

ARGUS

A NEW LEAGUE YEAR BEGINS! by Linda Lynch, President

If you have not been working over the summer on League projects, we need to get you on a committee! Oregon ballots will be mailed to voters in about eight weeks. Some voter service committee members plus others, led by Stephanie Winsor, are registering voters at naturalization ceremonies.

The naturalization ceremony this month created 27 new citizens, about half of whom were anxious to register to vote. (More than usual!) (This included some-

one from California, not really a foreign country. She was there to celebrate her friend's new citizenship and asked about how to register.) They came from 16 countries. (Five from India!)

That ceremony followed the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Holt International Children's Services just the day before. The story of Holt is well known locally, starting when Harry and Bertha Holt brought eight Korean children home to Creswell in 1955, then starting Holt International after securing

passage of a federal law enabling inter-country adoptions. Holt is based in Eugene and is the inventor of international adoption. After 60 years, Holt has placed children from 25 countries into homes in many countries. (Including mine!)



The face of America is changing, and the League is part of that change. We are all aware of the changing demographics in America. While politicians debate immigration policy, the citizenship journey is already underway for many, both young and old. The national League has embraced this changing face by expanding its membership base to include non-citizens, anyone over the age of 16. It is time for us locally to think about how our League needs to embrace today's changing

(Continued on page 2)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON Speaker - Colt Gill September 15 at Valley River Inn

“Every student graduates with a plan for his or her future”

For the third consecutive year, the U.S. Department of Education ranked Oregon's 2015 high school graduation rate the fourth worst in the nation. To lead the charge to improve the graduation rate, Governor Kate Brown named Colt Gill as Oregon's first Education Innovation Officer.

Gill has been an educator for 27 years and the superintendent of the Bethel School District in Eugene. But without big money or direct authority, Gill's task to get schools to change their ways and stop letting so many students slip away will be challenging.

Kathy Madison



To *reserve your seat* and/or request a ride, call the League office at 541-343-7917 by **Monday, September 12.**

Members: When making reservations for your guests, please include their name. The League will host up to 20 guests (one per member request).

Admission is free and open to the public.
Lunch is \$17
Coffee only is \$3

Doors open at 11:00
Lunch begins 11:15 am
Program begins 11:55

UNITS - by Paula Bassett, Chair

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

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Voter Service

RHONDA LIVESAY
KELI OSBORN

Hello members,

I am very excited to be your new Unit Chair and look forward to the coming year.

There will be no unit meetings in September. Look in the October *Argus* for unit meeting dates during the week of October 10th. The topic for October meetings is "**Ballot Measures**," which should make for lively discussions!

Remember the Fall Luncheon on September 15 at the Valley River Inn. I will be working as hostess at the door and hope to see you there, meeting many for the first time. The League hopes to increase membership this year, and the luncheon is a good chance for you to bring a friend to hear the interesting speaker and meet other members and guests. Be sure to register your guest before the registration deadline of September



ENGAGING NEW TOPICS FOR THE YEAR'S UNITS by Linda Ferdowsian & Susan Tavakolian - Program Co-chairs

In line with the LWVUS Board's recommendation for a League-wide *Campaign for Making Democracy Work*, our first three topics will be:

October, Ballot Measures
November, Voting Rights and Voter Protections and
January, Election Methods (LWVOR study/consensus)

Volunteers are needed for each of these and the three other spring units:
February, Post-Secondary, Higher Education (LWVOR study/consensus)
March, Housing and the Homeless, Lane County and
May, Oregon and the 2013 White House Climate Plan

Program Planning will be **December's** topic, and **Unit Choice** is scheduled for **April**.

The **Voting Rights and Voter Protections committee** will meet September 1st, 1:00pm, at Kappy Eaton's home, 1021 N Pond Dr., Eugene.

If you wish to serve on any of this year's unit program committees, please contact Susan Tavakolian (susantavakolian@yahoo.com) or Linda Ferdowsian (Lferdowsian@yahoo.com).

President's column continued

(Continued from page 1)

population. As you think about our membership luncheon September 15, and whom to invite, think about the new resident, someone from a different culture interested in the political process, someone younger. Think about how America is changing and think about what our League can offer.

Our lunch speaker, Colt Gill, has been tasked by Governor Kate Brown to examine one of the most pressing problems facing Oregon today: our abysmal high school graduation rate. We cannot begin to solve the problems or meet the global challenges before us if we fail to educate the next generation. We are failing our children in much the same way the world is failing the growing number of refugees. We have carved out our niche of welcome-ness locally, but it will take all of us to prepare the next generation of leadership. Please come to the September lunch, and please think about whom to invite or bring with you. We cannot assume the work facing Oregon and the country will be done by others. Even if you are not the one signing up to register voters, speak about ballot measures, or study other issues, maybe the person you bring to lunch will be! See you there!

