

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter



Robert Guldborg

Vice President and
Robert and Leona DeArmond Executive Director of the
Phil and Penny Knight Campus
for Accelerating Scientific Impact

Dr. Guldborg will speak to League members and guests at the League's February 20 - Third Thursday luncheon.

Dr. Guldborg joined the Knight Campus, University of Oregon in August 2018. Guldborg studies muscle and bone growth and development, focusing on potential regenerative therapies following traumatic injuries and in degenerative diseases such as osteoporosis and osteoarthritis. He holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering as well as a master's degree in bioengineering, all from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining the Knight Campus, Guldborg was at Georgia Tech, where he served as executive director of the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience and was a professor of mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering.

His challenge at the university is to accelerate scientific research and innovation in five specific disciplines, plus work with both internal and external partners to accelerate the impact of that research to address major issues in human health. The construction of the Knight Campus is changing how the community sees the physical impact of the university, and the goals of the work there is to make equally observable progress in translating research to useful solutions. As described in its strategic plan: "The Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact is a bold new effort designed to accelerate the cycle of translating scientific discoveries into innovations that improve quality of life for people in Oregon, the nation, and beyond. Rooted in the University of Oregon's 60-year history of interdisciplinary collaboration, the Knight Campus will catalyze new research opportunities, forge partnerships with industrial and clinical practitioners, and provide integrated experiential training for the next generation of citizen scientists and entrepreneurs."

At full buildout, it is expected that the Knight Campus will employ 750 people, including top-tier research scientists, post-doctoral researchers, and other students and faculty.

To learn more about these endeavors and what has already been accomplished, please join our Third Thursday luncheon.

Linda Lynch

Third Thursday Luncheon February 20 Valley River Inn

Doors open at 11 am - buffet served at 11:30 am
Open to the public - **reservations are required by noon**
Monday, February 14
call 541-343-7917 or contact@lwvlc.org

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



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.

UNIT DISCUSSIONS IN FEBRUARY

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

President
OPEN

Vice President
KELI OSBORN

Secretary
JEANNE TAYLOR

Treasurer
GARY HARMON

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KATHY MADISON

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MARY KEATING

Voter Service
PAULA GRISAFI

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HATE CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH

Are you concerned about the news reports of hate crimes and hate speech? Be sure to read the Everymember material for February. You may be surprised at the prevalence of hate groups in Oregon, but you may also derive hope from research on how to counteract them with kindness.

Susan Tavakolian

Monday, February 10

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, February 11

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, February 12

10 am – East Eugene

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

1 pm – Cottage Grove

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

Thursday, February 13

5:30 pm – Eugene Downtown

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

Unit Briefing

Tuesday, February 4, 3 pm

NEW OFFICE

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

CHILD CARE - COSTS AND AVAILABILITY



Can you help prepare the Everymember material on child care for the April units? At the annual meeting last year, the topic of child care was approved for an informational study this year. Among the issues to study are the availability and cost of child care in Lane County, which is such an important topic for working parents. We need four to five volunteers who can help with this topic. It's an opportunity to learn more about child care in the area and think about ways to improve it.

Contact Susan Tavakolian at susantavakolian@yahoo.com.

ACTION UPDATE

The Action Committee didn't meet in early January, but League members have continued to study issues, meet with partners, and pay attention to local government. Plan to join us on Wednesday, February 5, at 10 am to talk public policy and election matters.

Lane Community College bond measure

This May, Lane Community College will ask voters to approve a \$145 million bond measure. If approved, it's estimated that the owner of a home valued at \$300,000 would pay an additional \$3.50 per month or \$42 a year in property taxes. Bond measure advocates will attend the February Action Committee meeting. Come learn more. If you can't attend, don't hesitate to send me your questions and concerns ahead of time. We'll also seek arguments against the measure, so that we can carefully consider a recommendation to the LWVLC Board.

Statewide redistricting reform

The LWVLC Board on January 15 endorsed the People Not Politicians initiative. People Not Politicians is proposing a ballot measure to reform the redistricting process for Oregon's US Congression-

al seats and the Oregon House and Senate. If successfully placed on the November 2020 state ballot and then approved by voters, this initiative would create an independent citizen redistricting commission composed of Oregonians.

There are three filed initiatives that are almost identical, because the Secretary of State may rule as unconstitutional the version which includes both congressional and legislative redistricting - that is, may determine the joint measure includes more than one subject. Local Leagues are not normally asked to individually endorse or weigh in on state issues, because of our tradition of "speaking with one voice," but we were asked to consider endorsing the campaign in this case.

