



Argus

June 2018

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

REAL NEWS!!!

by Linda Lynch, President



The League email account received more questions about this primary

election than in the previous three years that that account has been forwarded to me. Some were questions about League positions on the appointed auditor proposal, on which we did not take a position. Most were honest inquiries about the process, what to do if you are not informed about every race, for example. I tried to respond quickly, simply and accurately, sometimes restating our mission that the League does not support or oppose either candidates or political parties. What was most surprising, however, was the number of quick thank you replies. People who took the trouble to write to a generic email account did in fact hope for an answer to their questions.

We should all appreciate the fact that people look to the League for answers. Despite the fact that what I wanted most to write was, *Read your Voters' Pamphlet*, I think we can also conclude that people trust the League to ask the right questions in the first place. What I want most to say to our members and other newsletter recipients is, **read the Argus and the Everymember material**. Everyone who contributes to the newsletter *hopes* people read it. Unfortunately, we cannot *assume* that is the case, and it is a constant challenge to figure out how to reach everyone with what you need to know to feel included in the League and its decision making.

This month, for example, has brought us the long-awaited news that our application for a change in our tax status to a 501 (c)(3) organization has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service, with an effective date of December 20, 2017. (the date our paperwork was mailed) LWVLC received

notification of this decision in a letter dated May 1, 2018. Pat Hocken, who led the work to request the change, writes:

The IRS determination has significant impacts for League members and donors from the effective date forward. Donations to the League of Women Voters of Lane County made after the effective date are deductible as charitable contributions for individuals who itemize deductions for tax return purposes. Similarly League membership dues paid after the effective date are generally deductible as charitable contributions.

Organizations that are tax exempt under IRC 501 (c)(3) must comply with IRS limitations on lobbying but can still conduct advocacy activities.

This is great news. We know that under the new tax bill fewer people will choose to itemize deductions. We also assume people donate to the League because they sup-

port our mission, with or without a personal tax motivation. Donors will be able to direct their contributions to certain work if they so desire, but that is next year's work. For now, we are able to consolidate previous as yet unspent education fund contributions - limited to voter service and education - with general funds that support operations and advocacy. This change in tax status should make it easier for donors; it should make the League more attractive when people consider their charitable giving, and it should make us eligible to apply for grants.

In other news, the League's increasing public profile has resulted in being invited to participate in activities or events, instead of accidentally learning about them at the last minute. Please see such events elsewhere in this newsletter! I would say no one will call you, but we might have to!

...our tax status to a 501(c)(3) organization has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service...

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Keli Osborn, Vice President

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2018-19

President
LINDA LYNCH

Vice President
KELI OSBORN

Secretary
JEANNE TAYLOR

Treasurer
RHONDA LIVESAY

Action
KAPPY EATON

Argus Editor
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Nominations
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Office Manager
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Program
GARY HARMON
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Public Relations
KATHY MADISON

Units
MARY KEATING

Voter Service
DARLA MCVAY

Gary Harmon, Program Committee co-chair

Why the League?

Simple, it's the people. The level of curiosity, thoughtfulness, energy, and passion shown by League members continually amazes me. Being part of an organization that has a positive influence on public policy is icing on the cake.



My hero of democracy? Harold Stassen, U.S. Presidential candidate, 1944, 1948, 1952, 1964, 1968, 1980, 1984, 1988, and 1992. The beginning of my interest in politics followed his 1964 campaign. This quote of his is as appropriate today as it was then: "Whoever kindles the flames of intolerance in America is lighting a fire underneath his own home."

Book recommendation? *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn. This book will challenge and perhaps change the way you think about history. Fun book—*Here is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History*, by Andrew Carroll

My superpower? I'm an insatiable reader.

Darla McVay, Voter Service Committee chair

Why the League?

I appreciate that the League is nonpartisan. I value an organization that is respectful of different viewpoints while seeking consensus based on research and actual facts as opposed to "alternative facts." Respect, civil discourse and education are all important to me, and the League represents this well. I look forward to learning from a group of experienced, passionate, and intelligent members.



A quotation that inspires me? "Motivation comes from working on things we care about." Sheryl Sandberg

Book recommendation? My favorite book is *Peace Like A River*, by Leif Enger. Narrated by an 11-year-old boy and set in 1951, it showcases a family wrestling with moral questions. The novel combines excellent writing, characters I care about, and a moving storyline. Somehow, it reminds me of another favorite: *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

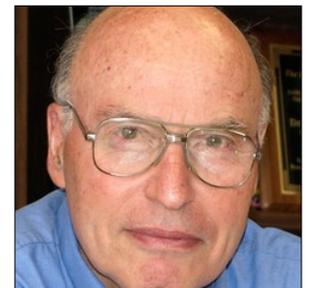
My superpower? I make really good cupcakes that make people smile!