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

Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday,
September 14,
1:30 pm
1021 N. Pond Drive
Eugene

Please contact
Pat Hocken at
541-343-1138 or
jphocken@comcast.net
if you have questions.

All League members
are welcome to
participate on the
committee.

OREGON 2016 STATE BALLOT MEASURES

The LWVOR Action Coordinators and committee members met August 9 to discuss the seven state ballot measures. Based on the pro and con discussion and League positions, the Action decisions were forwarded to the State Board. On August 12, the State Board met and approved the Action recommendations. At this time only Measure #97 has a coalition in support, and the League is considering joining.

#94 Constitutional amendment referral SJR 4 *Removes mandatory age for judges to retire.*

LWVOR can support. Currently in the Oregon Constitution, all judges must retire at age 75, but the Legislature could reduce that age to 70. Given the shortage of judges and the need for active court duty, the amendment is needed and relevant.

SUPPORT

#95 Constitutional amendment HJR 203 *Allows public universities to invest in equities.*

LWVOR can support. Currently, the Oregon Constitution specifically prohibits public higher education institutions from investing. Given the new Institutional Governing Boards and their responsibilities for financing all academic programs, along with the declining state support, the ability to invest and create fiscal support is critical to that mission. SUPPORT

#96 Constitutional amendment HJR 202
Creates new section to allocate 1.5% of net proceeds from State Lottery to fund veterans services.
While it would be nice to support such services using Lottery funding, LWVOR has no position. We also are concerned about another mandated use of Lottery funds. NEUTRAL



#97 Statute Initiative
Corporate Tax Increase
LWVOR could support or oppose. However, the LWVOR believes the need for increased state revenue to adequately finance public education at all levels, provide critical social and human services, maintain public safety, and support infrastructure and transportation projects makes adopting a gross corporate proceeds tax on Oregon businesses with over \$25 million in Oregon sales necessary. Also the unfunded billions of dollars in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) must be addressed. Since the initiative is a statute, the Legislature would have the ability to review the issue, if passed. SUPPORT

#98 Statute Initiative *Requires High School and College and Career Readiness Funding.*

The purpose is to improve Oregon high school graduation rates and college/career readiness. LWVOR could support. While the proposal has merit, the only funding source identified is the Administrative Fund (GF). The Legislature must provide \$800 per high school student per year to the Department of Education for weighted allocations to school districts, beginning July 1, 2017. With a looming state deficit budget of more than \$1 billion for 2017-19, requiring GF allocations for new programs is not feasible.

NEUTRAL

#99 Statute Initiative *Creates the Outdoor School Education Fund funded through the Lottery.*

LWVOR support would be a stretch. The funding would come from 4% of Lottery funds transfer or \$5.50 million from the general fund. Again, the proposal is worthy, but LWVOR has no specific position and funding is a problem. NEUTRAL

#100 Initiative Statute *Bans sale or purchase of parts or products of certain species of wildlife.*

No person may purchase, sell, offer for sale or possess with intent to sell any parts or whole covered animal. The covered animals include elephant, rhinoceros, whale, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, pangolin, sea turtle and shark. LWVOR has no position. NEUTRAL

ACTION - Local

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

League Support for Local Ballot Measures

The cities in Lane County are submitting several ballot measures to local voters in November; ten have already been filed with the county elections department. The League board has approved supporting City of Coburg Measure 20-250 and City of Springfield Measure 20-252. Each measure would increase the city's gas tax by three cents per gallon to a total of three cents per gallon. By Oregon law all revenue generated by the gas tax must be used for improvement and maintenance projects within the road right of way.

The League is supporting these measures based on our local position on Capital Improvement Financing, which stresses the importance of maintaining capital improvements, and on Local Government Finance, which supports user fees for specific services.

The other ballot measures submitted so far pertain to the recreational use of marijuana and would either levy a tax on retail sales or prohibit dispensaries in the jurisdiction. The League will remain neutral on these measures because we have no relevant statements of position.

Planning for Multi-family Housing in Eugene

The City of Eugene is expecting to finish in 2017 its Envision Eugene process to plan for growth in our community over the next 20 years.

One of the final decisions needed is how to accommodate the projected need for multi-family housing units. Originally, some of those units were to be located in the South Willamette area as part of a rezoning proposal that is not now under consideration. The current city proposal is to accommodate the need with high-density housing in downtown Eugene and medium density housing on land that is already zoned for multifamily units.

