



APRIL 2024

# Argus

*League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter*



**University of Oregon President  
John Karl Scholz**

**League Speaker Series - APRIL 23**  
More information on page 4.

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

- Units discussing antisemitism (pg 2)
- All about Units (pg 3)
- Prez Parker presenting Prez Scholz (pg 4)
- League 101 and Table Talk (pg 5)
- Oregon and AI plus Democracy Book Group (pg 6)
- League outreach and Vote411 (pg 7)

## LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2023-24

### President

**TERRY PARKER**  
president@lwwlc.org

### Vice President

**DIANA BODTKER**  
vicepresident@lwwlc.org

### Secretary

**JEANNE TAYLOR**  
secretary@lwwlc.org

### Treasurer

**GARY HARMON**  
treasurer@lwwlc.org

### Action

**TERRY PARKER**  
action@lwwlc.org

### Argus Editor & Historian

**CHARLCIE KAYLOR**  
argus@lwwlc.org

### Development

**FREDDI WEISHAHN**  
development@lwwlc.org

### Mailing Manager & Office Manager

**LINDA FERDOWSIAN**  
office@lwwlc.org

### Membership

**RICHARD CUNDIFF**  
membership@lwwlc.org

### Nominations

**SHARON POSNER**

### Program

**SHARON AMASHA &  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN**  
program@lwwlc.org

### Public Relations

**LEAH MURRAY**  
publicrelations@lwwlc.org

### Technology Director

**RHONDA LIVESAY**  
technologydir@lwwlc.org

### Units

**MARJORIE MAXWELL**  
marjmaxwell@gmail.com

### Voter Service

**NANCY MILLS**  
voterservice@lwwlc.org

### Webmaster

**JUNE SEDARBAUM**  
webmaster@lwwlc.org

### Director

**RUTH SEEGER**  
ruthseeger1@lwwlc.org

# APRIL UNIT MEETING TOPIC

## ANTISEMITISM: AN OVERVIEW

### BY MARJORIE MAXWELL - UNIT CHAIR

All are welcome to any meeting but please notify the leader in advance.

#### April 8, Monday 1:30pm (in person only)

Anne Best's home, 3433 Olive Street, Eugene  
Discussion Leader: Nancy Mills, [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)

#### April 9, Tuesday 10am (In person only)

The Springs at Greer Gardens, 1282 Goodpasture Island Rd., Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Linda Ferdowsian, 541-579-1866

#### April 12, Friday. 10am (in person only)

First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St., Eugene  
Discussion Leader, Diana Grandberry, 541-342-8402

#### April 12, Friday, 1pm (in person)

Cascade Manor, 76 W 29<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene, in the Solarium  
Discussion Leader: Merle Bottge, 541-434-4191

#### April 18, Thursday 11am (hybrid)

Middlefield Oaks, 1500 Village Dr., Cottage Grove  
Discussion Leader, Cindy Sharp, 509-733-6034

### APRIL BRIEFING:

**April 2, 2pm**, LWVLC Office 175 W B Street, Ste E 2, Springfield  
For Zoom link: [office@lwwlc.org](mailto:office@lwwlc.org)

**Judith Baskin**, Philip H. Knight Professor of Humanities Emerita at the University of Oregon, our expert guest, will respond to questions related to the Everymember material.

Example: questions regarding antisemitism on college campuses.



### UNIT NOTES

- March Unit Attendance: 36 members and 21 guests participated in one or more discussions.
- May Unit topic/ meeting: Units meet at their own discretion. There will be no prepared Everymember study material.

## SUMMARY OF MARCH UNIT CHOICES

**Eugene Choice:** 33 members and five guests attended the March 8 Eugene Units Choice on Star Voting, presented by Sara Wolk, SASS and staff from Equal Vote. Attendees had an opportunity to vote, see how votes are counted using this method and ask questions. Pros and cons of this method were presented. After the presentation members were invited to ask additional questions and otherwise clarify observations of audience response raised during the presentation.

