



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

LWVLC FUNDING TO FURTHER RACIAL JUSTICE

by Helen Beardsworth

The Board voted to donate \$1,000 to support and promote racial justice, especially for the Black community. An ad hoc committee was convened to determine criteria for selecting a recipient organization and project to fund. The criteria used by the committee included a shovel-ready project/program with a target audience of people of color and allies.



Research was done on a number of organizations, and the committee focused in on the University of Oregon Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center (LRP BCC). The LRP BCC was

opened a little less than one year ago in response to a demand by the Black student community that they be given “a place that will provide them with an opportunity to gather, reinforce their academic pursuits, enhance connective bonds that support

recruitment and retention, and discuss their shared experiences and needs.”

The LRP BCC plans to host a virtual voting series, which would be posted every Tuesday from the first or second week of school to conclude on Election Day, November 3 “in an effort to bring more awareness to the University community” about the importance of voting, how to vote, and providing election information. The series would be shared on Instagram, Facebook and Website pages. Their hope was to bring Black students, faculty, staff and the community together to educate, inform and cast their vote in what will be a pivotal election in the United States.

During the series, the LRP BCC will collaborate with the University of Oregon’s Athletic Department’s new initiative, *Keep It 100*, as well as the NAACP, Eugene-Springfield Chapter and the League of Women Voters of Lane County to offer voting materials and snack bags for interested students at the LRP BCC. The event will be a socially distanced, pick-up event for UO students.

The ad hoc Turnipseed Committee selected the LRP BCC to receive this funding for their Voter Series and the remainder for the Endowment for advancing the LRP BCC. The Committee believes that this program supports the Black Lives Matter goals of engaging voters in the Black community and Generation Z. A byproduct of the Voter Series is an opportunity for the League to observe the way a community of color engages their voters and provides civic education.

We have delivered League information, including cards advertising VOTE411.org and the *They Represent You* brochure in the goody bags distributed during the in-person, drive by event.

Final details about this funding are being worked out. The Voter Series will be shortened slightly due to the recent wildfires and inevitable complications caused by that and the ongoing pandemic. It will be interesting to see how this enthusiastic group will flex to get out the vote in a world that seems to be changing every week.

Virtual Third Thursday Noon, October 15 Our speaker will be Dr. Patrick Luedtke

Dr. Luedtke is a Preventive Medicine and Primary Care physician. He serves as Lane County’s Senior Public Health Officer as well as the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health & Human Services’ nine divisions and six clinics.



Open to the public
**Reservations are required by noon
Monday, October 12**
to allow time to create the Zoom invitation list.
Leave your name and email address at
541-343-7917 or contact@lwwlc.org

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2020-21

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UNIT DISCUSSION IN OCTOBER LOCAL AND STATE BALLOT MEASURES

In 1902, Oregon voters approved a legislatively-referred ballot measure that created Oregon's initiative and referendum process. It enacted that the people reserve to themselves the initiative power, which is to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and enact or reject them at an election independently of the Legislative Assembly. A referral is the process by which the Legislature or a local governing body places an act on the ballot for approval or rejection by the voters. The Legislature is required to refer any bill that amends the Oregon Constitution. This month's Everymember includes information on ten Lane County ballot measures and four state measures, of which two are legislative referrals and two are citizen initiatives.

Again, our unit meetings will be conducted on Zoom. A new Zoom meeting is being offered on Thursday evening. You are invited to attend any of the four listed below.

Monday, October 12, 10am
hosted by Nancy Mills.

Contact: nmills@trinity.edu.

Monday, October 12, 2pm
hosted by Mary Keating.

Contact: kmyrnalouise@aol.com

Tuesday, October 13, 10am
hosted by Linda Ferdowsian.

Contact: lferdowsian@yahoo.com

Thursday, October 15, 7pm
hosted by Paula Grisafi.

Contact: voterservice@lwvlc.org

*Mary Keating
Linda Ferdowsian*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Program committee will be working to prepare material on "The Climate Action Plan." If you would like to help, contact: program@lwvlc.org

Also, after last month's DEI study a new committee to work on some of the proposals generated from the unit meetings is being formed. Are you interested in serving?

BRIEFING

by Zoom

Tuesday, October 6, at 2pm

Guest speaker, Mary Durfee, PhD

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District

To receive the link RSVP kmyrnalouise@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP WELCOMES...

