

# ARGUS

## BOARD NOTES

### NON-PARTISAN POLICY by Sue Boyd

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Brace yourself - the 2014 election season is upon us. With our emphasis on voter service, it's always a busy and visible time for the League. Not surprisingly, in today's fevered political environment our insistence that we are active but non-partisan is sometimes met with skepticism.

But nonpartisanship is our defining characteristic and has been for almost a century. Soon after the League's founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy is part of the bylaws of every League at

every level and continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the din of party politics.

We do want our members, as individuals, to be active in political parties and issues. In fact, our mission statement stresses informed and active participation in government. League members are encouraged as individuals to contact their legislators regarding League priority issues. Members, of course, are always free to take action on any topic, as long as it is clear that they are speaking as individuals, not for the League SEE BELOW (i.e., they should not mention that they are League

members in their communications).

For board members, the story is a little different. As LWVUS notes, some basic limitations on board members' political activity, while they are serving in that capacity, are necessary to protect the non-partisanship of the League as an organization. Further, to ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, each League's board of directors is responsible for drafting and carrying out its own nonpartisanship policy/reflecting its particular community and for

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Third Thursday

**MARCH 20**

Valley River Inn

**11:30 Buffet**

\$16 for lunch

\$5 beverage only

**Free program at noon**

Lunch reservations required by

**March 17th**

Reserve at

League Office

(541-343-7917) or

League@lwv1c.org

## THIRD THURSDAY

Our speaker will be General Manager of the Lane Transit District,

**Ron Kilcoyne**

His subject will be  
**"LTD, The Role of the Payroll Tax & Future Funding"**

*Nancie Fadeley*



Lane Transit District

### LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2013-14

**President**  
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

**Vice President**  
MARY KEATING

**Secretary**  
MARJ MAXWELL

**Treasurer**  
PHYLLIS LOOBEY

**Action**  
KAPPY EATON &  
PAT HOCKEN

**Argus Editor**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Finance**  
JANET CALVERT

**Historian**  
GAYLE DOWNING

**Nominations**  
STEPHANIE WINSOR

**Membership**  
ANNE BEST &  
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES

**Public Relations**  
RHONDA LIVESAY

**Units**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Voters Service**  
ELLEN MADDEX

## UNITS - Charlcie Kaylor, Chair

### Monday, March 10

10 am - S Willamette  
90 Westbrook Way  
(Block beyond 46th)  
H: Barbara Greenley 684-9127  
C: Anne Best 343-5124

### 2 pm - Harlow Road

394 Cherry Drive  
H: Barbara French 485-9090  
C: Mary Keating 344-4889

### Tuesday, March 11

9:30 am - Coburg Road  
2135 Rocky Lane  
H: Dorothy Cruickshank 342-2577  
C: Rhonda Livesay 228-4373

### ALL WEEK - On line

In pajamas - at midnight?  
Contact Charlcie 541-686-0124  
charlcie@efn.org

### Wednesday, March 12

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

### 2 pm - Cottage Grove/Creswell

Cottage Grove campus of LCC  
H: Gayle Downing 942-1858  
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

### 4 pm - S.W. Eugene

2365 W. 23rd Avenue  
H: Pat McDaniels 343-4728  
C: Sally Weston 484-4404

### Friday, March 14

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

### Unit Briefing

Tuesday, March 4  
3 pm  
Atrium - Sloat Room  
10th & Olive Eugene  
All are welcome

## AGRICULTURAL CONSENSUS, Part II - Pat Hocken

At March units, we will address the final five consensus questions for the update of the Agriculture position of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Members will receive Everymember

material containing questions 7 - 11 and related readings drawn primarily from a report authored by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Maryland, Inc.

March will complete our unit discussions of agricultural issues for this program year. However, as you will read elsewhere in this Argus, we have the opportunity for an interesting tour in May to further our knowledge.

## LWVLC COMPUTER by Rhonda Livesay, PR chair

The League is considering the purchase of a computer system. This will enable us to keep all our pertinent files in a central location. Office help will have access to our website to answer questions. Membership data and all historical data will be in one place. We are looking for one or two people who would be willing to help us input data and to keep the computer up to date. Much could be done at home and then transferred to the computer via flash drive. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Rhonda Livesay, phone 541-228-4373 or email to [livesayr@comcast.net](mailto:livesayr@comcast.net).