Would you like to learn more? Interested in contributing a couple of hours to help plan a local redistricting presentation for League members, partners and the public? Please contact me.

Lane County redistricting

Speaking of... The Lane County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to hold a work session on February 12, 1:30 pm, at Harris Hall: Charles Rynerson from PSU's Population Research Center and

Paul Diller from Willamette University will present. Some of us will be there to listen in person. Join us.

Transit Tomorrow - Lane Transit District

Over the past two years, LTD has talked with stakeholders and area residents about community goals, priorities, and possible system redesign. The LTD Board's preferred proposed transit network focuses on increasing frequency on high ridership routes. If implemented as proposed, some folks who currently have access to bus service would be impacted. We're working to schedule a time in the coming weeks to talk with LTD reps about Transit Tomorrow and next steps. In the meantime, learn more at LTD.org/transit-tomorrow.

Join us at the Action Committee - meeting or via email - and help us pay attention to housing, land use, transportation, election measures and other issues.

Keli Osborn
action@lww.org

Next Action meetings

Wednesday, February 5, 10 am
Wednesday, March 4, 10 am
League Office



NOMINATE KAPPY EATON AS ONE OF THE USA TODAY "WOMEN OF THE CENTURY"

According to a recent article in *The Register-Guard*, "USA Today will name ten American women from each state who've made a significant difference in the world as "Women of the Century." Nominations are being accepted **through January 31** at this link:

<https://usatodaynetwork.secondstreetapp.com/Women-of-the-Century/>

The R-G article is found here:

<http://eugeneregisterguard.or.newsmemory.com/?publink=157bb3281>

GUN SAFETY UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2020

The Rise of Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties - The recent topic for the monthly LWV Gun Safety Coalition call was timely. According to the Pew Research Center more than 200 counties in nine states have voted not to enforce state gun control laws. In a recent Oregon election eight counties passed second amendment sanctuary laws.

A number of these laws allow the local sheriff to decide if the second amendment sanctuary law is unconstitutional, a position that even some legal experts who favor the law believe will likely be struck down by the courts. Another approach is

refusing to provide resources to enforce laws that the community disagrees with. This rationale is patterned after the approach of sanctuary cities in refusing to cooperate with federal officials on immigration issues.

Multiple causes have given rise to Second Amendment sanctuary laws. Inactivity of the federal government has been a major impetus for the movement plus the National Rifle Association's lessening importance. Newly blue states such as Virginia are passing gun safety measures, causing increased resistance from gun rights groups.

Attorneys general in four states - Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Virginia, and Washington - have issued opinions that such laws have no legal force. The Oregon AG has not issued an opinion even though many groups, including the LWVOR, are advocating for the AG to do so. As of yet there have been no court cases for the non-enforcement of any gun safety laws. State officials are moving cautiously, not wishing to escalate tensions.

Donna Michel

UPDATE ON LWVLC CENSUS...SURVEY...QUESTIONNAIRE

As of January 17, we have received responses from 99 members. Thank you for this great response.

If you haven't responded yet, there is still time. ***We will accept your response up to February 14, but it must be returned in the envelope provided.*** If you lost your survey or envelope, contact Helen Beardsworth at hbeardswo@gmail.com or leave a message at 541-913-1644.

Here are the answers to some of your questions about the census project:

Could we call it a survey or questionnaire and not a census? Sure. Initially we called this project a "demographic survey." In the process of working with advisors with experience with this type of questionnaire, technically they viewed it as a census. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines it as "a usually complete enumeration of the population: specifically: a periodic government enumeration of population." A simpler definition is "the

procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population." (Wikipedia) To "survey" means "to query someone in order to collect data for the analysis of some aspect of a group or area." Census or survey? For this first year we have called it both.

Why didn't we do it by email or digitally? We looked at our resources and didn't have what it would take to separate the responses from the identity of the member to preserve anonymity. We also considered the difficulty in the past with members providing multiple responses because there was no way to identify that the member had already responded. And finally, as with voting, by using paper and envelopes, we could maintain the integrity of our system. We'll assess project elements, including delivery method.

Why did my partner receive a survey/census? If you have a Household membership, you pay a little more: a deal because you get two household members though it costs less than two individual memberships. As we look to becoming more inclusive, maybe the joint member in your household can become more engaged and have member status. And if the partner or family member is not engaging with us, you might ask them what we could be doing to engage them in the future.

