

## THANK YOU AND KUDOS TO LINDA FERDOWSIAN

The LWV of Lane County has undergone a metamorphosis this past month. After 14 years in our (we now realize) low-rent office space, we were challenged to find new affordable space. We owe more thanks than can be adequately expressed to Linda Ferdowsian, our League's business manager. She spoke with realtors, building managers, building owners, tenants, partners, church office managers, and other nonprofits in her quest for new affordable space. She visited many sites, some more than once.

Linda worked with the West 11th Avenue landlord to maximize his proposed incentive for our departure. She corralled a few helpers to discuss what she learned at each stop. She negotiated every detail, from our new (increased) rental costs to how to move the copier. She began culling files a year ago, a fortunate premonition that helped prepare us for a move. Then, she almost single-handedly packed all our belongings, loaded them into her van, her truck and her helpers' cars.

She listed that huge boardroom table on Craigslist. She worked to move the phone and internet and internet connections. She used her own garage as a stopover for League files, signs, scrapbooks, wastebaskets, and many other things. She enlisted her



family members for help with moving as well as legal review of the proposed new lease.

Her efforts and her work were definitely over-the-top, well beyond filling the need for a League member to step up and lead a project. She has led us to a very attractive space at

**380 Q Street in Springfield.** It is about the same size as our former space and has built in file drawers - no more old metal file cabinets.

There will be an open house in January, which is being organized by the Membership Committee and, of course, Linda Ferdowsian.

Thank you, Linda, from every one of us!

**Linda Lynch**

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## Third Thursday Luncheon January 16, 2020 Valley River Inn

Doors open at 11 am - buffet served at 11:30 am  
Open to the public - **reservations are required by noon**  
**Monday, January 13**  
call 541-343-7917 or 707-208-6007 or [contact@lwvlc.org](mailto:contact@lwvlc.org)

Buffet lunch is available for \$18  
Beverage only \$5



**PLEASE NOTE** - If you know you will be attending, please notify us whether you will be lunching, just want a beverage or neither but want to attend. This helps the staff set up the room to better accommodate our needs.



**Jessica Campbell,  
Executive Director**



**RURAL  
ORGANIZING  
PROJECT**

More on page 6

# UNIT DISCUSSIONS IN JANUARY

## LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2019-20

**President**  
OPEN

**Vice President**  
KELI OSBORN

**Secretary**  
JEANNE TAYLOR

**Treasurer**  
GARY HARMON

**Action**  
KELI OSBORN

**Argus Editor**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Development - pro tem**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Director**  
FREDDI WEISHAHN

**Historian**  
GAYLE DOWNING

**Mailing Manager**  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN

**Membership**  
DARLA MCVAY  
NANCY O'KIEF

**Nominations**  
BETTY-COE DE BROEKERT

**Office Manager**  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN

**Program**  
GARY HARMON  
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

**Public Relations**  
KATHY MADISON

**Units**  
MARY KEATING

**Voter Service**  
PAULA GRISAFI

**Webmaster**  
RHONDA LIVESAY

## SEISMIC RISK AND READINESS

In the aftermath of the 2011 quake in Japan there has been an increased awareness of a possible quake on the West Coast. What would you do if the "big one" hit? Do you have a plan in place? Do you know what procedures and resources federal, state and local governmental agencies have developed to protect their citizens? The LWVLC seismic report will give you useful information and tips to help you prepare.

*Paula Grisafi*

**Wednesday, January 8**

**10 am - East Eugene**

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

**Thursday, January 9**

**5:30 pm - Eugene Downtown**

Claim 52 Kitchen  
1203 Willamette  
Keli Osborn 541-968-7628

**Monday, January 13**

**10 am - S. Willamette**

430 East 46th  
Flo Alvergue 541-968-7854  
Anne Best 541-343-5124

**1:30 pm - Cascade Manor**

Cascade View Room  
Merle Bottge - 541-434-4191  
Carol Hildebrand 541-434-4254

**2 pm - Harlow Road**

394 Cherry Dr.  
Barbara French 541-485-9090  
Mary Keating 541-344-4889  
Chris Donahue 541-517-0080

**Tuesday, January 14**

**9:30 am - Coburg Rd.**

The Springs at Greer Gardens  
(Main Building)  
1282 Goodpasture Island Rd.  
Dorothy Cruickshank 541-342-2577  
Linda Ferdowsian 707-208-6007

**Noon - Springfield**

Washburne Café, 326 Main Street  
Flo Alvergue 541-968-7854

**Wednesday, January 15**

**1 pm - Cottage Grove**

Magnolia Gardens  
1425 Daugherty Avenue  
Gayle Downing 541-942-1858

## Unit Briefing

Tuesday, January 7, 3 pm

**NEW OFFICE**

on the second floor of  
380 Q Street, Springfield  
All are welcome.