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

### Food for Thought

Can the Legislature really accomplish much in 35 days? Trying to discuss, debate, understand all the issues and consequences, and take action on more than 200 bills between February 3 and March 4 (determined by leadership for the end but can go to March 9 legally) is daunting, exhausting and nerve wracking for everybody involved. Should every legislator be allowed to introduce two bills, and every committee, three? Should there be subject limits? **SJR 201** is constitutional amendment to increase the short annual session by ten days, to 45, and reduce the longer session by ten, to 150 days. The Senate Rules committee heard the bill but did not discuss it - not enough time! It probably will resurface in 2015 along with many other proposals that also needed more time.

*NOTE: All of the following bills are in a state of flux and captured in a slice of time (2/21/14). For the latest, google OLIS (Oregon Legislature Information System) and click on Bills.*

### Fiscal Policy

The state economist reported the March Economic Forecast to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Revenue committees on February 12, indicating stable, steady, LOW growth for the foreseeable future. As a state, Oregon is not coming out of the recession as it has in the past, although there are economic investment improvements now beyond the Portland metro area in Bend, Medford, Salem, and a few rural areas. Eugene and the coastal re-

gion are still struggling. The good news was that the kicker refund is not projected to be operation for either personal or corporate tax payers this biennium.

### Revenue Issues

The League has been following several revenue measures. These remain in play:

Still on the table is **HB 4113**, the Columbia River Crossing proposal. The 2013 legislative action to put \$437 million into the project if Washington did the same would be repealed because Washington did not act, but allow Oregon to work with the federal government and its dollars to complete the project which is considered crucial to Oregon business interests. After heated public discussions in the House Transportation and Economic Development committee, the bill has been sent to Ways and Means with a likely demise.

**HB 4005**, with House Revenue committee amendments that completely replace it, adds to the number of electronic (E-Commerce) zones allowed in the state (from 10 to 13), reinstates the Manufacturing Energy Business Tax Credit, caps at \$1 million, and sunsets January 1, 2016.

### Election Issues

**SB 1544**, relating to the Citizens Initiative Review Commission, changes the Commission makeup, changes the panel meeting time from five days to a minimum of three and up to five (total of 24 hours), and provides that any Commission compensation will be established by rule. The League testified in support.

The Senate has passed the bill, and it is in House Rules and expected to pass.

**SB 1504** is the omnibus measure from the Elections Division to revise, change or correct Oregon's election statutes. The League supports this bill which has been passed by the Senate and is in House Rules.

### Post-Secondary Issues

**SB 1524B** has passed the Senate, is now in House Higher Education and is expected to pass. It directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to examine the viability of a program to allow students who have graduated from an Oregon high school, or completed grade 12, to attend a community college for a specified period of time without paying tuition and fees.

**HB 4019A** is in Ways and Means after passing out of House Higher Ed. It would require all higher education institutions to provide students, prior to enrollment, with information on program requirements, costs of education, loans, average salary or wages, loan default rates and related data.

**HB 4018A** replaces the original bill and changes the date when any of the four regional institutions of higher education can request having an institutional governing board to May 15, 2014 and gives the power to accept or refuse the state Board of Higher Education. This proposal also is in Ways and Means.

### Social Policy Issues

Affordable Health Care Act implementation has been a priority for both House and Senate Health committees. **SB 1526A** requested a waiver

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Action Meeting

March 5

9 a.m.

(NEW TIME)

175 S. Garden

Way

Any League member is welcome to attend.

## LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair



The City's budget committee continues to work on the budget for the FY15 budget year that begins July 1. It conducted two public hearings in January to receive citizen input on possible service reductions due to insufficient revenue. League president Susan Tavakolian submitted testimony based on League positions.

In late February the city manager presented his strategy for the FY15 general fund budget, and the budget committee will continue its discussions at

three meetings in March. In April, the budget committee will receive the city manager's FY15 Proposed Budget and begin its formal review.

In addition, a Revenue Team has been formed to analyze 23 potential revenue strategies that would provide significant new revenue, be likely to be accepted by the community, and could be implemented in the next year or two. The Revenue Team has 15 members, including budget committee members and other citizens. Its work is to be completed

by March 31. The 23 potential revenue strategies included a wide range of options such as a business license fee, a local option property tax levy, a restaurant tax, and a motor vehicle rental tax.

The League is following these deliberations by reading budget materials and attending meetings or watching them on Government Access channel 21. If you have questions about the City of Eugene overall budget or particular details, please contact me.