P.S. FROM PAUL SLOVIC by Nancie Fadeley

Here's a postscript to the presentation Professor Paul Slovic made at our April Third Thursday when his subject was "Decision Making in a Dangerous World: Understanding the Psychology of Risk with a Boost from the League of Women Voters."

In an email, Professor Slovic tells us that he is looking forward to sharing his research in a country far, far away. Here is a copy of that email:

"I'm excited by an upcoming opportunity to give a version of my genocide talk in June at Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp. I hope to point to the need for a revolution in our thinking and actions regarding human rights. Another direction sparked by insights from the 1976-78 LWV study. Who would have guessed where that would lead?"



VOTER SERVICE NEARS 2018 MID-POINT

By Keli Osborn and Darla McVay

Since New Year's Day, our team has been chugging harder than the little train that could. Our efforts have included several voter registration actions, including recent participation in a high school job fair; candidate and ballot measure forums, including January's Measure 101 event at the Wildish Community Theater and April/May collaboration with the Spencer Creek Grange, and Eugene and Springfield City Clubs; and other outreach, including a conversation with high schoolers.

We've also been able to work with community allies from grassroots groups focused on voter registration and turnout, another way to learn and generate ideas. With PR Chair Kathy Madison's help, the League has used news releases, radio advertising and underwriting, and social media (Twitter, Facebook) to get the word out about voter registration and elections. LWVLC also continues to support naturalization ceremonies at the U.S. Courthouse with voter registration information.

As we've begun building our calendar for the next six months and identified opportunities (such a loaded word), we see room for support from many more League members and allies.

Here's a snapshot:

- June 2, MOMS Demand Action for gun safety event at Alton Baker Park. (contact Darla McVay, darlamcvay@hotmail.com)
- August 10 & November 16, naturalization ceremonies (contact Stephanie Winsor)
- September 25, National Voter Registration Day
- Targeted voter registration for high school students, residents of retirement communities, constituents of allied organizations, and special events
- Speakers bureau for November election ballot measures
- Candidate and ballot measure forums for November election
- Mock elections, high school & middle school
- Voter education using social media - how to register, how to fill out a ballot, why it matters

Special thanks to team members including Lee Farren and Paula Grisafi, newer to LWVLC, who join us: Darla McVay, new VS chair, Sharon Amasha, Flo Alvergue, Janet Calvert, Gary Harmon, Carol Hildebrand, Rosemary Isabell and Keli Osborn. (And Linda Lynch and Kathy Madison, too!)

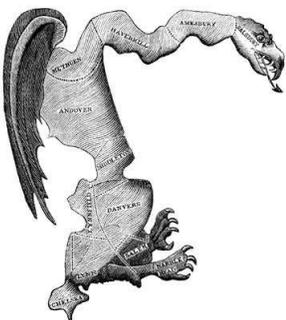
You don't need to attend a Voter Service Committee meeting to help out. Contact Darla: darlamcvay@hotmail.com And, if we don't hear from you first, we just might find you anyway!

**Voter Service
Committee Meeting
June 8, 2 pm
League Office**

GERRYMANDERING AND REDISTRICTING

JUNE 28, 5 pm
LIVE STREAM EVENT
Venue to be determined

Featuring Nick Stephanopoulos and Ruth Greenwood



Save the date! During the League of Women Voters of the United States biennial convention, there will be a panel discussion on redistricting, which LWVUS will live stream.

The panelists are Nick Stephanopoulos and Ruth Greenberg. Stephanopoulos is Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School and is one of the authors of the efficiency gap argument in front of the US Supreme Court on gerrymandering. See this at Vox: <https://www.law.uchicago.edu/>

Ruth Greenwood is senior legal counsel on Voting Rights and Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center in Chicago. She is also an Adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago Law School. Her focus is on redistricting, minority representation and youth voter registration--and you can find her tweets and articles on the vast interweb.

