

# ARGUS

## USE YOUR POWER

by Linda Lynch, LWLC President



It is March, but the election year stretches out before us in a way that combines the orderliness of calendars and dates with the waves of decisions and changes that are coming. This month alone has created a list of discordant events that makes us stop to think repeatedly about our own personal values, understanding what they are,

wondering how far we would go to support them, and whether we can stick to them when our turn to vote arrives. Those events have also demonstrated how candidates view political and emotional power, and most importantly, we can see the power of our vote.

The unexpected death of a U.S. Supreme Court justice has illuminated bad political behavior, created a debate on the definition of the expression "lame duck," and made us reexamine the concept of separation of powers. Should the court vacancy be filled? Does the majority party have the right to refuse? What good is power if you don't use it? When is not using your power the best course?

The death of Harper Lee has analysts describing how her gentle 1960 novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, told from the viewpoint of a child, was able to confront racial inequality and also to shine a light on the growing civil rights movement. It is a book that asks readers what they are willing to endure in order to do what is right.

We are engaged in what can only be described as a lot of outreach. Kathy Madison has been the point of contact for graduating seniors in the U of O School of Journalism who have taken the League as their client for capstone projects in public relations. A different set of students will work with Kathy during spring term.

We have urged students to understand the power they have in voting.

The League is in full election year mode. We are working to form coalitions with other community groups to sponsor debates among the candidates in contested local elections, Ward 1, Eugene and Springfield mayors' races, and the north Eugene Commissioner contest. April will be packed with them! Get out your calendars and call Rhonda Livesay or Keli Osborn to tell them when you can help.

Use your power to help create an informed electorate.

### THIRD THURSDAY March 17 Valley River Inn

To *reserve your seat* at this important presentation and/or to request a ride, call the League office at 541-343-7917 by the Monday before.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Lunch is \$16

Beverage only is \$5

Lunch begins 11:30 am

The program begins at 12:15

### THIRD THURSDAY by Nancie Fadeley

The subject for **March 17th Third Thursday** will be **"Protecting the Global Environment & Strengthening the Rule of Law."**

Our speaker will be **Bern Johnson, Executive Director of ELAW.**

ELAW develops initiatives to protect the environment through law and science. He has worked with lawyers, scientists and environmental activists in the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the South Pacific, and Central and South America.



## MARCH UNITS - Flo Alvergue, Chair

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

President  
LINDA LYNCH

Secretary  
JEANNE TAYLOR

Treasurer & Office Mgr.  
PHYLLIS LOOBEY

Action  
KAPPY EATON &  
PAT HOCKEN

Argus Editor  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance  
JANET CALVERT

Historian  
GAYLE DOWNING

Membership  
ANNE BEST &  
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES

Nominations  
SALLY WESTON

Program  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN &  
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Public Relations  
KATHY MADISON

Units  
FLO ALVERGUE

Voter Service  
RHONDA LIVESAY

There will be no briefing in March as it's Unit Choice Month. Last month's discussions on Mental Health Services for Adults in Lane County involved 66 members, including a few guests. See the schedule below for choices. *Flo Al-*

### Tuesday, March 8

9:30 am, 91150 Industrial Way,  
Coburg

Coburg Road Unit will be touring the new **Serenity Lane Campus**, an inpatient residential adult treatment center providing education, medically supervised withdrawal, and group therapy for those dealing with chemical dependency.

Sign up is required by March 3rd; phone Linda Ferdowsian: 707-208 6007 or email: [lferdowsian@yahoo.com](mailto:lferdowsian@yahoo.com).

Participants should wear comfortable shoes to walk from building to building. Please advise Linda if a wheelchair is needed.

**Directions:** 91150 Industrial Way, Coburg: North on I-5 to Exit 199, Coburg exit, head west towards Coburg, turn right at first traffic light, Industrial Way, go 200 yards, Serenity Lane on the left.

### Wednesday, March 9

10:30 am. 767 W. 8th

East Eugene unit has planned a tour of **Sponsors' Home for Women and Children**. Contact Nancie Fadeley if you plan to attend. [nfade@uoregon.edu](mailto:nfade@uoregon.edu) 541-343-6908

### Wednesday, March 9

2:30 pm - Cottage Grove LCC

"What's Happening in Cottage Grove?" discussion will include the local food movement, economic development, healthy kids in a healthy community, homelessness, and efforts to improve livability.

### Wednesday, March 9

3 pm - S.W. Eugene, 1375 Olive

The Tate - 1st floor community room  
If you ever wondered how St. Vincent de Paul finances and operates its now 1,500 housing units in Lane County and a bit beyond, come to hear **Kristen Karle, SVdP's Housing Development Director**, tell how the agency does it.

