



April 2026

# Argus

*League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter*



**LWVLC SPEAKER SERIES**  
FEATURING  
**TIM GLEASON, PH.D.**  
ON  
**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

**APRIL 28, 11:30am**

**At the Marquis  
565 Country Club Road, Eugene**

**See page 3 for details**

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## LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2025-26

### President

**TERRY PARKER**  
president@lwvlc.org

### Co - Vice Presidents

**BEATRICE MCKENZIE &  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN**  
vicepresident@lwvlc.org

### Secretary

**JEANNE TAYLOR**  
secretary@lwvlc.org

### Treasurer

**PATTY SANDOZ**  
treasurer@lwvlc.org

### Advocacy

**MORGAN VIERHELLER**  
advocacy@lwvlc.org

### Argus Editor & Historian

**CHARLCIE KAYLOR**  
argus@lwvlc.org

### Communications Director

**OPEN**

### Development Director

**LAURA ENGLAND  
FLANIGAN**  
development@lwvlc.org

### Office Manager

**LINDA FERDOWSIAN**  
office@lwvlc.org

### Membership

**RUTH SEEGER**  
membership@lwvlc.org

### Nominations

**PAULA GRISAFI**

### Program Co-chairs

**SHARON AMASHA &  
LORI BARKER**  
program@lwvlc.org  
loribarker@lwvlc.org

### Technology Director

**RHONDA LIVESAY**  
technologydir@lwvlc.org

### Units Director

**MARJORIE MAXWELL**  
marjmaxwell@gmail.com

### Voter Service

**NANCY MILLS**  
voterservice@lwvlc.org

### Webmaster

**OPEN**  
webmaster@lwvlc.org

## APRIL DISCUSSION UNITS TOPIC - K-12 EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS EDUCATION STUDY FROM LWV OF OREGON BY MARJ MAXWELL, DISCUSSION UNITS DIRECTOR

- **May Topic** - Health Care in Lane County, Discussion Groups meet May 8-14
- Discussion Groups meet, October - May, on the second weekdays of the month.
- *All are welcome to attend any meeting. It helps with planning if you notify the leader in advance.*
- **46 members and 1 guest attended discussions in March.**

### April 8, Wednesday, 5:30pm, (Zoom only)

Discussion Leader: Terry Parker, 541-344- 5924, [president@lwvlc.org](mailto:president@lwvlc.org)  
Zoom Operator: Rhonda Livesay 541-228-4373, [technologydir@lwvlc.org](mailto:technologydir@lwvlc.org)  
Request Zoom link: [technologydir@lwvlc.org](mailto:technologydir@lwvlc.org)

### April 9, Thursday 11am, (Hybrid: in person and Zoom)

Cottage Grove @ Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove  
Discussion Leader: Anna Strickland 509-733-6034, [Ledal@middlefieldoaks.com](mailto:Ledal@middlefieldoaks.com)  
Zoom operator: Linda Ferdowsian Request Zoom link: [office@lwvlc.org](mailto:office@lwvlc.org)

### April 10, Friday, 10am (in person only)

Central Eugene, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Diana Grandberry, 541-342-8402, [76music79@comcast.net](mailto:76music79@comcast.net)

### April 10, Friday, 1pm (in person)

South Eugene, Cascade Manor, 65 W 30<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene, in the Solarium  
Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191, [mbottge@hotmail.com](mailto:mbottge@hotmail.com)  
Alternate Discussion Leader: Carol Hildebrand, 541-434-4254, [carodane1943@gmail.com](mailto:carodane1943@gmail.com)

### April 13, Monday 2pm (in person)

South Eugene, Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive Street, Eugene,  
541-521-9136, [annieb49@gmail.com](mailto:annieb49@gmail.com)  
Discussion Leader: Nancy Mills, 210-685-8253, [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

### April 14, Tuesday 10am (in person)

Coburg Road/ The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene  
Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian, 541-579-1866, [Lferdowsian@yahoo.com](mailto:Lferdowsian@yahoo.com)

Contact Marj Maxwell at [marjmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:marjmaxwell@gmail.com) if you plan to attend briefing or have questions.

