

ARGUS

FALL LUNCHEON - September 18

Anne Best and Kathy Merwin-Gonzales, Membership Co-chairs



Don't miss the opportunity to meet Michael Jordon, Oregon's Chief Operating Officer, speaking at our Fall Luncheon at Valley River Inn - 11:15 am. McKenzie Room

Each member may bring a single guest for free (up to 30 available).

Program is free.
Lunch \$16 (includes tip)
Beverage only \$5

To make reservations, please contact the office by September 15 at 541-343-7917 or league@lwvlc.org

LWVLC'S 75th Anniversary Celebration - Janet Calvert

Be sure to reserve Sunday, October 19, to attend the League of Women Voters of Lane County's 75th Anniversary Celebration. The committee is planning a two-hour event full of information about our League's achievements, lots of fun photos, good food and better conversation. A real highlight of the

event will be a talk by former governor Barbara Roberts. It will be held at the new U of O Ford Alumni Center.

A special invitation will be sent to every member. It is EXREMELY IMPORTANT that you make a reservation for yourself and, if you wish, one guest by calling the

office, 541-343-7917 or league@lwvlc.org. The deadline is September 30. We must have an accurate count.

This League birthday is a great time to give a very special gift to promote a bright future for League. An anonymous donor has pledged to match League

member donations up to a total of \$1000. We are suggesting a minimum of a \$25 donation to help League leap into the next 75 years.

If you can't attend the celebration, you can use the form below to accompany your donation. We are requesting checks, no cash. If you have questions, call Janet Calvert, 686-2697.



The League of Women Voters of Lane County

Propel the League into the FUTURE
by giving a special, one time gift

Light a candle on the 75th Anniversary Birthday Cake with a minimum \$25 gift. Gifts will be matched up to \$1000 thanks to a generous donor.

League of Women Voters Education Fund(tax deductible):

A donation to this fund supports voter education, League studies, voter forums and voter guides.

Make your check to LWVLC EdFund.

League of Women Voters Lane County(NOT tax deductible)

A donation to this fund helps support our local office with advocacy for local positions, lobbying, membership drives, technology purchases and office expenses.

Make your check to LWVLC.

Name(please print): _____

Address: _____

NEW SPRINGFIELD UNIT - Flo Alvergue, Units Chair

LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2014-15

President
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

Vice President

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
JENNIFER HAYNES

Units
FLO ALVERGUE

Voter Service
RHONDA LIVESAY

As the new Units Chair, I have arranged for Springfield members, and anyone who is interested, to meet at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce at the historic **Springfield Depot**

Tuesday, October 14th, 5 - 6 PM. Coffee and punch will be served. We can discuss forming a new study unit as well as the topic for October: November Ballot Measures.

I hope all Springfield members (and guests are welcome) will attend this gathering. If there are any questions, please call me or the office.



Short Term Commitment

Candidate Debates and Speakers Bureau

Contact Rhonda Livesay at livesayr@comcast.net or 541-228-4373

State Convention (to be held in Eugene in May):

Contact Rhonda Livesay at livesayr@comcast.net or 541-228-4373

Third Thursdays: Need greeters at each meeting.

Contact Anne Best at annieb49@gmail.com or 541-343-5124 or

Kathy Merwin-Gonzales at Kathy1945Veneta@gmail.com or 541-935-4081

Directory Preparation

Contact Janet Calvert at JanKCalvert@comcast.net or 541-686-2697 or

Susan Tavakolian at susantavakolian@yahoo.com or 541-999-4197

Staff League Office

Contact Merle Bottge at mbottge@hotmail.com or 541-687-1777

Observer Corps

Contact Pat Hocken at jphocken@comcast.net or 541-343-1138

Got a bit more time, interest, or passion?

Human trafficking - Kappy Eaton, gopher44@comcast.net

Carbon Emissions - Ruth Duemler, ruthduemler@comcast.net

Program planning - Sue Boyd, jimboyd15@comcast

Health Care in Lane County - Pat Bitner, patbitner@gmail.com

April - Children at Risk, will have materials coming from the state League, but we need folks to serve on the committee. susantavakolian@yahoo.com

May - Status of Higher Education in Oregon - Kappy Eaton, gopher44@comcast.net

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

Next Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am

September 3

1021 N Pond Rd.

Eugene,

Kappy's home

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

BALLOT MEASURES

Oregon voters will make decisions on seven state ballot measures at the November 4, 2014 General Election. Four proposals are from citizen petitions, two are Constitutional amendments from the 2013 Oregon Legislature, and one reached the ballot via a citizen Referendum petition, with 58,201 valid signatures. Several of the issues for voters are complex and need careful review. League Units will discuss the measures in October and will receive the LWVOR Voters Guide in early October.