**No Unit Briefing in March**

## Help Shape the Future of Eugene Join the Planning Commission

The City of Eugene is seeking motivated volunteers to serve on the Eugene Planning Commission.

Participation on the Planning Commission is an excellent way to get involved in local government, and is an interesting and challenging experience that can truly make a difference.

Community members who serve on the Planning Commission provide an invaluable service by assisting the City Council and City staff in developing recommendations and making decisions on issues that affect our community, including housing, economic development, livability and transportation.

The Planning Commission is a seven member group that meets about two to four times per month. Meetings are typically held on Mondays from 11:30 am to 1:30pm with an occasional Tuesday evening meeting. There is one opening with a four-year term that begins July 1, 2016.

To learn more about the Planning Commission visit <http://www.eugene-or.gov/833/Planning-Commission> or contact Alissa Hansen at 541-682-5508 or [alissa.h.hansen@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:alissa.h.hansen@ci.eugene.or.us).

Applications are being accepted by March 31, 2016. For application materials, visit <http://www.eugene-or.gov/86/Boards-and-Commissions>.

# ACTION - State of the State

## by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

By the time you receive this report, the 2016 legislative session probably will have adjourned. The Joint Ways and Means committee, through which any revenue bills/changes to the budget must go, is expected to finish the week of February 29. The Rules and Revenue committees have the most of the remaining proposals, and anything else still pending will drop out.

### Oregon Economic/ Revenue Projections.

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis presented the March quarterly report February 10 to the joint meeting of the Senate and House Revenue committees, indicating a rise in state revenues but cautioning for 2017-19. The one surprise was the continued strength of video poker/lottery income, up \$23.8 million from the December forecast and expected to climb. Other changes from December include personal income, down 0.2%; personal income taxes up 5.7%; and

corporate income taxes up 13.7%. No personal income tax surplus kicker is anticipated at the end of 2015-17 biennium, but corporate income tax receipts will cause a surplus, giving K-12 \$34.3 million additional 2017 funding. Legislation is now in place to allow 2015 personal income tax payers to contribute their kicker refund from 2013-15 to education.

Employment has increased across all state counties, rural and urban, with the exception of Lane County. Looking ahead, the projected ending balance for the biennium (June 30, 2017) is now down 1.7% from the close of 2013-15 last June 30. The projection comes even though the general fund and lottery resources are up \$60.8 million since December.

Minimum Wage SB 1532 has passed the Legislature and is expected to be signed by Governor Brown. It provides for a graduated, three-tier regional increase in Oregon's minimum wage, currently at \$9.25. To be first implemented July 1, 2016, the final amounts are reached in July 2022. The unique approach divides Oregon into the Portland metro area, Salem and Eugene areas, and smaller urban areas with the rural areas South and East. The minimum wage is now changed annually based on the Portland Consumer Price Index (CPI), and the use of the CPI will resume in 2023. Oregon will go from eighth in the country to first in minimum wage. The very vigorous protest at the Capitol during the House discussion and vote was from the supporters of the initiative to raise the wage rate to \$15 by 2019.

### Updates on 2016 Legislative Proposals (as of 2/19):

- **Public Records HB 4130**  
After the mandated performance audit of Oregon's public records procedures, the Secretary of State recommended a series of changes to the system. They would be implemented through HB 4130, specifically by requiring agencies to report back to a request for records within five days, acknowledging the receipt and indicating an estimated time for implementation. A fee of up to \$30 could be charged, and up to 30 days for implementation or denial because of exemptions (400 existing). The Secretary of State and/or the Attorney General can be involved if appropriate.
- **Voter Access at state Higher Ed Institutions SB 1586A**  
passed out of Senate Rules to Ways and Means because of the price tag on the required pre-stamped ballot return envelope. The estimated cost is \$170,000 for the remainder of 2015-16, rising to \$1.8 million for 2017-19 from the general fund. Also included are election drop boxes within a mile of each campus and additional ways to allow students to discuss candidates and issues, both in and out of classes, and to register to vote.
- **Independent Campaign Expenditures HB 4085A**  
provides transparency regarding who is funding election campaigns outside the regular political support committees. It has a threshold of \$250 (considered too low) after which anyone/group which funds a candidate campaign for public office must file a report with the Secretary of State for release on ORSTAR. The bill is critical to the public's right to know who is behind election funding. Disclosure is Oregon's only campaign finance tool. It passed out of Senate Rules to Ways and Means.
- **Campaign Contributions HJR 205**  
is another attempt to amend the Oregon Constitution and allow the Legislature or an approved initiative the authority to set political campaign contribution limits. No hearings have been scheduled in House Rules.
- **Legislative Policy and Research SB 1569A**  
would establish a permanent Joint Policy and Research Committee with a Director, a staff of 11, appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker. It would be made up of an equal number of majority and minority members. The proposal provides a long-term approach to regular legislative review with the goal of providing the legislature with non-partisan, independent research reports. It passed out of Senate Rules and awaits a work session in the on February 24.
- **Strategic Public Policy Review HB 4051**  
appears to mirror SB 1569A with less fiscal requirements. It would establish a joint committee to review major public policies and has passed from House Rules to Ways and Means.
- **State Transient Tax Increase HB 4146A**  
raises the current rate from 1% to 2% on transient lodging and would benefit the Oregon Tourism Commission's ability to support events across the state, according to the testimony House Revenue committee. The bill authorizes the Legis-

