

ARGUS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Linda Lynch

Beginning my tenure as your League president presents many new challenges for me, the first of which is this column! I am sure everyone knows it has been a while since I was active in the League, but I have been a member since 1972, first serving on the board sometime later in the 70s and the state board in the early 80s.

Like many others, when my children were school age, I re-entered the work force, but in a much different way from where I started. The change was due almost entirely to my League experiences. I often think of that time of working on League issues as my first graduate degree program. In the League I learned how to analyze policy, how to assess political situations, how to read and to write budgets, and how to use "calendar" as a verb. I also was able to meet many elected officials, from city councilors to state and federal representatives and senators.

I left active League work

to work in a (losing) U.S. senate campaign, and subsequently in several other campaigns, for individuals and on ballot measures. After securing an actual master's degree in public affairs, I worked at the state legislature, then in government relations at the city of Eugene for 12 years and at Lane Transit District for eight years.

I love talking about that work and telling stories from a time when earmarks were possible, but I am struck now that there are still so many issues for the League to address. After lobbying reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 1981, who would have thought new challenges to voting rights would be emerging now. I wouldn't have predicted that access to basic services as well as higher education would have become so difficult or that decades after passage of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, we would still be defining their value. Or that political campaigns would have become so corrupted by



big money, that our immigration system would be so broken.

Our challenge is to continue to pay attention and to remain disciplined in our analyses. I am so lucky to chair an organization with so many people doing so much good work so continuously.

I hope you will remain committed to our shared goals (and that no one resigns from anything!).

I hope we can grow our visibility.

I hope we can increase our numbers and decrease our average age.

I hope you will feel free to steer me, admonish me, encourage me and keep us all well informed and thinking critically.

VOTER SERVICE - Rhonda Livesay, Chair

Voter Service Committee members **Rhonda Livesay** and **Janet Calvert** assisted the Bethel Temple Church with its pastoral election. Betty Snowden also assisted with the final count.

Elleen Levy helped residents of Crescent Park Senior Living register or update their voter registration. Nineteen citizens registered. Thank you, Elleen, for your help.

We will be needing other volunteers to help at other retirement homes in the fall. In October, we will be registering students at the U of O. We are looking forward to an exciting fall.

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2015-16

President
LINDA LYNCH

Secretary
JEANNE TAYLOR

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

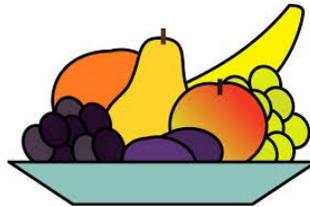
Program
LINDA FERDOWSIAN &
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Public Relations
JENNIFER HAYNES

Units
FLO ALVERGUE

Voter Service
RHONDA LIVESAY

THE TASTE OF SUMMER by Janet Calvert, Finance Chair



Enjoy the wonderful fresh fruit of Oregon this summer. Think strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, rhubarb (actually a vegetable), cherries, and then the peaches, apples and pears and more.

Just a reminder that in October and November you can extend the fruit season by ordering oranges and grapefruit during the League Fruit Sale to extend the fruit season and benefit the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Thanks for your past support.

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Best & Kathy Merwin-Gonzales, Chairs

The date of Chat and Chew has been changed from May 26 to June 2.

We will meet at the upstairs food court, Fifth Street Public Market, at 3:00 p.m. The topic will be the University of Oregon's PR campaign as well as other current issues relevant to the U of O.

Hope to see you there. Bring a friend.

WANTED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER

The office manager is appointed by the President of the League of Women Voters of Lane County.

- The office manager is responsible for:
- Ordering or purchasing needed supplies
- Recycling the paper found in the recycling wastebasket
- Maintaining a list of office workers.
- Checking to see there are office workers scheduled
- Training new office volunteers
- Keeping the office relatively neat.

REWARD

Helping the local League perform smoothly.
Contact Linda Lynch, President - lindalynch28@gmail.com

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

Next Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am

June 10

1021 N. Pond Rd.

Eugene

Kappy's home

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

It shouldn't be a surprise to Oregonians that, after six years of slowly recovering from a recession, the improved revenue stream during 2013-15 will trigger the implementation of the Kicker law. First adopted by the 1979 Legislature, the legislation mandates that at the end of any biennia when there will be a two percent surplus in the projected General Fund revenue, the additional dollars must be returned to the personal and corporate taxpayers. The economic forecast given by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis and the Legislative Revenue Office May 14 predicts a 10.4% increase growth in the state's revenue from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 - approximately \$477.5 million.

