



August 2025

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

TWO NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

BY BEATRICE MCKENZIE, CO-VICE PRESIDENT (SEE PAGE 3)



August 18
105th Anniversary of
Woman Suffrage in the
United States

August 7, 1965
60th anniversary
of the
Voting Rights Act



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HELP MAKE AN EVENING UNIT

BY MARJ MAXWELL, UNIT DIRECTOR

The League is offering an amazing opportunity to help maintain democracy, make League connections, and learn more about how League operates.

Feedback from the recent Units Survey show a clear interest for an evening Zoom meeting. Please consider this pioneering job to serve members who can't attend a daytime meeting.

Unit Description

- One to two hours one evening each month, October – April or May.
- Start after 5pm, with 5:30pm being most often requested.
- Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday meeting.
- Usually meets the second week of the month.

In order to make this happen, two key functions need to be filled.

Unit Leader or co-Leaders

Some Unit Leaders have other attendees help with many of the functions. Everyone gets an eight-page study guide before the meeting.

Units meet October through April or May. Stepping up early gives you more control over when this unit meets.

You would:

- Attend a Unit briefing - 1st Tuesday of the month at 2pm - for additional subject background and resources. Attend, or have an alternate attend, in person or by Zoom.
- Tell the Unit Director about meeting time, location, etc.

- Begin the discussion. Questions are provided by the study committee. Unit Leaders may turn the discussion over to a study expert who will attend if needed.
- Send discussion feedback to the Unit Director.

Unit Zoom operator

You would:

Start the meeting, monitor, and end the meeting.

There are folks that can help you understand our system. The League has a Zoom account.

Stepping up early gives you more control (with the Unit Leader) over when this unit meets.



Thank you to those who have stepped up to be Unit Leaders or co-Leaders during daytime hours, those who expressed interest in other roles, and those that have suggested meeting locations. You are appreciated and those offers have been noted.



Plan ahead. Please take a minute out of your busy summer to think about this fall.

Good things need a plan and this plan needs you!

Units start in October and go through April or May.

Contact Marj Maxwell, Unit Director:
marjmaxwell@gmail.com or
text 541-521-3051.

THANK YOU, LEAGUE MEMBERS....

for attending the July 24, Naturalization Ceremony and greeting our newest citizens. You are amazing. Thank you: *Susan Ban, Joyce Berman, Dorothy Dilliplane, Leslie Heaton, Marcia Maffei, Beatrice McKenzie, Michele Postal (see her story on page 3), Patty Sandoz, Ruth Seeger, Camille Stewart, Morgan Vierheller, and Mary Keating* who keeps us all organized. Apologies if we forgot anyone.

Judge Ann Aiken makes this event a lovely celebration. In addition to her relevant stories about our rights as citizens, she includes music as part of the program.

This ceremony included 23 new citizens from 16 countries. The League of Women Voters is often acknowledged from the bench as supporters of voting rights.

Ruth Seeger, Membership Chair

PROGRAM TOPICS FOR 2025-26

BY SHARON AMASHA AND LORI BARKER, PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Five study topics were recommended by our members and approved at the annual meeting in May for the 2025-2026 calendar year. Each of those topics will be the subject of a study to be distributed as Every-member Materials and scheduled for discussion at monthly unit meetings. Today's events underscore the importance of those topics.

The devastating floods in Texas and the record-breaking wildfire season in Oregon in 2024 highlight the urgent need for *Emergency Preparedness*. This will be the focus of our October Every Member Materials (EMM) and unit meetings.

Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in the Digital Age will be the topic for November EMM and unit meeting discussions. This study will address strategies to identify reliable information and foster media literacy.

The Evolving Role of Artificial Intelligence in Democracy, a topic of great importance as AI tools have be-

come increasingly sophisticated, will be the topic for the December EMM and unit discussions. It is anticipated that this study will delve deeply into the impacts of Artificial Intelligence, considering both benefits and risks.

The State of Healthcare in Lane County, the topic for February's study, has become an even more significant issue following the passage of Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill," and Oregon Medical Group's closure of their OB-GYN services.

The final study scheduled for discussion in April will explore *The Issues and Challenges Faced by Rural Communities in Lane County*. Our goal is to create and add a Rural Services position for LWVLC similar to the current position for urban services.

If you would like to participate in any of these studies, we would be delighted to add your name to a study group of your choice.

Please contact us at program@lwvlc.org

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Motto of the Month

Every great dream begins with a dreamer.