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the following new members to the League:

**Theresa Coleman
Susan Cundiff
Jenifer Mann
Beth Moore
Rebecca Polich**

To get answers to all your League questions please contact any of the mentors listed here:

Betty-Coe De Broekert (541) 343-7917
Paula Grisafi at Voterservice@lwvlc.org
Dorothy Cruickshank (541)342-2577

Charlcie Kaylor (541) 686-0124
Sharon Posner (541) 484-0268
or smposner@comcast.net

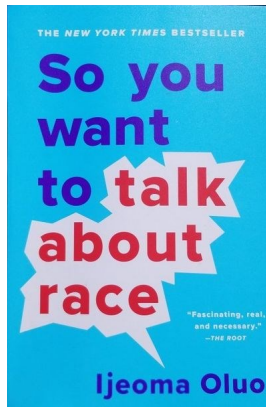
Veronika Walton, Membership Chair

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RACE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Howdy,

My current goal is to encourage the entire LWV membership to a read that will stimulate discussion on the issues of diversity, inclusion, justice.

The book, *So You Want To Talk About Race* by Ljeoma Oluo is a 255-page (including a handy-dandy, chapter-by-chapter Discussion Guide) paperback that is so straight-forward as to be scary! The author, previously a journalist at *The Stranger*, a Seattle, WA alternative newspaper states that her goal isn't "to call out the 'bad' white people and console the 'good' ones, but to raise the bar for all of us committed to equality and justice."



She further states that her moral imperative is "Writing commentary on social issues that could be of use." Oluo wants to bring journalism and writing in general back from the "abyss of click bait and outrage porn." A further goal is

"to give readers the fundamentals of how race worked...to understand race better, and how to talk about race more effectively, and with more kindness...a tool they can hold in their hands and turn back to...as different issues regarding race came up in their lives."

In addition to some Basic Rules for determining if something is about Race, Oluo also this take-away: "White Supremacy is this nation's oldest pyramid scheme. You will get more because they exist to get less."

This is a book that entire families and universities are reading together. How about it LWV? The extra neat thing is that each member, individually, can order the book, free from The Ford Family Foundation. The Ford Family Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation headquartered in Roseburg, Oregon.

Order information: www.tfff.org/select-books They even pay the postage; eat your heart out, Amazon Prime!

The Ford Family Foundation has a list of Select Books, free to residents of Oregon and Siskiyou, California. After receiving and reading the book you've chosen from their list of Select Books, they ask that you write a (short) review and email same to them. Then you're ready to select your next (free) book.

Sherril Kirchhoff

MASKS ARE HERE TO STAY... AT LEAST FOR A WHILE, ANYWAY

By Freddi Weishahn, Development Chair

To promote the **League of Women Voters** and its convenient website, VOTE411.org, which gives voters across the country local ballot information simply by entering their address, we are selling masks printed with both logos. We purchased the masks from Eugene Silkscreen which outsourced the production. The material is black, double-layered polyester with a center slot to insert a filter. The masks are not medical grade and are not meant to take the place of an N95 mask.

Our League is selling the masks at cost, and any amount donated above \$10 per mask will be tax deductible. Orders will initially be limited to four masks per member. We are providing an order form in this *Argus*, and masks can also be ordered through our website at www.lwvlc.org.

Please call our LWVLC office at 541-343-7917 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11-1:30) with further questions on how to order.



GUN SAFETY UPDATE

It is difficult, perhaps all but impossible, to sit through the evening news or read the morning paper without finding a reference to an extremist activity somewhere in the world. The United States is no exception. In 2019 the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a non-profit organization that tracks extremist groups, reported 950 groups in the US with 15 groups active in Oregon.

This activity isn't new. During the Vietnam War Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) flourished for a time. Their goal was to overturn the government and establish a democratic society and, failing that, to flee to Canada. Sixty years later similar extremist groups thrive in great numbers on the Internet.

Igor Volsky, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Guns Down America, was guest speaker at the League's September Gun Violence

GUNS DOWN

Prevention call. He discussed gun violence during the current protests and threats associated with armed extremist groups.

