

# ARGUS

## RELEVANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY by Linda Lynch, LWLC President



The two machines were right next to each other. Clearly, they were both working. What

wasn't working was the connection that would put the slides of our Third Thursday speaker, Professor Sharon Schuman, onto the large screen in the banquet room at Valley River Inn. It took quite a few people to get us running. In the end, I think it was the person from the Banquets staff who connected the machines to the screen. We had the right tools, in the form of cables, adaptors, power strips, at least one board member willing to download software (*thank you, Rhonda Livesay!*), and enough time to try various things. We all agreed that the missing tool was likely almost

any 12 year old who would be undaunted by the cables and equipment.

I think of myself as fairly technologically literate. But that really isn't true, or is only true up to about 50-60%. I once got rid of a black box in the middle of our tv screen by googling the problem. I can make the screen wallpaper on a friend's cell phone be the photo of her grandchild, but I don't use Facebook, for example. Is that the right word? Does one "use" Facebook? And who would have thought "google" would become such a ubiquitous word? The Vote Yes! for Libraries campaign is using Facebook as a tool, so I have been told. The campaign has allocated funds for advertising on social media. I'm not

sure what that includes, and even the committee's note taker said, "OK, I will write that down, but I'm not sure what it means."

The Pew Research Center reports that fully 71% of online American adults use Facebook, or 58% of the entire adult population.



(I may have to stop dragging my feet!) There is little variation in the percentages across all demographics. Some 23% of online adults currently

use Twitter. Twitter's use is increasing significantly year over year and is particularly popular among those under 50 and the college-educated. Other key social networking platforms Pew researched were Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn.

Your League Board is working to become more technologically adept, to use current tools to be more visible and to get our message out. *Please please please* read Kathy Madison's explanation of how your own Facebook page can help the League be more visible. (Page 5) Also, please, check out our website, [lwlc.org](http://lwlc.org). Thank you again to Rhonda for her work to keep it up to date, for it to be a source of information for League members checking on meeting times or action alerts as well as community members looking for information.

Since 12 year olds are not old enough to vote, I cannot go looking for them in our membership, but we really need to emulate their willingness to try out things, test processes, and go for it. It is our best hope for communicating our relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### THIRD THURSDAY November 19 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.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Lunch is \$16.

Beverage only is \$5.

Lunch begins 11:30 a.m.  
The program begins at 12:15.

## THIRD THURSDAY - by Nancie Fadeley

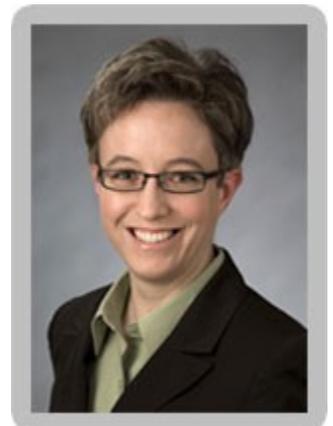
At our next Third Thursday we will get a preview of what might happen when our state legislature convenes in February. Our speaker will be

Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives,  
**Tina Kotek,**

serving her fifth term in the Oregon House and her second term as Speaker.

Prior to joining the legislature, Tina was a passionate advocate for working families, serving as policy director for the non-profit Children First for Oregon and a public policy advocate for the Oregon Food Bank.

In the 2015 legislative session, she focused on increasing access to affordable housing, quality child care, and other policies designed to create a fair shot for all Oregonians to succeed.



# NOVEMBER UNITS - Flo Alvergue, Chair

Unit attendance totaled 66 in October. We especially welcome new members and visitors who attended. **Springfield members:** We need you to come to the Tuesday unit at noon at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Members from other units are also welcome.

## 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
- Nominations  
SALLY WESTON
- Membership  
ANNE BEST &  
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES
- Program  
LINDA FERDOWSIAN &  
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN
- Public Relations  
KATHY MADISON
- Units  
FLO ALVERGUE
- Voter Service  
RHONDA LIVESAY

### Monday, November 9

**10 am - S. Willamette**  
430 E. 46th Avenue  
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, November 10

**9:30 am - Coburg Road**  
2135 Rocky Lane  
H- Dorothy Cruickshank 342-2577  
C- Linda Ferdowsian 707-208-6007

**Noon - Springfield Unit**  
Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
Brown bag lunch  
101 South A Street  
H - Flo Alvergue 344-3430

### Wednesday, November 11

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

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

### Friday, November 13

**10:30 am - Cascade Manor**  
Thomas Rm, 65 W. 30th  
C- Lorraine Abbott 434-4107

### Wednesday, November 18

**2:30 pm - Cottage Grove**  
Cottage Grove LCC  
H- Gayle Downing 942-1858

### Unit Briefing

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

## UNIT TOPIC- REDISTRICTING

Linda Ferdowsian and Susan Tavakolian,  
Program Co-chairs

- Where will the boundaries for Lane County Commissioners and for representation in the Oregon House and Senate be drawn after the next census?
- What are the criteria for determining the boundaries?
- What are "cracking" and "packing"?
- Democrats won the popular vote for the U.S. House of Representatives, but Republicans hold the majority.
- Why doesn't the popular vote always determine the House majority?

