

ARGUS

NOTES FROM THE LWVUS CONVENTION

by Susan Tavakolian & Kappy Eaton

I. PMP* 2014-15:
No change - \$31/person
2015-16: \$32/person

II. NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE 2014-2016 BIENNIUM

A. New Position:
 Concurrence with LWV of New Jersey Position on Human Trafficking. The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

B. New Study: A Comprehensive Three-Part Program Combining Study and Review of Key, Specific Structures of American Democracy
1) A study of the process of

amending the U.S. Constitution including constitutional conventions.

2) A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change since the Watergate reforms, in order to enhance member understanding of the new schemes and structures used to influence elections and erode protections against corruption in our political process, and to review possible responses to counter them in the current environment of rapid change.

3) A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress, through the existing redistricting task force, for the purpose of developing action steps.

III. OTHER RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

A. Voting by Felons
 Be it resolved, we, the delegates to the 2014 Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to: Strongly advocate for passage of legislation that restores voting rights in federal elections to citizens with felony convictions who have been released from prison or who have been paroled or placed on probation; Use the resources of LWVUS to provide support to Leagues who are working to repeal state felon disenfranchise-

ment laws. Motion #20217, LWV of Clackamas County, OR

B. Carbon Emissions
 The LWVUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system. Motion #58537, LWV of New Castle County, DE

C. Current LWVUS Positions
 Retained all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

On a more personal note, there was a very interesting contested election for LWVUS president. Deidre Macnab, a dynamic, enthusiastic and articulate leader from Florida challenged Elizabeth MacNamara. She lost by about a 3/5 vote. She had been nominated for the Board, and unfortunately she was replaced before Convention. She would have been an excellent addition. There was a candidate forum, lots of electioneering, and a non-technology ballot with

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*PMP—Per Member Payment
 The portion of the dues collected locally and sent to LWVUS to support their work.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! - Susan Tavakolian, President

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
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GAYLE DOWNING

Nominations
STEPHANIE WINSOR

Membership
ANNE BEST &
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES

Public Relations
JENNIFER HAYNES

Units
FLO ALVERGUE

Voters Service
RHONDA LIVESAY

We are a volunteer organization, and we need help with both one-time only events and longer-term commitments to be successful! We need help with program topic development, candidate debates, directory preparation, Third Thursdays, state convention, observer corps. Below is more information and please volunteer to help!

Program Topics for 2014-15

We have an exciting array of unit topics for the upcoming year! Many thanks to the program committee (Mary Keating, Pat Bitner, Linda Ferdowsian, Ruth Duemler and Kappy Eaton), who developed these topics for us.

Now we need volunteers to help do the research and develop the questions for each topic. Two of the topics, Ballot Measures and Children at Risk, will have materials coming from the state League, and two of the topics, Program Planning and Unit Choice, do not need a committee to develop material. But for the rest, Human Trafficking, Carbon Emissions, Health Care in Lane County and Status of Higher Education in Oregon, we need volunteers to help with research and question development. The topics and chairperson of each topic are as follows:

Month	Topic	Chair	Email
October	Ballot Measures	Kappy Eaton	gopher44@comcast.net
November	Human Trafficking	Kappy Eaton	gopher44@comcast.net
December	Carbon Emissions	Ruth Duemler	ruthduemler@comcast.net
January	Program Planning		
February	Health Care in Lane County	Pat Bitner	patbitner@gmail.com
March	Unit Choice		
April	Children at Risk		
May	Status of Higher Ed. in Oregon	Kappy Eaton	gopher44@comcast.net

Please volunteer for the topic that most interests you. These studies are an important part of our League activities, and we need your help to make them a success.

Short Term Commitment

We also need help with many activities that are one-time events and do not require an ongoing time commitment. Below is a sampling of the kinds of activities with which we need help; please let the contact person know that you can help them.

1. **Candidate Debates:** Need people to sign-in, act as timekeepers, gather questions from the audience, set up table with League information, as well as other voters services activities, such as outreach to high schools.

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

2. **State Convention (to be held in Eugene in May):** Registration of participants, preparation of information folders for each participant, credential committee, recruit pages for business meeting, site hospitality (centerpieces for tables, organize Dine-A-Round for participants).

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

3. **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

4. **Directory Preparation:** Help with contacting/selling advertisements (most are long time advertisers), proofing the document.

Contact Janet Calvert at JanKCalvert@comcast.net or 541-686-2697 or Susan Tavakolian at susantavakolian@yahoo.com or 541-999-4197

5. **Staff League Office:** 11-1:30 Monday, Wednesday & Fridays during "League year." Contact Merle Bottge at mbottge@hotmail.com or 541-687-1777

6. **Observer Corps:** Attend local government meetings (Lane County Commissioner meetings, Eugene City Council meetings) and write a brief summary of the activities. Contact Pat Hocken at jphocken@comcast.net or 541-343-1138

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. When you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Marjorie Moore,
Minds Eye Information Service,
Belleville, IL, USA

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

Next Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am - August 6

1021 N Pond Rd.

Eugene,

Kappy's home

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

On November 4th, for the first time in many general elections, three of the four election elements possible in Oregon are included. The ballot has four citizen initiatives (direct democracy), two Oregon Constitution amendments referred by the 2013 Legislature, and one referendum on a legislative statute (enacted in 2013) brought by a citizen petition. The only element missing is a recall petition.

Following are brief summaries of the seven state measures on the ballot. During the October units, League members will be discussing them, as well as any local proposals. The LWVOR Voters Guide will be sent about September 30 and contains background information on the issues.