**Cottage Grove Unit Choice:** Three members and 16 guests attended the Cottage Grove Unit Choice on Disaster Preparedness, March 21 with Faye Stewart, Cottage Grove Public Works and Development Director, as the guest speaker. Director Stuart discussed the impact that the last ice storm had on the town and the surrounding area. The ice storm was the worst natural disaster to hit Cottage Grove in at least the past fifty years. Cottage Grove was without power and communication for six days. A major problem was the difficulty to transport the diesel needed to fuel much of the infrastructure. The experience gave the City Council, South Lane Rural Fire, and other cooperating agencies a sense of urgency to prepare for a seismic or other disaster. The city is seriously addressing water storage for the future.

## WHAT'S IN STORE FOR PROGRAM 2024/2025

### BY SHARON AMASHA AND LINDA FERDOWSIAN - PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS

Program is one of several ways the educational aspect of the LWVLC mission is fulfilled.

Four or five members form a committee, study a topic, and prepare material for unit discussion. Not only is it a great way to meet other members, but also laughter and sweets usually accompany our discussions.

This past year we have produced Everymember Material on Ballot Measures, Dark Money, the Shadow Docket, and Anti-semitism.

Members at the January units reviewed in detail our local positions and also made suggestions to our board for study topics for the coming fiscal year.

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. Our mission has been to educate ourselves and other voters since 1920, when the League of Women Voters was founded by leaders of the women's suffrage movement. **Program** is an important way that's done. We are a nonpartisan, activist, grassroots organization which believes voters play a critical role in democracy.

*Charlie Kaylor, Editor*

Those topics recommended by the board to be voted on at the annual meeting in May include:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) impact on democratic institutions,
- Electoral College vs. National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC),
- Impact of the rural vs urban divide on Oregon and Lane County politics,
- The pharmaceutical industry's control and the ramifications on the American public,
- The state of local news and journalism,
- Review and update of Violence in Lane County position.

The board has approved a committee to review the suggested wording updates proposed at January units. Those updates will then be submitted to the board for concurrence. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Sharon Amasha or Linda Ferdowsian, [program@lwvlc.org](mailto:program@lwvlc.org).

We hope you will join us in participating in the studies recommended for the coming year.

## YOU ASKED - LEAGUE GLOSSARY ON UNITS

**Units:** League discussion groups read Everymember Study Material then participate in respectful, diverse discussion based on research from verifiable sources. Combined results of unit discussions help to shape additional research or actions. All members and their guests are invited to attend any unit group or multiple unit groups each month to contribute ideas and questions. Members can vote at one unit each month.

**Everymember Material:** High quality research papers produced by a study committee made up of members interested in broadening their knowledge on a particular topic. Research comes from written papers, in person interviews and data bases. Everymember material is included with the *ARGUS* mailing or posted on the website @ lwvlc.org

**Unit Briefing:** Unit leaders meet with that month's Study Team to review Everymember Material and get answers to questions about the material. There may be extra reference material or an expert guest. Members are welcome to attend by ZOOM or in person. Briefing meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and are listed in the *ARGUS*, near the Unit meetings list. Expert guests are there as resource people to answer questions based on the Everymember Material, they are not there as a speaker.

**Unit Members:** Contribute to unit discussion, offering insight based on the reading, life experience, further research, and listening to others. Sometimes they suggest further action.

**Unit Host:** Coordinates with or provides the meeting place and sometimes refreshment rotation.

**Discussion Leader:** Communicates with unit participants, leads discussion using the study questions from Everymember study material, turns in a record of the discussion so it can be compiled with responses from all units.

**Resource Person:** Someone from the Study Committee attends each Unit to provide help answering questions and sometimes provide additional resources.

**Unit Chair:** Compiles notes from individual units and forwards them to the Program Director for further action.

Whether you think of it as "it takes a village" or "part of the hive," every member's participation is important to our success. No one can do it all. Everyone can do a little.

*Marj Maxwell, Units Chair*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES BY TERRY PARKER, PRESIDENT

### THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN

A special shout out to Board members that spent a beautiful sunny day, inside, setting priorities and discussing how to best focus the work of our League in the coming year. Then, spent a second afternoon attending to the nitty gritty of League business.

That is above and beyond planning for League 101, gearing up for voter education sessions, publishing a newsletter, keeping the office in good order, soliciting donations, connecting with members, balancing the checkbook, lining up speakers, hosting Table Talk and member discussions, and, well, you name it. How does it all get done? By wonderful volunteers. All contributions are most welcome! Find your niche.

### LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION

Registration is open now for the 56th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention in Washington, DC, and online, June 27 – 30.

We are looking for Lane League members who want to attend in person or online. New to the League or want to sit-in? Being an Observer is a great way to learn more about the League and to get energized about being part of this movement.

#### Delegate or Observer

Delegates have full access to all convention events and the ability to submit motions, debate, and vote on plenary items. Each League is allowed a specific number of delegates.

Virtual delegates will have the ability to submit motions, debate, and vote.

Observers have full access to all convention events and the ability to observe plenary. They are not permitted to perform any plenary actions.

#### Caucuses and Workshops

Local and state Leagues can host caucus and workshop sessions at Convention, with spaces available in-person and virtually.

Let any Board Member know if you are interested in finding out more.

### LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS U OF O PRESIDENT, JOHN KARL SCHOLZ

This month we have the great pleasure of hearing from University of Oregon President John Karl Scholz as our guest speaker on April 23rd. President Scholz is approaching the end of his first year as the 19th president of the UO. What is his vision and focus? What are the biggest challenges, and have there been successes?

We are counting on you to join us in welcoming Karl and Melissa Scholz at our April Speaker Series lunch. This will be the last event of this series until October.

From the UO Advocates newsletter, here's a rundown of UO's budget victories this legislative session:

- **\$2,013,423 – Semiconductor Workforce Training:** To expand and modernize training facilities at UO for workforce development related to the semiconductor industry.
- **\$951,236 – UO Law School Criminal Defense Legal Education:** To increase the pipeline of public defenders in the State of Oregon. For UO Law School, this will establish a new criminal defense clinic with Multnomah Defenders, Inc. as well as greatly expand our existing clinic with Lane County Public Defender Services.
- **\$1,000,000 – Just Futures Institute:** For conducting research to understand and address water needs of environmental justice communities and to award grants.
- **\$100,000 – UO Labor Education and Research Center:** For a study to research the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on the workforce.
- Additionally, the passage of **HB 4151** directs the System of Care Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee focused on identifying strategies to expand, sustain and diversify the youth behavioral health workforce. This subcommittee will support the work of the **Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health**.

To learn more go to: <https://www.uoadvocates.com/>

### LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS U OF O PRESIDENT, JOHN KARL SCHOLZ SPEAKER TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 11:30

The Community at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road  
LUNCHEON \$20, BEVERAGE/DESSERT ONLY \$5

Reservations due by Tuesday, April 16

TO RESERVE - Email to [contact@lwvlc.org](mailto:contact@lwvlc.org) or

Call League office at 541-343-7917



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY RUTH SEEGER, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: SOME HELP WANTED

Karen Bankston, Dana Fleming, Joan MacDonald, Suzanne Schindler, and Jennifer Yeh.

### THANK YOU

Abundant gratitude and special shout out to: **Committee members** who are doing fantastic work on behalf of our membership!

**Kathy Madison** for designing a great flier and post card for our upcoming League 101! (See below.)

**Mary Keating** for organizing and leading the League presence at the quarterly Naturalization Ceremonies!

**Barbara French & Janet Calvert** for calling new members as part of our "Reaching Out" initiative!

**Jen Allison-Keim & Rhonda Livesay** for re-designing the "sign up" sheet for 2024 community tabling events!

**Lynda Kamerrer** for volunteering to be the League Team Leader for set-up at the Oakridge Keg & Cask Festival coming up in August.

Judge Ann Aiken administered the Oath of Citizenship to 20 applicants from 10 countries on [March 21](#). She praised the efforts of the League and their commitment to registering voters.

**Terry Parker, Mary Keating, Laura Flanigan and Joan MacDonald** attended to pass out voter registration forms, *They Represent You* and Vote 411 cards.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 2pm League office  
For Zoom link: [office@lwvlc.org](mailto:office@lwvlc.org)



## TABLE TALK BY SHARON POSNER

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County works out of the offices of Eugene's Catholic Community Services. At our next Table Talk, we'll be talking about their many services, successes and ongoing urgent needs with **Christine Zeller Powell**, the director of Refugee and Immigrant Services.

Bring your questions and concerns on Wednesday, April 17 at 3pm, to The Community at Marquis, 565 Country Club Road.

