



LEAGUE’S CALL TO ACTION AGAINST HATE CRIMES

LWVUS and LWVGA Condemn Hate Crimes Against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders

3/18/2021

WASHINGTON – Today the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Georgia issued the following statement in response to the rise in hate crimes against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, including the mass shootings across Atlanta on March 16th:

“The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of the eight individuals who were killed on Tuesday, March 16th, and the countless other AAPI lives that have been tragically taken as a result of racially motivated violence. We mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of anti-Asian xenophobia and racism.

“Anti-AAPI racism is not new to our country, whose history includes the creation of internment camps, the *Chinese Exclusion Act* which prohibited Chinese laborers, as well as countless acts of violence. Yet in the past year, we have witnessed a disturbing increase in attacks targeting AAPIs, often in connection with myths about COVID-19.

“Together, the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Georgia call on law enforcement officials to seek justice for those murdered on Tuesday night.

“Additionally, we urge Attorney General Garland and FBI Director Wray to prioritize the investigation of anti-AAPI hate crimes. We cannot fight the racism, hate, and impunity that threaten the lives of AAPIs unless our leadership takes the necessary actions to denounce racist violence and demand accountability in its wake.

“The League stands in solidarity with AAPI communities. We are committed to listening to and amplifying AAPI voices and educating ourselves on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country so that we can be better allies.

“We urge our followers to do the same, and to call on elected and appointed officials at all levels of government to demonstrate their commitment to keeping ALL communities safe. There can be no liberty in the face of racist and xenophobic violence.”

Outrage Isn’t Enough, by Keli Osborn

Verbal harassment, shunning, physical assaults, and such civil rights violations as workplace discrimination and refusal of service—all of these can profoundly harm individuals, families, and our larger community.

But outrage alone isn’t enough. It’s important to be honest with one another about historical roots and current trends, and to take actions that help ensure everyone is safe and feels welcome and respected. Awareness and action are essential to fulfilling the League’s goals of informed and active participation in government, increased understanding of major public policy issues, and the ability to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



For additional resources, see page 5.

Virtual Third Thursday
Noon, April 22

TOD SCHNEIDER
Executive Director,
Community Supported Shelters

Open to the public

To register, go to lwvlc.org
click on Register for Third Thursday.



To learn more about
Tod and CSS
see page 5



UNITS

Mary Keating, Chair

APRIL UNIT- CLIMATE CHANGE: RECOVERY AND ADAPTATION FROM PLAN TO ACTION by Terry Parker, Program Co-Chair

Have you taken stock of your carbon footprint lately? Attend a unit meeting and discuss how the League addresses climate through legislative action and individual measures we can take to support effective climate solutions.

To receive the Zoom meeting link:

Monday, April 12, 10 am

Contact Nancy Mills, nmills@trinity.edu

Monday, April 12, 2 pm

Contact Mary Keating, myrnalouise@hotmail.com

Tuesday, April 13, 10 am

Contact Linda Ferdowsian, lferdowsian@yahoo.com

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Virtual Briefing

Tuesday, April 6, 2 pm

Via Zoom - To receive the link
contact myrnalouise@hotmail.com.
Briefing Speaker is **Mark Nystrom**,
Lane County Climate Strategist
Lane County Climate Action Plan
(All are welcome.)



Mark Nystrom

UNITS REPORT

by Linda Ferdowsian, Program Co-Chair

Thirty-four members attended March Unit Choice meetings. Monday participants had the opportunity to openly discuss current issues and concerns. The Board has scheduled another such discussion meeting in December.

providers, 12 full-time paid staff, and 300 volunteers and can always use more. The population served is those whose resources are in the 85-300% of poverty level and those who do not have adequate, if any, insurance coverage. DeLeesa was impressed by the questions and interest members posed.

Tuesday unit meeting hosted DeLeesa Meashintubby, Executive Director for Volunteers in Medicine clinic in Springfield. We learned that VIM has 40 care

She invited us to tour when Covid19 is no longer such a threat.