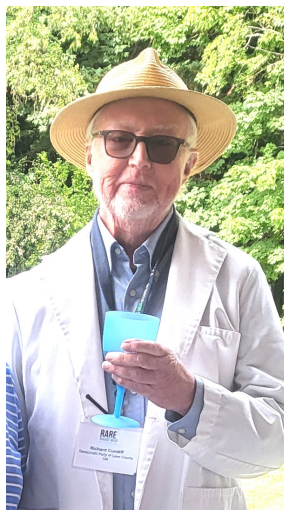
Harriet Tubman; abolitionist and political activist

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

With gratitude and inspiration, we are happy to announce and welcome these new members to our League: **Susan Ban, Kathleen Hynes, Camille Stewart** and **Grady Tarbutton**. We are delighted and honored to have you among the 235 members in Lane County who are *Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy*.

WITH ABUNDANT GRATITUDE

With joy and appreciation for his incredible service to the League, we celebrate **Richard Cundiff** as the past chair of the League's Membership Committee. Richard served with distinction, grace and always humor and we thank him for his leadership and strength of character. When you see Richard at a League event, please give him a pat on the back and a good joke to go with it. Thank you so much Richard. You make us smile and think outside the box.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 12, 2-3:30pm

At the League office. All are welcome.

SUMMER PICNIC CANCELLED

Last month we announced that we were planning a Membership Appreciation Picnic for August 24. Of course, we still appreciate all our members, but the picnic has been canceled due to workload and expected hot August weather.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to tell you that a new Speaker Series Team is in place and already taking action. This is the group that identifies important community speakers for our monthly League Speaker Series. Many thanks to these members who are transitioning into the leadership of the Speaker Series team: **Callee Ackland, Peggy Dame, Kitty Piercy, and Michele Postal**.

SAVE THE DATES

Our **Kickoff Event** for the League Speaker Series begins September 30, 11:30am-1pm.

You won't want to miss it. Final details available in the September *Argus*.

New Member Training - Increase Your Impact, Tuesday, October 21, 5-7pm, Eugene Garden Club

TWO LANDMARK ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

BY BEATRICE MCKENZIE, CO-VICE PRESIDENT

August 18 is the 105th anniversary of woman suffrage in the United States. On that date, Tennessee ratified the 19th amendment, making it part of the U.S. Constitution. The Nineteenth Amendment bars states from using sex as a qualification for voting. Women - and men - had fought hard for the right since 1848, but wartime service AND a demanding group of women made all the difference. Except for Black women in the South.

Fighting for democracy and freedom in World War I Europe inspired demands for these rights back home. President Woodrow Wilson endorsed votes for women in 1916, but many suffragists opposed U.S. involvement in the war. Once the US entered the war in 1917, however, women suffrage supporters sold war bonds, organized rallies, and worked in war production industries. More than 20,000 women served as nurses and clerical workers with the American forces abroad.

At the same time, a new generation of activists organized the National Woman's Party (NWP) and used more militant tactics that scandalized older suffrage

advocates. NWP strategy included arrests, imprisonments, and demonstrations against the political system. NWP members burned Wilson in effigy and chained themselves to the White House fence, resulting in nine month-long prison sentences. When they started a hunger strike in prison, the women were force-fed.

It was a combination of women's patriotic service and outrage over the treatment of NWP members that pushed the nation to support woman suffrage. Congress passed the Amendment in 1919, and in 1920 Tennessee became the 36th and final state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. It was one of only two states in the U.S. South to do so.

Although Black women leaders had been integral to the struggle all along, White southerners feared the strength Black citizens would gain from enfranchisement of Black women. Despite the 19th Amendment, most Black people in the South, both men and women, remained unable to vote until the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of August 7, 1965.

EXPERIENCING THE NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

BY MICHELE POSTAL, MEMBER

As a newer member, I attended the May League get-together at Roaring Rapids Pizza. I hopped from table to table learning about the various committees and opportunities to volunteer. I was thrilled to be able to sign up to attend the Naturalization Ceremony.

My father stowed away on a ship in 1936 with four cousins who shared a dream to make a better life in America and leave war-torn Yugoslavia behind. Eventually the cousins made their way to San Pedro, CA, found work in the fishing industry, married and raised families. In 1951, my father became a US citizen. He voted in every election until his death. He was a very patriotic proud American citizen. He encouraged me to become an activist at an early age.

Attending the Naturalization Ceremony was an opportunity to honor my dad.

My best friend, who lives in Seattle, came to visit me the same week as the ceremony. We've been friends since we were 14, so she knew my dad well. I asked Denise if she'd like to come along.