The members of these groups are similar in that "They are the product of an unhappy generation of men who compare their lot in life with that of men in previous decades and see their prospects diminishing." (*The Atlantic*) Likewise their goals are similar in their de-

sire to bring about a violent confrontation with the government, and "they are willing to co-opt practically any anti-government or anti-establishment event, from demonstrations against lockdowns to Black Lives Matter protests" (Voice of America).

With the 2020 presidential election days away there is acute concern across the country at the prospect of violence and intimidation at the polls. Volsky stressed that it is critical for states to have a plan in place well before the November election. Guns Down America is working individually with six states at their request. Anyone with election concerns or questions may contact him at:

igor@gunsdownamerica.org.

Donna Michel

INITIATIVE PETITION 57 - THE EPILOGUE

Initiative Petition 57, backed by People Not Politicians Oregon, Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of Oregon, NAACP Eugene Springfield, and the Independent Party of Oregon, among others, would create better geographic, economic, social, community and political diversity in drawing the district maps for our state legislators and congressional representatives. The redistricting and commission, which would be vetted to rule out conflict of interest, would consist of 12 Oregonians: four Democrats, four Republicans, and four registered voters unaffiliated with either major party. The commission would hold ten public hearings in every region of the state, and all testimony and data received by the commission would be in the public record.

The requirements for social distancing in the midst of the pandemic made gathering signatures in person almost impossible, and proponents of the initiative filed suit in district court when it became apparent that they would fall far short of the required signatures to put the measure on the November, 2020 ballot. A district court judge ruled in favor of accepting fewer signatures and extending the deadline, but the ruling was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which also agreed with the previous ruling. The Oregon Attorney General then requested a stay from Justice Elena Kagan of the U.S. Supreme Court, who granted the stay and remanded the case back to the district court. It is too late for IP 57 to be on the November 2020 ballot, but proponents of the initiative plan to continue to push for redistricting change in Oregon in the coming year.

Freddi Weishahn

Sources:

<https://www.commoncause.org/oregon/press-release/people-not-politicians-take-response-to-the-u-s-supreme-court-oppose-unnecessary-stay-motion-to-keep-redistricting-reform-off-the-2020-ballot/>

Supreme Court of the United States, Case No. 20A21, BEVERLY CLARNO, Oregon Secretary of State, *Applicant* v. PEOPLE NOT POLITICIANS OREGON, COMMON CAUSE, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON, NAACP OF EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD, INDEPENDENT PARTY OF OREGON, and C. NORMAN TURRILL, *Respondents*.

<https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/supreme-court-oregon-gerrymandering.html>

ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

by Terry Parker, Chair

On Climate Action

There just isn't much more to say about the reality of climate change that we have not seen, felt, smelled, or breathed here in the Pacific Northwest during this last month. Our hearts go out to neighbors and friends who have suffered. Take time to grieve over what is irreparably lost, then vow to work harder to save what we have.

The City of Eugene, Lane County and the State of Oregon all have Climate Action Plans (CAP) with proposed actions in progress. You can engage in a variety of ways.

The city is poised to move from publishing "Eugene's Community Climate Action Plan 2.0: A Roadmap for Eugene's Climate Journey," summer 2020 to implementing the plan with the promise of looking to the community for support in these ways:

- Reconvened Equity Panel
- Citizen Advisory Committees
- Individual, Household and Neighborhood Action Campaign
- Eugene Climate Collaborative
- Sustainability Business Strategy

There is much work to be done to ensure that the city's plan will get the desired results in reducing carbon emissions. Go to the 350 Eugene Drawdown Campaign to learn about their advocacy for the adoption of the plan: <https://350eugene.org/campaigns/>

To find more information about the City of Eugene's CAP2.0 go to: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4284/Climate-Action-Plan-20>.

Lane County is asking residents' help in creating a Climate Action Plan to better understand how to better prepare for and address climate change.

"We would like to hear from our community members as we start the second phase," said Lane County Analyst Mark Nystrom. "How do they want to participate? What are their priorities and ideas? We can't create a successful plan unless our residents help us build it and ensure that it reflects the priorities of our community." The county's survey is available until October 4: www.lanecounty.org/climateplan.

After years of work to develop a comprehensive climate bill, the 2020 Oregon Legislative Session ended without passing the bill. In March the Governor released her *Climate Policy Executive Order* requiring state agencies to make plans for reducing state greenhouse gas emissions.