We are currently looking for a venue appropriate to the hour of the day and the seriousness of the topic, for a group viewing of the discussion. Save the date and watch for news of location. You could also host a viewing party yourself by registering for the live stream feed. LWVUS has a tip sheet for hosting a watch party. The national League web site can be cumbersome to navigate. Here is the address for the tip sheet:

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/conversation-redistricting-nick-stephanopoulos-and-ruth-greenwood-viewing-p>

Linda Lynch

LOCAL ACTION

By Pat Hocken, Action Co-Chair

Action Committee Meeting

June 6
9:30 am
Apt. 234
600 Waterford Way
Eugene

Please contact
Pat Hocken or
Keli Osborn
for more
information

All League members are welcome to participate on the committee that makes recommendations to the LWVLC Board about possible League advocacy on local issues.

Final Column

This is my final local action column because I am stepping down as local action chair and member of the board. Keli Osborn will be taking over the lead on local Action activities. I will be assisting her for several months by tracking local housing and transportation issues. Almost every month for the last 13 years I have contributed a column to the *Argus* as Program chair or President or local Action Chair. So it's time to take a break.

Election results

By now you will have heard the disposition of the four City of Eugene ballot measures. The results appear to be Measure 20-283 Elected Auditor - NO, Measure 20-287 Appointed Auditor - NO, Measure 20-288 Eugene Parks Levy - YES, Measure 20-289 Eugene Parks Bond - YES.

Housing

How to increase the availability of affordable housing in our community has become a key issue for many elected and other leaders. This is an extremely complex problem needing many complementary strategies to solve it.

The City of Springfield continues to work on encouraging the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in single family neighborhoods. It has adopted new standards for areas within the city limits. Its plan-

ning commission will meet with the Lane County Planning Commission to address standards in the area between Springfield's city limits and its urban growth boundary.

The City of Eugene has proposed a slower, two phase approach to encouraging ADUs, which the League will continue to monitor.

Eugene is also engaged in several planning efforts that were promised to commence as soon as the city's new Comprehensive Plan and urban growth boundary were acknowledged by the Land Conservation and Development Commission. After that acknowledgement, Envision Eugene continues with several elements, all of which will have opportunities for public involvement in the next two or three years. The Eugene Planning Commission agenda for May includes work sessions on planning for urban reserves, clear and objective housing standards, systems development charges, and the growth monitoring program. A River Road/Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan is also in development.

Transportation

There are several transportation initiatives being undertaken by local governments.

After a long pause, Moving Ahead is moving again. This joint project of Eugene and Lane Tran-

sit District (LTD) is focusing on potential transit and other active transportation improvements in five corridors in Eugene. The technical alternatives analysis is complete but does not indicate large differences between alternatives. There will be public engagement late this summer. It is anticipated that the governing bodies will select a package of investments - one for each of five corridors - by late this year or early next.

LTD has embarked on a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) dubbed "Transit Tomorrow" that will look at how LTD delivers services. Transit consultant Jarrett Walker has been hired for the project. The schedule includes two rounds of technical analysis alternating with two rounds of public engagement, initially on high-level community values and secondly on scenarios for future service. The LTD Board plans to adopt a future direction by the end of 2018, followed by implementation in 2019.

Other LTD activity includes forming a committee to recommend how to allocate about \$5 million per year in new funding from the 0.1% employee payroll tax approved by the legislature. There is also a project to consider ways to revamp the district's fare structure, in particular, to possibly provide free service to youth, seniors and people with low incomes.

STATE OF THE STATE

By Kappy Eaton, Action Co-Chair

Good news! The Washington Legislature has passed a bill providing funding to pay for the return of ballots to the Elections offices around the state. This has been discussed in Oregon but never enacted.



Nothing has changed with regards to Oregon citizen petitions (43), but the first date for filing signatures is fast approaching – May 25. There are 12

approved for circulation, and July 6 is the last day to turn them in.

See the May 2018 *ARGUS* for details.

Remember to ***Think Before You Ink.*** Consider whether you would vote for it, what it might cost, and what resources are required.

There are some interesting ballot issues around the country as reported in the *Ballot Access News*.

Bans on out-of-state petition circulators are the judicial subjects of several states. New Jersey and Pennsylvania Supreme Court rulings declared the bans unconstitutional. The ban in New

York is expected to be removed, and Montana has a lawsuit pending. Alaska and Arizona have recently lifted their bans, and Colorado is expected to follow. Oregon has no such ban, but circulators from other places are not encouraged. If these court cases are won, South and North Dakota will be the only ones with bans.

Oklahoma has passed a ballot access bill that will allow minor parties to be on the Primary and General Election ballots without having to have a certain percentage of members. Many other states have changed their access laws including Oregon, California, Alaska, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Nevada.