Our League will participate in several community events in 2024, including the Black Cultural Festival, Keg and Cask Festival, PRIDE and Oregon Asian Celebrations, etc.

We are looking for a League team leader for each event. This person would be responsible for set up and take down of the League's pop-up tent, display table, chairs, etc. Duties will probably also include making sure enough voter registration forms, hand out materials, sign-up sheets, etc. are available and delivered to the venue. The Team Leader will not have to round up all the volunteers to staff the event nor with the Team Leader have to produce the materials. We just need a person that can commit to being available and responsible for the delivery/retrieval logistics. If this is something you can say "yes" to, or want more details, please email us at [membership@lwvlc.org](mailto:membership@lwvlc.org) !

## The League of Women Voters

Supports:

- An Informed Electorate • Unbiased Reports
- Speakers on Current Topics • Small Discussion Groups

Learn how you can make a difference at:



## League 101

Thursday, April 18, 5:30 pm  
Tsunami Book Store

Refreshments served 2585 Willamette St.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
of LANE COUNTY

RSVP: [membership@LWVLC.org](mailto:membership@LWVLC.org)

## LEAGUE HEROES

BY JUNE SEDARBAUM, WEBMASTER

I broadened my understanding of how our government works by watching a video replay of the testimony for SB1571 with the Senate Committee on Rules held on February 26, 2024. LWVOR Co-President Becky Gladstone testified in support of the bill. I came away surprised that the bill passed with so many of the details related to implementation not yet defined, and I am very glad we are doing something. It was passed by the House of Representatives on March 6, 2024. It is effective on passage. The following two paragraphs are quotes from the new law.

[Oregon SB 1571](#) "Establishes definitions for 'synthetic media' [artificial intelligence] and 'campaign communication.' Requires a campaign communication that includes any form of synthetic media to disclose that the image, audio recording, or video recording has been manipulated. Allows the Secretary of State (SOS) to institute proceedings for violations...upon proof of violation, to impose a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000, which will go to the General Fund..."

"Background: The [U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency \(CISA\)](#) states that Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled capabilities is a type of software that uses statistical models that generalize the patterns and structures of existing data to either reorganize existing data or create new content. This content can range from writing computer code, to authoring new text, to developing synthetic media such as video, image, and audio files."



These images of Presidents Trump and Biden knitting and picnicking were generated with artificial intelligence. They were included in the LWVOR written testimony. Copied from Facebook, posted on JAN 20, 2024.

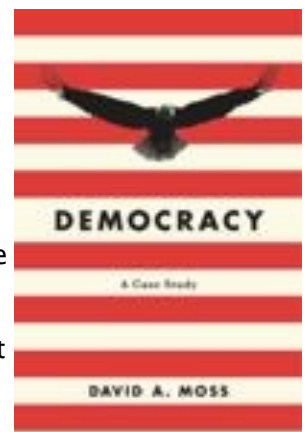
## DEMOCRACY BOOK GROUP BY SHARON AMASHA

The Democracy Book Group met and had an interesting and lively discussion regarding the *Battle over the Initiative and Referendum*. To combat backroom deals, corruption and unresponsive legislators, William U'Ren led the effort to pass the initiative and referendum into law in 1902. Oregon became the first state in the union to have direct democracy (that is the process by which voters, rather than legislators, propose laws and legal processes).

Using these tools, reforms were instituted that included direct primaries, direct election of senators, eight-hour workday for public employees, creation and funding of Oregon State University and women's suffrage, to name just a few.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, but that could change as we get closer to the date. We will be discussing *The Jungle and the Debate over Federal Meat Inspection*. This is incredibly relevant to today's world of massive chicken factories and the use of underage workers.

If you wish to join us, please contact [samasha@lwvlc.org](mailto:samasha@lwvlc.org).



## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### SPRING APPEAL

Please watch for our Spring Appeal letter to members and community supporters. LWVLC keeps only a small part of our membership dues, and we rely on the generosity of our very committed members and donors to keep our League a viable presence in Lane County. Your volunteer time alone (and we know the hours total in the thousands!) has enabled us to keep our office running without paid staff.