Tell me again why we're doing this? Collecting demographic information about LWVLC members can give us a clearer picture of who we are now, and establish a base to better assess membership changes - which supports efforts to meet our diversity, equity and inclusion commitment, as well as provide a snapshot that can help answer questions from community partners, grant funders, and others.

Helen Beardsworth

REMINDER

TO BE COUNTED IN OUR SURVEY, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ANSWERS IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 14, 2020.

QUESTIONS? Contact Keli Osborn at action@lwwlc.org or 541-968-7628 - or Helen Beardsworth (see above).

VOTER SERVICE

The Secret Ballot



Today Americans take for granted the right to cast a secret ballot in the United States but it is not one that is protected by the US Constitution. It is, however, guaranteed by most state constitutions. Six states, Oregon, Oklahoma, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and New Jersey plus the District of Columbia have statutory protections for secrecy in voting but no constitutional provisions.

Also known as the "Australian ballot," it was meant to prevent attempts to influence voters by intimidation, extortion or bribery. States switched to the secret ballot between 1888 and 1891. Prior to that, elections were held by voice vote or by ticket. There was no expectation of privacy, and many felt secrecy was not necessarily a good idea. Elections were public events with individual voting occurring in plain sight of the crowds that election days once attracted. Even today some argue that secrecy removes the visibility that led to the accountability that required people to stand behind their choices.

All 50 states and DC have exemptions to secret voting to allowed voters with disabilities to ask for

assistance. As internet and mail-in voting become more prevalent, attention must be paid to two privacy issues; lack of the technological capacity to separate voters' IDs from their votes when voting via internet, and the potential for voter coercion and loss of privacy when filling out mail-in ballots. Fourteen states that allow internet voting, considering its current limitations, even require voters to sign a waiver of their right to a secret ballot if they use the internet to vote. Some states also allow absentee and military ballots to be faxed or emailed, which can jeopardize secrecy of the ballot.

You can protect the secret ballot by engaging state policy-makers in conversations about its importance. Share your concerns and ask what the state can and is doing to protect ballot privacy. Always use an inner privacy envelope and never sign the ballot, only the outer envelope. Those who need absentee ballots should request them as soon as possible so they can be mailed back in time for the election. They are sent out 45 days prior to Election Day and can be mailed back as soon as possible. If you are in the military you can get express return for your ballot at no cost. Use the special 11-DoD label which gets it to the states in a week and allows you to track it.

**Voter Service
Committee Meeting
February 11, 2 pm**

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



While November will obviously be a big election month this year, people should not forget that the May primary in Oregon will potentially determine many of our elected officials. Several state, county and local races

have contested primaries, and the League of Women Voters, along with its partners, the Eugene City Club and the Springfield City Club, will host voter forums in March and April. These forums will help voters assess their candidates so they can make informed decisions. The League looks to its members for volunteers at these fo-

ums to function as timekeepers to help collect and sometimes vet questions for the candidates and act in other useful capacities. If you have time available to help for Thursday or Friday lunchtime events any time from March 20 through April 24, please contact Paula Grisafi at voterservice@lwvlc.org

rumors to function as timekeepers to help collect and sometimes vet questions for the candidates and act in other useful capacities. If you have time available to help for Thursday or Friday lunchtime events any time from March 20 through April 24, please contact Paula Grisafi at voterservice@lwvlc.org



NOTES FROM THE BOARD JANUARY 2020

At the first Board meeting in the new LWVLC office, the Board started off the new year by appointing and welcoming Terry Parker as a director following the recommendation from the Nominating Committee chair Betty-Coe De Broekert. This brings the Board to a full complement of directors for 2019-20, so the Nominating Committee now begins work on the slate of officers and directors for 2020-21. (Members are urged to contact Betty-Coe volunteering to serve or making recommendations!)

Following Keli Osborn's reminder, we "acknowledge that we gather as board members on the traditional land of the Kalapuya people whose descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, and who continue to make important contributions to their communities and across the land we now refer to as Oregon. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it with the commitment we will learn to be better stewards ourselves."

The Public Relations Committee report which started out "It's all Centennial activities all the time

now" and included an update on the essay contest and the Lane County History Museum exhibit: ***Equality and Nothing Less - 100 years of the League of Women Voters*** with opening ceremony February 7, 5-7 pm. (See page 7.) Kathy Madison's report included updates on use of the beautiful six-foot timeline of LWVLC accomplishments, Oregon quilt shows highlighting the anniversary, future performances of the voting skit, and a proposed proclamation for the Lane County Board of Commissioners honoring the League for significant contributions to empowering voters and helping make democracy work.