## IN (MORE) PRAISE OF LINDA FERDOWSIAN

Since she became office manager for our League, we saw that Linda can do two impossible things by noon, three takes a bit longer.

A control enthusiast with a knack for getting the best bargains, she was just what our League needed to find a new office and move into it. No detail was overlooked.

That's Linda in the middle with Charlcie Kaylor and Jeanne Taylor, who did their best to aid, abet and cheerlead her efforts.

Her husband Fred is also praiseworthy for all his help.

## PREPARING FOR ACTION

Action Committee members were joined at our December 4 meeting by **Alexis Biddle**, a staff member with **1000 Friends of Oregon**, a nonprofit organization founded in 1974. The nonpartisan, public interest group pays attention to government agencies managing land use issues. That's a broad agenda, one that the League of Women Voters also cares about: rural and urban communities, farms and forests, and wild places. We discussed the potential for collaboration on public forums, tours, and other educational efforts.

One land use focus for LWVLC and many others in Lane County is housing affordability and availability, though opinions differ when it comes to policy approaches. The LWVUS position on housing supply includes this point:

*Government at all levels should develop policies that will assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing and that will assure fulfillment of other goals such as access to employment, preservation of open space, environmental cleanliness and*

*beauty, and other aspects of a suitable living environment.*



LWVLC in recent months has submitted testimony on transportation planning initiatives, and we talked in our December Action meeting about next steps. The Lane Transit District Board in November reviewed a proposed new system under Transit Tomorrow. The goal is to provide more convenient service for more people by increasing frequency along key corridors, though other service would be reduced or eliminated. Those possible cuts have raised concerns, and the LTD board has asked staff to spend more time communicating with riders, potential riders and other interested parties about the changes and their effects.

Meeting the needs and expectations of community members is no simple task. We're talking not only about today's residents but our future selves and future community residents (thus, Transit Tomorrow). And, as noted by Terry Parker in the December Argus, transportation options - and public transit - are critical to local climate action. "Looking through the lens of climate action, increasing ridership reduces emissions."

What costs and risks are we willing to pass on? What public policies make sense now and for the future? Join future Action Committee discussions to help us educate ourselves and recommend effective LWVLC advocacy!

**Keli Osborn**  
[action@lww.org](mailto:action@lww.org)

### Next Action meetings

Wednesday, January 8, 9:30 am  
Wednesday, February 5, 9:30 am  
Wednesday, March 4, 9:30 am  
League Office

## PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

### 2020 State of the County

January 6, 10-11 a.m.  
Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave., Eugene  
The event will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 21 in the Eugene-Springfield area and will be live-streamed at <https://goo.gl/6kOx2i>.

### 2020 State of the City for Eugene

January 8, 5:30 p.m.  
Hult Center, Soreng Theater

### 2020 Springfield State of the City

January 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Springfield Council Chamber,  
225 Fifth St., Springfield

### Political Discussion Networks, Political Engagement, and the Latino Electorate

January 23, 4-5:30 p.m.

Knight Library Browsing Room, UO  
Sponsor: Wayne Morse Center.

**Marisa Abrajano** is professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego. Her research interests are in American politics, particularly in developing ways to increase politics participation and civic engagement amongst racial/ethnic minorities.

### Women Voters: Race, Gender, and Dynamism in U.S. Presidential Elections

February 5, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Knight Law Center, Room 175  
Sponsor: Wayne Morse Center.

**Jane Junn** is the USC Associates Chair in Social Sciences and Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern

California. She is an expert on voting, political participation, public opinion, Asian American politics, gender and politics, racial and ethnic identity, and the politics of immigration in the United States.