(Continued on page 4)

### Action Committee

#### Meeting

9:30 am

March 2

1021 N. Pond Rd.

Eugene

Kappy's home

Any League member is welcome to attend.

Questions? Contact

Pat Hocken at

541-343-1138 or

[jphocken@comcast.net](mailto:jphocken@comcast.net)

## ACTION - Local

### by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

#### Extension Levy

The League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) is supporting a measure on the May ballot which will increase funding for the Oregon State University Extension program in Lane County. The measure is a five-year local option property tax levy that will provide county funding to supplement the state and federal funding received by the program.

The tax rate of 1.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value will result in annual taxes of \$3 on a home assessed at \$200,000. The levy will raise \$452,000 annually and \$2.26 million over the five years. The additional funding will be used to restore 4-H programs in schools and reduce fees for participants. (Students in Lane County have been paying \$100 for a program that is free in most other counties in Oregon.) The proposed tax will also help fund the master gardener and food preparation courses and increase other services.

League support is based on our local Ending Violence in Lane County position which calls for funding for agencies that provide services such as training for youth and adults in life management skills.

#### News from Southern California

I have just returned from a vacation in So Cal and came across some situations there that are about issues we worry about in Oregon. A few examples follow.

With regard to elections, California has a top-two primary system in which the top two vote getters in the primary, no matter their party affiliation or lack of same, advance to the general election in November. Recent news was that one of the three Republican candidates for US Senate dropped out of the race to increase the likelihood that one of the top two finishers would be member of his political party. Californians are also wondering if their presidential primary in June will have any impact on the candidate selection, given how late it is.

With regard to air quality in the Los Angeles basin, it was reported that a major contributor to the smog-forming nitrogen oxides is the emissions of container ships while docked in the Port of Los Angeles. When a ship idles its diesel engines in port rather than plugging into electric service at the dock, it spews nitrogen oxides. Statewide, ocean vessels

release nearly twice the nitrogen oxides as all the automobiles in California. In violation of the air quality rules the Port adopted some years ago, the Port is allowing some terminal operators to ignore the mandate for ships to shut off their engines. In Oregon, air quality agencies have installed electrical hookups for long-haul trucks at truck stops so the trucks don't need to idle their engines when drivers stop overnight or otherwise.

With regard to affordable housing, advocates for building such units are divided over a proposal to make land use requirements for siting large housing developments more flexible. Some believe such flexibility will encourage tear-downs of low-cost residences and replacement with high-rise luxury condos. Other advocates think the flexibility will make it easier to get low-income housing projects approved and built.

(Continued from page 3)

lative Revenue Office (LRO) to establish a work group to study issues of distribution of funding grants to the various regions, collaboration with local groups, and collection enforcement, with a report due in September. The Oregon Tourism Commission must report annually to the LRO, and it must spend at least 15% of the revenues to implement regional cooperative tourism programs. The types of programs are changed from marketing to actual events. The estimated available dollars from the increase are \$15.9 million during the current biennium; \$34.2 million for 2017-19; and \$37.2 million for 19-21. The world track and field games scheduled for Eugene in 2021 were part of the discussion when the Revenue committee

sent the bill to the floor. The House sent the bill back to committee February 19, and action is now expected the week of February 22.

- Earned Income Tax Credit Increase HB 2110A will raise the current 8% credit to 11% of the federal credit for low income families with a dependent child three years old or younger. It passed the House February 19, 54-4. The credit increases from \$229 to \$315. The Senate Finance and Revenue committee will now be discussing the bill.
- Lobbyist Reports HB 4134 will be required to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission within five days if a registered lobbyist adds or drops clients during any regular or special session of the Legislature. The bill has

passed the House, 58-1. A positive action by Senate Rules is expected.

