

# Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County

June 2017

# REPORT FROM STATE CONVENTION by Linda Lynch, President, and Others



Lane
County
sent nine
delegates
to the
League's
biennial
state convention in
Wilsonville
May 5, 6,
and 7. Of
most in-

terest to the general membership is the news that delegates agreed to concur in a position on Civil Discourse. This was the first time the state League has acted to adopt a state position through concurrence. It has happened at the national and local levels, but a bylaws amendment was required to make this possible. The position states:

Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.

The position was developed by LWV of San Luis Obispo. There is already-developed training materials, proposed brochures and other readings of interest which will probably get to you during a unit this coming year. (The Board has yet to develop the calendar for next year's study topics.)

Local League presidents met over breakfast on the last day of convention and concluded that more frequent communication might prevent reinvention of many wheels. Fran Dyke, president of LWV Portland, and a former LWV Lane County member, agreed to convene the group quarterly through a conference call.

Therese Picado, new LWVLC program director, has written a more detailed report, found on page six, but here are some thoughts from others!

#### Janet Calvert:

Yes, there are some changes in the tone of LWVOR state conventions since my first one in the early 70s. Although the official business is conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, there is much less using the ins and outs of the Rules to block or achieve a desired outcome.

In this convention, there was much more emphasis on making League more member friendly at levels. We were encouraged to provide leadership positions to newer members while being aware there is always a delicate balance between encouraging new, fresh and different ideas from new

members with overwhelming them with too many expectations. Each League member needs to encourage and accept new ideas along with providing background and mentoring our new leaders.

The convention workbook contained some revealing history. From 1920 to 1953, all state presidents were from the Portland League. Emily Logan of Corvallis ended this tradition in 1953-55. LWVOR presidents from Eugene/Lane County League included Leona Ford, 1955-57; Phyllis Montgomery, 1959-63; Alice Northway, 1971-73; Annabel Kitzhaber, 1977-79; and Kappy Eaton, 1991-93. Several past presidents came from local Leagues that no longer exist.

Each of us should remember the following when planning a meeting. If a major goal is to have participants ex-

(Continued on page 2)



1 pm, SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Wildish Theater 630 Main St. Springfield

Eleanor Roosevelt
Across a Barrier to Fear
Portrayed by

### Jane VanBoskirk

Tickets \$22
Can be purchased at
http://www.wildishtheater.com/wptest/
Use the code word "vote" and
\$5 will be donated to LWVLC



More information on page 5

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2016-17

President LINDA LYNCH

Vice President KELI OSBORN

Secretary
JEANNE TAYLOR

Treasurer RHONDA LIVESAY

Action KAPPY EATON & PAT HOCKEN

Argus Editor
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance JANET CALVERT

Historian GAYLE DOWNING

Mailing Mgr. LINDA FERDOWSIAN

Membership BETTY-COE de BROEKERT

Nominations ELLEN MADDEX

Office Mgr. PHYLLIS LOOBEY

Program
THERESE PICADO

Public Relations KATHY MADISON

Units VACANT

Voter Service KELI OSBORN

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES PRESERVING OUR PRINCIPLES

Convention workbook

(Continued from page 1)

change ideas, make sure it is easy to rearrange chairs or have break-out rooms. Double check that all visual aids work including microphones. Remind the speaker to hold the mike up to the mouth and that someone is there to help.

Veronika Walton: This was my first time attending a League convention. Growing membership is always a concern and happily every county League reported an increase in numbers, some with substantial increases. Our League gained 35 new members this year, which is wonderful. How do you keep the new members engaged and involved?

There were many good ideas discussed and even a recruiting demonstration acted out between a longtime member and two newbies.

Amy Hjerstedt, the liaison to Oregon and a LWVUS Director, a dynamic young woman, presented a number of ideas that she successfully used to start a League chapter in a very red county and to keep the members engaged. I believe that our membership committee can profit from her suggestions and actions.

