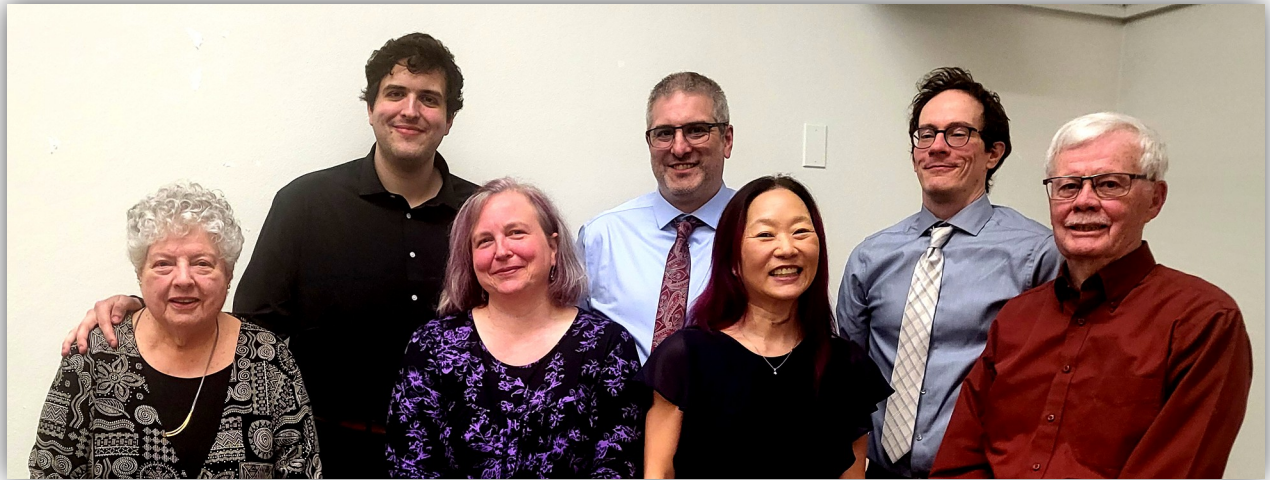


Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter



Photos by Patty Sandoz & Charcie Kaylor



Snippets from the Annabel Kitzhaber Award ceremony presented to **LINDA LYNCH**

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

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Units Director

MARJORIE MAXWELL
marjmaxwell@gmail.com

Voter Service

NANCY MILLS
voterservice@lwwlc.org

Webmaster

OPEN
webmaster@lwwlc.org

**MAY UNIT DISCUSSION SCHEDULE AND
TOPIC: HEALTH CARE IN LANE COUNTY,
BY MARGE MAXWELL, DISCUSSION UNIT DIRECTOR**

After a three-month break, Discussion Groups will resume in September and meet until May on the second weekdays of the month.

Next briefing is September 1, 2026

All are welcome to attend any meeting. It helps with planning if you notify the leader in advance.

40 members and four guests attended discussions in April.

May 8, Friday, 10am (in person)

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

May 8, Friday, 1pm (in person)

South Eugene, Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave, Eugene, in the Solarium
Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191
Alternate Discussion Leader: Carol Hildebrand, 541-434-4254,
carodane1943@gmail.com

May 11, Monday, 2pm (in person)

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

May 12, 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

May 13 Wednesday, 5:30pm (Zoom only)

Discussion Leader: Terry Parker, 541-344- 5924, president@lwwlc.org
Zoom Operator: Rhonda Livesay 541-228-4373, technologydir@lwwlc.org
Request Zoom link: technologydir@lwwlc.org

May 14, Thursday 11am, (in person and Zoom)

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

Contact Marj Maxwell at marjmaxwell@gmail.com if you plan to attend briefing or have questions.

DISCUSSION UNIT BRIEFING: MAY 5, 2PM

at the League office - 175 W B Street, Ste. E 2, Springfield
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89136881128>

WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO? BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

Under our bylaws the LWVLC holds periodic meetings of its membership. At our Annual Meeting this year on May 9th you decide various organizational and governance matters. Each of these actions has been endorsed by the Board of Directors and forwarded for your consideration including the:

- Election of officers, directors, and members of our Nominating Committee (typically two-year terms),
- Amendment to our by-laws,
- Adoption of an annual budget,
- Adoption of next year's Program and
- Consideration of a new position on Rural Services.