**Discussion Unit Briefing: April 7, 2pm**  
at the League office - 175 W B Street, Ste. E 2, Springfield  
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89136881128>

## PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEAGUE POLICY, ATTEND AN APRIL DISCUSSION UNIT!

Each League member has an opportunity to shape League policy when they attend an April Discussion Group. LWVOR, the State arm of the League, is providing this month's study, which focuses on **K-12 Exceptional Learners**. The consensus study process involves weighing in on policy statements. You may attend as many discussion groups as you want. ***Please vote at only one group.***

More information on page 3.

**Marj Maxwell, Director Discussion Units**

## TIM GLEASON - APRIL LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES GUEST

**Tim Gleason** is a Professor Emeritus of Journalism, University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. He retired in December 2021 after more than 34 years. His teaching and research focused on communication law and ethics. He served as dean of the school from 1997 to 2013 and was the recipient of the 2012 AEJMC/Scripps Howard Foundation Journalism Administrator of the Year Award. In addition, he served as the director of the *Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism*, a national journalism award from 1998 to 2021. He was inducted into the UO SOJC's Hall of Achievement in 2022.

Dr. Gleason served on the board of directors of Open Oregon, an organization that advocates for government transparency from 1996 to 2025, the Oregon

Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA) board of directors from 1998 to 2013, and the Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB) board of directors from 2002 to 2013. In addition, he served on the KLCC Foundation Board and as an informal advisor to the launch of *Lookout Eugene-Springfield*.

Gleason holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Washington. In an earlier career, he was a photojournalist and reporter in New York State.



JOIN US FOR THE APRIL SPEAKER SERIES FEATURING  
**TIM GLEASON**  
 RETIRED UOFO DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION  
 SPEAKING ON  
**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

Tuesday: April 28, 2026  
 11:30am - 1pm

The Community at the Marquis - 565 Country Club Road  
 Two options: 1. program only - no charge 2. beverage & dessert - \$5.

Sign up on the website at [www.lwvlc.org](http://www.lwvlc.org) or by calling the League office at 541-343-7917.

Please give us your name and the name of any guests joining you.

Let us know if you are coming for the program only or would like a beverage & dessert.

**PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 21.**

## K-12 EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS 2026

BY SHARON AMASHA AND LORI BARKER, PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

**Exceptional Learners** is the first of three reports examining different aspects of K-12 education. The purpose of these reports is to provide background information so that League of Women Voter members in Oregon can reach consensus on issues regarding:

- Exceptional Learners
- School Safety
- Career and Technical Education

The ultimate goal is to create positions which the League can use to advocate for or against legislation in the state.

From their introduction: "Exceptional Students include those with disabilities, talented and gifted students, as well as English language learners. These are all students who have been designated by state and federal laws as needing services in addition to those provided to mainstream students. Mainstream students are those for whom the regular academic program is appropriate. In this report, we consider factors that help exceptional students learn: implementing evidence-based practices effectively, providing adequate staffing and resources, and funding. Finally, the report examines how districts are held accountable for educating exceptional learners"

An email has been sent to all members containing the study and the consensus questions for your review. During the April Unit meetings, we will discuss the study and complete the consensus questions together. Please plan to attend.



Izak is level two autistic, and his path through school has been anything but mainstream. His parents had to fight hard - including legal action - to get him the support he needed. As a result he has had four years of access to a program that truly meets him where he is and helped him earn the Presidential Award he is holding.



Such is what we hope our efforts on this study will produce, with far less struggle, for exceptional learners like Izak.

**Charlcie Kaylor, Argus Editor**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN VOTER SERVICE IN APRIL AND MAY?

BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

**VOTER REGISTRATION:** Under Peggy Dame's direction, we have scheduled registration events at:

- Downtown Eugene Library, April 10, from 9:30am to noon
- April 19 from 1-3pm, and
- River Road Community Association event on April 12 from noon to 4pm.