The Oregon League of Women Voters is supporting three of the ballot measures and making no recommendations on the other four. Based on our positions, we recommend passage of Measure 86, Oregon Student Opportunity Fund; Measure 88, Driver Card; and Measure 89, Gender Equality.

We have signed onto Voters Pamphlet statements for measures 88 and 89.

Following are brief explanations of the state measures.

Measure 86: This proposal amends the Oregon Constitution by adding an Article directing the Legislature to create an Oregon Student Opportunity Fund and allowing the state to issue general obligation bonds to provide the necessary dollars. Currently, the Constitution prevents the state from incurring general obligation debt. Only the earnings from the proceeds can be used to provide financial assistance to Oregon students pursuing postsecondary education, including technical, professional and

career training. The bonding for the fund is limited to a maximum of one percent of the real market value of the state – approximately \$4.3 billion. The Legislature can control, through budgeting, the actual amount that will be available for any biennium.

Measure 87: This proposal amends the Oregon Constitution to allow state court judges to be employed for the purpose of teaching at public universities and to be compensated for performing military service in the Oregon National Guard. Currently, the Constitution prohibits persons from serving in more than one branch of government at the same time.

Measure #88: This proposal, a statute, amends the Oregon Vehicle Code to allow the state in certain circumstances to issue limited purpose driver cards to Oregon residents as proof of driving privileges. The card would be issued to persons who comply with all current requirements for driving and provide proof of Oregon residency for more than one year without the person providing proof of legal presence in the United States. The card is valid for four years. It must be distinguished from the regular driver's license and cannot be used for identification purposes or commercial driving. Fees are estimated to cover the additional costs to the Department of Transportation with any excess going into the State Highway Fund. Currently, ODOT cannot grant a driver's license or permit to anyone not legally having presence in the country.

Measure 89: This proposal amends the Oregon Constitution by adding a new section to the Bill of Rights to prohibit the state and political subdivisions from denying or abridging equality of rights on account of gender. Currently, the Oregon Constitution provides that "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens." The new section adds language expressly prohibiting inequality based on sex.

Measure #90: This proposal, a statute, (1) would replace Oregon's elections system for major party primaries and the nomination processes for minor parties and nonaffiliated voters, for U.S. Senate, Congress, partisan state offices (Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, state Senator, state Representative), and partisan local offices except those subject to city and county Home Rule; and (2) change the general election process for those offices; and (3) change how replacements are chosen for vacancies in those offices and elections. There would be a single primary among all candidates regardless of party or nonaffiliated status, in which all voters may vote, with the top two vote-getting candidates advancing to the November general election. The ballot must state the party affiliation or "not a member" or nothing. The ballot also must state any party endorsements a candidate has accepted.

(Continued on page 6)

LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Eugene School District Local Option Levy

The League of Women Voters of Lane County is supporting Measure 20-222, which will appear on the November election ballot. This measure is a renewal of the Eugene School District 4J local option levy for general school operations for five years beginning in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The measure would continue the property tax levy first adopted in 2000 and renewed in 2004 and 2008 at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Without the continuation of the revenue from this levy, the district would need to reduce its budget by approximately \$8,000,000 annually. The

basis for LWVLC action on this measure is found in the League of Women Voters of Oregon position on Fiscal Policy and Tax System, which expresses support for "a tax system that is equitable, adequate, stable, easy to administer and as simple as possible." The position also states "Local districts should be allowed funding alternatives to provide educational programs."

Other Local Ballot Measures

There are two other local measures that have been placed on the November ballot. LWVLC intends to remain neutral on both of these measures, that is, neither oppose nor support them.

The City of Springfield has submitted Measure 20-223,

a City Charter amendment to allow a stipend for City Councilors and the Mayor. The proposed stipend is \$500 per month for the Mayor and \$300 per month for the Councilors, which would be indexed for inflation. The current charter language prohibits such compensation.

The City of Florence has submitted measure 20-224

to adopt an ordinance imposing a tax on motor vehicle fuel dealers to raise revenue for street repairs within the City. Similar to the gas taxes adopted by Eugene and Springfield, this tax would be paid by gas stations for the

sale of gasoline and diesel. The rate would be three cents per gallon from November through February and five cents per gallon from March through October.

Springfield's Urban Growth Boundary

The LWVLC Action committee is researching Springfield's proposals to expand the City's urban growth boundary to include more land for industrial development. The committee has concerns about the consideration of the Seavey Loop area for this purpose because of the potential loss of valuable farm land as well as the incompatibility of some industrial uses with farming.

SHARE THE MEMORIES - Sue Boyd

Reminiscing with an old friend about shared experiences is one of life's pleasures. Recently, **Alice Lewis**, a long-time League member, recalled some of her favorite League moments while we were talking about the upcoming 75th anniversary celebration.