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has its draft *Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework* ready for review. Comments will be accepted until October 31, 2020. Go to the DLCD website: <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Pages/Adaptation-Framework.aspx>

In these times it is too easy to feel discouraged. Action can help reduce feelings of despair. Exercise those reading, listening, writing and take action skills.

Action Committee Meeting

October 7, 10am

Via ZOOM

All are welcome.

If you wish to attend contact
action@lwvlc.org to be added to
the invitation list.

Zoom 101 - How to Attend a Virtual Live Zoom Class

Free at LCC

Learn the basics to confidently attend virtual live classes that meet using Zoom. You will gain an understanding of account types, safety features, joining, and controls available to you while attending class using Zoom. This is a self-study course with a live small group Zoom session facilitated by the instructor. Live Zoom sessions will be scheduled as needed. Session will be relaxed, so grab a cup of coffee, tea, or glass of wine and experience Zoom first hand.

Participants will need internet access, a computer or laptop, and an e-mail account. This is a two-hour self-study course, so you can register anytime within the given dates.

To register go to www.lanecounty.org then type Zoom 101 into the search box.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

by Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair

As the November election approaches, the LWVLC is co-sponsoring several Zoom-based candidate forums with the City Club of Eugene and the Springfield City Club that will be available to view and, in some cases, will also be broadcast on the following Monday evening on KLCC. Check their websites for additional information. This will be a good opportunity for League members to see the candidates running for some of their local and state races.

On Thursdays starting at noon the Springfield City Club will host these forums, and they will be available to watch on its Facebook page.

September 17

Springfield Fire Levy Ballot Measure

October 8

Candidates for State House District 12

City Club of Eugene will host these forums, and they will be available on a link at its webpage starting Fridays at noon.

September 25

Candidates for Lane County Commissioner, Position 3 (South Eugene)

October 2

Candidates for Eugene City Council, Ward 1

October 9

Candidates for State House Districts 8 and 11

October 16

Candidates for US District 4

October 23

Candidates for State House Districts 13 and 14

October 30

Candidates for Oregon Secretary of State

SPEAKERS BUREAU NEEDS YOU by Sharon Amasha

Without a doubt we are influenced by national elections, but it is the state and local ballot measures that can have the most direct impact on our daily lives. Providing impartial explanations of the ballot measures to neighborhood associations, retirement homes, places of worship, clubs, etc. is what the Speakers Bureau does.

What does a speaker do:

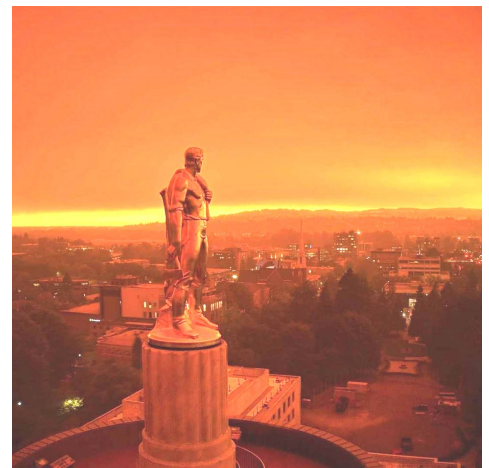
- Becomes knowledgeable in the Oregon State measures and the relevant Lane County measures. The League of Women Voters of Oregon provides detailed information regarding these ballot measures. The LWVLC provides the Lane County measure information using ballot submissions and other materials.
- Participates in a training session to go over the measures and discuss presentation format.
- Participates in Zoom meetings explaining the measures and answering questions. Usually two people from the League attend a meeting. (Someone who has not been a speaker will be paired with an experienced speaker).
- Meetings will be held during the month of October. COVID has changed our in-person presentations to Zoom meetings.

To join please contact Sharon Amasha sharonamasha@gmail.com

Do you, or someone you know, need information on how to vote by mail if displaced by wildfires?

If so, go to:

<https://lwv.org/2020/09/11/oregon-wildfires-and-vote-by-mail/>
And on Vote411.org



THE FRUIT SALE IS COMING!

By Marj Maxwell, Head Loop

The same great apples, oranges, grapefruit and hazelnuts, the same wonderful Oregon businesses as last year! As always, there will be the option to purchase fruit and nuts to be donated to Food for Lane County.