We are planning registration events at the University of Oregon and Lane Community College and are working with retirement centers to provide voter registration and registration status.

We are hoping to expand contacts and do voter registration in Coburg and Cottage Grove. All registration will be done in teams with an experienced and a novice League member. Peggy has created a short self-training packet for volunteers interested in doing registration. Contact Peggy at [voterreg@lwvlc.org](mailto:voterreg@lwvlc.org) to volunteer.

**VOTER EDUCATION:** Under Nancy Mills' direction, a team of six League members has written *ballot measure explanations* for the 11 ballot measures for Lane County and districts within it. These measures will be included in *Vote411* as well as available on the League website in print and video format. Under the guidance of Judy Rideout, her four member team has collected the names and contact information for candidates for all of the Lane County races as well as those for Springfield and Eugene. This information will be used by *Vote411* to contact candidates for their responses to questions about serving in the office for which they are running.

LWVLC is partnering with the Springfield City Club on candidate forums for:

- the East Lane County Commissioner position (possibly April 2),
- Springfield County Commissioner (April 16) and
- Oregon House District 7 (May 7).

We also moderated a presentation on the Watershed Rights ballot measure on March 27.

We are doing presentations at the Eugene libraries on **Preparing for the Primary**

- Downtown, April 26, 6:30-7:45
- Sheldon, May 5, 6:30-7:45
- Bethel, May 8, 4:30-5:45.

We are working with the Springfield library to do a presentation there in April or early May. All are welcome at the presentations and candidate forums.

We have used the newsletters of 43 different organizations (neighborhood associations, community groups like AAUW, Chambers of Commerce, and newsletters from smaller communities like Westfir, to distribute information such as the need to vote early because of postmark challenges.

Thanks to everyone who has filled out the Voter Interest Volunteer Survey. The results have given us a much clearer idea of the volunteer interest as we plan activities. If you want to be involved, email Nancy at [voterservice@lwvlc.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvlc.org) for a copy of the survey.

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
 Thursday, April 16 at 1:30pm - Zoom  
 For Zoom link: [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

On the heels of the recently concluded 2026 short legislative session, the Eugene-Springfield legislative delegation is hosting a virtual town hall.

When -**Thursday, April 9, at 6 pm**

Where - **Zoom** (please [register here](#) to receive the link)



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

### Motto of the Month:

*"Fight for the things you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you."* (Ruth Bader Ginsburg)

### WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Mary Adams, Amiel Angeles, Staci Beymer, Susan Biskeborn, Janet Brougher, Jim Dotson, Eric Dziura, Cheryl Fredrickson, Karyn Kaplan, Aime McNamara, Laura Niles, Nadine Williams, and Janet Yood.

### With abundant gratitude, welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, KATE OSTERGREN.

As one of our newest members, Kate wasted no time asking "How can I help?" Kate comes to us with a background in personnel and volunteer coordination, as well as training and development. She is very excited to put her background to use supporting the valuable work the League does to provide equitable and inclusive voting access to everyone. She has stepped up in a big way to help us with volunteer engagement and coordination. Kate's background will help us move forward quickly in this very busy year for the League.

Thank you for your patience with us if you have already indicated your interest for any number of our League 2026 priorities...and we haven't followed up with you yet.

You can email Kate directly at [kateostergren@lwvlc.org](mailto:kateostergren@lwvlc.org), and you can always email the committee chairs if they are working on something you want to help with. Expect an update in next month's newsletter about other easy ways to engage with Kate.

**THANK YOU KATE.**

While we're at it, the League is so lucky to have Margaret Conover on our team. What a rock star! She just finished doing all the behind the scenes work to bring you the March 17 session of Increase Your Impact. **Thank you Margaret.**

Our member engagement event, Increase Your Impact, would simply not be what it is without the forward thinking of **Julie Kness**. Brava!

Deep appreciation to **Veronika Walton** and **Jen Allison-Keim** for saying "yes" so many times when the Membership Committee needs them.