The League has been following and testifying on Envision Eugene since 2011 and is eager for the plan to finally be adopted. We are now gathering information about the proposed strategy and all the steps and documents needed for formal adoption. The City has informed citizens of the proposal at various park events this summer. In addition, the Envision Eugene website has lots of background information and offers a community survey. You can check it out at www.envisioneugene.org

If you are interested in future planning for the South Willamette area, you may want to attend the community forum being held by Mayor Piercy on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the South Eugene High School Cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is "to provide people from across the community with the opportunity to share their thoughts about the engagement processes related to South Willamette."

Planning for Employment in Springfield

Springfield is also engaged in a process to plan for growth over the next 20 years. The last decision regarding an expansion of the city's urban growth boundary relates to a proposal to expand the urban growth boundary by 257 acres to provide sites for target industries and uses that require sites larger than five acres. The boundary would also be expanded to include 455 acres of publicly-owned land for parks and natural resource areas. The potential expansion areas are located north of the Gateway area and south of the city near the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The League may testify at a September 12 joint hearing on the matter before the city council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Final adoption of the plan is expected in early 2017.

Lane County's Proposed Changes to the Initiative Process

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is still considering adopting changes to the local initiative process that would allow the Board to preemptively block any countywide ballot measure they deem not to be of "county concern" before it goes to voters or to the courts. Although the League and many citizens have testified in opposition to the proposal, the commissioners will discuss it again in September. The League considers it an ill-advised proposal that could discourage participation in the electoral process, dampen voter enthusiasm, and circumvent known initiative processes.

Breaking news:

LWVUS and VOTE411 have partnered with Google to provide candidate information directly into Google's Knowledge Panels. Information in Knowledge Panels is seen by Google users who are searching for information about a candidate. While this is a great opportunity for candidates to directly share their core platform and issue stances with Google Users, it is a great chance to reinvigorate or perhaps enhance the League's brand. It is estimated that League election materials may reach as many as 20 million people through this Google application. Don't be surprised if you are asked about it sometime in the next eight weeks!

Linda Lynch, President



VOTER SERVICE

by Rhonda Livesay & Keli Osborn, Co-Chairs

The Voter Service team is hopping!

Election years offer all kinds of activity and, in our most recent meeting, we challenged committee members to bring in more colleagues to share the work. **Join us!**

Ballot measures,

ballot measures, ballot measures

If you want to hold the rapt attention of family and friends, consider joining our cadre of trained ballot measure speakers. Our September training not only will prepare you for voting, it will enable you to share non-biased information with acquaintances and local organizations. We really need you, so please read on....

Seven statewide ballot measures will appear on General Election ballots in Oregon—with Damascus voters getting an eighth measure that proposes disincorporation. Locally, ten (so far) measures will show up on ballots in Lane County, proposing:

- Municipal taxes on retail/recreational marijuana in Cottage Grove, Veneta, Westfir, Dunes City, Florence, Eugene
- Prohibitions on certain marijuana facilities or operations in Creswell, Coburg
- Motor fuel tax increases in Coburg, Springfield

We know community members want to better understand the issues they'll see on ballots. And, because the League encourages informed voting and participation in government, we

put out voter guides and schedule presentations for local groups.

Right now, we're planning on a two-part training—the first session on Sept. 12 with a ballot measure overview and tips from a Toastmasters friend. We send out teams of two or three. Before you head to a civic club or residential center, you'll get solid information about the state measures, state voter guides, and a simple hand-out on the Lane County measures. (By the way, we are not doing the research and training required to talk in any depth about the local measures.)

Contact Rhonda Livesay or Keli Osborn to let us know you want to become a ballot measure presenter:

livesaylwv@gmail.com or kelimosborn@gmail.com.

Voter registration & information at the Home Show

We have the offer of free space at the upcoming Home Show - *how cool is that* - and will continuously staff a table on the evening of Friday, Oct. 7, and all day on Saturday and again on Sunday, Oct. 8 and 9. With an Oct. 18 deadline for new and changed voter registration, this outreach is timed just right! Contact Rhonda to sign up for a two- to three-hour shift: livesaylwv@gmail.com or 541-228-4373.

Naturalization ceremonies

Special thanks to **Stephanie Winsor**, who coordinated League efforts at the August 12 naturalization ceremony at U.S. District Court. League volunteers observed 27 people from 16 countries of origin take the oath of citizenship

in a ceremony presided over by Honorable Magistrate Judge Jolie A. Russo. We took in 11 voter registration forms, and helped courthouse staff create a welcoming atmosphere for new citizens and their guests.

Therese Picado has volunteered to help Stephanie with this quarterly-or-so event. If you'd like to participate, please contact Stephanie or Therese.

Gubernatorial & other fall candidate debates

We're co-hosting with Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), and possible others, an Oct. 6 evening debate for the governor's race. Five candidates have filed for the seat, and we expect three to five to participate. This one will be a little different than our usual forum. We'll supply questions, and OPB will generate questions, moderate and keep time. We still need volunteers to greet candidates and audience members, watch the doors, and collect audience questions. Please contact Keli, if you can help: kelimosborn@gmail.com or 541-968-7628.