We'll discuss these and other questions at the unit discussions on redistricting.

## WANTED

We are looking for an energetic member to volunteer to **Chair our Voter Service Committee.** With the 2016 elections looming, it will be an exciting time to lead this group of dedicated volunteers. Perhaps, you and a friend would like to co-chair the committee.

If you are interested please contact [league@lwvlc.org](mailto:league@lwvlc.org) or call the League office.

**People count on the League. Please help!**

## REWARD

Helping the local League perform its mission, learn, and have a good time with other interesting people.

# ACTION - State of the State

## by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

### 2016 Initiatives Preview/Legislative referrals

As of October 22, citizens have filed 69 initiative petitions for the 2016 General Election, and the Legislature has referred two measures. A quick review:

- 3** proposals to increase the required minimum wage
- 7** proposals to increase either the corporate minimum tax or the personal income tax
- 2** proposals on lottery proceeds- one for 50% to counties; one of 5% of proceeds to veterans services
- 3** proposals related to employee union dues and political activity
- 2** proposals to ban legislative changes to passed initiatives
- 2** proposals concerning hand guns
- 3** proposals relating to health care

Others include abortion ban, citizenship proof, ban on estate taxes, hunting/fishing rights.

The Legislature has referred two measures to the voters, SJR 4, and HB 3085. A constitutional amendment SJR 4 to establish a procedure to impeach an Oregon Governor arises from the problems surrounding former Governor Kitzhaber. The statute referral relates to disestablishing the City of Damascus. HB 3085 provides the procedures and requires a vote up or down by the city citizens at the May Primary election in 2016.

### Revenue Issues

Both Interim House and Senate Revenue committees discussed ongoing and future revenue programs during the September Legislative Days. The House session reviewed a report on the Senior Medical Deduction, looking at the

historical costs and the 2013 shift to reduce the state's loss of revenue from personal income taxes. Charts presented by the Legislative Revenue Office (LRO) revealed significant drops in subtraction for the 2012 and 2013 tax years and projections into the future. For example, in 2013 the projected deduction under the old law was \$963 million, but the actual was \$416 under the new law saving the state \$37 million.

HB 2171 (2015) directs the LRO to conduct an analysis of major tax reform proposals and to report to the revenue committees in 2016 with findings and possible change scenarios. Clean-up bills for 2016 include (1) clarification of the mechanism by which taxpayers can donate their Kicker credits to the State School Fund; (2) modifying

implementation language for the food processing tax exemption; and (3) clarifications of pricing standards for transferable tax credits. Work will continue on modification of the tax haven laws, corporate tax transparency, non-profit property taxes and tax credits on energy.

Of particular interest to LWV are the possibility of using the Kicker return (estimated average about \$220) as a contribution to public education and the consideration of meaningful major tax reform. Since the Legislature seems unwilling to really address repealing the Kicker law, using the refund dollars for public schools is a reasonable alternative. Directing the LRO to bring major tax reforms to the 2016 session probably won't result in action, but may be a good precursor for 2017.

### Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am

November 4

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)

### Higher Education

Oregon Promise is a state-funded grant program which covers all or almost all of Oregon's 17 community college costs for an eligible student. LWVOR is monitoring this program, which is under the jurisdiction of and administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), as part of LWVOR's study update committee on Higher Education. The 2015 Legislature established a Task Force to study the program and to report back by November. Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the Commission, presented the update report to the Interim Senate Education and the House Higher Education committees on September 28 during the Legislature's September Legislative days. The grants will be available for the 2016-17 academic year to students who enroll in an eligible program at an Oregon community college within six months of completing high school or the equivalent.

Other student eligibility requirements include 12 months of state residency, completion of the Oregon Promise application, a 2.5 or higher grade point average (GPA), and

the acceptance of all other financial aid awarded.