MEMBERSHIP

by Veronika Walton, Chair

We are happy to welcome new member

Alicia Rose Going.

To all who contributed fabric for Conestoga Hut curtains many thanks. The residents of these huts will appreciate the privacy they provide.

Membership Committee Meeting April 20, 2pm

Via Zoom - to receive the link
contact membership@lwvlc.org

LOOKING FOR ACTION (AND A CELEBRATION) ON HOUSING, CLIMATE AND IMMIGRATION

by Terry Parker, Chair Action Committee

Climate

The LWVOR is an active member of Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) and Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) which prioritize the following three Oregon House bills this legislative session:

HB 2995: 100% Clean Energy - would transition Oregon to 100% clean energy within the next few decades, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new jobs in clean energy.

HB 2475: The Oregon Energy Affordability Act - would make energy bills more affordable for low-income families.

HB 2842: Healthy Homes - would help low-income families improve air-quality and energy efficiency in their homes.

Housing

Middle Housing Code Amendments

Action Committee Guest Sophie McGinley from the City of Eugene reviewed the Eugene Middle Housing Project that will revise local Land Use Code. The aim is to improve housing choices in the short term and affordability in the long term for Eugene residents. Ultimately, a model code under state rules will automatically apply if the City does not adopt its own code.

For more information: Look for "Engage Eugene" on the City of Eugene website and find other events on the EUGplanning Facebook page.

Immigration

The National League position on immigration:

We support federal immigration laws that provide efficient, expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States. Seeking asylum at points of entry into the United States is part of our legal immigration process and assaults on asylum seekers are un-American. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community. The 116th Congress must take immediate action to pass common sense, fair immigration policies that **END** the crisis at our border, **END** the separation of families, and **PROVIDE** a path to citizenship.

Action Committee Meeting
April 7, 10 am
Via Zoom - To receive the link contact action@lwvlc.org.

SPRINGFIELD CELEBRATION HONORS HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS DOLORES HUERTA AND CESAR CHAVEZ

by Terry Parker, Chair Action Committee and
Zehra Greenleaf, 2021 Celebration Chair



For nearly twenty years, the Springfield and greater Lane County community have gathered to celebrate Dolores Huerta and César Chávez, two human rights leaders. Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect (SAfER) and Springfield Public Schools co-sponsor this event honoring these role models who worked non-violently to uphold the dignity of farmworkers and gave us the inspiring words "¡Sí Se Puede!" "Yes, we can!"

This year's on-line Celebration will be fully-bilingual and student-led, featuring music, dance and art created by students from all levels of Springfield schools. Delicious food and a warm community atmosphere have been a consistent part of this much anticipated annual event.

The website is live and new features will be added daily from **March 31 through April 8**. The event highlight, Springfield students' recorded interview with Dolores Huerta, will be released on **Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 pm**.

Go to: <https://sites.google.com/springfield.k12.or.us/huertachavez/home>

To join the Lane County League in supporting this lively celebration, make donations to the *Dolores Huerta Foundation*

Online: <https://doloreshuerta.org/donate/>

By Mail: Send checks c/o Zehra Greenleaf, 3455 Onyx Place, Eugene, OR 97405

OR donate to the Community Alliance of Lane County and specify *Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect (SAfER)*



ATTACK ON VOTING RIGHTS

by Paula Grisafi, Chair Voter Service

Voting rights are under attack across the country. In the last few years politicians in dozens of states have tried to erect barriers to our right to vote by limiting early voting and vote by mail and reducing polling places and hours. They have illegally purged voter rolls and put in place other restrictions like ID laws that block eligible voters. The League works against these efforts through grassroots organizing, education, advocacy and through legal action that includes joining in federal and state voting rights cases. You can help by contacting your legislators and asking them to support legislation that protects voters rights and by supporting organizations that work to protect voting rights.

Post this website on your Facebook page or send it to friends. It includes ten ways to protect voting rights. <https://lawyerscommittee.org/>

All of us must work to protect our voting rights.