Alice, who joined the League in 1976, spent years on the board from the late seventies through the mid-eighties, first as chair of the juvenile justice committee and then as voter service chair, including a year as

vice-president. But it wasn't those many hours of meetings she remembered best. It was the people she met and worked with.

That's true for most of us, and that's the reason we are asking you to share some of your League memories in the *Argus* this year as we honor our history. Looking at the pictures in the scrapbooks is fun, but we would love to hear the stories, too. Nothing fancy, not very long, simply an account of something in your League experience that meant

something special to you. **Send them to charlcie@efn.org**

In Alice's case, one of those special moments was presenting an award from LWVUS to Vera Hansen for her tireless dedication to voter service. Vera was a founding member of the Springfield League and an inspirational advocate for citizen participation in government. Discussing questions for candidates and other election issues with Henny Willis, the late editorial writer for the Register-

Guard, was another fond memory. She was also grateful for the opportunity to work with Norma Paulus, then secretary of state, on a voter service project. On the other hand, she is still annoyed, thirty-five years later, about comments at some of the contentious county commissioner hearings she had to sit through.

We would love to hear from both new members and old timers and hope you will consider adding your piece to our story.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Lewis and I had our conversation about League experiences a few weeks ago, and I am grateful now for that opportunity. Alice died August 23, not quite two months after the death of her husband Graydon. They would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in October. We were neighbors for 45 years, and until her health made it too difficult, we used to go to Third Thursdays together. She maintained her interest in League activities and renewed her membership just last month. The family has suggested contributions in her memory to the League of Women Voters of Lane County Education Fund.

No service is planned.

Sue Boyd

VOTER SERVICE - Rhonda Livesay, Chair



If you don't vote, you do not have a say in government. I was talking to a woman from Church Women United, and she was so upset that her grandchildren say voting does not matter. We all KNOW voting matters. That is why we have The League of Women Voters. We are an aging group. We need to reach younger people, we need to reach diverse communities.

Right now, we have a great committee. More work than we can do. We NEED YOU. If you don't mind speaking in front of groups (teachers?), the Speakers Bureau will be training in September. In October, we will need debate volunteers. But your regular input is the most important. Join our group and help us reach out to our community.

A regular meeting date has not been established. We will place it on the calendar on our website or call me, 541-228-4373 or email, livesayr@comcast.net.

HEALTH CARE IN LANE COUNTY - Pat Bitner

February League Study

Residents of Lane County are seeking and receiving health care, both physical and mental, from a number of sources, public and private. With the intense public interest in health care in the US following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, or Obama Care, it

is important that we understand where and how our local health care is obtained. Health care providers county-wide will be explored, as well as the coordination of physical and mental health care. Join in planning the February 2015 study unit. Our work promises to be both

challenging and rewarding. An initial meeting is tentatively set for Monday, September 22, 10am at the League Office. Please call or e-mail Pat Bitner, Chair, for information and to confirm prior to the meeting. 541-485-3971, patbitner@gmail.com.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LEAGUE - Ruth Duemler

Join our LWV committee for a carbon emission study! Is it "Cap and Trade" or "Carbon Fee?" What is the difference? Is there another approach? Is it a Big Money Scheme, or will it be an effective path to carbon reduction? We need to take the shortest and most effective path, consider the

economy and basic needs, and maybe change our energy using habits. Join us at the League office 338 West 11th.

September 24th, October 8th, and 22nd at 10 am to prepare the unit studies for December. Ruth Duemler 484-6145



ACTION - Continued

(Continued from page 3)

Measure #91: This proposal legalizes the personal possession of marijuana with certain limits, and provides for a commercial regulatory system of marijuana production, distribution and sale to begin January 1, 2016. A person over 21 years of age may possess eight ounces of marijuana at home, four household plants, and various forms of marijuana products. Outside of home, not in public view, a person may have up to one ounce. Using marijuana in a public place, while driving on a public road or providing it to a minor or to an intoxicated person is prohibited. The measure imposes a tax, by weight, on marijuana produced by licensees. The state tax and license fees will fund the costs of licensing and regulation. Any additional revenue will be distributed 40% to school funding, 25% to substance abuse/prevention programs, 15% to state police, and 20% to cities and counties or enforcement of the measure. Local taxation is prohibited. A city or county may adopt time, place and manner regulations of the nuisance aspects of licensed retail activities. Local governments may opt out of having marijuana businesses by having an election on the issue. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is the regulatory body responsible for establishing the commercial rules regarding licensing, production, processing, wholesale, and retail sale of marijuana products. There is no effect on state laws relating to medical marijuana, penalties for driving under the influence, use by minors, or employment matters.