For more details go to <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx>

Cost and planning data projections include:

- 3.5% tuition increase in tuition over current year; Pell increase; \$50 copay per term
- 7,808 of the 34,000 Oregon high school graduates enrolled in community colleges, with 9 credits per term, and roughly 3.0 GPA per term
- project cost range of \$6.3 million to \$7.6 million
- \$10 million state budget sufficient to cover all who qualify
- Policy Advisory Group - legislators, CC presidents, CC Board members, students, HECC staff
- Technical Advisory Group
- Financial aid directors have finalized drafted temporary rules with October hearing
- *Next step:* 2016 Oregon Legislature.

## ACTION - Local

### by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

#### Stormwater Fees for Park Maintenance

The City of Eugene will hold a public hearing November 16 on a proposal to amend the current stormwater ordinance by changing the definition of "stormwater service" to include the "operation and maintenance of City-owned parks and open spaces." As you may know, the city now pays for stormwater service with a monthly fee that appears on the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) bills. EWEB collects the city's stormwater fees along with the EWEB's charges for electricity and water and the sewer charges of the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission. The stormwater fees are used by the city for street cleaning, leaf pickup, maintaining pipes and treatment facilities, etc. The fee paid by a home or business is partially calculated on the amount of impervious surface on the property, which is estimated to be the amount of stormwater generated by the property. There is also a flat fee portion of the charge for administration and handling stormwater from the street system. The city is now looking for sorely needed funds for park maintenance and the city manager has proposed increasing the stormwater fees with the increase dedicated to park maintenance activities. It is intended that EWEB would continue to collect the combined fee. It is estimated that a \$1 per month fee would generate about \$500,000 for park operation and maintenance.

The City is required by federal law to manage its stormwater to prevent discharges of pollutants into rivers and streams. According to the information provided to the Council, the City's stormwater system includes pipes and other constructed features such as catch basins and curb inlets as well as "green infrastructure," a combination of constructed and natural features such as planters, swales, wetlands, streams, rivers, and open channels. Rainwater that does not soak into the ground runs off the land and is conveyed by the stormwater system to local area waterways such as Amazon Creek and the Willamette River.

The League has direction from the board to testify about the proposal based on our local position on Parklands and on Local Government Finance. The Parklands position states that it is a public responsibility to adequately fund parks with various sources such as property taxes, user fees, system development charges, special taxes. The Local Government Finance position calls for adequate financing, broad sharing of taxes, consideration of ability to pay, benefit received, and cost of collection. The main focus of League comments will be that the City should move slowly and with transparency because the proposal would significantly expand the allowable uses of the stormwater fee.

There are many positive aspects of the proposal including the ease and minimal cost of collection by EWEB. Plus a small monthly fee could generate a stable source of revenue for an extremely important city service. However, there are negatives as well. The connection between stormwater management and parks maintenance, is somewhat tenuous. A more understandable approach would be to create a new fee rather than changing the definition of stormwater service. Details are lacking about how revenue from the existing fees and that added by the proposal will be segregated on the EWEB bill and in the City's accounting. Could the fees intended for park maintenance be used for stormwater treatment or other purposes? Also, it is not clear citizens are aware of budget shortfalls for park maintenance and other possible solutions to the problem.

#### Redistricting and Advocacy

The topic for unit discussions in November is redistricting. Our local League actively followed and commented on local redistricting decisions in 2001 and in 2011 in response to the censuses taken in 2000 and 2010, respectively. The basis for our advocacy was the position of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) on redistricting which calls for equal population among districts using a narrow deviation formula; using existing and natural geographic boundaries; recognizing communities of interest; contiguity. These are based on the U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

In 2005, the national Board affirmed that Leagues at all levels may take action under LWVUS positions relating to redistricting. Using the positions on "Apportionment," "Citizen's Right to Vote," and "Congress," Leagues should work to achieve three goals consistent with those positions:

- 1) Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population ("one person, one vote");
- 2) Redistricting should not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens; and
- 3) Efforts that attempt or result in partisan gerrymandering should be opposed.

In both 2001 and 2011 the local League urged the Eugene City Council to use League criteria in redrawing the boundaries of the eight council wards. In 2001 the increase over the previous decade in population living north of the Willamette River required significant adjustment of ward boundaries to satisfy the equal population criterion. League worked with the city and Chamber of Commerce to achieve that goal. Fewer changes were required in 2011 as the City put forward two options that met League criteria.

Similarly in both 2001 and 2011, we urged the Lane County Board of Commissioners to use League criteria in redrawing the boundaries of the five commissioner districts. In 2011, the League testified in opposition to the redistricting plan ultimately adopted after supporting earlier proposals and also commented on the lack of sufficient public input opportunities before the final decision was made. A complicating factor in the County analysis is the geographic names of the districts in the county charter (North Eugene, South Eugene, Springfield, East Lane County, and West Lane County) which imply boundaries that do not yield equal populations.