### 2020 Freedom Fund Dinner NAACP, Eugene-Springfield

A night of networking in support of democracy and community excellence!  
Feb. 21, 6-9 p.m.  
Valley River Inn  
FMI: <https://naacplanecounty.org/>

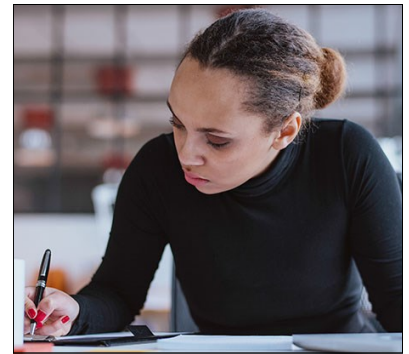
### LWVLC Annual Meeting

April 25, morning  
(exact time to be confirmed)  
Eugene Garden Club,  
1645 High St., Eugene

## THE LWVLC CENSUS IS COMING!

As we work to engage members and volunteers, we need an accurate picture of who we are. That's why we're conducting the 2020 LWVLC Census of Members. What is it? A short questionnaire about you: age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and income and education levels. Returned questionnaires will be tallied and compared to Lane County's population and our future membership. Your answers will be anonymous, and results will be presented in aggregate form, such as averages. If you prefer not to

answer a question, leave it blank. The process should take you three minutes or so. Our census won't tell us everything about current members, but it will give us a snapshot that can help us better understand our demographics now - and in the future. The League is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Fulfilling our commitment as a membership organization and community partner means knowing more about who we are.



Questionnaires are in the mail.  
Thank you for your consideration.

**Keli Osborn**

## THE U.S. CENSUS IS COMING

U.S. Census data are used to make decisions around education, healthcare, infrastructure, and political representation. With increased growth in the country, getting an accurate and complete count of every person living within the nation is crucial to ensure that each state receives funding to support the number of residents there. With the 2020 Census, the focus continues to be on reaching hard-to-count communities and ensuring these communities are included in the count.

Census Day is April 1, 2020. Leagues around the country are sharing information and resources about how to participate and the importance of the U.S. Census. How can we help ensure everyone is counted? What can we do to counter myths that might impede some from participating? Are you talking to neighbors, friends and family members to encourage their participation?



As the U.S. Census Bureau notes, "The framers of the Constitution of the United States chose population to be the basis for sharing political power, not wealth or land." A census aims to count the entire population of our country at the location where each person usually lives. The census asks questions of people in homes and group living situations, including how many people live or stay in each home, and the sex, age and race of each person. The goal is to count everyone once.

Our communities benefit most when everyone is counted. Federal

funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores. Developers use the census to build homes and revitalize neighborhoods. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Residents use the census to support community initiatives. Census data will inform 2021 redistricting at the local, state and congressional district levels. And imagine future generations using our census data to better understand connections and patterns.

**The 2020 Census is coming.  
Participate. Educate. Support.  
Spread the word.**

**Keli Osborn**

## WORRIED ABOUT BEING SCAMMED BY A FAKE CENSUS TAKER?

Learn how to verify that someone is a Census worker at:  
<https://2020census.gov/en/census-takers.html>



## VOTER SERVICE

Are you unhappy with the way the country is going? Have you earned the right to complain? In 13 countries voting is considered not just an important right but a responsibility critical enough that it is mandatory. As we start this year's important election cycle, it is vital to not just protect our right to vote but to exercise it.

However, obstacles continue to make it difficult for many eligible voters to cast a ballot. Voter suppression can take many forms, and attention to the possibilities is essential. The Brennan Center reported that voter purges have increased 33% nationwide over the past decade. While voter purges are used to clean up voter rolls by deleting names of voters who have moved, died or become ineligible for other reasons, done improperly they can disenfranchise large numbers of eligible citizens. There have been several glaring examples of this in recent years. For example, since 2015 Alabama has purged 658,000 voters in a state where there were approximately 3.3 million registered voters. Between 2016 and 2018 both Georgia and North Carolina removed over 10% of registrations from their voter lists. Several other states have had unusually high numbers of voters purged in recent years.

Other impediments such as misleading information have occurred to prevent voter participation. Incorrect polling address information was sent to some voters in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, and mailers including inaccurate information regarding voter ID was sent out in Illinois's Kendall County. Incorrect absentee ballot information was sent out to some voters in Missouri, Montana and New York.

Online voter suppression has been reported by both foreign and domestic entities involved in targeted dissemination of false and misleading information. The best way to overcome these barriers is to stay well informed, check your government websites to get up to date and accurate information and to check more than one trusted source for all your information. Democracy requires vigilance. It is the price of liberty.

