

ARGUS



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY: WHAT AND WHY by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

Send in your reservation by January 5, and join the 2015 Legislature's conversation. Registration form on page six.

Register for the biennial LWVOR Legislative Process Day, which is scheduled for **January 13**. Is this something new, interesting, useful, different, worth my spending a day in Salem before the 2015 legislative session? First, it's nothing new. The state League has been conducting this type of member training in basic democracy for decades. The purpose is to help members and interested others understand how the Legislature functions and to illustrate how citizens can participate in state government. During prior events, legislators have presented their views on proposals they are supporting for session action as well as explaining how a bill becomes a law in Oregon. Also, there have been mock hearings to show how committees react to witnesses testifying on a specific issue which could be up for con-

sideration, both to show that process but also to present background information on the proposal.

For years, the Process Day was held after the November election, prior to the regular January opening of the legislative session. Now that the Assembly meets annually, the January activities in the Capitol have changed (see State Action Report page 3), and the League also is changing its focus. Instead of topic reports and hearings, this year's event will feature journalists who follow the Legislature's agenda for the public, the State Treasurer who will be involved in how the state uses its bonding authority, a panel of advocacy organizations explaining how they lobby, statements from the cosponsoring organizations about their priorities for the ses-

sion, and a short briefing on the Leagues' expected advocacy issues.

Speaking about their take on the upcoming session will be Peter Wong, representing 35 Oregon newspapers, Hillary Borrud, representing 11 newspapers, Chris Lehman, representing Oregon Public Broadcasting, and Taylor Anderson, representing the Bend Bulletin and Central Oregon. Co-sponsoring organizations include Oregon American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Center for Women Leadership, and NOW, the National Organization for Women. Advocacy representatives will talk about lobbying from their perspectives, representing Common Cause Oregon, the Oregon Conservation Network, and the Human Services Coalition of Oregon. Send in your reservation by January 5, and join the 2015 Legislature's conversation.

Third Thursday

JANUARY 15TH
Valley River Inn
11:30 Buffet
\$16 for lunch
\$5 beverage only
Free program at noon
Lunch reservations required by
JANUARY 12th
Reserve at League Office
(541-343-7917) or
League@lwv1c.org

THIRD THURSDAY BY NANCIE FADELEY

"Human Trafficking in Lane County"

At our January 15th Third Thursday, **Detective Curtis Newell** will discuss the basics of what human trafficking is and tell us about some local cases detectives in the Eugene Police Department have worked on. He will also provide tips on how to identify instances of human trafficking and what we can do if we observe it.



PROGRAM PLANNING - Flo Alvergue, Units Chair

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2014-15

President
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Vice President

Secretary
MARJ MAXWELL

Treasurer
PHYLLIS LOOBEY

Action
KAPPY EATON &
PAT HOCKEN

Argus Editor
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance
JANET CALVERT

Historian
GAYLE DOWNING

Nominations
CAROL HILDEBRAND

Membership
ANNE BEST &
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES

Public Relations
JENNIFER HAYNES

Units
FLO ALVERGUE

Voter Service
RHONDA LIVESAY

Monday, January 12

10 am - S. Willamette
430 E. 46th Ave.
H- Flo Alvergue 344-3430
C- Anne Best 343-5124

2 pm - Harlow Road
394 Cherry Drive
H- Barbara French 485-9090
C- Mary Keating 344-4889

Tuesday, January 13

9:30 am - Coburg Road
2135 Rocky Lane
H- Dorothy Cruickshank 342-2577
C- Linda Ferdowsian

Wednesday, January 14

10 am - East Eugene
555 E. 15th, Central Presbyterian
H- Stephanie Winsor 342-8243
C- Diana Grandberry 342-8402

Wednesday, January 14

Noon - Springfield Unit (See below)
Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Brown bag lunch
101 South A Street
H - Flo Alvergue 344-3430

2 pm - Cottage Grove/Creswell
Creswell Library
H- Gayle Downing 942-1858
C- Gary Harmon 767-1429

3 pm - S.W. Eugene
1375 Olive St., Apt. 606
H- Sally Weston 484-4404

Friday, January 16

9:30 am - Cascade Manor
Cascade View Rm, 65 W. 30th
C- Lorraine Abbott 434-4107
Frank Carlton 434-4140

ATTENTION: SPRINGFIELD MEMBERS

The new Springfield unit is meeting monthly at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. You have all been notified by US mail and email (when possible). I know you're out there, and wish you'd join us! The Chamber staff has joined in the discussion on ballot measures, human trafficking, and carbon emissions. Your input is needed on program planning and review of our local and state positions on Jan. 13th at noon, out next meeting time. Please join us and bring a friend. Questions? Call Flo Alvergue or the office.