**Initiative Update:** 81 citizen initiatives have been filed, and 13 have been approved for circulation. Of those, four target the minimum wage.



## PR STUDENTS INCREASE AWARENESS OF LWVLC by Kathy Madison, PR Chair

Four UO Public Relations students implemented a PR plan they developed to increase awareness of the League among young adults. One tactic they used was “tabling” in front of the Erb Memorial Union. Erica Hawley, Ashley Watkins, and Brody Foster-Cohen (Taylor Davis not pictured) attracted a lot of attention from passersby – some who wondered what “LWV” stood for. They know now.

LWVLC board members Kathy Madison, Janet Calvert and Linda Lynch participated in another tactic: a forum to talk to students about the local League’s positions on issues, how the League reaches consensus on issues and how League action benefits the community – including young people. Developing, implementing and evaluating a PR plan for an actual client is the term-long assignment of the UO

Public Relations Program’s capstone class, “Campaigns.” All seniors, the students employ virtually all they have learned about PR to complete the assignment in the term before they graduate. Next, they will evaluate the effectiveness of their plan.



Taylor Davis photo

## In memory of Ray Wolfe

Ray Wolfe was among our League’s first male members, joining in 1985 about nine years after men could join League. He died December 2015 at the age of 95, about ten months after the death of his wife Barbara. Both were active members of the League of Women Voters in Lane County until they moved to Ashland in 2013 to be closer to family members.

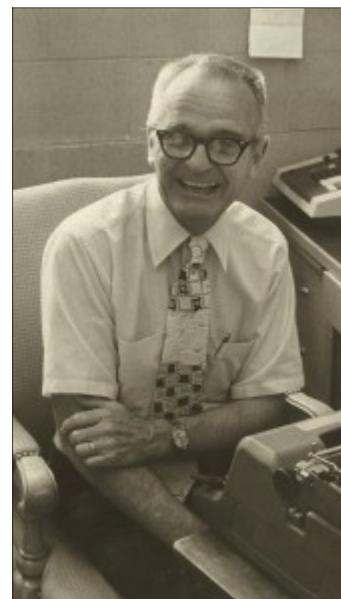
In 1956 Ray joined the University of Oregon chemistry department, teaching and researching the enzyme malic dehydrogenase, key to getting energy from food. After retirement in 1995, he became a skilled and dedicated producer of a weekly public affairs program on channel 11, “In The Public Interest.” Programs often focused on community life and especially on

environmental issues. Every election season, Ray welcomed League members to explain ballot measures and provide the pros and cons of the proposals. League members also interviewed candidates seeking county and city positions.

During 1968 to 1970 Ray and Barbara were among the volunteers who used the public media to help keep EWEB (Eugene Water and Electric Board) from becoming a major partner in generating nuclear power and building a nuclear power plant on the central Oregon coast.

Ray believed that lively dialogue was essential to democracy, and his involvement with the League and public access television were ways to promote thoughtful discussion.

**Janet Calvert**



## VOTERS SERVICE by Rhonda Livesay, Chair

The National Presidential race is heating up! It is difficult to keep up with who is saying what. But closer to home, we are going to have a wild and crazy time!



For the Eugene mayor's race, we have four people running; Lucy Vinis, Bob Cassidy, Stefan Strek, and Mike Clark. After 12 years with the same mayor, this will be a "huuuge" contest.

George Brown is not running again for the Ward 1, city councilor position. To replace him, we have five candidates: Chris Wig, Joshua Skov, Chad Anderson, Kelly Boyd, and Emily Semple.

This is only two of the four races in which we are presently involved. The

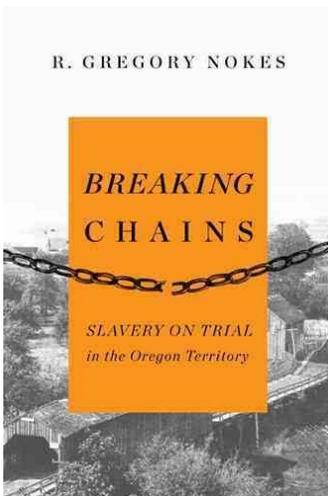
month of April will be a VERY busy month, and the Voter Service Committee will need several members to step up and help. Please call or email Rhonda Livesay if you are interested in helping. Or If you have questions you would like to ask the candidates, please email or call Rhonda or the League office.

