

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

The Argus

July/August 2026



2026/27 BOARD MEMBERS

It's summer at the League of Women
Voters of Lane County!

It is in these months we organize activities for the Fall election. We hope all members will find a way to get involved!

LWVLC is pleased to offer our first digital issue of the Argus. With gratitude to Charcie Kaylor for 30+ years of service as Argus editor, and to Rhonda Livesay and several members who have volunteered to help, we hope the transition will be comfortable for all members.

Our first speaker for the 2026-2027 year is Marty Wilde, who will speak about local health issues on September 22. Mark your calendars!

LWVLC Board members attended a LWVUS training focused on local governance, including do's and don'ts of remaining nonpartisan in an intensely partisan atmosphere. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.

The organization and its leadership neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties at any level of government. The League of Women Voters is, however, a political organization. We take stands on particular issues at local, state, and federal levels after rigorous study and input from LWV members.

Voter registration and voter education are key to American democracy, and the League's efforts in 2026 provide a vital service to our community. Come out and help—or support us financially. All events are listed on the calendar on our website.

Please take the time to respond to our voter services interest survey that will arrive in your inbox. Attend an evening session to learn about all LWVLC is involved in and what activities might best suit you! The next Increase Your Impact will be held at the Eugene Garden Club.

Beatrice McKenzie, VP

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Marj Maxwell
Unit Coordinator

Many thanks to the Discussion/Unit Leaders who have agreed to continue in 2026-2027. Two Discussion Units need new leaders for the coming season. The following are current Unit locations and times. [For a full report click here](#) or go to pg. 9.

2026-2027 Unit Times and Locations

Monday, 2pm (in person)

Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive St., Eugene
Discussion Leader: Leader needed: [see job description](#) (pg. 9)

Tuesday, 10am (in person)

Coburg Road/The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene

Discussion Leader: Linda Ferdowsian,

Wednesday, 5:30pm, (Zoom only)

Discussion Leader: Leader needed: [see job description](#) (pg. 9)

Zoom Operator: Rhonda Livesay

Thursday, 11am, (hybrid: in person and Zoom)

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove

Discussion Leader: Anna Strickland

Friday, 10am (in person only)

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene

Discussion Leader: Diana Grandberry

Friday, 1pm (in person)

Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave., Eugene, in the Solarium

Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge/Carole Hildebrand

Welcome to the new 2026-2027 LWVLC Board

You will see mostly familiar faces with the exception of Susan Ban, who has joined the Board as a Co-Vice President.

Former board members missing are Linda Ferdowsian (Office) and Rhonda Livesay (Technology). Both will continue with their work in off-board positions.

Welcome Susan. We are still looking for Communication and Technology Chairs.

President: Terry Parker
Co-VP: Beatrice McKenzie
Co-VP: Susan Ban
Advocacy: Morgan Vierheller
Communications: Vacant
Development: Laura England Flanigan
Historian: Charlcie Kaylor
Membership: Ruth Seeger
Program Co-Chairs:
Sharon Amasha, Lori Barker
Secretary: Jeanne Taylor
Technology: Vacant
Treasurer: Patty Sandoz
Voter Services: Nancy Mills

Off Board:

Office: Linda Ferdowsian
Nominating Committee: Paula Grisafi
Technology: Rhonda Livesay
Units: Marj Maxwell



September 22 Fall Luncheon Unitarian Universalist Church 11:30am

The 2026-2027 Speaker Series for the League of Women Voters of Lane County begins with the kickoff event on September 22. It will be held at 11:30am at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 13th and Chambers in Eugene. Free parking is available at the venue and on adjacent streets. Lunch will be served for any who are interested.

Lunch will be catered by the Glenwood Restaurant and will cost \$20. Members and guests are welcome to attend; lunch is optional. Registration information will be available on the LWVLC website and at the office. Guest speaker Marty Wilde will talk about the healthcare situation in Lane County.



Volunteer Updates

Kate Ostergren,
Volunteer Coordinator

☀️System Improvements☀️

We are making progress on our new online system for volunteer management! The new system will allow volunteers direct access to their own account, where they can update their information, set their availability, control their communication preferences, and sign up for opportunities. Access will be rolled out gradually to our current volunteers, with our Community Outreach volunteers being first in line. Stay tuned for updates.

