for every amendment since the 18th (Prohibition), with the exception of the 19th Amendment, Congress placed a seven-year deadline on the ratification process. This time limit was placed not in the words of the ERA itself, but in the proposing clause.

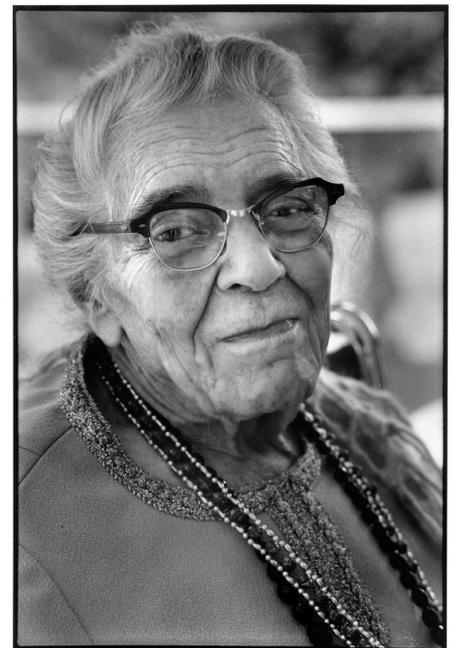
Like the 19th Amendment before it, the ERA barreled out of Congress, getting 22 of the necessary 38 state ratifications in the first year. But the pace slowed as opposition began to organize — only eight ratifications in 1973, three in 1974, one in 1975, and none in 1976.

Throughout the mid-1970s, arguments by ERA opponents such as Phyllis Schlafly, right-wing leader of the Eagle Forum/STOP ERA, played on the same fears that had generated female opposition to woman suffrage. Anti-ERA organizers claimed that the ERA would deny woman's right to be supported by her husband, privacy rights would be overturned, women would be sent into combat, and abortion rights and homosexual marriages would be upheld.

Opponents surfaced from other traditional sectors as well. States'-rights advocates said the ERA was a federal power grab, and business interests such as the insurance industry opposed a measure they believed would cost them money. Opposition to the ERA was also organized by fundamentalist religious groups.

Pro-ERA advocacy was led by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and ERAmerica, a coalition of nearly 80 other mainstream organizations and in 1977, Indiana became the 35th state to ratify the ERA.

Alice Paul died in 1977 at a nursing home in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, near her childhood home that is now a National Historic Landmark and non-profit organization dedicated to furthering her work for gender equality. Like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony before her, Alice Paul never saw the Constitution amended to include the equality of rights she had worked for all her life.



Alice Paul June '76 - Blaisdell

Excerpted from:
History of the Equal Rights
Amendment at

<https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/the-equal-rights-amendment>



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541-343-7917

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

CALENDAR

MAY (For more information see page reference.)

- 6 - 10 am, Action Committee (pg 2)
- 7 - Noon, Springfield City Council Candidates Forum (pg 4)
- 11 - Units (pg 2)
- 15 - LWVUS Convention Registration Deadline (pg 1)
- 16 - LWVOR Convention (pg 1)
- 19 - **Ballots due!**
- 20 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting
- 21 - Statewide Redistricting Reform - The Forum (pg4)
- 22 - **Midnight**, *Argus* deadline
- 30 - 10 am, Annual Meeting (pg 1 and 3)

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

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

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- Eugene Mailbox Center*
- Folkways*
- Long's Meat Market*

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE

Would it make your life easier to donate to LWVLC monthly?

Would it be easier on your budget?

You can do that now by using automatic payment from your checking account.

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