Program, in the League context, is the list of issues that receive the League's focused attention for study, education, and, potentially, for advocacy over the following year and beyond. For example, endorsing a Rural Services position after we have studied and reviewed the topic gives our local League the opportunity to advocate for legislation or other actions that enhance opportunities for rural Lane County .

We are an all-volunteer organization. Our officers, the president, vice president(s), secretary, and treasurer, serve as an Executive Committee. Typically, directors manage a League portfolio or area of administrative responsibility such as Membership, Voter services, Advocacy, Program, newsletter or technology. Officers or directors do not receive compensation for this or any other work they do for LWVLC; the basic qualifications are dedication and service. All Board members are involved in the day to day activities of the League in their role as members. We are a hard working League, and we appreciate each and every one of you.

Every contribution matters. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 9th. As a League leader recently said to me, "We are in such a perilous time in our history. Every League member carries a huge responsibility to help stop the slide to autocracy, to not let bigots rewrite the Constitution, to not apologize for being hopeful and positive, to be leaders in the resistance."



HEALTH CARE IN LANE COUNTY

BY SHARON AMASH AND LORI BARKER, PROGRAM DIRECTORS
AND MARJ MAXWELL, UNIT CHAIR

The health care landscape in Lane County has undergone significant transformation, evolving through various models such as community institutions, nonprofit organizations, for-profit conversions, and corporate acquisitions. These changes have ultimately culminated in a current health care crisis making it difficult for many people to find a primary care provider and leaving rural communities particularly vulnerable. In response, legislators and voters have taken proactive steps to mitigate the adverse effects of these corporate takeovers.

In November 2022, Oregon voters passed Measure 111, which added the following provision to the Oregon Constitution: "It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate, and affordable health care as a fundamental right." (Article 2, Section 47 of the Oregon Constitution)

Subsequently, SB 1089 was passed in 2023 to address the method of fulfilling this obligation. This legislation established a nine-member Universal Health Plan Governance Board tasked with designing a publicly funded health plan that covers all residents of Oregon.

The board will outline how the program should be administered, funded, and implemented statewide. It is required to deliver its recommendations to the legislature by September 2026, in time for action during the 2027 Legislative Session.

This initiative is part of a larger discussion on health care in Lane County. The topic will be addressed at upcoming Units in May, focusing on issues related to state, county, local, and individual health care.

The *Health Care in Lane County* study information is of importance to all consumers and Oregon voters, as Program Directors Sharon and Lori explain. Read this month's study, participate in discussions from a fact checked perspective!

This is the last series of discussion groups before the three-month break. Study groups will resume in September 2026. LWVLC will be adopting new study topics at the May 9 Annual Meeting.

Proposed topics are listed in the Annual Meeting Workbook, page 10. Use this opportunity to share your thoughts, maybe even sign up to help with a study.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Laurel Anderson, Diane Etzwiler, Colleen Lewis, Nissa Newton, Colette O'Connor, Mary Thomas, Judy Volem, Judith Watt, Peter Watt, and Tammy Young.

Thank you to all our members who are helping spread the word about the League and the important work being done. Our membership is growing, because of YOU!

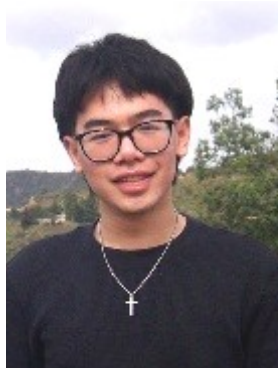
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
 Tuesday, May 12, 2-3:30pm
 at the League office. All are welcome.
 For the Zoom link, contact membership@lwvlc.org

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH - BY RUTH SEEGER

This month we feature two more of our fabulous youth League members. Find inspiration in their stories and motivation in their actions and passions!

HAI NGUYEN is a first-year student and Stamp scholar at the University of Oregon, majoring in accounting and on the expedited track to law school. He is also involved with the Youth Council serving as the events chair. Hai is dedicated to advocating for and increasing civic participation amongst Asian-American and immigrant voters.

Hai recently coordinated a voter registration and Pledge to Vote campaign at the University of Oregon - in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Lane County and the Associated Student Union and OSPRIG (Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group) on their New Voters Project.