This meeting only on Wednesday - Legislative Process Day conflict.

Unit Briefing

Tuesday, January 6, 3pm
Atrium - Sloat Room, 10th & Olive Eugene
All are welcome

JANUARY UNITS - Sue Boyd

It's January and - no surprise - time for our annual program units evaluating the various advocacy positions we have reached through our study and consensus process over the years. As always, we will be looking at our local positions and, this year, those of the state League in preparation for the LWVOR convention in May.

Brief descriptions of the local, state, and national

positions are included in our local directory. Please bring it to the unit meetings for reference.

Now is also a time to let the board know what topics you think might make for interesting meetings in the future. Both the December units on carbon emissions and the upcoming February units on health care in Lane County are based on subjects we have studied in the past and continue to follow.

If there is something you would like to learn more about, particularly if you are willing to help gather the information, this is an opportunity to bring up the idea and see if others share your interest.

At briefing we hope to have additional background information to give discussion leaders at that time.

MEMBERSHIP COFFEE, CHAT & CHEW

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday - 2 pm
January 28th

Upstairs at the
5th Street Public Market.

Questions or need a ride?
Contact Kathy Gonzalez
541-935-4081

ACTION - State of the State by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

Next Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am

January 7

1021 N. Pond Rd.

Eugene,

Kappy's home

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

A Look at the

2015 Oregon Assembly

The gavel will sound on January 12 convening the 2015 "long" Legislature (up to 165 days as required by the Oregon Constitution). However, the organization of the body has already taken place. Leadership of the House and Senate and the Democrat and Republican Caucus leaders have been chosen. Peter Courtney remains Senate President, and Tina Kotek continues as House Speaker. Rep. Val Hoyle of Lane County is the House Majority leader and Sen. Arnie Roblan, also Lane County, is Deputy Senate Majority Leader. All of the Senate and House committees and their chairs and co-chairs have been named, and the committee meeting schedule established. The three Legislative Days, January 12-14, will be devoted to mandatory training sessions, with no House or Senate sessions or committee hearings. This has been a particularly well organized use of The House, 60 members, has 35 Ds and 25 Rs. The Senate, 30 members, has 18 Ds and 12 Rs. During the three Interim Legislative Days in May, September and December, the committees discussed policy issues, heard reports from task forces and contracted projects, and had legislative concepts (LCs) drafted. When the Interim committees met in December, they sent selected LCs to the Legislative Counsel for actual bill drafting. This has been a particularly well organized use of interim time, from the March ending of the 2014 Annual session to the present.

A Specific Look at 2015 Issues

When the session actually begins February 2, hearings will begin on the LCs that have become bills, introduced in the House and Senate, and sent to specific committees. Below are the Governance legislative concepts expected to be heard in the House and Senate Revenue committees and those for the House and Senate Rules committees that are of League interest. Further into the session, there will be reports on Natural Resources and Social Policy League concerns.

Senate Rules Committee LCs:

- Secretary of State must conduct a review of the number of ballots returned by mail during the General Election received by county clerks after the election date. Due Sept. 15, 2015
- Clarification of the meaning of "district" as used in the Oregon Constitution, Article 1 (5)
- Secretary of State shall conduct a general review of a cross-nomination system for candidates for public office in Oregon. Study to include a study of the fiscal impact of implementing the system. Report to the Legislature by Sept. 15, 2015
- Changes ballot markings from "Presidential only," to "Federal only"

House Rules Committee LCs:

- Clarifies phrasing in definitions section for audit of computerized voting system. Related to voting machine or vote tally system involving computer use
- Allows a county vote on a date other than the four

currently specified in emergency conditions

- Gives nonaffiliated electors ability to vote in a primary election of the major party of elector's choice
- Requires signature gatherers or organizers of county, city or district initiative, referendum or recall petitions to register with the Secretary of State in the same manner as signature gatherers of state measures, unless otherwise provided by local government ordinance
- Defines a "qualified designated voter registration agency" that collects the necessary personal data for voter registration. Directs provision to send data to Secretary of State to then register to vote any nonregistered person who is qualified, with notification and opt-out notification