Voter Service Meeting

April 8, 10 am

Via Zoom - To receive the link contact voterservice@lwvlc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND YOUR CAPACITIES AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEAGUE

Consider one of the opportunities below to serve with other League members.

Technology/Website Assistant

- Assist in posting to LWVLC website. Keep calendar current. upload forms.
- Assist with posting to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Make lists and email blasts.
- Technical or computer savvy needed. Website is on WordPress. Contact Website and Technology Chair, Rhonda Livesay, webmaster@lwvlc.org.

Treasurer's Assistant

- Learn procedure for maintaining LWVLC financial and tax records.
- Maintain financial records in treasurer's absence.
- Help complete yearly tax reports. Contact Gary Harmon, treasurer@lwvlc.org.

Want to know the specific skills, training and time commitment of the task?
Please feel free to contact us.

Office Volunteer

- Handle incoming phone calls and mail.
 - Greet guests.
 - Organize and maintain office and files.
 - Print and scan materials.
- Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11 am-1:30 pm. Serve one day per month.
Contact Linda Ferdowsian, office@lwvlc.org.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

By Freddi Weishahn, Chair Development Committee

We would like to acknowledge some very generous contributions received in the last year in the memory or honor of members who have done so much for the LWVLC: \$1,100 from Warren Wasserman in memory of Ruth Miller, \$1,000 from the Phyllis Loobey Estate, and \$3,000 from a charitable trust wishing to remain anonymous.

A bequest gift is a way to create a lasting legacy for our organization. To be sure your bequest is honored, please consult with an estate planning professional. We are also grateful for the many donations we have received throughout the year from our membership and community. We are an all-volunteer organization, and your sustained support helps fund our operations and activities. We could not fulfill our mission without you. For more information on ways to give, please contact development@lwvlc.org.

APRIL THIRD THURSDAY SPEAKER, TOD SCHNEIDER

By Linda Lynch

Empowering Transitional Shelter for the Homeless

Tod Schneider, Executive Director of Community Supported Shelters, will speak to the League of Women Voters membership Thursday, April 15 at noon, via Zoom. The mission of Community Supported Shelters (CSS) is to foster opportunities for community development and safe, functional shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

Funded primarily through community donations, CSS works toward its mission through several programs. The most visible ones are the Conestoga huts. These huts are a quick shelter option for individuals and couples

who are experiencing homelessness. The hut is designed as a hard-shelled, insulated tent structure that can be built by a group of volunteers. The huts have a lockable door and a window and are built of mold-resistant materials.

Conestoga huts are not designed to keep people as warm as one would experience in a conventional style dwelling, though they are warmer and more substantial than sleeping in a recreational tent or unprotected in the elements.

A related program is called Safe Spot Communities. The Safe Spot Communities (SSC) are legal, designated places for people who are without a conventional form of housing. CSS

currently provides oversight to three SSCs, each focusing on a different demographic of the houseless population (people with disabilities, a site for veterans, and another site for a mixed population).

Mr. Schneider's career includes 29 years as a Crime Prevention Specialist for the city of Eugene Police Department. He is an expert on crime prevention through environmental design, particularly for schools. He has consulted widely in the United States and elsewhere and now works on promoting safe homeless camp designs. He will tell League members about Community Supported Shelters, the organization's goals and barriers to success, including disparities between Eugene and Springfield in addressing the issue of homelessness. You may wonder how one qualifies for a Conestoga Hut, what the rules are, how siting decisions are made,

To register to hear Tod Schneider speak on Empowering Transitional Shelter for the Homeless, go to lwvlc.org and click on the "Register" button.



WANT TO EXPLAIN THE LEAGUE?

by Charlcie Kaylor, President

You would be hard pressed to do better than the KLCC interview of Becky Gladstone, President of LWVOR and member of LWVLC. The first interview of KLCC's new podcast *Oregon Grapevine* hosted by Barbara Dellenback.