It was great having **Mary Jo Sanders** drop in on our March committee meeting!

### THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT ON The Young Adult Activism and Energy of Sheridan Schilling and Evan Tucker:

We are enriched by our outstanding youth and young adults who bring passion, energy, new ideas and urgency to the work of the League. Their dedication and the commitment they bring deserve our respect and praise! We are honored to have them on this journey toward empowering voters and defending democracy. (See their biographies on page 6.)

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2-3:30pm

at the League office. All are welcome.

For the Zoom link, contact [membership@lwvlc.org](mailto:membership@lwvlc.org)

## INCREASE YOUR IMPACT EVENT ACTIVATES 20 NEW VOLUNTEERS

BY JULIE KNESS, MEMBER

Nearly two dozen members and guests gathered on St. Paddy's Day to discuss the League's 2026 priorities and match with available volunteer roles. Plum assignments with community outreach, observer corps, office, technology, voter education, and voter registration were snatched up in less than two hours!

Small group conversations with Terry Parker, LWVLC president, allowed participants to dig into issues like nonpartisanship, rural outreach, and how to talk to voters. People left feeling energized and optimistic. "I loved it," Aime McNamara said. "It really affirmed that this is the right organization for me."

Eager to do more with the League? Email volunteer coordinator Kate Ostergren at [kateostergren@lwvlc.org](mailto:kateostergren@lwvlc.org).

Photo by Patty Sandoz



Terry Parker, President - (second from right) with guests at Increase Your Impact

## INTRODUCING TWO YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Sheridan C. Schilling** is a graduating senior from Churchill High School who has been a part of the varsity golf and softball teams. She currently rows competitive crew with Eugene Rowing Club.

She has been accepted into and plans to attend the United States Naval Academy after graduation. Receiving nominations from Congresswoman Hoyle, Senator Merkley, and Senator Wyden, she is honored for the opportunity to serve her country. Sheridan has also received the full-tuition and pre-medical NROTC scholarship for the squadron at Harvard University and is waiting to hear back for her decision at the school. After undergrad, she plans to attend medical school, hoping to become a pediatric or trauma surgeon. She aspires to continue to serve her community and country by providing care for people during difficult times.

She is a part of the Churchill Health Services Pathway and president of: Student Body, Churchill Interact Club, and National Honor Society. With her student organizations, she runs several volunteering events every year, including cooking dinners at Riverbend's Heartfelt House, hosting fundraisers for education scholarships, and weekly support for FOOD

**Evan Tucker** is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and minor in Legal Studies. He has been a part of the LWV since his freshman year of college in Spring 2023, becoming a co-founder of the LWVOR Youth Council as a Youth Voter Strategist, and later becoming the Youth Council President. In addition, after his presidential term expired, Evan became a Board Director for LWVOR. where he continues to serve.

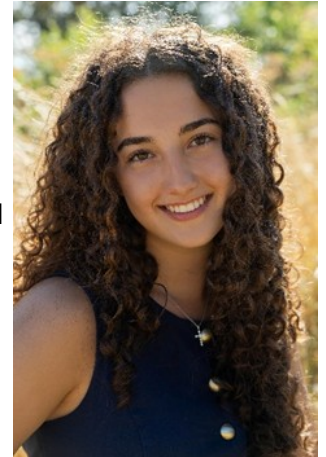


Evan was in Grants Pass, Oregon raised by a nurse and teacher, whose guidance strongly shaped his life trajectory. His parents' strong support for democracy and the rule of law was part of daily life during his upbringing, and voting rights and civic participation quickly became a personal passion, registering his friends to vote before he legally could himself. This passion carried over into college, where he was a part of the UO's Civic and Voter Engagement working

for Lane County. She is currently planning a senior prom for spring of 2026 at a local retirement home. Sheridan has been the student representative for the 4j School Board for the last 3 years. She has been able to work with the Board of Directors and the superintendent to create positive change across the district through her student advocacy.