## BUY FRUIT

### by Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

#### *An excellent way to support our League*

A twenty-pound box of fruit is an excellent treat for you or as a gift for someone special. As the major fund raiser for League, we are selling ruby red grapefruit, navel oranges, and an orange/grapefruit combination box. The deadline for orders is Wednesday, November 20.

What could be better than ruby red grapefruit and sweet navel oranges to brighten a cold blustery day? And \$25 a box price for high quality fruit is a bargain. The fruit lasts a long time if stored at the cool suggested temperature and with good air circulation.

If you or your friend can't use a whole box of fruit, you can designate it as a donation to FOOD for Lane County. League gets the profit, you can claim it as a donation on your taxes and FOOD gets high quality fruit to distribute to hungry families. FOOD will pick up their fruit and everyone wins!

The fruit will arrive sometime between December 3rd to 10th. All buyers will get an email or phone call announcing the pick-up location (our office) and dates fruit can be picked up.

The fruit you buy and sell helps support the League of Women Voters' activities including voter forums, study of issues, advocacy, office rent, and member support.

Many thanks from the Fruit Loop Committee: Merle Bottge, Mary Keating, Marj Maxwell, Sally Mills, Beth Poole, Sharon Posner, Susan Reynolds, Linda Roe, Barbara French, Phyllis Loobey, Fran Boehner (honorary).



## VOTER SERVICE by Rhonda Livesay, Voter Service Chair

*Voter Service has been busy!*

Last month we partnered with the NAACP in the National Voter Registration Day by registering voters outside the Eugene library. We visited Waterford Grand, Willamette Oaks, Eugene Hotel, and the U of O to register and educate voters about the ballot measures for November's election.

On November 13, we will be assisting in a naturalization ceremony. We will celebrate with the citizens and register them to vote. If you are interested in helping please feel free to email me [livesay.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:livesay.lwv@gmail.com).

## "COMPOUND THE INTEREST" in the LWVLC with FACEBOOK

### Kathy Madison, Public Relations Chair

*Why the big deal over social media?* Think of it like the effect of compound interest on your savings. If you save even just a little over a long time, that nest egg grows - literally - exponentially. Social media has a similar magic.



If you have a Facebook account and you "like" the League of Women Voters' Facebook page, every League post will show up in the newsfeed on your site. If you "share" that post, it will be sent to all of your Facebook friends.

And if they share it, all of their friends will see the post, etc. etc. Just like compound interest.

By "liking" the League Facebook page you help the organization gain major exposure, cultivate relationships, and communicate with a targeted audience. Currently, 94 people have "liked" the LWVLC Facebook page. That's great, but it should be more. If you are not on Facebook, please consider opening an account. If you have an account but have not yet liked the League's page, please go to

<https://www.facebook.com/lwvLaneCounty> and click on the "Like" icon at the top of the page. That's it. With one click you will be spreading the word of LWVLC to untold numbers of people!

We've set a goal to get to 100 "likes" by the end of November. We need only six more people to "like" us to reach that goal. Help the League take advantage of this free form of publicity by liking the page yourself and/or inviting your friends to do so. Log on to your Facebook page and make some magic!

## WHAT TO DO IN RETIREMENT

Editing the Argus wasn't enough for **Charlcie Kaylor** once she retired in April. "My kids were afraid I'd rust, rot, or otherwise deteriorate. One wanted me to get a job, another suggested I go back to school, the other wanted me to become a live-in nanny," she explained.

Though tempted by those possibilities, it was a call suggesting she apply for a position on the Lane County Planning Commission which piqued her interest. She was unanimously appointed by the Lane County commissioners in August. Her previous experience as a building codes administrator working with planners was helpful, she feels, and credits the League for "the experiences and greater depth of understanding which will, no doubt, help me in the work to come. I'm proud to join the other women who have served both the League and the Community."



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

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 3, 3 pm - Unit Briefing (pg 2)
- 4, 9:30 am - Action committee meeting (pg 3)
- 9-13, Units - Redistricting (pg 2)
- 13, Naturalization Ceremony
- 16, 2 pm - Voters Service meeting (pg 5)
- 18, 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office
- 18, 2:30 pm - Cottage Grove unit (pg 5)
- 19, 11:30 am - Third Thursday (pg 1)
- 20, Fruit order deadline (pg 5)
- 20, Midnight - Argus deadline for December issue

The League office is open  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
11am - 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.*

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

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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) \_\_\_\_\_