Our Office Manager, Linda Ferdowsian, our Webmaster, June Sedarbaum, and our Technology Director, Rhonda Livesay, work miracles with our limited resources to provide hybrid meetings and record our speakers and forums for access on our website. Communications advances have enhanced our outreach tremendously, and we must continue to upgrade our technology as necessary. Please help us Defend Our Democracy with a generous donation to the League in this most critical election year.

Ways to support us include:

- Direct your IRA contribution to benefit LWVLC, a non-profit 501©(3), and avoid paying capital gains on your distribution. Please check with your IRA administrator.
- Direct your bank to send us monthly checks to sustain us year-round while keeping within a budget.

You can provide a legacy for our League with a bequest. Please check with a financial advisor. A gift of twenty-five times your typical contribution, averaging at 4% interest, can help create an endowment, ensuring our mission will continue.

### GROWING OUR OUTREACH

We are very grateful for the donations and grants that have helped LWVLC reach out to marginalized communities, such as the AARP Oregon grant to print our publication, "They Represent You," in Spanish.



As we expand our outreach, we create partnerships and commit to continuing our connection with these communities.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund grant for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals has allowed us to provide hundreds of copies of information about voting rights and procedures to the Lane County Community Corrections Center, which has the capacity to house 500+ adults in custody. The materials will be viewable in postings and day rooms. Sponsors, Inc. has also approved the materials for their program, and we await approval from Lane County Parole and Probation.



Our grant team will get a tour of the Lane County Community Corrections Center on Tuesday, April 16 at 2 pm. Please call our office at 541-343-7917, or email me at [development@lwwlc.org](mailto:development@lwwlc.org) by April 10 if you would like to join us for the tour.

## VOTE411-ONE STOP ELECTION SHOPPING

BY NANCY MILLS , VOTER SERVICE CHAIR



For many of you, this might be old news, but the League of Women

Voters produces a digital voting guide called Vote411, which is basically one-stop shopping for the candidates and issues on YOUR ballot. You enter your address and a customized set of information that is relevant to your ballot is created for you. It will have the names and statements for all candidates running in the election from president down to local elections if the candidate has responded to questions from the League. One exception: if you are not registered with a political party, you will not be able to participate in any partisan primary elections and will not receive information about them. You can register with Vote411 by **April 30**. If you need to change your reg-

istration because you have changed your address or wish to change your political party so that you can vote in a primary, you will need to update your registration, which can be done on-line at MyVote Oregon or at the Lane County Clerk's office.

Vote411 also contains explanations of ballot measures, including the background of the measure, its predicted cost, and the statements of supporters and opponents. The information about candidates and ballot measures won't be available until April 15, but you can register at any time.

### VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 1:30 pm  
For Zoom link: [nmills@trinity.edu](mailto:nmills@trinity.edu)



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

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

## APRIL CALENDAR

No Action meeting in April

2 - 2pm, Unit briefing (page 2)

11 - 1:30 pm, Voter Service (pg 7)

8 to 18, Unit Meetings (pg 2)

9 - 2 pm, Membership (pg 5)

16 - 2 pm, Lane Corrections Tour (page 7)

16 - 1 pm, Board meeting

17 - 3 pm, Table Talk (pg 5)

18 - 5:30 pm, League 101 (pg 5)

19 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

23 - 11:30 am, League Speaker Series (pg 4)

### **Thanks to our 2023-24 Directory Advertisers**

*Lane Forest Products*

*Baker Bay Bead Company*

*Christine Dambach  
Farmers Insurance*

*Lohring Miller, DMD PC*

*Sundance Natural Foods/  
Wine Cellars*

*Unique Properties*

*Aayres Appliance Repair*

*Ambrosia*

*Art's Watch and Jewelry*

*Bel Ami*

*Campfire Collaborative  
Architecture & Design*

*Folkways*

*FusedGlass.Art*

*McKenzie Honey Farm*

*Mi Café*

*Pepperberries Kitchen Store*

*Plank Town Brewing Co.*

*Quality Cleaning*

*Shelton McMurphy Johnson  
House Museum*

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
ANNUAL MEETING ON  
SATURDAY MORNING MAY 18**

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

**MISSED A LEAGUE SPEAKER SERIES?**  
<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>  
**BRIEFINGS VIDEOS**  
<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>

**DONATE NOW**

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