In 2000, voters supported a constitutional amendment referred by the Legislature that put the kicker into the Oregon Constitution, thus requiring a vote for any change unless 2/3 of each legislative chamber agrees to suspend it. In 2012, voters did support the measure to put the corporate income surplus into the general fund for public education, so the current surplus of \$61.3 million will aid K-12 funding for 2015. However, the personal income tax surplus of \$477.5 million will be returned to tax payers as a tax credit when they file their 2015 income tax return in 2016, creating that deficit in the 2015-17 biennial budget.

While the dollar figures may change after the close of the 2013-15 biennia, the projected 2015-17 General Fund/Lottery Fund is \$17,755.8 million. Employ-

ment and wages are up across the state, including rural areas. The state's reserve funds have grown substantially with the Education Stability Fund at \$179.3 million; the Rainy Day Fund at \$212 million; and with addition of General Fund reserves, a total of \$894.7 million. The already adopted K-12 budget of \$7.25 billion will receive an additional 40% share of the expected surplus, but education supporters say \$200 million more is need to avoid teacher and program cuts. As expected, higher education, human services and expiring tax credits advocates are clamoring for some of the money. There is likely to be a battle between those legislators seeking to still cut back and those who would like to fund additional priorities. Stay tuned for the debate in the final weeks of the session.

Governance Issues

The National Popular Vote Compact, **HB 3475**, passed the House, 37-21, on May 18. When implemented, the Compact would ensure that every person's presidential candidate vote would be counted and included across the 50 states and the District of Columbia, thus electing the person actually receiving the most votes and eliminating the Electoral College "winner take all" count. The League agrees that this is as close as possible right now to the LWVUS position of direct election of the President. The bill hopefully is headed to a Senate committee for discussion. CONTACT YOUR SENATOR NOW AND REQUEST THAT THE BILL BE SCHEDULED FOR A HEARING!

Two redistricting bills have passed to the Senate floor. **HB 2974B**, requiring that 10 statewide public hearings on any reapportionment plan must take place, passed the House, 53-5 on April 17, and the Senate, 28-1, on May 20. **SB 331**, which directs the Department of Corrections to determine the last place of residence for all prison inmates and to send the information to the Secretary of State for purposes of adding the names for local census population counts, is awaiting Senate discussion.

SB 9B which passed the Senate, 30-0, was passed by the House Rules committee May 21, and sent to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government for discussion on the fiscal implications for the Secretary of State's (SOS) office. The measure directs the SOS to implement a performance audit of state agency public records retention and disclosure practices, with analysis and recommendations on specific criteria for dealing with the records. The report is due November 15. Public records are important to the public's right to know, and the overhaul is critical.

The Governor has requested two ethics bills which were part of her legislative package when she was Secretary of State. **HB 2019A** calls for an increase in membership for the Oregon State Ethics Commission from seven to nine persons as well as shortening the time frames for Commission actions after receipt of claims and decisions on action. House Rules passed the bill and referred it to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government which added

(Continued on page 5)

ACTION - Local

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Moving Ahead

Moving Ahead - Streets and Places Re-imagined is a cooperative partnership of the City of Eugene and Lane Transit District to determine how to improve the main streets that connect neighborhoods, shopping areas, and places of employment. Moving Ahead will prioritize projects that will improve travel by transit, bike, walking or mobility devices so that projects can efficiently move to design and construction. It will use a system-wide approach and will focus on key corridors identified in Envision Eugene, Springfield 2030, LTD's Long Range Transit Plan, and the Regional Transportation Plan. The corridors are Highway 99, River Road, 30th Ave/LCC, Coburg Road, Valley River Center, Randy Pape Beltline, and MLK Jr. Blvd/Centennial. It is expected that the Eugene City Council and the Lane Transit District Board of Directors will select up to four corridors in Fall 2015 to advance toward project development.

The first step in soliciting community input was a series of workshops held at the end of May. Citizens can also provide input until June 5 by "attending" a virtual workshop and completing an on-line survey for any of the corridors. The survey includes questions about important destinations on the corridor and barriers to getting around. Respondents will also be asked to evaluate the importance of various design options such as wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes, transit improvements, center turn lanes, and on-street parking. Information and the survey are found at the project website, www.MovingAhead.org. The link to the virtual workshop

and surveys are found on the home page in the "What's Happening?" section.