As we approached the doors to Courtroom 3, I saw a young woman, all dressed up, standing tall next to her teenage daughters. It was Maria, who has cleaned my house when I've needed help over the last ten years. I had no idea she wasn't a citizen nor that she would be in the ceremony.

When we recognized each other, we hugged and cried. She told me fear of deportation and separation from her family had driven her to finally fill out the application for citizenship and study for the test. She passed five months ago and has been waiting anxiously for this final step.

Denise and I sang along in court. We listened to the judge's comments and watched her move from new citizen to new citizen to congratulate them until she came to Maria, who was beaming.

As we walked to my car, Denise said she was going to seek out the League in King County when she returns home. She was so impressed with League members she met that morning and moved by the support we provided that she wants to join us.

VOTER SERVICE IN A SEASON WITHOUT ELECTIONS

BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

Off-cycle elections, those that occur in odd-numbered years, are generally municipal elections and have significantly lower turnout rate than on-cycle elections, which include state and federal races. Voter turnout for the November 2023 election was 13,599; for the May 2023 election, 80,476. Compare this with 185,478 voters in November 2022 and 211,285 in November 2024. Clearly, the period between now and the primary in 2026 will have low voter interest, except for a ballot measure or two.

Voter Service for the League of Women Voters has two focuses: voter registration and voter education. In an off-cycle election, like the upcoming one, it seems that our efforts might be better spent in voter education.

We have tended to provide education on ballot measures or via candidate forums. We are, however, in a potential constitutional crisis that will require far more voters to be informed and engaged and to have that engagement occur sooner rather than later. We don't have the luxury of counting on the 2026 mid-term elections to solve our problems.

Because the country, and Lane County, are polarized, we need to find a way to effectively provide voter education through advocacy, based on League positions, and extend that education outside the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area.

I am inviting all interested League members to my house to brainstorm approaches. We can consider targeting groups that traditionally vote at lower rates (think young voters) or making greater efforts to provide voter education outside the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area, possibly by providing articles to newspapers in rural area. But I would also like us to consider working with local organizations (think faith organizations, businesses, elected officials, etc.) with whom we individually have some connections to identify issues that matter to them and to provide them with reliable information.

So, I need your collective brain power because when we do this together, one good idea begets another. We all need to feel that we are not powerless, and we can do that together.

Please RSVP so that I can make sure I have enough chairs. Remember, all are welcome, whether or not you have been involved in Voter Service in the past.

**VOTER EDUCATION
BRAINSTORMING SESSION**
Thursday, **August 14** at 1:30
RSVP to voterservice@lwwlc.org or
nmills@trinity.edu

DEMOCRACY IN YOUR HANDS - LWV VIDEOS WORTH WATCHING

We have all joined the League of Women Voters, in increasing numbers, because we realize that the future of democracy is in our hands to a degree that we never imagined. They say that "Our democracy is at a crossroads as the levers of power are out of balance and we are at the onset of a constitutional crisis. It's important now more than ever that League members understand the role that they play as anchors of democracy and be aware of the role that we all play, collectively, in fighting for and sustaining our democracy."

The **Democracy in Your Hands** webinar series highlights five topics that are key to building an essential knowledge based on how to navigate in a changing political environment. How does democracy remain front and center, how do we expand our knowledge base as trusted messengers in our democ-



racy, and what do we do to sustain ourselves, mobilize ourselves, and activate ourselves in the name of democracy?

You can register for upcoming webinars on working with local officials to anchor change or build coalitions to amplify action at <https://events.lwv.org/event/DemocracyInYourHands/agenda>. You can view previous webinars on media literacy and championing issues by selecting the materials and recording link at the top of the registration page.

The primary value of these webinars lies in the link they make between democratic ideas and how they are "operationalized" in local Leagues. I particularly encourage you to watch "Understanding Media Literacy," which is one of the most effective presentations of the role of social media in promoting mis/disinformation available.

Thanks to Peggy Dame for highlighting this series.

Nancy Mills , Voter Service Chair

AI, CYBERSECURITY, AND YOUR EMAIL

BY RHONDA LIVESAY, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Cybersecurity is becoming more and more important. With the rapid growth in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) area, we are seeing criminals take advantage of the AI platforms. Now they can write a program with AI assistance and send it out to everyone who has ever entered their email address on a website or on public documents.

I recently received an email from a League member I typically do not hear from. I thought the email sounded just a little funny. I do not want to use the members name but will describe what the issue was after viewing the email.