Community Outreach: Join Us in the Community!

If you've been looking to get out and get involved, our Community Outreach events are a great place to get started. Shifts are two hours, and all new volunteers are matched with experienced partners. We also schedule regular orientations if you would like to learn more!

Contact volunteer@lwvlc.org for more info.

Aug. 16—Springfield Farmers Market
9am-2pm

Sept. 13—River Road Community
11am-3pm, River Celebration

Mid-Sept
TBD—Voter registration
Voter registration checking at Community
Supported Shelters

Sept. 26—University of Oregon (not
confirmed)
TBD

Oct. 3—Democracy at the Grange
11am-5pm, Cottage Grove



Nancy Mills
Voter Services Chair

Voter Services Information:

Voter Services meetings will be changed to the first Thursday of the month, with the next meeting on Sept. 3 at 1:30pm by Zoom.

Because some of the activities in voter services have changed and because many members have joined since the survey was last sent out, you will be receiving a new voter interest survey by email. Please look at the descriptions of the various tasks to see if your interests and skills match those tasks.



Preparing for the 2026 Midterm Election. What Is Your Role as a League Member?

We have one of the largest chapters of the League of Women Voters in Oregon, certainly the largest on a per capita basis. While there are many reasons for this level of membership, one is certainly the desire to do something about the midterm elections. There are roles for everyone in the Lane County League. To view additional roles, please click [Your Role](#) or go to page 8.

Postcarding



The League of Women Voters of Lane County is partnering with the Oregon League of Women Voters to write postcards to voters in Lane County. We are focusing on two groups that traditionally have low voting rates: young voters and those voters who are not affiliated with either major political party. The group of nonaffiliated voters is larger than any other voting group in Lane County.

We will have two postcard writing parties, on Sept. 9 at 6pm and on Sept. 14 at 2pm, both at the League office in Springfield, 175 W. B St., Suite E2. If you are interested in participating, please email voterservice@lwwlc.org with your name and your preference for date(s).

You will also have an opportunity to indicate your interest in the voter service inventory survey.

Thanks!



How Can You Become Involved?

You will receive the voter service interest survey in your email very soon, which lists all of the activities associated with voter services. If you haven't filled out the survey, please do. If you filled it out before, please fill it out again if you are able, because some of the options may have changed.



With heartfelt sympathy for the loss of

Becky Wright—member since 2016
Joy St. John—member since 2007



Membership Matters

Ruth Seeger
Membership Chair

Welcome To Our Newest Members!

Together, we welcome the following new members to our League: JoAnn Atwell-Scrivner, Betty Carter Foster, Emma Castle, Jacquelyn Cole, Kim Davidson-Ruby, Holly Holtan-Archer, Kim Larsen, David M. Morgan, and Kristy Sarconi. Our current membership is 313 energetic, active, and engaged members. We are the second largest chapter in Oregon. This is really a “roll up your sleeves” organization. Your volunteer contributions are what keeps the League vibrant. Thank you so much. We need two hours of help on a multitude of days in August, September, and October for our Community Outreach Events. We do League outreach, voter registration, and community conversations. Training provided. Don't worry. You will never work without a buddy! Actually, people say it's fun! We are making a BIG EFFORT until the midterm elections. Please see the related article by Kate, our Volunteer Coordinator with dates and places. volunteer@lwvlc.org if you can help.



The power of the people
is greater than the people
in power – Wael Ghonim

Increase Your Impact with the League of Women Voters Tuesday, Sept. 15, 5-7pm Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

Discover all the ways you can help us
empower voters and defend democracy,
including:

- ✓ Helping citizens understand ballot issues
- ✓ Teaching them how to participate in the work of government
- ✓ Becoming more informed and engaged citizen

We're a nonpartisan, grassroots
organization.

All are welcome

Click here to [RSVP](#)

or

email: membership@lwvlc.org

Watch Your Mailbox

An updated and printed Membership Directory
is in the works.

Watch your mailbox for a copy arriving the first
week of September. Please get to know each
other and if you see someone listed in the
Directory that you know, reach out. We are
better together.

Want to help grow our community?