ANNA HAMPTON is a second-year student at the University of Oregon School of Law, pursuing a career in environmental law. She graduated from Purdue University with degrees in Environmental Science and Political Science. While in Indiana, Anna served as Membership Committee Chair for her local League of Women Voters, then the largest chapter in the state.



In law school, Anna has served as a director of the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference and currently works as an Articles Editor for the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation. She is passionate about public interest environmental law and is gaining experience this summer working with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, focusing on environmental and natural resource issues.

REMEMBERING TWO LIFELONG LEAGUERS - BY CHARLCIE KAYLOR, EDITOR



Communities who will miss **Kay Robinhold's** regular attendance include a weekly lunch and walking group, book club and her yearslong water aerobics class. Kay followed the Oregon Symphony and the Oregon Bach Festival, and she actively supported the League of Women Voters and Planned Parenthood. She remained a loyal fan of Duke Blue Devils basketball - proof that some

allegiances, once formed, are for life.

Ellen Maddex, who on forms would describe her occupation as "community activist," died on March 26 shortly before her 84th birthday.

Ellen first joined the League of Women Voters in her North Carolina years and was active in it in all the later years. She worked on League of Women Voters studies of many public issues, including forest management, water use, and drug-law enforcement.



ELECTION PREPARATION BY NANCY MILLS, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

With the deadline for voter registration on April 28, we are moving into the voter education phase before the election on May 19.

We call your attention to two presentations titled **Election 101** which will be presented at two Eugene branch libraries:

Sheldon, Tuesday, May 5, 6:30-7:45

Bethel, Friday, May 8, 4:30-5:45

Both Eugene and Springfield downtown’s library have already held the presentation. They focus on the candidate races and ballot measures appropriate to the district and will include approaches to identifying reliable sources of information.

Speaking of reliable sources of information, the website for the League of Women Voters Lane County has all of the information that you will need to make informed choices for your ballot, and in one place. Although the League, in conjunction with the Springfield City Club, has been involved in only two candidate forums, the Springfield County Commissioner race and the race for Oregon House District 7, we have collected information about the candidate forums from the City Club of Eugene, Lookout Eugene-Springfield, and the Chronicle 1909, listing the candidate forums that have yet to occur and the links to recordings of the forums that have already been held. Thanks to LWV Corvallis, we also have interviews with the candidates for Oregon’s 4th Congressional District. As you know, one of the best ways of evaluating candidates is by comparing their answers to the same questions.

Ballot measure explanations are the second trove of information. For this ballot we will all see one state

measure (Transportation Tax), two Lane county measures (Watershed Rights, OSU Extension Services), and depending on your location, city or district specific measures ranging from the Library Levy in Eugene and the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District Levy to a variety of fire district levies, a library levy for the Fern Ridge library, and a bond measure for the Siuslaw School District. In addition to the print explanations, we also have videos for all of the measures except the state transportation tax.

Vote411 is now active. As you know, by entering your address in Vote411.org, you will receive information on all of the races and ballot measures that will appear on your ballot. Thanks so much to the office volunteers who encouraged candidates to answer the questions and to the ballot measure team who researched the ballot measures. Please remind your friends and families to check out Vote411.

Important voting information: There is an issue with the postmark process that may affect your ballot. Because mail is no longer postmarked locally but rather transported to Portland, mail posted on Election Day will almost certainly not get postmarked on Election Day. This means your ballot won’t count. We suggest that you mail the ballot at least a week early, use an Official Elections Drop box, or ask that the ballot be hand postmarked in front of you at the post office. Please make sure that your friends and family are aware of this.

You can find information on this and other voting related actions in one of the three videos at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/toolkit.aspx>

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, May 14, at 1:30 by Zoom
Contact Nancy Mills for Zoom link
at VoterService@lwwlc.org

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

BY MARY KEATING, MEMBER

Donna Christianson, Mary Keating, and Beatrice McKenzie attended the April 23 Naturalization Ceremony. United States District Judge Mustafa T. Kasubhai presided and administered the oath to 24 citizens from nine countries. His remarks afterward included references to his own parents’ immigration and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our country. He also included high praise for the role of our League and the work they do in our country.



VOLUNTEER UPDATES

BY KATE OSTERGREN, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Welcome to our new section in the *Argus* to keep you up to date on volunteer news! My role here as the new Volunteer Coordinator is to facilitate the matching of volunteers to opportunities, recruit for special needs, and above all to be a singular point of contact for any and all members who might be interested in volunteering.