The email looked like this:

From: Rhonda Livesay

Reply to: Rhonda Livesay <livessay@gmail.com>

Date: 7/4/2025

Subject: Favor!

Mailed by: efn.org

Signed by: efn.org

Can you find the problem? Look closely. It took me a while to discover the anomaly. My name is spelled correctly in the "from and reply to" section, but the

<address> is wrong. The spelling has two ss's when my name only has one. Easy to miss because we don't usually look at individual letters. This was spam.

I watched a webinar on cybersecurity this week. The expert told us how she was spammed on her work email. She had reviewed the email, it looked legitimate and she clicked the link and her computer immediately locked her out. *She has been a security expert for 40 years.* Thankfully, her company had robust security enabled and was able to keep the virus from infecting the network.

This is a reason why our League works with Google Workspace (similar to Microsoft 365). Google has more security protocols than we would be able to have if we ran our own network. Stay vigilant, question emails you receive asking for something that is atypical.

We will be doing a Program paper on AI later this year. If you're interested in helping the committee research and write this paper, email techno-gydir@lwvlc.org or loribarker@lwvlc.org.



NEWS RELEASE

Oregon leads the nation in implementing the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

Date: July 1, 2025

Oregon leads the way as the first state in the U.S. to implement a packaging and paper extended producer responsibility law providing statewide access to consistent and high-quality recycling. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Materials Management Program has been collaborating with interested parties through several years of rulemaking to establish the program.

The Recycling Modernization Act is an update to Oregon's recycling system that expands recycling opportunities in communities throughout the state, upgrades the facilities that sort recyclables, and establishes accountability mechanisms to ensure materials are recycled responsibly. The improvements are fund-

ed through fees paid by companies that sell packaging, paper, and food serviceware into Oregon.

"Oregon's recycling system has set a national standard," Governor Kotek said. "Implementation is just the start. The Recycling Modernization Act will make sure of a future with less waste and pollution, holding producers responsible for their part in waste prevention."

The program officially launches July 1, 2025, and will be implemented across the state over time as investments and new programs come online.

Visit the [Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act web page](#) for more information about how the program works.

TO ACCOMPANY THE FRONT PAGE ANNIVERSARIES ARTICLE



Above - Suffragists protesting at the White House.



Left - the first officers of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

FLASH FROM THE (NOT TOO DISTANT) PAST

BY **CHARLOTTE KAYLOR**, HISTORIAN
Televised Presidential Debates

You may have heard that the League originated nationally televised Presidential candidate debates. That's not totally correct. The famous Kennedy-Nixon debates of 1960 were created and moderated by television news agencies. After that, no national Presidential debates were held in 1964, 1968, or 1972. The League of Women Voters sponsored and moderated national Presidential candidate debates in 1976, 1980, and 1984. Many people joined the League during this time, as these debates introduced them to the League and they chose to support our work.

So why did the League stop sponsoring Televised National Presidential Debates? The short answer to the question is that in the 1988 election, the Democratic and Republican parties, jointly, decided to run the debates themselves. The ground rules they setup for these debates were something the League could not support. The following links to press releases and press conferences from 1988 explain this decision: Watch the October 3, 1988 [Press Conference](#) Read the League's 1988 [Press Release](#)

State and local Leagues across the country continue to host debates for candidates running at all other levels of government, from U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to statewide offices, to city government and everything in between. The grassroots nature of the League enables us to engage communities in the process by hosting debates and other election activities.

From the LWVUS Website

For an expanded version of this article...
<https://www.lwv.org/blog/leagues-history-sponsoring-presidential-debates>





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Long's Meat Market
McKenzie Honey Farm
Pepperberries Kitchen Store
Quality Cleaning
Shelton McMurphy Johnson
House Museum*

CALENDAR

AUGUST

12 - 2 to 3:30pm, Membership Committee meeting (pg. 4)
14 - 1:30pm, Voter Service Brainstorming Session (pg. 5)
19 - 1pm, Board meeting
22 - **Midnight**, *Argus* deadline
24 - 1 to 4pm Picnic! CANCELLED (pg. 4)

SEPTEMBER

30 - Kickoff luncheon for League Speaker Series (pg. 3)

**LANE LEAGUE ON WATCH, UNITS, AND VOTER SERVICE ARE
ON SUMMER SABBATICAL.
STAY TUNED FOR START UP DATES.**

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

DONATE NOW

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

MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?

<https://lwvlc.org/audio-visual-recordings-archives/>