### Dorothy Cruikshank: As

a first time delegate to League of Women Voters State Convention, I was wowed by how well organized and educational it was. With over 65 people attending, President Norman Terrill did an outstanding job of keeping the group of us on target and moving along with the proposed by-law changes. Many of those changes relate to the increased speed that computers are providing to get reports finished and out to members. There was much discussion by the group about these changes, and many of our members participated. The proposed

budget was presented by Heather Drake, who is an excellent presenter and was able to keep us interested in what can sometimes be a boring topic. The speaker, Rick Shenkman, gave an excellent presentation: The Mysterious Voter: How They Made Up Their Minds, explaining to us how we got into the situation we are in with our current leadership.

#### Pat Hocken:

Budget - The budget discussions at the convention contained positive news about LWVOR finances and the support LWVOR intends to provide local Leagues for voter service and other activities. LWVOR recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Saling Foundation in response to a request for only \$20,000. This grant is restricted for spending on voter service activities. The 2017-18 LWVOR budget includes funding for state-wide Voters' Guides with no cost to the local Leagues as well as reimbursement for local League expenditures related to statewide races and measures, such as gubernatorial debates. LWVOR also plans to a hire a temporary Voters' Guide coordinator to assist League volunteers with collection of candidate information, data management in Vote411, and production of the printed Voters' Guide. Other items funded in the budget are an updated public relations strategy, a membership and leadership development training for local Leagues, and a legislative administrator for the 2018 session. And yes, most importantly, the per member assessments paid by local Leagues to support the Oregon League will not be increased.

The budget discussions on the convention floor and in the caucus yielded helpful guidance on the IRS definitions of lobbying which will apply once LWVLC converts to 501(c)(3) status.

By-Laws - The delegates were presented with eight pages of proposed by-law changes covering 14 separate sections. Most of them would be considered housekeeping changes intended to shorten deadlines and streamline processes in recognition of the shift to primarily electronic means for internal League communication. Other amendments were substantive, such as adding a new section for program to allow the adoption of a position by concurrence with a position of another League. All the changes were adopted as proposed or with minor adjustments. Debate was focused on the size of the nominating committee, ensuring consistency within the document, and local League needs for timely information to prepare their own budgets.

Flo Alvergue: In the past I've attended a number of state conventions and served as events chair for LWVOR for two years, so I appreciate all the work that goes into planning the venue and format. I especially enjoyed this one as there were nine Lane County delegates, and a number of them took part in the program, in the business sessions, and large group discussions.

The Clackamas League hosted LWVOR and did a fine job conducting interesting workshops on engaging members and the community. We were fortunate to have a national director come for the weekend, Amy Hjerstedt, who has ties to Oregon, and shared her experiences as a League member organizing events in her communities. The large group discussion on concurrence with the Civil Discourse position from the San Luis Obispo League was interesting and informative. I hope that we may use these materials for local League study.

### VOTER SERVICE Rhonda Livesay & Keli Osborn, Co-Chairs

The committee plans to take June and July off and will meet again in August (TBD, tentatively the afternoon of Aug. 11).

Elections this fall and next spring will be here before you know it - bond measures for roads and schools, statewide ballot measures, state legislative and U.S. Congressional races, the Oregon gubernatorial campaign, city council elections and more.

Upcoming work includes: *Voter education* 

- Educational forums on ballot measures
- Candidate forums & debates
- Information sessions (à la National Popular Vote)

Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts
Did you know that Oregon's voter
turnout reached 78.9 percent in November 2016, the lowest in a presidential year since 1996? That voter
turnout in Lane County in May 2016
was only 57.19 percent? What's your
estimate for May 2017 election turnout?

We in Voter Service see other possibilities on the horizon:

- Support mock elections held by high school students.
- Assemble resources and offer a workshop on effective advocacy (from writing elected officials to joining an advisory board or running for office).

What's missing from our list? How can we best accomplish our goals? We're looking for additional volunteers to help this fall and year-round. Enjoy this summer and remember to come have some fun with Voter Service, too!