You can now give a gift membership or send a
link to a friend and invite them to join the
League. Log into the LWV portal and
open to see the options under “Grow Our
Community.”

It's a meaningful way to build our League.
Think of your church friends, book club
members, relatives, neighbors, etc.

<https://portal.lwv.org/home>

September's Discussion Group Study

Sharon Amasha and Lori Barker
Co-Chairs

The first study of the year comes from the state League and represents the second installment in a three-part series. Part One focused on the education of exceptional learners in grades K-12, and Part Three will address career and technical education. Our upcoming September unit meetings will center on Part Two: Safe and Healthy K-12 Schools.

At the unit meetings, we will review both the study and the consensus questions. In advance, these documents will be emailed to all members, and links will also be provided to the website.

Here is the executive summary:

Executive Summary

Students need to feel that they are psychologically and physically safe in school in order to learn effectively.

Psychological or social/emotional safety is promoted through a supportive school community. Students feel a sense of belonging when they have positive relationships with their teachers and their peers. Strategies that promote social/emotional health and safety include standards created by the Oregon Department of Education.

Research has identified a number of organizational structures that enhance relationships in schools. In addition, physical structures of school buildings play a central role in promoting the health and safety of students.

Oregon requires schools to provide reports of regular testing and mitigation for hazards such as asbestos, lead in water, and radon.

The report also looks at how gun violence in schools is a major concern in America. To address this, schools have relied on some physical structures, such as installing security devices, as well as organizational structures (policies and procedures) including arming school personnel and training behavioral threat assessment teams.

All of the efforts to ensure the health and safety of students in schools depend on continuous sources of funding. The final section of the report looks at local, state, and federal funding sources.

Briefing Schedule 2026-2027

September: K-12 State School Safety

Briefing: Sept. 1 @ 2pm

October: Ballot Measures

Briefing: Oct. 6 @ 2pm

November: Separation of Church and State

Briefing: Nov. 3 @ 2pm

December: No study

January: 2027 Position Review

Briefing: Jan. 5 @ 2pm

February: Unit Choice

Briefing: Feb. 2 @ 2pm

March: Food Insecurity

Briefing: Mar. 2 @ 2pm

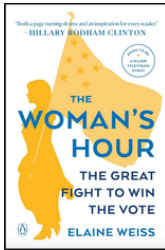
April: K-12 State School Study: Technical Education

Unit Briefing: Apr. 6 @ 2pm

May: Beer, Wine, and Craft Beverages

Unit Briefing: May 4 @ 2pm

Book Recommendation



The Woman's Hour by Elaine Weiss

Beginning in the 1800s, women organized, petitioned, and picketed to win the right to vote, but it took them decades to accomplish their purpose. Many women turned their efforts to the cause of abolition, postponing their own suffrage for those that were enslaved.

Elaine Weiss's illuminating book, *The Woman's Hour*, brings to the light the story of the last state to ratify, Tennessee. Weiss's rich and compelling narrative of the grueling months leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment leads readers through the complexity of the task.

Tennessee, the 36th and final state needed to complete the needed two-thirds majority to pass the amendment, became the battleground between the suffragists and the anti-suffragists. Through a pandemic, family responsibilities, and the Great War, women on both sides were resolute and unwavering in their commitment to their cause.



Submitted by
Morgan Vierheller
Advocacy Chair

Have Something to Say?

We would welcome short articles to include in the Argus. If you would like to write an op-ed about a subject that is relevant to our community, we are interested in what our members have to say. The article can only be 100-200 words. That's not many, but it can still make an impact. Submit your article to argus@lwvlc.org.

Fruit and Nut Sale 2026

Our major fundraiser, the Fruit and Nut Sale is happening again this Fall.

We hope to start selling in October 2026 with pickup in early December 2026. We will need lots of volunteers for this activity, which is a lot of fun on pickup day!

Reach out to development@lwvlc.org if you want to play that day.

Charitable Donations

Are you 70-1/2 years old or older? You can make an annual distribution directly from your IRA Account as a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** to support the work of League of Women Voters of Lane County.

QCDs may be excluded from your taxable income and qualify toward your required minimum distribution. Contact your tax accountant for more information.