Other debates and forums are possible this fall, though we aren't looking to repeat our spring tally of 11 events!

Thanks volunteers

Thanks to the many volunteers who support Voter Service—especially committee members **Flo Alvergue, Barbara Bryan, Janet Calvert, Barbara Carter, Kappy Eaton, Carol Hildebrand, Rosemary Isabell and Karen Rikhoff** (and honorary members **Linda Lynch and Kathy Madison**). Please consider joining the team or volunteering for one of our fun and enlightening opportunities.



OUR LEAGUE ADVISORY BOARD - WHAT IS IT?

by Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

Relevance, fresh ideas, varied perspectives and keeping “in touch” with the wider community: all of these functions describe the role of the League of Women Voters of Lane County Advisory Board. Once a year, a few League board members meet with this diverse and thoughtful group of people who are asked to comment and suggest ways the League can be more effective in outreach, programming and communication with the general public.

As the result of the Advisory Board’s suggestions, we found our current office site, upgraded our web sites and used special funds from members to increase League’s outreach to younger and more diverse populations. We listened carefully to their opinions about the short and long-term needs of our community. Advisory Board members gain a better understanding of League that they can share with other community members. A bit of history might be useful. The

Advisory Board was once referred to as the “Men’s Advisory Board,” who were asked to identify businesses or individuals who might be potential donors. League members (always two) would make appointments to discuss League and ask for financial support for League activities. Members did not like this job, and the amount of money raised became minimal. However, our League leaders believe that an advisory group made up of men and women with knowledge and experience in a broad context of community continues to be beneficial to League’s effectiveness. The conversations during an Advisory meeting are always lively and provide League with fresh ideas.

If it is possible, please take the opportunity to thank our Advisory Board members for their support.



2016-17 Advisory Board Members

Susan Soonkeum Cox:

Vice President, Policy and External Affairs, Holt International Children's Services

Dan Egan:

Richard E. Wildish Community Theater

Carrie L. Fortier:

Jones and Roth, CPAs and Business Consultants

Cynthia Pappas:

Retired, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon

Brett Rowlett:

Lane Community College, Director, Government & Community Relations

John Stark:

General Manager, KLCC

Carmen Urbina:

Program Development & Outreach Coordinator, U of O College of Education

Brittany Quick-Warner:

Eugene Chamber of Commerce, Director of Business Advocacy

Clair Wiles:

Teacher, North Eugene High School

THINKING AHEAD... to our annual fruit sale

by Marj Maxwell

Buying and selling high quality fruit, is a great way to support the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Fruit order forms will be mailed in early October with delivery in early December. It's not too early to begin planning who you will sell to and how much fruit you will purchase for yourself and others. We will continue to offer the option of purchasing fruit to be donated to Food for Lane County. Marj Maxwell will be the new Fruit Sale coordinator, taking over as “Head Loop.” Janet Calvert will continue as part of our fruit sale committee, fondly known as the

Fruit Loop Committee, mentoring Marj. Many thanks to Janet for her work in getting this fundraiser on sound footing as a solid fundraiser for LWVLC.

Become a Loop! If you are looking for a fun way to meet fellow League members, but want a defined commitment, join our Fruit Fundraiser Committee, also known as the Fruit Loops. Contact Marj Maxwell, marjmaxwell@gmail.com, 541-345-9351, or leave a message at the LWVLC office.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LANE COUNTY

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

DONATE NOW

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

For the latest information about League events, meetings, positions and the ARGUS, visit our website lwvlc.org

CALENDAR

AUGUST

30, 2:30 pm - Membership meeting, League office

SEPTEMBER

1, 1 pm - Voting Rights and Voter Protections committee (page 2)

9, 2 pm - Voter Service Committee, League Office (page 5)

14, 1:30 pm - Action Committee meeting (page 3)

15, 11:15 am - Annual Membership Luncheon (page 1)

21, 1:30 pm - Board meeting, League office.

23, Midnight - ARGUS deadline

OCTOBER

Lots and lots of exciting events. See especially the Voter Service article on page 5.

LWVLC Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11am - 1:30 pm
Closed September 7th, 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.

*Thanks to our
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Unique Properties

**Please give this
to a friend**



As a member of the League, you will receive the monthly newsletter from LWVLC (*Argus*), which has information about our monthly and unit meetings, and the quarterly newsletter from the Oregon League (*Voter*).

Mail the form and check payable to LWVLC to:
LWVLC
338 West 11th Ave, Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401

League of Women Voters of Lane County

Membership Form

- Individual \$65
- Household (Two people at the same address) \$97.50
- Student \$20
- Individual after February 1st \$32

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)