#### Becoming a U.S. citizen

One of the cool things the League does is attend naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse, helping register new voters and passing out forms. These ceremonies can be incredibly moving, welcoming new citizens to our communities from around the globe.

Special thanks to Stephanie Winsor for coordinating the League presence. Future ceremonies are scheduled for August 11 and November 17. Consider attending - contact Stephanie, <a href="mailto:sawinsor@mac.com">sawinsor@mac.com</a> or 541-342-8243, for more information.

Becoming a U.S. citizen can be a long and arduous process. Here are excerpts from Civics Practice Test, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. How would you fare?

What stops one branch from being too powerful?

- ☐ The people
- ☐ Freedom of speech
- ☐ Checks and balances
- ☐ The President

When must all men register for the Selective Service?

- ☐ Men do not have to register
- ☐ Between 18 and 26
- ☐ At age 16
- ☐ At any age

Who signs bills to become law?

- ☐ The vice president
- ☐ The chief justice of the supreme court
- ☐ The president
- ☐ The secretary of state

Name one U.S. territory.

- □ Cayman Islands
- □ Bermuda
- $\square$  Guam
- □ Haiti

### MEMBERSHIP Betty-Coe R. de Broekert, Chair

### Membership Committee Meeting

Next meeting June 22 2 to 3:30 pm League Office

Please contact **Betty-Coe de Broekert** 

Busybee78@comcast.net
Or 541-357-4443 (H)
503-780-3454 (cell/text)
if you have questions.

Here's the good news:
We have new people coming to us,
wanting to engage with LWV!

This year we have seen an increase in new members wanting to join and engage with League of Women Voters. The new members are eager activists who want to become involved.

The Membership Committee wants to hear from all of our members and especially those who are newer to the League.

- ♦ What is the best way for you to connect to the League?
- ♦ How can we get you involved?
- ♦ What topics interest you?
- ♦ What motivated you to join the League?

In order to best utilize the passion and creative juices of our members in pursuing the mission of the League, we want learning about the League to be welcoming and fun. Although many members may not have time to attend weekly meetings, learning about the League can be done through an informal orientation meeting, attending a unit meeting, connecting with advocacy efforts, reading the *Argus* newsletter, checking out the web page <a href="http://lwvlc.org/">http://lwvlc.org/</a>, looking us up on Facebook, attending scheduled events, or additional trainings on topics that are of special interest.

The Membership Committee wants to hear from you. The League is committed to Making Democracy Work™. We want to turn your passion into action. New members bring fresh eyes and new perspectives.

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### STATE OF THE STATE

### by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

### Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday,
June 7,
9:30 am
Apartment 234
Waterford Grand
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.

Oregon's May economic forecast is the one used as base for the biennium budget by the state's economists. As the peak season for income tax collections winds down, it has become clear that Oregon has enjoyed a good year. Although revenue trends are not as strong as what was seen earlier in the economic expansion, Oregon and its western neighbors continue to lead the way in revenue growth. A large majority of states are dealing with disappointing revenue growth that has failed to match their budget projections. In Oregon, revenue growth has outstripped expectations, putting our unique kicker law into play.

Although revenue growth is still healthy, the slowing pace of Oregon's expansion has become evident in tax return data just as it has in

the jobs data. Income growth has been cut in half over the past two years with slowing across a wide range of income types. While still growing for now, business, retirement, investment and labor income have all decelerated rapidly.

With increases in the outlook for personal income taxes, estate taxes and lottery sales, net General Fund resources are up \$370 million relative to the March forecast. Excluding corporate taxes, General Fund revenues are now 2.4% above the 2015 close of session estimate. If this holds through the end of the biennium, an income tax kicker of \$408 million would be triggered for the 2017 tax year.

Although the May outlook calls for a personal income kicker, it is not a sure thing.

Large swings in the forecast between now and the end of June have been commonplace in past years. In fact, if revenue forecast errors are distributed on a bell curve, the forecast would be expected to decline by more than the \$70 million needed to fall below the kicker threshold in one out of every three years.