Update on BEST

BEST was organized as Better Eugene Springfield Transit in 2012 to support the West Eugene EmX route in collaboration with many individuals and groups such as transit riders, bike advocates, the Chambers of Commerce, and the League of Women Voters. BEST has recently completed a strategic planning exercise to determine the organization's mission and goals in the future. BEST's mission statement has been stated as follows:

In line with the Envision Eugene and Springfield 2030 visions for compact growth, BEST's mission is to promote a thriving, equitable, and sustainable Eugene-Springfield area with a world-class network of safe, practical, and affordable options for people of all ages to walk, bicycle, and ride the bus. BEST pursues this mission by educating the public, convening community leaders, helping forge consensus, and advocating in the public interest.

For the next three years, BEST is focusing on three goals related to better transit:

1. **Public Outreach:** Increase public understanding of and support for our regional transit network: bus rapid transit + regular bus + walking/biking connections.
2. **Regional Transit Network:** Promote the regional transit network our community needs.
3. **Transit Funding:** Support equitably funding the regional transit network our community needs. To be viable, our regional transit network must get us from door to door—safely. In

the wake of the recent tragic deaths of three children crossing Main Street in Springfield, BEST is adding a fourth goal:

4. **Vision Zero:** Advocate for reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero.

The League looks forward to continuing to work with BEST on land use, transportation, and transit issues.

Envision Eugene

The Eugene City Council has not yet determined which population forecast to use in completing the twenty-year growth plan for the city. As described in last month's Argus the city may continue to use the population forecasts adopted in 2009 which have been the basis for all the analysis, community outreach, and council direction for the entire Envision Eugene process or may switch to the forecast recently issued by the Portland State University Population Center that will be finalized by June 30, 2015. City staff believes that using the new forecast will delay plan adoption by two plus years because of the need to redo much of the analysis, seek updated public input, and revisit previous Council policy directions such as the housing mix.

League expects to comment in favor of completing the process with the earlier population forecast, but we are seeking further information from city planners. Since 2011, we have testified six times on various aspects of the plan. It is expected that the plan will be adopted in late 2015 or early 2016 if the original population forecast is used.

THIRD THURSDAY WITH LCC PRESIDENT SPILDE - Sue Boyd

Dr. Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College, discussed “Challenges Facing Community Colleges” at May’s special Third Thursday event. Chief among her concerns are the financial issues confronting public higher education in Oregon and community colleges in particular.

“These are tough times right now at Lane,” Spilde said. State support has dropped and an increasing percentage of the budget is coming from student tuition. More expensive tuition means more student loan debt for low income students and, she feels, also requires the college to examine whether its vocational programs are meeting employer needs, so that students will be able to find jobs to pay that debt. However, a proposal recently approved by the LCC Board to drop two programs and revamp a third has proven controversial.

While the Legislature is still considering its options for higher education funding, Spilde said, “Oregon needs to get its act together.” She feels we are failing the next generation of students and expressed frustration with the state’s kicker provision which is currently projected to return more than \$475 million to personal income tax payers. (During the Q and A session at the conclusion of the program, Kappy Eaton, LWVOR governance coordinator, reminded members that the Legislature could vote to keep the kicker, rather than return it to tax payers, with a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.)

In an era of declining public investment and the growth of outcomes-based funding, community colleges are being asked to measure the success of their programs, Spilde said. Metrics such as the number of degrees and certificates earned by students are increasingly required, a trend which she described as counter to Lane’s traditional values of

equity, inclusion and access. Lane has many non-traditional students, in some cases working full-time, who may require more time, resources and services to achieve their goals. She feels focusing primarily on the awarding of degrees and certificates is contrary to Lane’s mission to serve as the community’s college, providing educational opportunities for a diverse population with varying needs.

An example of LCC’s reach in the community came at the end of Spilde’s talk. Dorothy Cruickshank asked how many in the audience had either worked or taken a class at Lane, and just about everyone in the room raised their hands. She also pointed out that she often receives funding solicitations from the University of Oregon and Oregon State University but has never received one from Lane and suggested that should change.

State Action Continued

(Continued from page 3)

\$200,000 for establishing an electronic case management system to the Commission to facilitate the timelines. It’s now awaiting action in the full Ways and Means committee before heading to the House floor. HB 2020 would change the definition of “public official” to include the First Partner, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and Commissioner of Labor and Industries and prohibit acceptance of any money or consideration for presentations or public speaking.

HB 2007A, which makes it an employer crime to discriminate against an employee who requests wage information or who files a wage complaint, passed the House, 34-24 on party lines, and has passed from the Senate Workforce committee to the Senate floor on May 20.

HB 2006 which required equal pay for equal work (gender equity) has “died” in the House Business and Labor committee.

Women’s Health and Wellness Issues

SB 759B requires all public and private colleges and universities to adopt a written sexual assault protocol. It must ensure that victims of sexual assault will receive the necessary services and protection. It passed the Senate, 28-0 on April 22. The House Higher Education committee passed it to the House floor where it is scheduled for a vote May 26.