**Voter Service  
Committee Meeting**  
January 14, 2 pm  
League office

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

## NEW LWVLC BOARD MEMBER

**Welcome new board member Fredricka Weishahn! Freddi shares some thoughts below.**



*When did you first join the League of Women Voters?*

I first joined the League of Women Voters in 2018. Before I joined, I was always impressed with statements from the League, whether for information or advocacy. One could tell they were the result of a lot of research and deliberation.

elegant in every way - even her thinking. The fact that she's still on the bench is a testament to her dogged devotion to our Constitution and democracy. Our society has truly benefited from her placement on the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Any book recommendations?*

A book I would recommend is *The Gentleman from Moscow* by Amor Towles. It's a lovely story in so many ways. For those who like biographies (and art), I would recommend *Double Vision: The Unerring Eye of Art World Avatars Dominique and John de Menil*, by William Middleton.

*If you had to name a democracy super-hero, who would it be and why?*

A hero of mine is Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. She's

To come for January or February: Nancy O'Kief

## BUILDING DEMOCRACY IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Continued from page 1



**RURAL  
ORGANIZING  
PROJECT**

In Oregon and across the country, there is a rise in white nationalism, hate crimes, and attempts to narrow the definition of who belongs in our communities. At the same time, rural and small-town communities are facing the pain of lost jobs and stagnant economies as well as decades of defunding and neglect. As many families struggle to make ends meet, people are looking for ways to understand why things are so hard, and what they can do about it. Some

are finding answers in the politics of fear and exclusion.

At this critical political moment in this state, and across the country, rural Oregonians are organizing to build people power to win victories for human dignity and democracy, from confronting white power gangs recruiting vulnerable youth to coordinating resources for families most impacted by detention and deportation.

**Jessica Campbell**, Executive Director of the Rural Organizing Project (ROP), will speak about her work in rural Oregon. Jess started with ROP as a leader of a Cottage Grove-based human dignity group

and has served in every role at ROP from board member to staff organizer to Co-Executive Director for the last three and a half years.

Jess has worked with some of the most rural communities in Oregon to fight for what people in urban areas take for granted - post offices and libraries, for example. Mobilizations of paramilitaries in rural Oregon and beyond led her to research and publish an analysis on Oregon's far-right organizing. She co-authored [Up in Arms: A Guide to Oregon's Patriot Movement](#), available online.

**Linda Lynch**

## STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING - PEOPLE NOT POLITICIANS

*The League has joined the People Not Politicians campaign, a diverse coalition made up of all party affiliations, income levels, backgrounds, identities, and all corners of Oregon, to rally for equal, fair and transparent representation at the state and congressional level.*

For more information <http://lwvor.org/redistricting-in-oregon/>

Timeline for implementation of commission,  
if Oregon voters approve an independent commission for redistricting:

11/12 & 13/2019	Measures filed with Secretary of State
07/02/2020	Qualifying signatures due to Secretary of State for November ballot qualification
11/3/2020	Election Day!
12/03/ 2020	Secretary of State begins application process
12/03/2020	Chief Administrative Law Judge designates Three-Member Review Panel
01/01/21	Close of Applications. Elections Division screens, publicizes applicant names and provides pool to Review Panel
02/08/2021	Review Panel chooses 150 names to Secretary of State
By 02/15/21	Secretary of State randomly selects first six commissioners
By 03/15/21	Selected commissioners select remaining six commissioners
By 03/15/21	Citizen's Independent Redistricting Commission created
08/15/21	Commission approves and certifies map to Oregon Supreme Court

Source: [peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com](http://peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com)



## REMEMBERING PHYLLIS LOOBEY

It is my privilege to remember Phyllis for her many contributions to Lane Transit District (LTD), the League of Women Voters, and the community.

Phyllis had long tenure as general manager of LTD. She worked hard to grow the organization and establish its reputation as a well-run business. Core values under her leadership were reliable service and treating customers with respect. She was especially proud of the fact that the district never missed a morning pullout, that is, all buses ran their first routes every day without fail. Another accomplishment was the installation of wheelchair lifts on all fixed route buses long before the legal deadline. Her philosophy for the district's many construction projects was that they be well built, inexpensive to maintain, and aesthetically pleasing. She often said "A building should not be ugly just because it was built with public funds."