Senate Revenue Committee LCs:

- Extends 18 tax credits for 6 years including senior/disabled, child and dependent care, working family, long term care insurance, rural medical practice
- Modifies state collection process
- Modifies property tax deferral program eligibility
- Clarifies definition of food for purposes of crop donation credit

House Revenue Committee LCs: Sampling of 120

- Disconnects from all federal personal income tax deductions; sets new rates
- Requires goal statement for tax expenditures
- Increases cigarette tax
- Eliminates prohibition on county cigarette tax
- Establishes carbon emissions tax
- Rainy Day Fund into the Constitution

(Continued on page 5)

LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Lane Transit District Youth Pass *How Leagues Must Work Together*

The Lane Transit District (LTD) is seeking a \$2 million Oregon general fund appropriation for the 2015-17 biennium for a pilot project which would restore a youth pass program which previously provided free LTD passes to middle school and high school students. LTD formerly received \$1.2 million annually for a youth pass program through the Oregon Business Tax Credit. Since the credit and the program were eliminated in 2009, transit ridership at stops near public schools has decreased by 50%.

Objectives of a youth transit pass program are to improve student access to school and extra-curricular activities, decrease absenteeism and tardiness, provide access to summer programs and after-school jobs, and encourage transit ridership. Although some school districts now provide free transit passes to students who qualify for free and reduced breakfasts and lunches, it is a struggle for many families with slightly higher incomes to pay for transit passes for their children without any subsidy. Eugene School District 4J and Springfield School District both have had positive results with previous youth pass programs. Both districts could see significant savings from the LTD proposal, up to a total of \$500,000 for the biennium.

The board of the League of Women Voters of Lane County has reviewed this funding proposal and is very supportive of it due to the expected benefits for LTD, school districts, and students. However, because the funding would come from State of Oregon general fund that is appropriated by the Oregon legislature, the League of Women

Voters of Oregon must approve any advocacy by our local League. This protocol is necessary to ensure that two or more local Leagues do not deliver contradictory messages about a bill under consideration by the legislature. In similar fashion, a state or local League must seek approval of the League of Women Voters of the United States before testifying on a federal bill or regulation. Positions that will allow positive League testimony on this matter include our LWVLC transportation position, which states that "Public transportation is essential" and should receive public financial support and that "all possible methods and combination of method of financing should be explored." The national League position on preventing and reducing poverty considers the access provided by "energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems" to be a vital support service.

Lane County Public Safety Plan

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has approved a broad outline of a 10-year Public Safety Plan that coordinates activities in six areas: Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Parole and Probation, Youth Services, Treatment Services, and Reentry Services. The Plan is in response to revenue losses and related reductions in services that have left some public safety components operating with less than 25% of their 1979 staffing levels. The Plan identifies three phases to recover essential staffing to make the County safer for residents and visitors. Each phase includes strategies for all six public safety areas to create a "balanced" system.

Phase I covers the period from 2015 to 2018 and seeks to preserve current staffing and service levels. It is supported by the five-year local option property tax levy for jail and youth services that was approved in 2013. Phase

II covers the period from 2018-2022 with the goal of restoring capacity to handle felonies through investigation and prosecution. It also includes strategies to reduce parole and probation caseloads and to add beds for reentry, treatment, and youth services. Phase III covers the period from 2022 to 2025 with the goal of full restoration of all public safety services previously provided.

The implementation of the plan is dependent on finding revenue sources to support the activities. One option that will be explored is the creation of a county service district for public safety services. The creation of such a district could provide a new property tax base that would support additional staffing.

The League will continue to follow the fine tuning of the public safety plan and proposals for implementing the plan. A balanced approach that includes all aspects of public safety is supported by the LWVLC position titled Ending Violence in Lane County, which calls for intervention programs and coordination among social service providers, by the LWVOR position on Adult Corrections, which favors increased use of alternatives to incarceration including pre-trial diversion and treatment for mental illness and substance abuse and by the LWVOR position on Juvenile Justice, which favors prevention and diversion programs as well as custody that is treatment-oriented.