SB 492 allows the use of vacation and sick leave time by victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking or harassment. The Senate passed it, 28-0, and the House Business and Labor committee sent it to the House floor on an expected vote on May 26.

SB 525B prohibits the possession of firearms or ammunition by persons who have a court order regarding an intimate partner or child, or have a conviction of harm to a family member. The Senate Rules committee sent it to the Senate floor where it passed, 24-6 on May 21. The House Judiciary committee has scheduled a hearing on June 1.

Climate change is the emerging natural resources discussion, after the various agency budgets. HB 3470 is a comprehensive bill that would require the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules regarding the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits for the years 2020 and 2050, with interim rules every five years. The Commission must adopt a plan and a program to ensure that the statewide emissions limits are being met. The Department of Environmental Quality would administer the plan and program with required regulations and reporting. Timelines are established for adoption of the various rules. A public hearing and a work session have been held in the House Rules committee, after initial hearings in the House Environment committee. Another work session is scheduled for May 27.

Please note: Since this report was written on May 23, many changes may have occurred to specific bills by the time you read it. If you are interested in finding out what has happened, please go to OLIS <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1> select “Bills”, then the House or Senate bill number for the current history.

MEETING OUTCOMES - Sue Boyd

The outcome of some actions taken at our League’s annual meeting depended on what happened at the League of Women Voters State Convention. The results are now in.

Convention delegates supported the consolidation of the functions of LWVOR and LWVOR Education Fund into a single organization which will apply for tax status as a 501(c)3. That means all contributions to the new organization will be deductible, not just those to the Education Fund.

Based on current Internal Revenue Service policies, it is not anticipated the change will adversely affect our advocacy efforts, a concern for some.

Because of the state League’s new tax status, our League Board will appoint a bylaws review committee to recommend a course of action to our members. As approved at Annual Meeting, our League proposed a resolution asking the LWVOR Action Committee to review the state position on single payer health care. Though it failed to pass, the proposal generated much

discussion and highlighted members’ interest in the topic. The primary reason for the “no” votes seemed to be concern about the Action Committee’s existing workload.

Delegates approved a new study on the impact of hard rock mining in Oregon and an update to our existing Election Methods study. Contributors to our silent auction raffle basket will be pleased to learn it went for \$150. We also sold about two dozen tee shirts.

KUDOS from Robin Wisdom, LWVOR President

LWVOR Convention 2015 was a success from the viewpoint of networking and getting together with fabulous people and friends from around the state, meeting new League friends, and hearing speakers of depth on important issues. All fourteen Leagues were represented. The facility, Valley River Inn, also got great reviews from people who spoke to me. The hosting Lane League’s Convention Committee was more than good, they were great! They made a beautiful presentation, contingencies were covered, and everything went smoothly and according to plan. Thank you, **Rhonda Livesay**, who served as our main Convention committee convener, organizer, and facility contact, for superb guidance and for being a ‘smooth operator’! Thanks also to **Susan Tavakolian**, president of the LWV Lane County.



Photos by Barbara Carter



Norman Turrill, LWVOR President



Tavakolian, Gladstone & Duemler



Kappy Eaton



US Representative Peter DeFazio

QILANE

FOREST PRODUCTS

in Glenwood!

3 locations to serve you!

Eugene:
2111 Prairie Road.
Springfield:
820 N. 42nd Street.

Glenwood:
3409 Franklin Blvd.

We are pleased to announce Lane Forest Products has a new store on Franklin Blvd. in Glenwood!

Our new Corner Store offers the great Mulch, Compost, Soil, and Rock selection you know and love; by the Bag and in Bulk!

New to Lane Forest, and only at our Glenwood location is a premium selection of flowering plants, shrubs and trees, curated by our knowledgeable staff to add dazzling color to your landscape each month of the year!

You can always expect the best price, along with exceptional service. We look forward to seeing you!



Glenwood Live Goods
laneforest.com



MULCH

COMPOST

SOIL

ROCK

Same Day Delivery
Blower Service
Yard Pickup



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
League@lwvlc.org
Lwvlc.org

CALENDAR

JUNE

- 2, 2 pm - Membership committee mtg. (5th St. Market)
- 2, 3 pm - Chat & Chew (5th St. Market)
- 10, 9:30 am - Action committee meeting (page 3)
- 18, 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office

JULY

- 15, Board retreat
- 31, Summer Argus deadline

AUGUST

- 12, 10am - Voter Service committee meeting

Office Summer Hours
Monday and Thursday
11am to 1:30pm

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.

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) _____	