PRIMARY PUBLICITY REACHES HUNDREDS MORE

Kathy Madison, Public Relations Chair

This primary election, LWVLC reached more people than ever with our messages regarding how to register and the deadline to register to vote, watch for ballots, what to do if you don't receive a ballot, importance of issues on the ballot, location of drop boxes, opportunities to be informed, get-out-the-vote, and the deadline to vote.

To publicize these issues, we sent news releases and media notices, posted events on public calendars, posted messages on Facebook and Twitter, ran radio ads, and encouraged you to share our posts with your Face-

book (FB) posts (**now with 352 FB Likes, this is a powerful tool**). We also "boosted" some of our posts. Boosting is a method of advertising on FB. For a small fee, FB will send your message to your friends' friends and to all users that fit specific demographics. We targeted FB users age 18-65+ and their friends who live in Oregon.

We posted 11 election-related messages on Facebook between April 23 and May 15 and boosted five of them. *On average, the un-boosted posts reached 118 people while the boosted posts reached 436.*

Here are the specifics of our PR efforts:

RADIO UNDERWRITING

33 spots on KLCC (\$500) April 23-May 15
15 spots on UO station KWVA (\$150)
April 23, 24; May 14,15

NEWS RELEASES

Publicize candidate forums
Reminders of important dates

SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage folks to share LWVLC FB content with their FB friends

FB 1-2 posts per week April 20-May 15
Five boosted posts (\$40)

FB Event listings for forums
Twitter daily Tweets April 20-May 15

CALENDARS & PSAs

Posted info re: forums

Help the League message go viral!



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HAS AN ACTIVE SUMMER CALENDAR by Betty-Coe de Broekert, Chair

Summer is a busy time planning for summer and fall member events.

Preparations are underway for the September 20 Annual Membership Luncheon to be held at the Valley River Inn. Co-chairs of this event are Anne Best and Kathy Merwin-Gonzales along with Flo Alvergue, who will recruit League members to be table hosts. If you are interested in assisting with the luncheon or being a table host, please contact Anne, Kathy or Flo.

The second League 101, a conversation with League leaders about how to be a League member is scheduled for July 19 at the home of President Linda Lynch. All new League members will receive a special invitation to this event. If you are interested in attending or assisting with this conversation, contact Linda or Betty-Coe, membership chair.

Check your League Directory for contact information of the above committee members, or contact:
Betty-Coe de Broekert busybee78@comcast.net

The mentor program, under the leadership of Sharon Posner and Helen Beardsworth, has begun recruiting League members to sign up to be mentors. Mentors play an important role in helping new members become knowledgeable about the League. Contact Sharon or Helen for more information about being a mentor.

Other League members on the Membership Committee include: Cecelia Heykamp, Charlcie Kaylor, Nancy O'Kief, and Veronika Walton. President Linda Lynch and board member Kathy Madison serve in an advisory capacity to this committee.

**Membership
Committee Meetings
June 19 and July 17
2 pm
League Office**

CORRECTION: Last month's *Argus* Membership article misidentified committee member *Cecelia Heykamp*.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

It is hard to believe that there has been another high school shooting since our League was first contacted just a few weeks ago by **Moms Demand Action for Gun Safety in America**. The League has been invited to participate in National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Saturday, June 2, at Alton Baker Park, Shelter #1. The event is titled Wear Orange Day, with the public invited to attend between 11 am and 3 pm.



There will be a wall of remembrance with the names of people who have been killed by gun violence in Oregon, along with activities for both children and adults. Orange has been the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement since the shooting death of Hadiya Pendleton in Chicago, two weeks after performing at President Obama's Second Inaugural parade in 2013. After her death, her friends asked people to stand up, speak out, and wear orange to raise awareness about gun violence.

The public is invited, with hopes families will attend, bring a picnic lunch and participate in activities.

Linda Lynch

**Plan now for the annual Membership Luncheon
Thursday, September 20
Valley River Inn**

WATERSHED MOMENTS IN GOLD BEACH

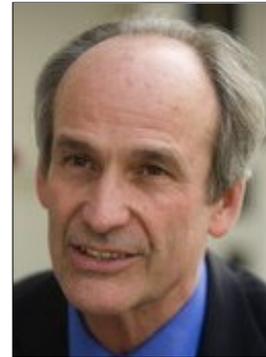
by Keli Osborn, Vice President

LWVOR's Council 2018 was held May 4-6 in Gold Beach. Linda Lynch and Keli Osborn joined League members from across Oregon for informative workshops and special presentations. A few takeaways:

State League advocacy is multifaceted—guided by experienced, savvy League members. In a lightning-round presentation, several talked about their state portfolios, from criminal justice and education to revenue and environment. Keep up with the news and find ways at <http://lwvor.org/>. Oregon's watershed councils offer a model of community-based, voluntary, non-regulatory collaboration in restoring and enhancing waters and lands for fish and native plants. Councils are diverse; some work in dense population centers, others in large rural ar-

reas. Councils are expected to have broad, balanced representation and viewpoints. A model that echoes the League's commitment to civil discourse and democratic participation. Planning's underway for the League's 100th Anniversary, with the Salem Convention Center reserved for a main event on March 28, 2020. Interested? Contact Robin Wisdom at rwisdom@jeffnet.org or call 541-672-6982.

Among presenters at the Council was former Oregon Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury, who recounted his work as an ex-legislator in developing the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) and watershed council pilot. Tapped early by Al Gore as a climate change speaker, Bill also spoke



on our climate reality: Hotter temperatures, stronger storms, ocean dead zones, fish die-offs, and more. Just the sort of talk that's depressing and inspiring.

For related, up-to-date information, http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/t/6398/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3766

COMMUNITY ADVISORS HELP US SEE BIGGER

The League benefits from the support and feedback we get from community members, including those on our Advisory Committee. Present at a meeting May 16 were John Stark, general manager of KLCC; Brittany Quick Warner, CEO of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce; Clair Wiles, North Eugene High School teacher; Joy Marshall, Stand for Children; and Brett Rowlett, community relations director for Lane Community College. Their questions and suggestions spanned finances, voter service, action and community networking.

They urged us to think about the League as **Defenders of Democracy**. Lane County returns for the May primary are unofficially at 36.1 percent. If voting is the cornerstone of democracy, what does this turnout tell us? How much does news about election interference, voting suppression and partisan gerrymandering affect us in Oregon? While there is general agreement that voter suppression may not be an actual current issue in Oregon, voters are nonetheless influenced by national media coverage of gerrymandered Congressional districts and news of other states backwards steps away from wider enfranchisement. These may have a trickle-down effect on voter turnout.

Our advisors are asking us to stand up for democracy and help rebuild confidence in democratic processes. Through Action, study issues thoroughly and think through consequences. Through Voter Service, reach people—including young adults—where they are. Set goals. Be creative. Work with partners. Keep at it.

Keli Osborn

STRONG WOMEN COME TO AAUW

By Carol Hildebrand



Jennifer Byers Chambers, local author of *Abigail Scott Duniway and Susan B. Anthony in Oregon; Hesitate No Longer*, will be the speaker at the **June 9** meeting of the Eugene-Lane Branch of AAUW. In 1871, Oregon suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway met Susan B. Anthony and persuaded her to come to Oregon. Jennifer Chambers tells the story of these strong women and their travels through the state, working for voting rights for women. Copies of the book will be available for signing and purchase.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 with refreshments and social time, then a business meeting. The program will begin at 10:30 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, corner of Coburg and Harlow Roads. The public is invited, and admission and parking are free.

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 100, Eugene, OR 97401 541-343-7917

For the latest information about League events,
meetings, positions and the Argus, visit our website
<http://lwwlc.org/>
Remember to "like" us on Facebook!

DONATE NOW

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

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

CALENDAR

JUNE

- 2 - National Gun Violence Awareness Day (pg. 6)
- 6 - 9:30 am, Action Committee - (pg. 4)
- 8 - 2 pm, Voter Service Committee (pg. 3)
- 9 - AAUW event (pg. 7)
- 19 - 2 pm, Membership (pg. 5)
- 20 - 1:30 pm, LWVLC Board meeting, League office
- 28 - 5 pm, Gerrymandering - location TBD (pg. 3)

JULY

- 6 - Argus (Summer issue) deadline - midnight!

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
11am - 1:30 pm

**Thanks to our
2017-18 Directory
Advertisers**

- Lane Forest Products
- Baker Bay Bead Co.
- Christine Dambach,
Farmers Insurance
- Eugene Hotel Retirement
- Unique Properties
- Aayres Appliance Repair
- Ambrosia
- Bel Ami
- Coburg Road Car Wash
- Dot Dotson's
- Eugene's Flower Home
- Long's Meat Market
- Studio d Hair Salon

**Please give
to a friend**

Mail the form and
check payable to
LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 W 11th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters of Lane County

Membership Form - July 2017 thru June 2018

- Individual \$ 70
- Household (two people at the same address) \$105
- Student \$ 20

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)