***It was with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Miriam as co-president.***

To the Board of Directors of League of Women Voters Lane County,

After much consideration and thought, and discussion with board members, League and non-League members, I have decided to resign from the LWVLC board. As part of the conversations, other roles on the board were suggested to me, but I have decided to resign. It was a difficult decision because I like and admire the board members and respect the objectives of the League. I look forward to seeing you at League functions. I'm sorry to have disappointed you.

Sincerely, Miriam Aiken

### STATE ACTION - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

to allow subsidies for children at 200-300% of the Federal Poverty Level. **SB 1582A** extended the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool to cover patients who have not found private coverage in the new system. **HB 4050A** regulated small group insurance under 50 employees. **HB 4137** forgave student loans for primary care doctors, and **HB 4109** requested a Basic Health Study on financing health care. The latter two bills are in Ways and Means. The focus has been



on the technology problems in Cover Oregon implementation.

### Natural Resources Issues

Regional Solutions (**HB 2620** in 2013) is now in **HB 4015**. We continue our interest in service delivery around the regions and the concern regarding criteria for the priorities. The bill is in the Ways and Means Transportation subcommittee.

The drought is affecting Oregon and causing more

discussions related to water rights. A report on the status of **SB 839** (2013) dealing with water storage was presented to the Natural Resources subcommittee of Ways and Means. As a result, the Willamette and Deschutes Basin/water studies are to be funded.

## NEW DATE FOR OUR FIELD TRIP

by Lois Taylor

Remember the government shutdown that shut down our October field trip? We have rescheduled and our new date is Thursday, May 8. Since our study focus this year has been local agriculture, we're planning to see two outstanding agricultural sites.

We'll be traveling on an Experience Oregon bus, which will be paid for with our education funds. The bus can accommodate people using walkers, but unfortunately cannot manage wheelchairs.

We will stop first near Corvallis to tour a "seed bank," the National Clonal Germplasm Repository. They are a repository for seeds that could one day be critically important. There are also laboratories, greenhouses, and fields for studying disease resistance and crop variations, and for developing strains of crops. It is a federally funded facility, and they are glad to publicize the important work happening there.

The second stop will be a large organic farm, the Gathering Together Farm near Philomath, for lunch

and a tour. Lunch (for \$15) will be prepared by their own chef from their farm produce. (But you're welcome instead to bring a brown bag.) The tour will show us large greenhouses, fields, and harvesting and shipping procedures. Their produce is shipped to restaurants and farmers' markets from Portland to Eugene.

We'll get more details later as the date gets closer, but do RSVP to save your seat on the bus. Reserve at League Office (541-343-7917) or [league@lwvlc.org](mailto:league@lwvlc.org)



Some of the living pear diversity preserved at the National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Corvallis.

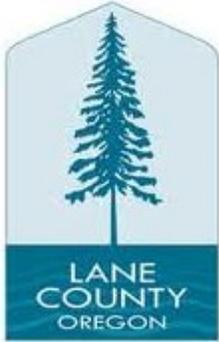
## ANNOUNCEMENTS - Susan Tavakolian, President

**The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference** will be held at the University of Oregon School of Law, Feb. 27 - Mar. 2. LWVOR will have a table at the conference to advertise our natural resource positions, our water and coastal water studies and to network with other groups. Admission is free; if you can help staff the table on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please contact Robin Wisdom at [r.wisdom@lwwor.org](mailto:r.wisdom@lwwor.org). The schedule of events is attached.

***Reminder that April is unit choice month. Be thinking about what you would like your unit to do.***

**The Mental Health Interest Group** has been meeting monthly at the Garden Way Retirement Center; however, attendance has been very low. So we want to know whether this group should continue and would like your feedback. Please email me and let me know whether you would participate in this group in the future. Would you be interested in a luncheon brown bag meeting? Thanks for your feedback.

## UPDATE OF LANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT POSITION



As we all have noticed, Lane County Government has been in the news frequently in the last 12 months. Thus it is very timely for the League to continue the update of its statement of position on county government. At units in May we will further consider two issues about the county charter that were touched on in prior meetings.

The issues are  
 (1) The existing charter assigns legislative and executive authority to the board of commissioners. Another option is the county manager structure in which executive authority is vested in a county administrative manager who reports to the commissioners.  
 (2) Currently each commissioner is elected by the residents of the geographic district he/she represents. Another option is to continue to elect each commissioner from a geographic district but by polling all county voters for each seat, that is, at large elections.

A committee is being formed to research these issues and prepare a report for member discussion. If you are interested in this short term project, please contact Pat Hocken as soon as possible at 541-343-1138 or [jphocken@comcast.net](mailto:jphocken@comcast.net) for more information. All League members, new or seasoned, are welcome to participate in this effort.