Sheridan also works with the League of Women Voters of Oregon and of Lane County. By serving on the Youth Council of Oregon as the vice president, she works to make a difference for young people in politics. Through the League, Sheridan has attended naturalization ceremonies and other events to assist in registering new citizens to vote. This work is greatly rewarding and through its non-partisan efforts

She finds great joy in helping others, traveling the world, and spending time with her family.



group and was employed for the Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement, registering students to vote and developing voter and civic materials and workshops for students and university faculty.

In 2024, Evan attended the LWVUS National Convention, where he helped lobby on Capitol Hill for the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, designed and presented a workshop, and voted on national League initiatives. Additionally, Evan began participating in the League's Youth Voter Power Initiative (YVPI), traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana, to organize and connect with other voting rights activists across the country to aid the League's youth outreach efforts. The following March, Evan, alongside other YVPI participants, met in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, where they learned about historical voter suppression efforts, participated in collaborative workshops, and marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. A few months later in June 2025, Evan represented Oregon at the LWVUS National Council, collaborating with prominent League members around the country on how to improve the League's DEI initiatives, and helped some Leagues begin establishing a Youth Council in their own states.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - JIMMY SCHAPER

BY JOYCE BERMAN, RURAL OUTREACH PROJECT

Cottage Grove League member Jimmy Schaper does not let the grass grow under his feet.

Prior to his move to Cottage Grove in 2006, Jimmy spent many years in Africa, Asia, and the Mideast as a member of the International Voluntary Services (a forerunner of the Peace Corps) and the US AID working on developing and planning irrigation programs. He encouraged self-sufficiency in communities, ensuring access to clean water, solar energy, and reclamation of desert sand.



Since his move to Cottage Grove, his involvement in community building has continued through his participation and leadership in a multitude of civic and community organizations, including the Bohemian Mining Days Festival organizing committee, City Council's Urban Forestry Committee and Habitat for Humanity for Central Lane County.

As a former president of the Row River Grange, he served as a key link to connect the League to the upcoming October 3 Fall Harvest Festival as part of its rural outreach efforts.

Jimmy joined the League last year after attending several unit meetings and enjoys the array and depth of research delivered by League members. "Most problems are systemic," he says. "Sharing common knowledge connects us, and approaching problem solving as an entire ecosystem is a different mentality that gets you away from finger pointing."

Jimmy received his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering (Purdue), a Master's in International Agriculture (Texas State), and a Ph.D. in Quantitative Ecology (Michigan State University).

His main message: corroborate, be humble and kind: peace, love and happiness will follow."

Thank you, Jimmy, for your time and effort on behalf of the League.

## NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

BY MARY KEATING, MEMBER

The next Naturalization Ceremony is scheduled for April 23 at 10:30am. All League members are encouraged to attend.

The Eugene Courthouse is located at 405 East Eighth Avenue, between Mill and Ferry Streets. A valid, government-issued ID is required to enter the courthouse. The courthouse is open from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Metered parking is available on East Eighth and Ferry Streets, and several small paid parking lots are nearby. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the first floor, on the left side of the hallway leading to the Office of the U.S. Trustee.

The Eugene Division of the United States District Court of Oregon hears cases from the following counties.

([click here for map](#)): Benton, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion.



# THIS MONTH IN ADVOCACY SUPPORTING THE EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY BY KAREN BANKSTON, MEMBER

The League of Women Voters of Lane County supports a “yes” vote on Measure 20-381 to renew the Eugene Public Library tax levy for the next five years. Continued support for this levy will provide stable and equitable access to public library services at three existing locations, help fund expanded collections and digital services, and enhance literacy programs for children.

As civic infrastructure, libraries offer essential community programs and services. Research supporting funding for public libraries emphasizes their significant social, educational, and economic impact on the communities they serve. Here in Eugene, the downtown, Bethel, and Sheldon libraries provide a safe and quiet place to browse the bookshelves, use computers and wi-fi for online access, and borrow practical items from the Library of Things. The library fosters early literacy with story time for young children and offers study rooms for students of all ages to research projects and finish homework.