The revenue forecast is based on existing law, including measures and actions signed into law during the 2015 Oregon session. Routine adjustments are made to the forecast to account for legislative and other actions not factored into the personal and corporate tax models. These adjustments can include expected kicker refunds, when applicable, as well as any tax law changes not present in the historical data.

### Interested in seeing 65 pages of data about the revenue forecast?

http://www.oregon.gov/das/OEA/Documents/forecast0517.pdf

#### Or the user friendly slide show.

https://www.oregon.gov/das/OEA/Documents/oeaforecast0517.pdf

### LOCAL ACTION

### by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

#### Lane County Jail Levy

As you have probably heard, the renewal of the Lane County jail levy for five more years passed overwhelmingly. It was a very quiet campaign, but the League's letter of support for the measure was published in *The Register-Guard*.

#### **Envision Eugene**

A second draft of the Envision Eugene documents has been released. The most significant changes from the Planning Commission process were made to the proposed Clear Lake Overlay Zone to increase the preservation of large lots in the employment expansion area. The Eugene City

Council will have work sessions on the draft on May 24 and June 12, and the Lane County Board of Commissioners will have a work session on June 13. A joint public hearing will be held by the two bodies on June 27.

Eugene planning staff will update the League Action Committee at its June 7 meeting. Any additional League testimony will need to be approved at the June board meeting.

### Springfield Urban Growth Boundary

As you may recall, back in 2016 the League submitted testimony to the City of Springfield regarding its proposal to expand its urban growth

boundary (UGB) in the area north of the Gateway Mall. Based on the Springfield staff response addressing our concerns, the League did not feel it was necessary to raise any further objections to the plan. The City just formally submitted its plan to the Department of Land Development.

#### Other Local Topics

Other Action Committee agenda items include planning for city and county parks, ways to address housing and homelessness, changes by Eugene Water and Electric Board to plans for a backup water source, and a proposal for a Eugene City Auditor.

### A CHANGE OF LEAGUE TREASURER

**Phyllis Loobey,** who has served as treasurer for the League of Women Voters of Lane County since 2002, has submitted her resignation from that position effective June 30, 2017. Phyllis will continue as a member of the board of directors and as the office manager. The Board recognizes and applauds the many contributions Phyllis has made to the organization during her long tenure. The treasurer's job is complex and time-consuming and requires dedication and attention to detail. The treasurer is responsible for receiving and tracking dues, contributions, and other payments and depositing them in the League financial accounts; making sure bills are paid in accordance with the budget and board policy; collecting monies at Third Thursday and special events; preparing monthly financial statements; helping to prepare the annual budget; and advising the board and membership on financial issues. Thank you, Phyllis, for your amazing service!!!

Fortunately, a successor to Phyllis for this vital position has been recruited. The Board has appointed voter service cochair Rhonda Livesay as treasurer effective July 1, 2017. Rhonda has the business experience and the skills to handle the many complexities of the job. Thank you, Rhonda, for your willingness to take on this demanding role.

Now we just need some more League members to volunteer to help with voter service activities now that Rhonda has shifted her main focus to the treasurer's job. The League expects to be very involved with registering voters (at nursing homes and college campuses) and informing voters about candidates and issues in 2018. Contact Rhonda or Keli Osborn or Linda Lynch if you can assist with some of these efforts.

Pat Hocken

## TWO-FER: See a great play and support the LWVLC by Kathy Madison, Public Relations Chair

The League of Women Voters of Lane County is pleased to sponsor *Eleanor Roosevelt: Across a Barrier to Fear*, a one-woman play in which acclaimed actress **Jane VanBoskirk** portrays Eleanor Roosevelt. It will be performed at 1 pm on Sunday, June 18, at the Wildish Theater in Springfield. (See page 1)

Written by **Sharon Whitney**, the play deals with Roosevelt's influential and controversial place in American history - her troubled childhood; her desire as a young woman to alleviate social problems; her marriage to four-term President Franklin Roosevelt; and her widowhood, which included an illustrious career at the newly founded United Nations.