Other highlights of the first Board meeting of the decade included:

- Janet Calvert's told of plans for the League's booth at the Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show January 24-26 at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

- Voter Service Chair Paula Grisafi reported on the League's participation in a coalition of organizations planning up to 10 forums and meetings in April and March, and receive board approval for a letter to editors encouraging people to vote in May.

- The Board passed motions to send letters about redistricting to Eugene and Springfield officials, to authorize certain recurring bills (like the rent) to be sent with only one signature instead of two, to offer books from the League's library to be sold for minimum cost at League functions, and to join the **People Not Politicians** organization regarding redistricting.

- Darla McVay reported the Membership Committee has scheduled a League 100th birthday celebration and open house in the new office building for Wednesday, February 12, 4 to 6 pm. (See page 7.) All are invited to see the beautiful new home of LWVLC and share a good time.

- There were also updates on website design, Development (Finance), Third Thursday speakers, the Valley River Inn contract, planned marches, and treasury.

The next Board meeting is February 19 at 1:30 pm in the League office, which has plenty of space for visitors. See you soon at a League gathering.

Jeanne Taylor, Secretary

Got a high school student in your life?

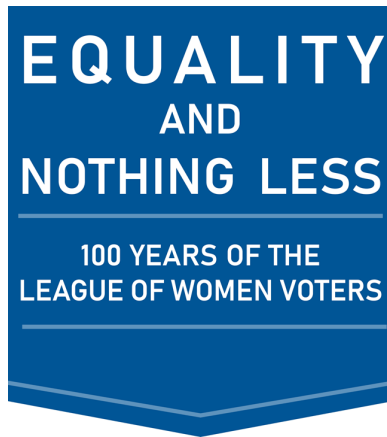
Encourage them to enter the

**"Women and the Vote"
Essay Contest**

Presented by



Top finishers win a cash prize! The deadline to enter is March 12, 2020.
See complete rules and how to enter at [www://wordcrafters.org/women](http://www.wordcrafters.org/women).



LANE COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

740 West 14th, Eugene

February 7

5 – 7 pm - Free event

Curator talk at 6 pm

This is the opening event for an exhibit recalling the 100-year history of the League of Women Voters. It describes the women who marched and demonstrated for 72 years in the fight for the right to vote until the 19th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified in 1920.

Kathy Madison

You are invited to a birthday party!

Celebrate the League of Women Voters 100th anniversary at an Open House in our new office location.

380 Q St. #250 in Springfield

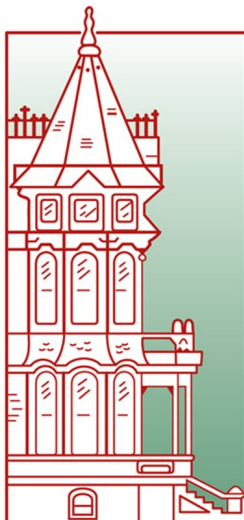
Wednesday, February 12th from 4-6 pm

See our beautiful office space, socialize, and enjoy light appetizers, wine and birthday cake.

Feel free to bring a friend.

We may even have a door prize or two.

Darla McVay



Suffrage Tea: February 22nd at 1 pm

Limited seating

Buy tickets on line at
smjhouse.org or call

541 484-0808

Shelton McMurphey Johnson House Museum

Shelton McMurphey Johnson House Presents:



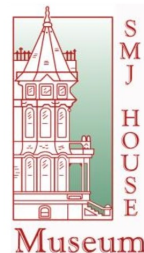
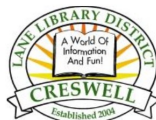
Exhibit opens February 18th at 10 am

Closes June 19th at 1 pm

Please join us for the first half of our year-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women in the United States the right to vote in 1920 after fighting for 72 hard years.

For additional information, visit: smjhouse.org

Thank you to our partners and sponsors!