I can be contacted at kateostergren@lwvlc.org.

Thank You!

April 19-25 was National Volunteer Week. THANK YOU so much to all of our members who join us to provide support, attend our events, promote our mission, and show up to support the work of the League of Women Voters of Lane County!

Volunteer Training

The first official Community Outreach Orientation took place online in April, successfully onboarding a group of new volunteers, including several who were able to leap right into action for the Eugene Farmers' Market on April 11th. Please join us if you are interested in learning more about the Community Outreach process and tips on Voter Registration.



Volunteer Kim Rabe with new member Camile Stewart at the Eugene Farmers' Market



Community Outreach: We Are Bethel Celebration

We will be having a booth at the upcoming Bethel neighborhood celebration from 12-4 on May 30! We will need a volunteer with experience to be Captain of the Day, who needs to be available but not present for the entire event, and four volunteers to do two-hour shifts. If interested, contact us at the above email.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH ORIENTATION
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 6PM
ON LINE
RSVP TO kateostergren@lwvlc.org

The League of Women Voters Lane County signed a Memo of Understanding with Lookout Local Eugene-Springfield to be part of their Civics Partner Program.

This coupon code to be shared with the LWVLC community, gives 12% off any annual Lookout membership purchased.

That code is: **lwvlanecounty** and can be used by your members, volunteers, followers, family, and friends and broadcast anywhere you share communications.

Lookout
 EUGENE-SPRINGFIELD

THIS MONTH IN ADVOCACY - COME JOIN OUR MEETING!

BY MORGAN VIERHELLER, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR



For those of you who have been League members for several years, the advocacy work of the Action Committee is well known. Having carried the weight of two great responsibilities, LWVLC president Terry Parker has passed on duties of the chair of the newly re-named Advocacy Committee to me, for which I am grate-

ful. As a retired humanities teacher of 20 years, I have found a home in an organization that bases its work in deep study, careful consideration, a striving for accuracy, and a commitment to integrity.

THE WORK

The League's advocacy work is issue-based and we arrive at our positions with careful study of outside information as well as that of those developed by studies of the Program Committee, Observer Corps, and Voter Services. Past advocacy has included a focus on justice, public safety, local government, affordable housing, fair representation, transparency, and environmental issues.

Members of the Advocacy Committee assist the board by identifying current issues for investigation, aiding in establishing priorities, helping to write letters and articles to bring attention to specific issues

in the community - all to be presented in the media by the president via the Communications team. We help the board decide whether to support or oppose specific ballot measures when appropriate and consider actions taken by our elected bodies in Lane County. All responses are dependent on policies and positions affirmed by the National and Oregon Leagues.

THIS MONTH

For the May election cycle our League submitted letters of support for:

- Measure 20-381 - Eugene Library Local Option Levy
- Measure 20-379 - School Facility Improvement Bond for Siuslaw School District 97
- Measure 20-384 - Willamalane Park & Recreation District

We also published an FAQ on the SAVE America Act on the LWVLC website that focuses on its impact on Oregon.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 7, 1:30pm
at the League office. All are welcome.

FOR THE WORK AHEAD

DID YOU SEE THE SPRING APPEAL LETTER IN THE MAIL?

BY LAURA ENGLAND FLANIGAN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

It is that time of year again.

Look for your May 2026 Spring Appeal Letter via USPS.

Please take the time to determine if you can help your League of Women Voters Lane County to keep doing the work we do to promote democracy and voter education via a check or your own hard work/volunteer hours.

Thank you for everything you continue to do!





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

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

***Thanks to our
2025-26 Directory
Advertisers***

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Bel Ami
Cornucopia Restaurants
Dot Dotson's
Eugene's Flower Home
Folkways
Shelton McMurphy Johnson
House Museum*

CALENDAR

MAY

- 5 - Unit Discussion Briefing - 2
- 7 - 1:30pm, Advocacy Committee Meeting - 7
- 8 - 14 - Unit Discussion Meetings - 2
- 9 - 9am to noon, Annual Meeting
- 12 - 2 to 3:30pm, Membership Committee meeting - 4
- 14 - 1:30pm, Voter Service Committee meeting - 5
- 19 - 1pm, Board meeting at League office
- 21 - 6pm, Volunteer Orientation - 6
- 22 - **Midnight**, *Argus* deadline

**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/>