Lane County Vehicle Registration Fee

Lane County continues to consider placing a measure on the May 2015 ballot to adopt a countywide vehicle registration fee as permitted by a 2009 Oregon statute. As summarized in the last month's *Argus*, the proposed annual fee of \$35 would raise

(Continued on page 5)

ACTION CONTINUED

STATE ACTION

(Continued from page 3)

- Initiatives must specify funding source
- Eliminates non-corporate kicker
- Caps itemized deductions at \$20,000
- Eliminates supermajority requirement for revenue raising bills
- Removes limits on property tax rates/freezes rates for participants in senior deferral program

- Imposes tax on electronic cigarettes
- Extends same 18 tax credits as Senate Revenue Committee
- Adjusts tax haven list
- Amends Measure 50 to allow reset to market value at the time of sale
- Revenue neutral carbon tax with income tax reductions

- Modifies Strategic Investment Programs
- Increases Earned Income Tax Credit

Looks like a very busy and, hopefully, productive session.

LOCAL ACTION

(Continued from page 4)

about \$11 million dollars annually. Under the provisions of state law, the county would receive 60% of the amount collected, and the incorporated cities in the county would receive 40% of the collections with each city's share determined by relative population. The county's 60% share, estimated to be \$6.5 million annually, would be used solely for road and bridge maintenance and public safety improvements, although other road-related uses are allowed by state law.

The County has sought input from its incorporated cities, and eight of the 10 cities contacted so far have supported placing such a measure on the ballot. County staff has been directed to prepare an ordinance that will have a first reading on January 6 and a second reading and public hearing on January 27. The League sent an e-mail to the Board of Commissioners encouraging them to provide more detail in the measure about which road facilities would be worked on because most citizens don't know which roads the county has responsibility for.

At its meeting on January 7 the Action committee will discuss whether to recommend to the LWVLC board that the League support the vehicle registration fee.

Envision Eugene

On December 10 the Eugene City Council received the city staff recommendation about the amount and location of acreage to be included in an expansion of the urban growth boundary (UGB) for jobs, school, parks, and single family homes to meet projected growth in population and employment. The City Council will hear citizen input on the recommendation on January 20 before the Council determines what options to formally adopt in a process that will culminate in early 2015 in parallel actions by the City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

The staff recommendation for a jobs expansion area is for 495 acres near the airport and Clear Lake Road, which would provide land for 11 employ-

ment sites ranging in size from 10-100 acres. The Clear Lake Road area would also see a UGB expansion for 54 acres owned by the Bethel School District as a site for a new school and 258 acres owned by the City for a park. There is also proposed expansion for a park of 35 acres in the Santa Clara area.

The staff recommendation for a UGB expansion for single family homes includes two pieces:

- 60 acres near Bailey Hill and Gimpl Hill roads to accommodate 135 homes and
- 230 acres near Bloomberg and McVay Roads and LCC to accommodate 400 homes.

The Action committee at its meeting on January 7 will discuss what testimony to recommend to the League board. As part of our information gathering, we have invited Mia Nelson of 1000 Friends of Oregon to the meeting to share her perspective on the UGB proposal.



Hazel Foss was 101 years old when she died on November 9th. She was a school teacher, a gifted painter, a world traveler, a book lover (she read lots of them), a poet in her later years, a "dangerous bridge player" and an LWVLC member who seldom missed a Third Thursday. She also was an Alaskan homesteader.

Hazel was always eager to learn new things. Her obituary described her as one who "relished good books, good films, good food and good company..." Among her families' special memories are hikes they took together in Alaska as they joined her in appreciating the beauties of nature.

Nancie Fadeley

VOTER SERVICE NEEDS YOU

By Rhonda Livesay - Voter Service Chair

Voting is the most important action done by a citizen in a democracy. Knowing what you are voting for or against requires active participation from citizens. Our League has a responsibility to educate and inform voters in our community.

Presently, we are working on *"They Represent You."* This brochure includes all the newly elected officials,

their positions, emails and phone numbers as well as other government numbers and information. The brochure is distributed widely around the county and we're already getting calls in the office for requests.

In the next two years, we will be holding debates or forums for multiple candidates. We will need to examine ballot measures to educate our voters.

The Voter Service Committee has a huge responsibility and we need your help. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Fox Hollow Residential Care, 5320 Fox Hollow Rd at 2 pm. Join the fun and help us in educating and informing our neighbors. Check the League website calendar for changes. www.lwvlc.org.



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY HIGHLIGHTS

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler Issues Panel Discussion
Journalists Panel Discussion
Action Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session

To register and pay on line go to <http://www.lwvor.org/take-action/legislative-process-day/>

Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form by Monday, **January 5, 2015**

Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!