<https://www.klcc.org/programs/oregon-grapevine>

Continued from page 1 **Hate Crimes**

- LWVLC Everymember Material packet on Hate Crimes and Hate Speech
<https://lwvlc.org/wp-content/uploads/Hate-Crimes-EM-Final-Version.pdf>
- City of Eugene's Hate & Bias Prevention and Response Toolkit,
<https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/42822/Hate-and-Bias-Prevention-and-Response-Toolkit>
(Note: This can be useful even for those living outside Eugene.)
- Stop AAPI Hate, a center tracking and responding to incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States
<https://stopaapihate.org/>
- Oregon Department of Human Services
<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/DHSNEWS/Pages/Directors-Messages.aspx>
- Oregon Historical Society 2019 issue on "White Supremacy & Resistance"
<https://www.ohs.org/research-and-library/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/winter-2019.cfm>

The League of Women Voters: Taking Women from Suffrage to Civic Engagement

by Linda Lynch

Since 1988 the month of March has been designated Women's History Month. Because 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of women securing the right to vote, many organizations have extended celebrations of that milestone to 2021 and beyond. This extension allows time for everyone to deepen our understanding of the long struggle to achieve suffrage, the inequalities that resulted in 1920, and the work that remains to achieve universal suffrage. America continues to see many "firsts" for women, and not just Kamala Harris as Vice President. As long as the appointment or election of a woman to any particular office, NBA referee or Vice President is considered newsworthy, the need to take time to consider the role of women in America is real.

The League of Women Voters of the United States was organized February 14, 1920, in Chicago at the National American Woman Suffrage Association meeting. Following decades of work, the group anticipated that within weeks the required number of states would ratify the 19th Amendment giving women the vote. It turned out to take longer than just a few weeks, with Tennessee providing the 36th state ratification in August.

The year 1920 was a presidential election year; political parties were developing their policy platforms. The work of the League in 1920 was to complete the campaign for ratification of the amendment, and an important tactic was to have support for women's suffrage included in the platforms of both political parties.

Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution had the effect of doubling the number of eligible voters in the country. This

was huge! The founding objectives of the new organization were: education of the new voters, passage of needed legislation, with primary emphasis on the protection of women and children, and awakening the electorate.

The League of Women Voters is known today, and has been since its inception, for efforts to get out the vote, host candidate debates and forums, and some people will remember the League used to be the convenor of presidential debates. Those debates were so successful, the political parties joined forces to take them over.

But the League's work and influence is broader. Over the decades, the League has worked to influence voters and legislators on many issues. These of course include voting rights and universal public education, but also establishment of the United Nations, passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, clean air legislation, fair working conditions policies, and others. Under the current theme of Making Democracy Work, the League is working to make donations to candidates and political action committees more transparent. We challenge all efforts and tactics that limit the ability of voters to exercise their right to vote, and we oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering at all levels of government that strip rights away from voters.

It is important to note that in 1974 the League opened its membership to men. Today there are men in many leadership roles in the League, including the immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of Oregon. The membership is now open to anyone over the age of 16. The League assumes that if someone

living in America is interested in learning about the issues we confront, they are welcome to join. When considering the League's founding objectives—educate new voters, enact needed legislation, and awaken the electorate—it is clear that the organization's work remains relevant 101 years later.

While other civic or activist or non-profit organizations have joined the effort to register their members to register and vote, they often enlist League members for training or other help in those efforts. Whenever an Oregonian uses the Division of Motor Vehicles, such as getting or renewing a driver's license, that person is asked if they are registered to vote. If not, they are automatically registered and then must opt out if they truly do not want to be registered. The Motor Voter Act was the result of the League of Women Voters and a coalition of similar groups working to ensure its passage in the 2015 Oregon Legislature. In the hyper-partisan politics of our times, the League strives to remain a non-partisan grassroots organization empowering voters and defending democracy.

Thanks to new League member, **Leah Murray**, LWVLC was asked by the weekly *Creswell Chronicle* for articles during Women's History Month. Leah is also a member of AAUW and arranged for each organization to submit two articles. Thanks, Leah!

Many thanks to **Linda Lynch and Keli Osborne** for writing these columns on behalf of LWVLC.