- Order forms will be available by mid to late October
- Last day to order will be mid-November
- Fruit will arrive the first week of December

Money from the sale of fruit is used for **essential outreach in voter service activities and advocacy**. It is the major fundraiser for League of Women Voters of Lane County. Eat and give more fruit and hazelnuts while giving friends, family and business associates the opportunity to do the same!

Make your contact and gift lists now so you are ready for action when the order forms arrive! It is important that you **personally follow up with those you have sold to in the past**. Help reach out through other organizations, social media and places you do business with. Every member has an important part to play in making this sale a success.

Your help is needed.

Would you like to become a Nutty Fruit Loop?

Do you know of another member that would be a good addition to our team?

This is a limited and mostly flexible time commitment. Meetings are limited to three, starting in late September, plus several two or three hour shifts the first week in December.

We are a fun, flexible group. It is a good way to learn more about the League and meet new people.

We use hand trucks during our fruit pick up but are especially in need of volunteers that can lift 20-23 lb. boxes into cars.

Some of us are also finding our tech skills being stretched. Can you lend a hand?

Contact Marj Maxwell, head loop at 541-521-3051 by text or leave a message.

Email marjmaxwell@lwvlc.org.

Your Nutty Fruit Loop Committee continues to work for the League. Please thank Sharon Amasha, Sandra Bishop, Janet Calvert, Barbara French, Mary Keating, Linda Lynch, Terry Parker, Sharon Posner, Susan Reynolds, Sheila Sundahl, and Jeanne Taylor. Also note that Linda Ferdowsian, Rhonda Livesay, Gary Harmon, and Charlcie Kaylor provide critical support as part of their roles in LWVLC.

OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Oregon (OLLI-UO) is pleased to announce a timely virtual lecture with two-time Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Ira Helfand. We invite you and members of your organization to attend. Choose the title below for the full description and to register.

Nuclear Conflict--The Growing Threat and a Call to Action https://osher.uoregon.edu/nuclear_conflict/

Monday, October 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m. PST
Registration is required.

Ira Helfand, MD, is a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, the recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, and co-President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the founding partner of ICAN and itself the recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. He is also co-Founder and Past President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, IPPNW's US affiliate. He will be speaking in his capacity as a member of the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

This presentation is free and open to the public. Limited seats are available; registration is required. Please note: The Zoom webinar link will be sent out the morning of the lecture (October 12), so please be sure to register to get onto our email list.

On Tuesday, October 20 at noon, the U of O offers the keynote address, *Defending Democracy: A Conversation with Eric H. Holder, Jr., 82nd Attorney General of the United States (2009-2015)*.

[Register now](#)

A leading progressive voice, Eric Holder has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the United States on a number of critical issues at the intersection of law and policy. He served in the Obama Administration as the 82nd Attorney General of the United States (2009 to 2015), the third longest serving Attorney General in U.S. history and the first African American to hold that office. A staunch advocate for civil rights and voting rights, Holder is active in gerrymandering reform as Chair of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. He is a partner at Covington & Burling LLP, in Washington, D.C.

This event is sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center's Public Affairs Speaker Series. It's part of the African American Workshop and Lecture Series, which is sponsored by the Office of the President and coordinated by the Division of Equity and Inclusion. It is also part of the Lorwin Lectureship on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. It is cosponsored by the UO Political Science Department; the UO School of Law; the UO Division of Equity and Inclusion; and KLCC, public radio.

LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of LANE COUNTY

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541-343-7917

For the latest information visit our website <http://lwvlc.org/>

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 6 - 2 pm, Unit briefing (page 2)
- 7 - 10 am, Action Committee
- 8 - 10 am, Voter Service Committee
- 12 - 15 Unit meetings (page 2)
- 15 - Noon, Third Thursday (page 1)
- 20 - 2 pm, Membership Committee
- 21 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting
- 23 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
(except holidays)
11 am - 1:30 pm

September's Third Thursday speaker featured an informative discussion with Senator Manning.
If you missed it you can watch online.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il93qnT4h9k&feature=youtu.be>

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DONATE NOW

<http://lwvlc.org/get-involved/donate/>

DUES ARE DUE!!!

Can't remember if you paid?
Contact the office at 541-343-7917 or
treasurer@lwvlc.org