VanBoskirk has portrayed some 25 characters in one-women shows around Oregon, including *Pioneer Women*, *Hillbilly Women, Prodigal Daughters, Armed in the Spirit, and Eleanor Roosevelt.* 

Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at http://www.wildishtheater.com/wptest/. Provide the code word "vote" when purchasing your tickets, and a portion of the play's proceeds will be donated to League of Women Voters of Lane County.





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### **STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION: A Newcomer's Report!**

### by Therese Picado

As a very new League member, serving as a delegate at the LWVOR convention was an immersion in League protocol, history and legacy. I was impressed with the exhibition of parliamentary procedure. Now that I am joining the board as program coordinator, I presume I will have ample opportunities to practice and perfect this practice over the next two years!

I was most impressed with the body of accomplishments of the League at the state level and nationally, as well as the wealth of knowledge embodied in its membership now and over the course of its nearly 100-year history. This was demonstrated in simple and complex ways. Though I am very new to the organization, I was welcomed enthusiastically by members from all over the state. They were genuinely interested in me and my background, shared with me openly their interests and involvements and actively engaged me in getting more involved in the organization. I find myself constantly stimulated in the company of my fellow League members, both at the convention and in all of the local activities in which I have been involved.

In the course of the proceedings and in caucuses, we were briefed by the LWVOR Action Committee whose members serve as lobbyists in state government, doggedly tracking issues in governance, education policy, natural resources and social policy. The quality of their work benefits everyone by educating us on the most pressing

issues our state faces and providing us with ways to get involved, effect change and influence policy. For example, in the aftermath of the defeat of Measure 97, they reported that the legislature is feverishly working on designing a corporate tax plan that would be palatable to business and help address the state's massive shortfall. The budget crisis affects the viability of every state initiative. including our most urgent priorities—atrisk children, education, health care and natural resources. At the time of the convention, it appeared as though the legislature favored a tax program that combined elements from the tax systems utilized in Ohio and Washington, including a broad tax base and lower rates for smaller companies.

Amy Hjerstedt, LWVUS director and liaison to Oregon, discussed the ways in which the League needs to respond to the times and experience an organizational transformation. This young woman, who has very skillfully utilized social media, such as Facebook, to establish and grow local Leagues, is clearly committed to seeing the League flourish by freeing itself of self-imposed and perhaps archaic constraints and allowing it to once again boldly claim its niche in policy study and voter services.

Marge Easley, of Clackamas County, presented a workshop on civil discourse: from confrontation to dialogue, and this became a recurring theme throughout the convention. In this presentation, we explored how

civil discourse is at the heart of what the League does in promoting civic engagement, and it seems imperative that the League be at the forefront of reviving civil discourse in our political lives and lead the desperately needed work of bridging the growing, bitter and polarizing partisan divide. It seems that we must begin by re-asserting our pledge that we are a decisively nonpartisan organization, despite the criticisms that we sometimes receive that we are liberal leaning. Though our positions may be considered progressive. we do not support candidates or political parties, but rather conduct careful and measured study of ballot measures and issues and formulate positions based on this deliberative process.

Interestingly, we had the opportunity to practice civil discourse, live, when our Saturday evening keynote speaker was interrupted by a couple of hotel quests. complaining about assertions the speaker was making about the president and his comments about Latinos and Muslims. As they began challenging the speaker, a member of our group became agitated and yelled back at them. We learned the next day that the couple returned later that evening and ended up engaging in conversation with a League member who happened to be in the vicinity. They had a rather in-depth conversation and explored their views and concerns about the current administration, remarkably finding common ground and building a level of mutual respect. It was a telling lesson in the fruits of civil discourse in practice.

### **NATURALIZATION CEREMONY**

On May 23 Stephanie Winsor coordinated the effort of registering to vote a record number of the newly-made citizens.