Charlcie Kaylor, President

WOMEN'S HISTORY IS... HISTORY!

by Keli Osborne

Oregon's first constitution banned slavery while making it illegal for free African Americans to live in the state. A few years later, in 1872, Mary Beatty, an African American woman living in Oregon, joined three other women—Abigail Scott Duniway, Maria Hendee, and Mrs. M.A. Lambert—in an attempt to vote. And while it would be 1912 before voting rights expanded in Oregon, these early activists brought attention to the campaign known as “woman suffrage.”

The League of Women Voters was officially founded in 1920, just months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified and women across the country won the vote. But while the right to vote is a common topic when considering women's history, many deeds and perspectives form the shared history we create from the spheres of education, science, religion, family, sports, arts, literature, work, and politics.

In recent years, for example, the League of Women Voters of Lane County has addressed a broad range of issues through advocacy and education, including:

Seismic risk & readiness

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) believes all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards to protect human life and safeguard critical life support systems. A League team pulled together a robust report with information on geology and individual preparedness. The public can find the report on our website: January 2020, Every-member Materials.

Hate crimes

From another report League volun-

teers prepared (February 2020), we learned about hate groups, federal laws and statutes, state initiatives, the role of social media, and personal actions we can take in schools and our communities.

Child care

League members compiled information on child care options, including during this pandemic, as well as funding issues, child development needs, and historical trends.

Climate change

We've monitored climate action planning at the city, county and state levels and are studying the potential impacts of natural gas on our ability to meet climate goals. We've also examined such projects as the proposed Jordan Cove Energy facility and have supported climate justice—especially for younger community members who'll be experiencing impacts for decades to come.

Housing & homelessness

We participate in working groups and actively press for increased housing choices and shelter to meet livability, access and affordability needs. Individual League members are joining others in such actions as sewing curtains for innovative residences for unhoused community members.

Redistricting

Every decade, states redraw district maps for congressional and state legislative races, while local jurisdictions also adjust boundaries. Our local League has actively championed fair, transparent and independent efforts.

Education

The League in 1946 supported the Rural Schools Bill to equalize and raise rural school standards. More recently, we've supported civics education and local funding

measures that promote safety, equity, and resources meeting today's educational needs.

Of course, the League of Women Voters of Lane County continues to work hard on voter education. We began offering a speakers' bureau in 1946 to provide nonpartisan, balanced information on ballot measures. In 1952, we held our first candidates' fair. Years later, we're still at it, melding old methods and new technologies.

The namesake for Creswell, Oregon, was a man from Maryland who never set foot in our state. Appointed Postmaster General of the United States by President U.S. Grant, John Andrew Jackson Creswell reformed the postal system—his actions included appointing African-American women postmasters at the community level. Then and now, our letters and postcards capture history, and these mail carriers made history, too.

Yes, history happens even in the seemingly ordinary. Consider some of the women we know: family members and friends who've offered security, support and affection; teachers who've encouraged learning; nurses and doctors whose special care helped heal someone we love; writers and artists who have opened our eyes and hearts to ideas; farmers and laborers who've helped sustain us; and our immigrant, indigenous and/or enslaved ancestors who brought us here. These women also have made a kind of history.

Women's history is...history! The month of March offers us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate people, contributions and endurance, and to be good ancestors for the ones to come.

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

380 Q STREET, Suite 250, SPRINGFIELD, OREGON 97477
541-343-7917

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

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 6 - 2 pm, Unit Briefing (page 2)
- 7 - 10 am, Action Committee (page 3)
- 8 - 10 am, Voter Service Committee (page 4)
- 12 & 13 - Unit meetings (page 2)
- 20 - 2 pm, Membership Committee (page 4)
- 21 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting
- 22 - Noon, Third Thursday (see page 1 & 5)
- 23 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

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

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MISSED A THIRD THURSDAY?

<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>

BRIEFINGS VIDEOS

<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>

DONATE NOW

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

BEQUESTS

See Development Committee article on
page four.

If our **local** League's work is important to you,
please consider a donation.

Thank you!