

Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

SO MANY TO THANK

by Charlcie Kaylor, President

*Who would have thought nearly two years ago we would still be in this state of affairs?
The League doesn't stand still.
Many thanks are owed.*

Terry Parker, Vice President and Action Chair.

Emphasis on Action. Most times she is a blur. If you pay attention, she isn't just calling us to action but attending civic meetings to report back to our membership and contributing to the larger community as well. As a small example of her work and energy, see page four.

Gary Harmon, Treasurer. Spreadsheets, credits, debits, balancing books, taxes, dues are the kinds of things most of us don't want to think about. We don't have to because Gary is doing it all very well and with great good humor. Chocolate helps.

Jeanne Taylor, Secretary. This lovely person makes sure we don't forget what we did at the last meeting or last winter with her complete but not too long meeting minutes. Supportive and there when you need her.

Freddi Weishahn, Development Chair. Goes clothes shopping and asks the store owner to support the League and voila another *Directory* ad sale. Gets her carpets cleaned – another ad. She's also led the drive for our League to purchase the *Democracy* books and to donate them to high schools in Lane County. Lots of give and take to Freddi, mostly give.

Karla Rusow, Membership chair. The job is a conglomeration of many different duties, but Karla, a very able newbie, picked up the baton and ran with it. See page three for her latest project.

Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair. You might have thought there would be less work on an "off" year. If so, you'd be forgetting redistricting. Many hours observing the Lane County redistricting process, she wrote a letter to the county commissioners, the Independent Redistricting Committee and county staff with an analysis of the resulting three maps. See that on page five and marvel.

Linda Ferdowsian, Program Co-chair and Office Manager. Ok, it would take too much room to list everything she accomplishes. Program alone is a big job. Majordomo of the office, she oversees (or

does) volunteer training, mailing, negotiating, and much, much more.

Rhonda Livesay, Technical Operations Chair.

A moment of silent thought about what our League would be without Rhonda. Fear and trembling come first then great relief knowing she's there. Beyond building and maintaining the website, she trains hapless members how to use Zoom and Google Docs. A miracle.

Special Teams

As hard as the board and chairs labor, the League work couldn't get done without teamwork.

Paula's redistricting team included **Freddi Weishahn and Linda Lynch.**

Linda Lynch, Keli Osborn, Pat Hocken and Janet Calvert.

These former LWVLC presidents step up in many ways. Their experience in the League and the community at large informs us all.

Katie Loughary and Nutty Fruit Loop Team

manage a more complicated than you'd think fund raiser. Their work brings in revenue for us and a ton (actually) of food for Food for Lane County. See the important change on page three. 

Kathy Madison was our Public Relations Chair had to step down. No other had used the media so successfully for LWVLC. Facebook, press releases, advertising and even Twitter! Her pièce de résistance is the display she put together for LWV's 100th anniversary.

Rhonda Livesay, Terry Parker and Nancy Mills

toil in the background as the backup on our Third Thursday webinars.

The proofers of the *Argus* are **Merle Bottge** and, starting now, **Carol Hildebrand**. They check grammar, spelling, usage, League policy and history, and make the editor and writers look good.

The astute and patient compilers and proofers of the *Directory* (coming soon), a tedious and fiddly job, are **Veronika Walton** and **Kim Weston**

It feels like the get-off-the-stage music is playing, and there are so many more to thank.

Thanks to all who advance the mission of the League.

UNITS

Mary Keating, Chair

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2021-22

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CHARLCIE KAYLOR
president@lwvlc.org

Vice President
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Secretary
JEANNE TAYLOR

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GARY HARMON

Action
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Units
MARY KEATING

Voter Service
PAULA GRISAFI

Website & Technology
RHONDA LIVESAY

Director
KATIE LOUGHARY

December unit meetings will be open discussion. Each unit will discuss topics that November attendees have suggested. If you would like to participate in the discussion of any or all of the topics below, contact the discussion leader for the link or further information.

Wednesday, December 8, noon
Middlefield Oaks, Cottage Grove.

Topic:

- Continued Discussion on Wildfires and include Disaster Preparedness.
- Contact: Cynthia Sharp, cynthiasharp01@gmail.com.