Currently, the most pressing needs are addressing the structural challenges to democracy, including partisan gerrymandering, money in politics, voter registration, restrictive voter ID laws, and voter mobilization. These threats to democracy can limit the number of people who feel engaged in the voting process and confident that their vote will make a difference. Help us continue our work by donating what you can.

Voter Education Presentations:

The League usually provides voter education on ballot measures prior to elections. However, because there is a great deal of concern about election security for the upcoming midterm election, there will be a focus on election security in the presentations this fall. Those concerns about security range from noncitizens voting and structural problems with voter registration to concerns about potential federal activity. The presentations will include information about how Oregon is improving its system for preventing noncitizen voter registration, how the DMV is updating its voter registration procedures, and how Oregon continues to use external sources of information to maintain accurate and complete voter lists.

ERIC, the **Electronic Information Resource Center**, is one such external system Oregon uses to improve its voter lists. This organization was formed more than a decade ago and now includes 25 states and Washington DC. Member states share information, such as changes of address when voters move and records of when voters are deceased. ERIC also notifies states when eligible voters are not yet registered.

Another area of concern involves how ballots are handled securely and in a nonpartisan fashion. Using information provided by the Lane County elections office, the ballot-handling process will be described. Highlighted in the presentation will be the nonpartisan approach with the involvement of teams of election workers from different political parties, beginning with the collection of ballots from drop boxes and continuing throughout the process.

As a state with mail-in voting, the role of the U.S. Postal Service is a key link. The presentations will include information about the current legal status of mail-in voting and suggestions for ways of ensuring that a ballot is postmarked or received in time to be counted.

There are roles for League members in these presentations. Nancy Mills will train teams of presenters to visit community centers, civic organizations, retirement homes, etc. If League members have suggestions of groups that would be interested in presentations, please contact voterservice@lwvlc.org. If you have contact information for a member of the group, please include this.

Voter Registration:

Many voters are already registered through the Motor Voter law when they obtain an Oregon driver's license. However, if their mailing address had changed or they had not voted in the last two federal elections, their registration had become inactive. Regular review of the voter rolls occurred until 2017 but then ceased, leaving 800,000 voters on the inactive roll. The Oregon Secretary of State recently began to remove inactive voters from the voting rolls. The voters were sent a card informing them of their inactive status when their registration became inactive. If they did not respond, these voters were not sent ballots and did not vote. Because the process for removing inactive voters is still ongoing, the League of Women Voters recognizes the importance of offering voters the opportunity to check their registration online during the voter registration events.



Marj Maxwell, Unit Chair
Discussion Unit Planning, Mark your calendars!
Save our Units - Unit Leaders Needed!

The South Eugene and the Evening Units need new leaders. Nancy Mills (South Eugene Unit Leader) is entering an active season as Voter Services Director, and Terry Parker (Wednesday Evening Zoom Unit Leader) continues as Lane County League President. Please give serious consideration to stepping up to fill one of these opportunities. We need you! There are always folks there to support you!

Unit Discussion Leader Job Description/Qualifications:

Ability to send and receive emails. (usually only three or four/month)

Ability to read research/study summary provided by the study committee (eight pages maximum).

Able to start discussion: Have attendees introduce themselves, review League announcements provided, briefly direct attention to the study questions provided with the study materials, introduce study committee expert who can guide the discussion.

Appoint an attendee to record discussion focused on the study questions, or take the notes yourself. (These are not minutes, just record answers to study questions, and any actions suggested in your group. Study questions, like you've answered since elementary school. Handwritten notes are the norm. No final/typed document required.)

Send these notes (feedback) to me, the Unit Chair, so they can be compiled and returned to the study committee. I type them up, creating a summary report that goes back to the study committee.

There are many ways to get notes to the Unit Chair (me): send them back with someone who is going to the office, mail them, send them by email (document, scan, email a picture of your notes). We will figure out something that works for you.

Attend a monthly briefing, in person or by Zoom. You can attend, or someone from your group can attend. At this meeting the Study is reviewed, sometimes with extra resources. If attending the briefing is a problem, we can find a work-around. A study expert attends each unit.

Please seriously consider stepping up, as an individual or to share, the South Eugene or Wednesday Evening Discussion Unit. No previous experience required! Email units@lwvlc.org if you are interested.