Rhonda  
541-228-4373,  
[livesay.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:livesay.lwv@gmail.com)

## BRING US YOUR BOOKS

The Friends of Eugene Public Library's annual book sale is coming up soon - April 9 and 10, in fact. And the Friends can use more books to sell for the benefit of the Library. So, if you've been thinking you might want to thin your shelves a little, now is the time. While the Friends sell a wide variety of paperbacks, hardcover books, CDs and DVDs, what we need especially right now is good, current nonfiction. You can bring them to the donation barrel at the Bethel library, or the Sheldon Rite-Aid, or the bins in the downstairs parking garage under the downtown library. Or, if you have lots, give me a call and we can arrange a pickup. On behalf of all the kids, teens and adults who take part in the programs the Friends support, thanks!

Carol Hildebrand  
(541) 344-4267



After our discussions on amending the U.S. Constitution, and wondering about what happens if or when states rescind their ratification of a proposed amendment, it turns out Oregon has its own experience in this process.

- Oregon ratified the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery, December 5, 1865.
- Oregon ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing citizenship and equal protection of laws to African Americans, September 19, 1866.
- On October 15, 1868, the Oregon legislature repealed its ratification of the 14th Amendment, although that had no effect because the amendment had been ratified by enough other states.

(From *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory*, by R. Gregory Nokes, 2013)

**Linda Lynch**

# WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE

By Jeanne Armstrong

## BETTY-COE de BROEKERT



Betty-Coe was born in Washington, D.C., and was introduced to politics early on as her mother served as executive secretary to Oregon's Senator Frederick Steiwer in the 1930s. As a young child she moved with her mother to live with grandparents in Portland, Oregon and finished her elementary and secondary school education there. She "ran away from home" to begin her college career at Colorado Women's College but took a circuitous route via the University of Colorado to earn her degree in Journalism and Political Science at the University of Oregon. At New York University, she earned a master's degree in Education Administration.

Betty-Coe has worked in various capacities for State of Oregon social service agencies and for three years as Executive Vice President (CEO) of one of Oregon's major trade associations. She has provided management-related training for both profit and non-profit governmental agencies. She worked as a counselor at Lane Community College at campuses on both Monroe Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. And that isn't all. She "spent a big chunk of" her adult life as a volunteer with the YWCA at local levels in Salem and Eugene and as a member of the national board.

For the past 12+ years, Betty-Coe has followed her passion for helping seniors through her work with AARP. Betty-Coe served for eight years as Oregon's State Coordinator of the AARP Driver Safety program and recently completed a six-year term on the AARP Oregon state Executive Council.

Betty-Coe likes being involved with like-minded League members who are "passionate, committed, and intellectually stimulating." She enjoys family time, reading historical fiction, and finds time for crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

## THERESE PICADO

Those of us who would like to be world travelers will especially enjoy talking with new member Therese Picado. She was born in New York City to parents of Portuguese extraction. The family moved to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, where Therese's mathematician father worked with the U.S. Army's anti-ballistic missile program. Therese attended school there from age four through age 16. She earned a bachelor's degree in human biology from Brown University and a master's in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Therese and her husband, Steve Curtis, traveled around the world for a year with their two sons -- then in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades -- with a focus on assimilating as much as possible into the culture of the 20-plus countries they visited in Central America, Southeast Asia, India, East Africa, and the Mediterranean.

Therese was a public relations specialist for both Lane Community College, where she worked on a variety of projects, including signage and website design, and the City of Eugene, where she worked for the Parks and Open Space Division. Therese and her husband established home-based businesses when her parents needed long-term care in their later years. Currently she has a part-time massage practice and teaches a self-designed program of mediation and non-violent communication for elementary-age children.

Therese was attracted to the League of Women Voters because of the League's thoughtful and studied analysis of political issues. As time allows, she hopes to participate in various League activities. Just for fun, Therese loves to hike in our beautiful Pacific Northwest and aspires to do more writing.



### In Memoriam

Dian Missar died Monday February 15.

Dian was a pillar of the Cottage Grove and larger community. She was one of the first Cottage Grove area people to join the League and was the backbone of our first units and other efforts there.

A memorial service will be held at Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church.



Educating Voters

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LANE COUNTY

336 West 11th Ave., Suite 1  
Eugene, OR 97401

Lwvlc.org

# CALENDAR

## MARCH

- 2, 9:30 am - Action committee meeting (pg 3)
- 8-9, Unit choices (pg 2)
- 14, Reservation deadline for Third Thursday
- 15, 2 pm - Voter Service meeting - 5320 Fox Hollow Rd.
- 16, 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 17, 11:30 am - Third Thursday (pg 1)
- 18, Midnight - Argus deadline for March issue

**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.*

The League office is open  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
11am - 1:30 pm

**For the latest information about League events, meetings, positions and the ARGUS, visit our website [lwvlc.org](http://lwvlc.org)**

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**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 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) \_\_\_\_\_