Friday, December 10, 2pm
Cascade Manor View Room.

Topic:

- *The State of Our Homelessness Crisis, An Overview of Lane County Homelessness & Recommendations from the Eugene Business Community*, a report published by the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

Full report at: www.eugenechamber.com listed under Community Development.
Contact Merle Bottge, mbottge@hotmail.com

Monday, December 13, 10am

Zoom. Topics:

- Forever Chemicals;
- Redistricting; and
- For the People Act.

Contact Nancy Mills, nmills@trinity.edu.

Monday, December 13, 2pm

Zoom. Topic:

- Discussion of STAR and Ranked Choice Voting.
- Contact Mary Keating, myrnalouise@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, December 14, 10am

Zoom. Topics:

- New maps for wards, cities, and county;
- Homeless Children and Youth in Lane County (services provided from Looking Glass, SVDP Family First Center, etc.);
- Rights for the unhoused;
- Land Use Codes and Eugene proposed changes (Middle Housing).

Contact Linda Ferdowsian, lferdowsian@yahoo.com.

Linda Ferdowsian

NO BRIEFING IN DECEMBER

PROGRAM

Linda Ferdowsian, Co-Chair

January units will be working on Local and LWVUS Program Planning. The December unit discussions will help target some local issues that we hope to study in 2022-23. These unit meetings will be your opportunity to express your interests for our future programs.

A new committee is forming to prepare the unit discussion material for April 2022. The study, which is for informational purposes, will be looking at the implementation of Measure 110, The Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, and the effectiveness of the Lane County Drug Court. If you are interested in working with this committee, please contact Linda Ferdowsian, program@lwvlc.org.

BREAKING NEWS: FRUIT AND NUTS DELIVERY DELAYED

by Katie Loughary, Fruit Loops Chair

Congratulations to all members! We have done a great job! We sold almost 400 boxes of fruit and bags of nuts, over a ton of which will be donated to Food for Lane County.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature strikes again, and torrential rains in Texas are delaying the grapefruit harvest. **Fruit and nuts will be arriving the third week in December, just in time for the end of year holidays.**

Watch your email for times, dates, location instructions. If you did not provide an email address, you will be receiving a phone call from our Nutty Fruit Loop Team.

Some of you may be able to deduct all or part of your purchase from your 2021 taxes.

- Letters verifying your purchase/donation will be available at pick up.
- If you purchase through the website, you received your tax information with your purchase receipt.
- Those who purchased for donation to Food for Lane County, but not for personal use, will receive an email or letter.

If you have questions, please text or call Katie Loughary at 541.393.8986 or email her at Katie_fruitloops@lwvlc.org

DEMOCRACY BOOKS

by Freddi Weishahn

In the last few weeks, Charlcie Kaylor and I shipped or delivered copies of *Democracy - A Case Study* by David A. Moss to the following twelve schools:

- Sheldon High School
- South Eugene High School
- McKenzie High School
- Lowell High School
- Pleasant Hill High School
- Crow High School
- North Eugene High School
- Creswell High School
- Willamette High School
- Harrisburg High School
- Oakridge High School
- Cottage Grove High School

Several of us took part in the annual Greenwich LWV virtual case study with Professor Moss on November 10th. We were impressed with the responses from the high school students who also attended, and found the discussion of states' rights in our early republic relevant even today. We are looking forward to an LWVLC case study lesson in late spring.

MEMBERSHIP CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Karla Rusow, Membership Chair

The November Committee meeting was not held due to some technical issues. However, we have still been able to do some planning for a tabling event. The details as I know them now are as follows:

WHAT: HOLIDAY MARKET

WHEN: SATURDAY and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 & 5

WHERE: LANE EVENTS CENTER, NORTH BUILDING

Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

10 am - 12 pm - Two people

12 pm - 2 pm - Two people

2 pm - 4 pm - Two people

4 pm - 6 pm - Two people

CONTACT: Karla Rusow, Membership Chair membership@lwvlc.org

Membership Meeting

December 21, 2 pm

League office and via Zoom

To receive the link

Contact - membership@lwvlc.org

Happy Holidays to all!!

by Terry Parker, Action Chair**Middle Housing Update****City of Eugene Land Use Code Amendments**

Remember when the Oregon State Legislature passed SB 2001 in June 2019, requiring large cities in Oregon to allow more housing types of all shapes and sizes to be built in more places? It is now near time to get those code changes on the books. The Land Use Code must be amended to allow middle housing in residential areas by June 2022.