Measure #92: This proposal, a statute, creates a labeling law effective January 1, 2016 for raw and packaged

foods for human use, wholly or partially made through genetic engineering, as defined. Food is subject to labeling if made from or produced with organisms in which genetic material has been changed through certain defined techniques or methods. Manufacturers of packaged raw foods must include "genetically engineered" clearly and conspicuously on the package, and the shelf or bin containing the food must also be labeled. Packaged food must be labeled "Produced with Genetic Engineering" or "Partially Produced with Genetic Engineering." No label is necessary for bakeries or restaurants, for unintentional use, or farmers unless they are a manufacturer or retailer. Rules as to who and when complaints can be filed are included as well as the intent to establish consistent and enforceable standards for labeling genetically engineered foods and educating citizens.

ELECTION INFORMATION

If you have moved or changed your voter registration information in any way, the deadline for registering for the November 4 election is October 15. Ballots will be arriving in your mailbox about October 20. You can expect your Oregon 2014 Voters Pamphlet around the first week in October. League Units will discuss the measures in October and will receive the LWVOR Voters Guide in early October.

STATE OF THE STATE

The September Revenue Forecast will be presented by the State Economist on August 27. This look at the status of the General Fund and where the 2013-15 Budget projection is, after the first year of the bien-

nium, will give guidance to the Legislature on where the revenue problems or possibilities lie. The Interim Committees of the Legislature will meet in mid-September to continue discussing issues for the 2015 session and begin the drafting of legislative concepts. Already on the radar are a carbon emissions tax, voter registration modernization, the bridge over the Columbia, water rights, public education goals, and health care.

OREGON VOTER REGISTRATION STATS

August 15, 2014

2,134,403 Oregonians registered to vote	
Republicans	650,407
30.5% of those registered	
Democrats	821,859
38.5% of those registered	
Non-Affiliated	499,335
23.4% of those registered	

The largest minority party is the Independent with 101,224 members, or 4.7% of those registered. The other recognized minor parties in Oregon are the Libertarian, Pacific Green, Working Families, Constitution, Progressive, and Americans Elect. These Oregonians, including "others," represent 2.3% of voters.

VOTING REFORM ISSUES

Secretaries of State, election officials, and members of public policy organizations from Oregon, California, Washington, Colorado, Montana and Arizona will meet in Denver September 9-10 to discuss voting registration, voter suppression, and other voting rights issues in the Western states. Kate Brown, Oregon's Secretary of State, is the keynote speaker. As a participant, I will give a report in the next *Argus*.

COUNTDOWN TO CONVENTION

LWVOR Convention 2015 - Rhonda Livesay, Chair

Just a reminder that next year we will be hosting the State Convention. Peter DeFazio might be the banquet speaker. I am still needing two committee chairs. I need a Hospitality Chair (flowers, center pieces, flag ceremonies, auction and sales) and a Registration Chair (meet/greet, sign in, prepare packets). It is going to be a fun event at Valley River Inn and I would love to see our local members involved. Contact Rhonda 541-228-4373 or email livesayr@comcast.net

League Directory Advertisers - Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

It's not a one-person task to compile and send a League Directory to each member. The good news is that the cost of printing the directory is more than covered by the advertisements purchased by supporting businesses.

Each year I ask Board Members for suggested new businesses that might be interested purchasing an advertisement for \$50, business card size, or \$75, a full page. Advertisers also are listed in every edition of the ARGUS and on our web page. Most advertisers have been participating for many years. Would you be willing to spend about 5-10 hours in October/November to work with me in this activity?

- Brainstorm for possible new advertisers
- Assist in composing and sending letter to new and prospective advertisers
- Place follow-up calls to current advertisers
- Proof directory ads to make sure all is correct

Interested? I would be glad to talk with you.

Janet Calvert 541-686-2697

In Sympathy

Phil Janz, a League member, died August 5. We offer condolences to his wife, Rosie, daughter Casey and the other members of the Janz family. Phil was both a teacher and principal in the Bethel School District, where he served for 32 years. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Bethel Education District. Information about a celebration of his life will be announced later.

Sue Boyd

Please give this
to a friend



*Thanks to our
2013-14 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

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) _____



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
league@lwv1c.org
Lwv1c.org

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 3, 9:30 am, Action Committee (page 3)
- 17, 1:30 pm, Board Meeting
- 18, Fall Luncheon (page 1)
- 19, Midnight - ARGUS deadline
- 22, 10 am, Health Care group (page 5)
- 24, 10 am, Carbon Emission group, (Page 5)
- 29, 1:30 pm, Speakers Bureau (page 5)

SAVE THE DATE

October 19th, 75th Anniversary
May 2015, LWVOR convention in Eugene

The League office hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
11 am to 1:30 pm
(Closed on Labor Day)

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.