The job was aided by Judge Ann Aiken's speaking to the importance of the right to vote

Thanks to Stephanie, Barbara Bryan, Barbara Carter, and Miriam Aiken, who help with this important work.



Photos by Barb Carter

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### **ANNUAL MEETING RECAP:** You should have been there!

Thirty-five people gave up a sunny Saturday morning to attend the LWVLC annual meeting April 29. Members agreed to a \$5 dues increase, beginning July 1, with a similar increase for household members. We continued to tinker with by-laws changes needed for our conversion to a 501 (c) (3) organization. We had hoped to have this completed prior to payment of next year's dues, but that does not appear to be likely.

Therese Picado was elected to a twoyear term as Program Director. Therese has big shoes to fill, following the wonderful work of Susan Tavakolian and Linda Ferdowsian.

There was a vibrant exchange of ideas under the heading "direction to the board." These included making the Argus available electronically, not mailing a hard copy, considering evening or Saturday meetings, particularly for

units. Possible study topics suggested included city hall, EWEB, and school

Special thanks to Pat Hocken, who experienced a convergence of all the items she had been working on budget, by-laws, nominations. She led us through all those discussions plus the treasurer's report! Thank you also to Darla McVay for being our parliamentarian.

Linda Lynch



Photo by Barb Carter

Some new and returning board members.

Pat Hocken, Janet Calvert, Rhonda Livesay, Keli Osborn, Linda Lynch, Jeanne Taylor, Betty-Code de Broekert, and Therese Picado

### LWVUS STATEMENT ON TRUMP'S **ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

#### 05/11/2017

Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to reports that President Trump will announce an election commission to investigate claims of widespread voter fraud in American elections:

President Trump's "Election Integrity Commission" is an unnecessary distraction from the real work to protect against foreign hacking and interference in our electoral process. The real purpose of this effort is to justify President Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections.

This effort begins with a deep credibility gap. Commission members' views on elections are well known and have been discredited as political ideoloques with dangerous agendas. This is part of a wider effort to suppress the vote, keep certain politicians in power, and undermine our elections by spreading falsehoods.

Today's announcement is just another distraction from the real issues, and we expect that any findings or recommendations from this Commission will only be used to make it harder for people to vote in the future.

The White House is attempting to bury this Commission at a time when the

nation and Congress are consumed with this administration's own Russia scandal.

The real problems with our electoral system are the suppressive laws that prevent eligible voters from access to the ballot. False claims of voter fraud have been used to push through more restrictive voting laws including voter ID, proof of citizenship requirements and limiting or reducing early voting opportunities.

This administration is laying the groundwork to usher in widespread discrimination in our systems of voting and manipulate our democracy.



### 336 West 11th Ave., Suite 101 Eugene, OR 97401

For the latest information about League events, meetings, positions and the Argus, visit our website http://lwvlc.org/
Remember to "like" us on Facebook!

### **DONATE NOW**

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

### **CALENDAR**

### JUNE

- 7 9:30 am Action Committee (pg 4)
- 18 1 pm Eleanor Roosevelt: Across a Barrier of Fear Wildish Theater, Springfield, (pg 1)
- 21 1:30 pm Board meeting, League office
- 22 2 pm Membership Committee, League office
- 23 Midnight, Argus deadline for submissions

### Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVLC Summer Office Hours Monday and Thursday 11am - 1:30 pm

#### Thanks to our 2016-17 Directory Advertisers

Lane Forest Products

Baker Bay Bead Co.

Eugene Hotel Retirement

Alterations by Maria

Aayres Appliance Repair

Christine Dambach, Farmers Insurance

Coburg Road Car Wash

Dot Dotson's

Eugene's Flower Home

Long's Meat Market

Maria's Alterations

Studio d Hair Salon

**Unique Properties** 

### Please give this to a friend

Mail the form and check payable to LWVLC to: LWVLC 338 West 11th Ave, Suite 101 Eugene, OR 97401

League of Wo	men Voters	of Lane	County
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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)