In their approach the City of Eugene notes:

To move forward, we must first look back and acknowledge actions in the past that have harmed and excluded members of our community.

Residential Zoning has a complex history that resulted in exclusion of low-income, black, indigenous, and people of color from certain neighborhoods. In Oregon this history was especially harmful with direct exclusion of non-white people from the state from [1844 until 1926](#). Although those exclusions are illegal today, their negative impacts are still affecting our community through the legacy of exclusionary zoning. Housing policy and code changes are an opportunity to mitigate those.

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4244/Middle-Housing>

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 16th. You can watch the video yourself. Hear what many of your Eugene neighbors have to say.

[Eugene Planning Commission Nov 16, 2021 - Video](#)

The written record for the Planning Commission Public Hearing will remain open until Monday, November 29th at

5 pm. Your comments can be sent

to: middlehousingtestimony@eugene-or.gov

Upcoming Eugene Planning Commission Meetings
[To Watch Live - Planning Commission Webcasts](#)

- November 30, 2021, 5:30 pm
- December 7, 2021, 5:30 pm
- December 14, 2021, 5:30 pm
- January 11, 2022, 5:30 pm

The Eugene City Council will weigh in after the first of the year. Stay tuned.

Climate & Energy - Banning New Natural Gas Infrastructure. Did you catch this?

As reported by *The Register Guard*:

- Eugene officials took a small step toward banning natural gas in favor of electricity. The City Council unanimously voted Wednesday to hold work sessions to discuss changes to city code that would require all newly constructed commercial, residential and industrial buildings to be electric-only beginning Jan. 1, 2023.
- Councilors also voted 6-2 to have staff develop a road map to decarbonizing buildings in the city by 2045 and present a draft by June 30, 2022.
- Activists have been pushing city officials to ban new natural gas infrastructure and shift to electricity for more than a year as climate change has noticeable impacts in Oregon, including a scorching hot summer and larger, more intense wildfires.

A LONG ROAD - POST-HOLIDAY FARM WILDFIRE ASSISTANCE CONTINUES**by Terry Parker and Keli Osborne**

Many individuals, businesses and agencies (both local government and non profit) are working together to support those affected by the Holiday Farm Fire and other wildfires that occurred across the state in 2020 and 2021. During unit discussions in November, some asked how League members also might lend help. Even getting into safe and stable homes can take five to ten years. For some survivors the effects can linger much longer.

Below are several sources for more information. You may find organizations you are able to support with your own resources—from time to dollars.

McKenzie Rebuilds

<https://www.mckenzierebuilds.org/>

Website provided by Lane County Government with the mission “to help the residents affected by the Holiday Farm Fire rebuild and reclaim their community for current and future generations.” Site identifies educational resources, support services, and requirements for property cleanup, rebuilding, financial assistance, health and wellbeing, and more.

United Way of Lane County, Wildfire Response

<https://www.unitedwaylane.org/wildfire-response>

If you would like to support recovery efforts in the McKenzie Valley, United Way of Lane County has established a Wildfire & Heat Response fund.

<https://www.unitedwaylane.org/wildfire-report>

A web page and report documenting fundraising and investments, including key nonprofits that targeted assistance for food security, housing and more.

McKenzie Recovery

<https://mckenzierecovery.org/>

The McKenzie Community Development Corporation (McKenzie CDC) serves the unincorporated rural communities along the 60-mile McKenzie Highway from Springfield to the river’s headwaters. This non-profit sponsors McKenzie Recovery for “Rebuilding & Reuniting the Communities of the McKenzie River Valley after the Holiday Farm Fire” The Board of Directors of McKenzie CDC is made up entirely of volunteer McKenzie residents. The CDC also provides a Community Task Force made up of local residents.