The Work That Was Done Events

Traveling Book Club
Feb. 11th – Nov. 19th
Various Locations
Free

Women's Suffrage Tea
February 22nd 1 pm
SMJ House
\$30

Movie & Wine Suffragette
March 19th 6 pm
Noble Estate Winery
Urban
\$20

Digging in Their Heels
March 30th 7:30 pm
Oregon Contemporary Theater
\$25/\$10

Authors Presentation We the Resilient
April 19th 1 pm
Hilyard Community Center
Free

"Suffrage Celebration"
June 4th 6 pm
Noble Estate Winery
Urban



Well done, members and friends of the League! LWVLC netted \$4,790 from this year's sale.

Thanks for your diligence and generosity.

FOOD for Lane County received 1,801 pounds of fresh fruit and nuts.

Congratulations to everyone! It does take a village.

Many thanks to the wonderful and flexible Nutty Fruit Loop Team who worked to get this project going, keep it on track and wrap it up. The flexibility, support and skills shared are much, much appreciated. Be sure to thank The Nutty Fruit Loops when you see them: Sharon Amasha, Sandra Bishop, Janet Calvert, Barbara French, Mary Keating, Linda Lynch, Sharon Posner, Sue Reynolds, Sheila Sundahl and Jeanne Taylor worked to re-design letters, stuff envelopes, maintain a database, staff delivery and pick up as well as make decisions concerning the overall operation of the sale. Charlcie Kaylor, Linda Ferdowsian, Gary Harmon, and Rhonda Livesay provided help with PowerPoint presentations, preparing mailing materi-

als, keeping an eye on the finances and posting on our web page. Many of our office workers got swept into this project, too. Each of our members played an important part in our success by sharing the opportunity with others. Thank you. *We accomplished our goal and had fun in the process!*

Letters documenting your purchase will be emailed by the end of January. If you did not give us an email address we will snail mail your letter. If you itemize your deductions, you may be able to deduct some or all of the amount you paid for the fruit. If you donated the fruit to FOOD for Lane County, the full amount is eligible for a deduction, a portion of your purchase may be deducted for personal use. The full amount of cash donations may be deducted. This information will be part of the letter you receive. If you do not receive your letter by the end of January, please check your spam and trash mail boxes before contacting me at marjmaxwell@gmail.com or 541-521-3051.

Marj Maxwell, Nutty Fruit Loop Chair

NEW LWVLC BOARD MEMBER

Welcome new board member Nancy O'Kief who shares some thoughts below.



I first joined the League of Women Voters about six or seven years ago. I joined on the recommendation of my friend Veronika Walton, although I first heard about it through a woman who lived on my block when my children were young - her name was Betty Belknap, and she was a member of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. I thought at the time that "when I grow up," I might want to join the organization myself. During my first years in League, I simply attended my south Eugene unit meetings and the Third Thursday luncheons. I loved the idea that I was learning about and discussing issues with other women who were interested and often much more knowledgeable than I.

If I had to name a democracy superhero, it would have to be my mother. Both she and my dad

were passionate about national politics and even more so about the things going on in our small Montana community. My mother gave rides to elderly people in our community, and when voting times came, she always made sure they got to the polls. Many a school bond issue was no doubt influenced by my mother. A funny thing she always told me was that the "happiest day of her life" was when women were given the right to vote. I, later figured out that she would have been only four years old when that occurred.

Two book recommendations of mine are *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles which Freddi Weishahn also recommended and *The Paragon Hotel* by Lyndsay Faye, an intriguing novel that highlights racism in Oregon in the 1920s.

Nancy dressed as an early Oregon suffragette.

LWV LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

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

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

FEBRUARY (For more information see page reference.)

- 4 - 3 pm**, Unit discussion material briefing (pg 2)
- 5 - 10 am**, Action Committee (pg 3)
- 7 - 5 pm**, Suffrage exhibit opening (pg 7)
- 10 through 13**, Units (pg 2)
- 11 - 2 pm**, Voter Service Committee (pg 5)
- 12 - 4 pm**, Birthday Party (pg 7)
- 13 - 2 pm**, Membership Committee
- 18 - Day at the Legislature** (pg 5)
- 19 - 1:30 pm**, Board meeting
- 20 - 11:30 am**, Third Thursday (pg 1)
- 21 - Midnight**, *Argus* deadline
- 22 - 1 pm**, Suffrage tea (pg 7)

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

***Thanks to our
2020-21 Directory
Advertisers***

*Lane Forest Products
Baker Bay Bead Company
Christine Dambach,
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Unique Properties
Aayres Appliance Repair
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Eugene's Flower Home
Eugene Mailbox Center
Folkways
Long's Meat Market*

DONATE NOW

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The dues a LWVLC member pay 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!