**Pat Hocken**

### BOARD NOTES

*(Continued from page 1)*

seeing that both members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan role.

Now, after spirited discussions, our LWCLC board has adopted a revised nonpartisanship policy. In the introductory paragraphs to the newly drafted policy, the board defines what is meant by nonpartisanship in the League:

*The spirit of nonpartisanship is exemplified by being actively and honestly nonpartisan.*

*For League purposes "partisan activity" may be defined as activity that supports, opposes, or participates in a campaign, or engages in a task that is identified in the public mind with a candidate or political party. This should not be interpreted to limit League action when a League position happens to be similar to that of a candidate or partisan group.*

The policy goes on to state that "in all cases, the undertaking of partisan activity by a Board member must be brought to the board's attention before that activity is undertaken." In addition, a board member may not be a candidate for public office during her/his term. If the member decides to be a candidate after accepting a board position, she/he should resign at once and the League should see that statements explaining the resignation are immediately made public.

The most restrictive guidelines apply to the president and voter service chair. They are required not to take part in political campaigns either for candidates or for non-League issues. Limited financial support of candidates and non-League issues is permissible. They may attend gatherings for the purpose of meeting candidates for office but shall not engage in any activities at these gatherings that imply endorsement of a can-

didate or that support a measure in conflict with League positions.

Other Board members may participate in political campaigns for candidates or non-League issues provided that:

- a. The Board member exercises good judgment to preserve the League's commitment to nonpartisanship; and
- b. The Board member clearly states to the campaign that she is participating as an individual and her/his involvement in no way conveys League endorsement; and
- c. The Board member does not accept a paid position with such campaigns; and
- d. The Board member does not take a leadership or public role with such campaign.
- e. League leaders who are identified in the public eye as such are asked to refrain from partisan political activities on behalf of parties or candidates.



# FUN - RAISER



The Membership Committee, in the pursuit of fun and entertainment, is planning a theater "fun-raiser," a Fred Crafts' Radio Redux production of "My Man, Godfrey" on Sunday, April 13th, at 2 pm. The performance is at the Wildish Theater, 630 E. Main in Springfield. According to its website, Fred Crafts' Radio Redux "dials up mystery,

comedy, nostalgia, and chills," and is in its fifth season as a Wildish Theater resident company.

The show will run 1 1/2 to 2 hours, and attendees may want to gather for dinner at the Plank Town Restaurant, two blocks down from the theater, after the show.

We have a block of tickets reserved, so hurry to order yours at the great price of \$15. **Deadline is for ordering is March 30.**

Call Flo Alvergue at 541-344-3430 to order and seek more information.

**Flo Alvergue**

## HELP CELEBRATE KAPPY'S BIRTHDAY !



On March 9, Kappy Eaton, a 60 year League member, a tenacious League lobbyist and a caring person who is always willing to do what is necessary turns 90 productive years old.

You have an opportunity to celebrate with Kappy at a no host luncheon honoring her on Thursday, March 13 from 11: 30 -1:30. The lo-

cation will be determined based on the number who indicate they will attend the event.

If you wish to attend, call the League office to reserve your place **by March 7**. We will email or call to tell you the place of the luncheon. If you have a favorite story about Kappy, be ready to share it.



**Janet Calvert**

*Thanks to our  
2012-13 Directory  
Advertisers*

*Lane Forest Products*

*Baker Bay Bead Co.*

*Eugene Hotel Retirement*

*Home Force*

*Osher Lifelong Learning  
Institute of U of O*

*Aayres Appliance Repair*

*Dot Dotson's*

*Kopi-O Cafe*

*Long's Meat Market*

*Studio d Hair Salon*

*Unique Properties*

**Please give this  
to a friend**



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 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) \_\_\_\_\_



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

EDUCATING VOTERS

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## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 4, 3 pm - Unit Briefing (page 2)
- 5, 9 am - Action meeting (pg 3)
- 7, Birthday reservation deadline (pg 7)
- 10-14th, Unit Meetings (pg 2)
- 13, 11:30 am - Birthday Party! (pg 7)
- 19, 1:30 pm - LWVLC Board Meeting
- 20, 11:30 am - Third Thursday
- 25, 2 pm - Membership meeting - League office
- 30, Fun Raiser deadline (pg 7)

### APRIL

- 13, 2pm Radio Redux & dinner after

The League office is open  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
11 am to 1:30 pm  
Holiday closure February 17

#### ***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.*