1000 Friends of Oregon

<https://friends.org/>

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1974, 1000 Friends of Oregon works “with Oregonians to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas.” Focused on land use solutions, 1000 Friends leaders will serve on the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council charged with carrying out programs and activities under SB 762, Oregon’s first comprehensive wildfire bill.

LANE COUNTY REDISTRICTING FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT

Paula Grisafi, Chair

The Lane County Independent Redistricting Committee has presented its three final map options to the County Commissioners. From these the Commissioners will pick the next election districts for county commissioners.

The three maps that have been presented by the IRC have one thing in common. They all keep population variance to 1% or less. The largest difference was actually 1.02% and was in Map C. Therefore, all three do a good job of following the federal and state laws that require districts with equal populations. All three also seem to keep many major transportation routes as district dividing lines. Each has a summary of the rationale the map makers used to devise their district boundaries.

Since the public does not have access to the LCOG overlays, it is somewhat difficult to review the map makers' choices for communities of interest. To the extent that the makers boundary descriptions are included in their explanations and with further online searches for community, political, school district and water district boundaries, it is at least somewhat possible to see how different criteria were balanced. Access to the overlays, for example, for ward boundaries and school districts would have made public analysis of the makers' choices much easier and probably more accurate.

Map C does a good job of keeping community boundaries intact. For example, the River Road Community and Bethel School District are kept together within D4, while the Santa Clara Community is kept intact within D1. Springfield is kept together in D2, and the University District and the Whitaker District are contained intact completely within D3. The D3/D5 border follows the Eugene city southern boundary. It uses major roadways and rivers as district boundaries as well. The maker's explanation is clear and well presented.

Map J keeps the University District together in D3, although D2 is partly divided by Interstate 5. The River Road and Santa Clara Districts are divided with part of each in D4 and part of each in D1, however it may more faithfully follow school district lines. This map also splits up the Whitaker District between D3 and D4. The D3/D5 border also follows Eugene city's southern boundary. The written explanation was a bit confusing, but that may be due to not having the overlay information at hand.

Map Q, like map J, also divides both the River Road District and Santa Clara District between D1 and D4, again possibly following school district lines. As drawn, D3 contains southeast Eugene but not the city's area west of Willamette Street and south of downtown. It adds in areas south of Eugene including Creswell, Pleasant Hill and Dexter. This may not satisfy the standards in the Lane County Charter description for the D3 district. It also splits the Whitaker District among D3, D4 and D1. It seems to divide some of the communities like the Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association south of Eugene oddly between D3 and D5.

Your turn...

The maps are sufficiently different that there is a clear choice to be made among them. It will depend on what the Lane County Public and the Commissioners consider the more important criteria. It is time for you as county residents to weigh in on your election map preferences. You can see the maps at the Lane County government website. Go to www.lanecounty.org/cms/one.aspx?pagelid=17909115

to review the three options and let your commissioner know your choice.

Voter Service Meeting

December 9, 10 am

In the League office and
Via Zoom - To receive the link
contact voterservice@lwwlc.org



LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

380 Q STREET, Suite 250, SPRINGFIELD, OREGON 97477
541-343-7917

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

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

1 - 10 am, Action meeting (League office and Zoom - contact action@lwvlc)

4 - 10 am to 6 pm - Holiday Market table (see page 3)

8 thru 14 - Units (pg 2)

9 - 10 am, Voter Service (page 5)

15 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting

17 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

21 - 2 pm, Membership meeting (page 3)

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

**Thanks to our
2020-21 Directory
Advertisers**

Lane Forest Products
Baker Bay Bead Company
Christine Dambach
Farmers Insurance
The Eugene Hotel
Retirement Community
Lohring Miller, DMD PC
Plank Town Brewing Co.
Sundance Natural Foods/
Wine Cellars
Unique Properties
Aayres Appliance Repair
Ambrosia
Bel Ami
Dot Dotson's
Eugene's Flower Home
Folkways
Long's Meat Market

**FRUIT AND NUTS DELIVERY DELAYED
CHECK PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

MISSED A THIRD THURSDAY?
<https://lwvlc.org/third-thursday-audio-presentations/>
BRIEFINGS VIDEOS
<https://lwvlc.org/publications/everymember-details/>

DONATE NOW

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