Name: _____

Organization affiliation (member of sponsoring org): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch:

\$24.00 per person

Workshop only:

\$15.00 per person

Parking Pass:

Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for **\$15.50** (\$15.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee. I have included my mailing address. Please note that the cost has gone up for these parking passes. Carpooling can help with this cost.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **January 5, 2015**.

Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Register Early - Room Capacity is Limited

LWVOR Convention 2015 - Rhonda Livesay, Chair

May 1-3, Valley River Inn

We are well into the planning of our state convention. There is a strong possibility that on the evening of Friday, May 1, we could have a surprise guest speaker that I am sure you will want to hear. It has not been finalized, so I cannot be specific.

Watch the *Argus* for more.

Remember that we will need your help. Committee chairs are calling members now for volunteers. Here are the committees and chairperson:

Registration: Carol Hildebrand
Credentialing: Pat Hocken

Hospitality: Kathy Merwin-Gonzales
Dine Around: Flo Alvergue
Public Relations: Jennifer Haynes

If you would like to volunteer in any of those committees, contact the chair person.

YOU DID IT AGAIN! By Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

The citrus fruit sale was a great success. League members bought and sold just over 300 boxes of fruit, which translates to about \$3,000 that will help finance League's programs, advocacy and voter service activities.

Fifty-four community and League members purchased 76 boxes of fruit to benefit the League of Women Voters and provide much appreciated citrus fruit that FOOD for Lane County will distribute to needy families. Acknowledgement of the value of the donation to FOOD for Lane County will be sent by January 15.

Members of the Fruit Loop Committee worked hard to make this an almost flawless sale. This year the Leagues of

Lane County, Corvallis and Lincoln County combined their orders, which resulted in a greater profit margin. We didn't have snow or impassible roads. We learned that the League office is an ideal distribution site and that investing in two workers to unload the fruit is worth the investment.

A very special thanks to Fruit Loop Phyllis Loobey, aka LWVLC treasurer, who during October deposited all fruit sale checks and the membership checks and worked on the Directory and tracked the finances associated with our 75th Anniversary celebration.

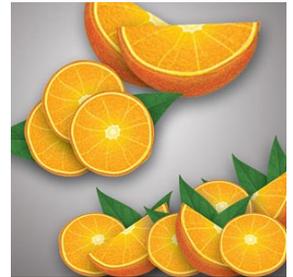
Mary Keating created the very helpful lists of buyers, which made it easy to track who bought what and who

needed reminders to pick up their fruit boxes. Marj

Maxwell processed the mailing, organized the fruit for easy accounting and Dan Maxwell helped unload the fruit. Barbara French arranged for the unloading crew, and Linda Roe staffed several shifts during distribution. Merle Bottge, Sharon Posner and Sally Mills also helped with planning and fruit distribution. They all deserve a big

Thank You.

This is an efficient team, but we can use additional Fruit Loop members to keep the fruit sale a delicious way to support our League.



Please give this to a friend



Thanks to our
2014-15 Directory
Advertisers

Lane Forest Products

Baker Bay Bead Co.

Eugene Hotel Retirement

Aayres Appliance Repair

Dot Dotson's

Eugene's Flower Home

Long's Meat Market

Studio d Hair Salon

Unique Properties

As a member of the League, you will receive the monthly newsletter from LWVLC (*Argus*), which has information about our monthly and unit meetings, and the quarterly newsletter from the Oregon League (*Voter*).

Mail the form and check payable to LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 West 11th Ave, Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters of Lane County

Membership Form

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address) | \$97.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual after February 1st | \$32 |

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (for League use only) _____



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
league@lwv1c.org
Lwv1c.org

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Legislative Process Day
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January 5, and join the 2015
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CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 5, Legislative Process Day registration deadline
- 6, 3 pm - Unit Briefing, Atrium (see page 2)
- 7, 9:30 am - Action committee meeting (pg 3)
- 12, Third Thursday reservation deadline
- 12 - 16, Unit meetings (pg 2)
- 13, Legislative Process Day (pg 1)
- 15, 11:30 am - Third Thursday
- 21, 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 23, Midnight - Argus deadline
- 28, 2 pm - Membership "Coffee, Chat, & Chew" (pg 2)

SAVE THE DATE

May 1-3, 2015, LWVOR convention in Eugene (pg 7)

The League office is open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
11am - 1:30pm
Closed January 19th - MLK Day

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.