When she retired, Phyllis became treasurer of LWVLC. She kept meticulous handwritten journals, prepared monthly financial statements, monitored the League budget, and kept track of dues payments



and directory information. She also managed the contract with the Third Thursday venue and collected payments for attendees, a significant time commitment.

Phyllis had great sense of humor, which showed even through the dry accounting work. She could deliver an amusing treasurer's report that had the audience laughing.

Phyllis cared about a broad range of League issues such as money in politics and environmental degradation. As an example, in 2005 she convened a small local committee that prepared a report for unit discussion and thereby began a process that ultimately resulted in the adoption of a new state League position on water resources and quality.

Thank you, Phyllis, for your gifts.

**Pat Hocken**

JOIN SENATOR WYDEN'S

### Lane County TOWN HALL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 5:00 PM  
ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COMMONS/CAFETERIA  
500 E 24TH AVE  
EUGENE

@RonWyden

Wyden.Senate.Gov



Photo from U.S. Bureau of Land Management



**Women's Choral Society**  
**WINTER CONCERT**  
**100 Year Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote**  
Greg Sojka, Conductor  
Vicki Brabham, Accompanist  
SOLOISTS:  
Elizabeth Reyaud  
& Marjorie Sheiman  
Maud & H.B Densmore  
Scholarship Recipients  
Selections by JM Haydn,  
with chamber orchestra  
3:00 pm Sunday  
Jan 12, 2020  
UO Beall Hall  
961 E 18th, Eugene  
TICKETS \$18, \$15, \$6  
womenschoralsociety.org  
Add \$2 at the door  
**RISE UP**



Women's Choral Society is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit



### **Abigail Scott Duniway (1834-1915)**

Outspoken and often controversial, Abigail Scott Duniway is remembered as Oregon's "Mother of Equal Suffrage" and "the Pioneer Woman Suffragist of the Great Northwest." As lecturer, organizer, writer, and editor, Duniway devoted over forty years to the cause of women's rights.



## 2020 - IT'S FINALLY HERE!

The other day I overheard someone refer to the new year as “the year of perfect vision.” 20/20 – perfect vision – get it?

We could sure use perfect vision to guide us in 2020. But try as we might, we can't really know if our vision is perfect until the perspective of time reveals the broad implications of our actions.

For instance, the League's 1951 report, *On Prevention and Control of Air Pollution*, led the cities of Eugene and Springfield to adopt air quality ordinances in 1954. Lane County followed suit in 1960 and then created the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency in 1968.

To commemorate the Centennial, we've created an historical timeline listing many LWVLC actions over its 80-year history. With the advantage of time, it's apparent that those actions were the result of clear-eyed decisions that brought long-term benefits to the community.

Come see the timeline display. You might be surprised at the many and varied topics LWVLC has weighed in on. The display will be at the LWVLC's new office January 3-17, at the Third Thursday Luncheon January 18 and at other public locations throughout 2020. Visit [www.lwvlc.org](http://www.lwvlc.org) for the full schedule.

Kathy Madison





380 Q STREET, SPRINGFIELD, OREGON 97477  
541-343-7917(after January 6, 2020)

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

## CALENDAR

(For more information see page reference.)

### JANUARY

7 - 3 pm, Unit material briefing (pg 2)  
8 - 9:30 am, Action Committee (pg 3)  
8 through 15, Units - (pg 2)  
9 - 2 pm, Membership Committee  
14 - 2 pm, Voter Service Committee (pg 5)  
15 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting  
16 - 11:30 am, Third Thursday (pgs 1 and 6)  
17 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

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

#### *Thanks to our 2019-20 Directory Advertisers*

*Lane Forest Products*  
*Baker Bay Bead Company*  
*Christine Dambach,*  
*Farmers Insurance*  
*Eugene Hotel Retirement*  
*Unique Properties*  
*Aayres Appliance Repair*  
*Ambrosia*  
*Bel Ami*  
*Coburg Road Car Wash*  
*Dot Dotson's*  
*Eugene's Flower Home*  
*Eugene Mailbox Center*  
*Folkways*  
*Long's Meat Market*

**DONATE NOW**

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

The dues a LWVLC member pays is divided into three parts.

\$32 goes to LWVUS

\$30.50 goes to LWVOR

\$7.50 stays with LWVLC

If our local League's work is important to you, please consider a gift bequest in your will or trust. It's fairly simple but contact your legal advisor for assistance.

Thank you!