2026-2027 Unit Discussion Calendar:

Week of:
Sept. 8-14
Oct. 8-14
Nov. 9-13
Dec. no study
Jan. 11-15
Feb. 8-12
Mar. 8-12
Apr. 12-16
May 10-June 1

Voter Service Report - continued from page 8

Voter Registration Training:

The League of Women Voters is recognized for our voter registration efforts. We currently train our own members in voter registration so we can increase the number of people in our voter registration drive efforts. Recently we have been receiving requests from nonprofit community groups to help them understand more about the registration process. Therefore, the Voter Service Committee is currently working on a training program to expand voter registration training to groups outside of the League. The goal is to provide reliable registration information for these groups so they can set up their own systems of internal training and outreach, thereby expanding organized registration efforts in Lane County.

If League members have suggestions for nonprofit groups that might be included in such training, please contact the Voter Service committee at voterservice@lwvlc.org. Include the name and contact information for the appropriate person at the nonprofit group if you have it.

Election Protection Training

Common Cause is holding an election protection training in mid-September, see below for time and place. The training is responding to the attempts to deceive, disrupt, and deny our elections. The training will teach ways to combat election disinformation, ensure that voters are not intimidated, prevent election drop boxes from being tampered with, and prepare for response if/when emergencies pop up. The in-person training is from Common Cause Oregon, so it is targeted toward elections in Oregon.

Time: Thursday, Sept. 10, 6-7:30pm

Place: Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave., Eugene

Semiquincentennial Quiz Presented by Keli Osborn

On July 4, 2026, the United States commemorated and celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we continue to reflect on our nation's past and look ahead to the future we want to create together, here's a quiz to jostle your thinking!

1. In 1776, the 13 United States of America

- a. announced separation from Great Britain and articulated ideas of natural rights
- b. a clerk misunderstood directions about going forth with parchment
- c. the Second Continental Congress adopted a declaration of independence

2. July 4 became a US holiday because

- a. June has long been the traditional time for manufacturing fireworks
- b. a clerk misunderstood directions about going forth with parchment
- c. the Second Continental Congress adopted a declaration of independence

3. An influential figure in the founding of the United States, Abigail Adams also inspired

- a. the Dear Abby advice column
- b. Abigail Adams Amber beer
- c. Ansel Adams, whose original surname was Gretel

4. Benjamin Franklin was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and

- a. a polymath
- b. a polygamist
- c. the person who established the first prediction market company, known as Pollymarket

5. Josiah Bartlett, another signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a doctor who

- a. was the ancestor of Jed Bartlet, also from New Hampshire
- b. prescribed Peruvian bark (aka quinine) for diphtheria
- c. advocated eating a pear a day for a healthy biome

6. The Americas—North, Central, and South—are named for

- a. Amerigo Vespucci
- b. America Ferrera
- c. American Eagle Outfitters

7. Deborah Sampson was the only woman to earn a full military pension for service to the Continental Army, because she

- a. baked and distributed small oatmeal creme cakes to soldiers—treats known as Little Debbie snack cakes bear her nickname
- b. was the mother of four sons who lost their lives in battles
- c. had disguised herself as a man and fought alongside other soldiers, even extracting a pistol ball from her own left thigh

Let's see how well you did! [Click ANSWERS](#)



Key to Our Quiz!

1. a.
2. c. Be careful with fireworks and parchment.
3. b. There really is an Abigail Adams Amber Beer. She was a beer drinker and beer maker. Fermented beverages were popular at the time because water quality often was poor.
4. a. Franklin is described as a polymath by Wikipedia. He maintained a common-law marriage for decades with Deborah Read and, though a notorious flirt, did not marry others. Inventor of the lightning rod, flexible urinary catheter, and bifocal glasses, he was not known as a gambling man.
5. b. Bartlett wisely managed a diphtheria outbreak with quinine. Jed Bartlet (aka Josiah Edward) is a fictional TV character who claims descent in his mythical universe. And Bartlett pears are indeed nutritious, but...Josiah and the biome?
6. a. Amerigo Vespucci was an explorer and navigator from the Republic of Florence, raising again the issue of reclaiming Indigenous place names.
7. c. For more, see the National Women's History Museum website.