Libraries are trusted sources of information for their communities in an age of mis- and disinformation. League of Women Voters groups and libraries across the country partner regularly to provide accurate information as a foundation for citizen participation in democratic processes.

The Eugene Public Library has sought and acted on public input in identifying and prioritizing how levy funding would be spent:

- Maintaining current staffing and 47 weekly service hours at all three locations and adding two library pickup stations to enhance neighborhood convenience
- Advancing digital equity and technology help for people of all ages
- Enhancing safety and accessibility to create a welcoming, secure environment
- Supporting early literacy by adding a children’s librarian and developing community partnerships

Voting “yes” will help ensure that the library can continue and expand the valuable services our community needs and expects.

Please contact Morgan Vierheller, Advocacy Chair, for more information. [advocacy@lwvlc.org](mailto:advocacy@lwvlc.org)

## SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT VOTING FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM



Help amplify our messages about voting and ballot issues on social media. Follow, Like, and Share our posts!

Find us on - Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/lwvLaneCounty>.

Instagram: lwvlanecty

*Julie Kness*

## SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL MEETING MAY 9

BY JEANNE TAYLOR, SECRETARY

For 86 years the members of the League of Women Voters of Lane County have been meeting to celebrate at the end of one year and prepare for the next.

The 2026 LWVLC Annual Meeting is Saturday morning, 9am to noon, on May 9. It will be at the Marquis on Country Club Rd.

This is your chance to vote on vital issues of the League such as the 2026-27 budget, the program of study, and the next slate of your officers and board of directors. Just as important, it is a chance to socialize during the potluck brunch.

You will receive your workbook by about April 18 in plenty of time to know your questions and be ready to vote.

This year, a few things are changed to spice things up a bit. The pot lunch brunch will be at the mid-morning break, door prizes will be scattered throughout the morning, and we hope to expedite some of the business since all members will have had the chance to read the workbook ahead.

We might have mimosas with brunch, and you may be able to meet some of our new Observer Corps, the delegates to LWVUS convention, officers and directors, some of the brand-new members, and 50-year members.

You will be able to sign up for a study committee you want to join. Come and be one of the decision makers of this vital 278-member nonpartisan political organization.

### LANE LEAGUE ON WATCH

Thursday, April 16 - 5:30 to 7pm  
South Sister Room  
The Springs at Greer Gardens  
1282 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

*Increase Your Impact* just keeps getting better. Thank you to a fantastic Membership Team for all the behind the scenes work and to all of you for putting our best foot forward. Kudos.

I had several conversations with new members who are drawn to the League because of our nonpartisan and research-based values. Here is a [LINK](#) to LWVUS resources and talking point: [Nonpartisanship Messaging Guidance](#)

Be prepared with talking points in case you are asked about the LWV being partisan; do not repeat misinformation, even to correct it.

- The League's nonpartisan stance states that we do not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties.
- Nonpartisan does not mean non-political; issues are not partisan.
- LWV never asks members about their political affiliation.
- LWV positions are arrived at through rigorous study and democratic adoption by a majority of members.
- LWV's positions around climate, health care, and voting rights have been in place since the 1970s and earlier.



175 West B Street, E2, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-343-7917

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

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House Museum*

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

7 - Unit Discussion Briefing - 2  
9 - 14 - Unit Discussion Meetings - 2  
9 - **6pm**, Legislative Delegation Virtual Townhall - 4  
14 - **2 to 3:30pm**, Membership Committee meeting - 6  
16 - **1:30pm**, Voter Service Committee meeting - 4  
16 - **5:30pm**, Lane League on Watch - 9  
21 - **1pm**, Board meeting at League office  
23 - **10:30am**, Naturalization Ceremonies - 7  
24 - **Midnight**, *Argus* deadline  
28 - **11:30am**, Speaker Series at the Marquis - 3

### MAY

9 - **9am to noon**, Annual Meeting - 9

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

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

**MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?**

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