Citizen Initiatives

34: This proposal, on Gender Equity, is a constitutional amendment that adds a section to the Oregon Bill of Rights. Section 46 of Article 1 provides that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of Oregon or by any political subdivision in this state on account of sex." Additionally, the Legislature is granted the power to enforce the provisions of the section, and no other rights in Section 20 of Article 1 can be diminished.

44: This proposal, on genetically engineered food, is a statute requiring the labeling of raw and packaged food that has been so altered. The *Genetically Engineered Raw and Packaged Food Labeling Act* would result in a consistent and enforceable standard for labeling foods used only for

human consumption and offered for retail sale in Oregon, but not to packaged food served, sold or provided ready to eat. Genetically engineered means produced from an organism(s) in which genetic material has been changed through the application of vitro nucleic acid techniques or methods of fusion cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcome natural barriers and are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection.

53: This proposal, on marijuana, is a statute enacting the Control, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Act. The purpose is to eliminate uncontrolled manufacture, delivery and possession of marijuana in Oregon. It does not affect the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, and the oversight for compliance is placed with the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. This is a 31 page, detailed document, outlining the definitions, processes, powers, taxation, penalties, exemptions, limitations and enforcement procedures for legalization of marijuana in the state.

55: This proposal, on Oregon primary elections, is a statute enacting the Open Primary Act of 2014. It creates a fully open nomination system for specific federal and state elected offices currently elected on a partisan basis. The offices affected by this law, "voter choice," include partisan US Senate and Representative, Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Senators, Representatives

and any other state or local office that is non-partisan. The primary replacement system will allow all voters, whether or not they have a party registration, to vote on any candidates. The top two candidates in any nominating election will move to the general election ballot. There are regulations regarding how the ballot shows candidates with or without a party designation. Again, this is a somewhat complex proposal.

Constitutional Amendments

301: This Referendum is on Senate Bill 833, a driver's card statute passed by the 2013 Legislative Assembly. The ballot challenges the law allowing a driver's card to be issued to a person without proof of legal presence in the United States. As passed, the law requires that an individual must provide proof of identity, date of birth, a valid passport from the person's country of citizenship, a valid consular identification certificate, proof of at least one year's residence in the state, and compliance with all driving requirements. In addition, a Social Security number must be provided or a written statement that one has not been assigned, as well as payment of all fees. The Department of Transportation has the legal authority under the law, and a "driver's card" is the only approved legal wording, with the use of license or permit prohibited.

402: Senate Joint Resolution 1, 2013, is a constitutional amendment to allow the creation of the Oregon Student Opportunity Fund. A new Article XI-R would allow the credit of the state to be loaned and indebtedness

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LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Envision Eugene

The Eugene City Council has approved changing the land use designations to low-density residential for three sites within the existing urban growth boundary. These redesignations are for single family dwellings needed for long-term expected growth. The League testified in support of the redesignation for the Irving/Eagles parcel located at Irving Road and Northwest Expressway. The other two parcels are the Crow Road property near west 11th and Greenhill Road and the Gilham Road



property. The Lane County Commissioners must also approve the change for the Crow Road and Irving/Eagles parcels because they have not been annexed to the city.

The League also testified in support of redesignating the city-owned Naval Reserve site near 13th Avenue and Chambers for medium density residential and inclusion in the city's land bank for affordable multi-family housing. However, a further staff planning process has been added before Council action.

Transit Conversation with BEST

In June the League Action committee met with Rob Zako of Better Eugene Springfield Transit (BEST) to discuss the role of tran-

sit in our community. This meeting was one of over 30 conducted by BEST as part of its Community Conversations. Participants discussed the importance of transit and EmX and made the following points. Transit provides a critical community service by providing a transportation option for low income and younger residents and those with disabilities.

Transit is very convenient during inclement weather and for events with limited parking. Ridership, especially on EmX, is very good. EmX is an efficient, lower cost way to deliver service. Transit is a land use planning tool to encourage compact development.

There was also discussion of inadequacies/problems in the current Lane Transit District system. There are gaps in service coverage due to insufficient funding. Some riders do not like



EmX service because of the limited stops and longer walks to access them. The district relies on an unpopular payroll tax for two-thirds of its operating revenue. The cost of providing regular transit service is increasing faster than the district's ability to raise fares or increase tax collections. A true regional plan for EmX build-out does not exist in TransPlan due to the compromises required to secure adoption. Thus,

the development of every new route provides an opportunity for debate.

It was noted that community members have misconceptions and lack knowledge about transit operations. For example, contrary to common opinion, the cheapest way to provide service is not with a fleet of small buses but with much larger vehicles because of labor and equipment life-cycle costs.

Other BEST Activities

BEST is following the planning for Main Street - McVay Highway EmX corridor in Springfield as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the project. BEST believes that the Main-McVay route should be considered as part of the larger regional EmX system, with an emphasis on serving the needs of people, especially transit dependent people.

BEST is also working with the Transportation for Oregon's Future (TOF) coalition to obtain additional funding for transit from the 2015 Oregon Legislature, particularly funding for paratransit services such as RideSource and to restore the free transit pass program for youth. TOF is a network of concerned organizations, businesses, and citizen leaders supporting transportation choices for the 21st century. Steering committee members include 1000 Friends of Oregon, BEST, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, OPAL Environmental Justice, the Oregon Environmental Council and Oregon Walks.

Beltline Facility Plan

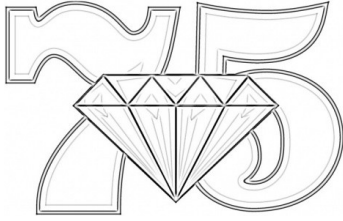
The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), working closely with the City of Eugene, Lane County, the Lane Transit District and community members, has developed a long-term plan for improvements to the Beltline Highway between River Road and Coburg Road.

The Beltline Facility Plan focuses on ways to address current and future traffic. The draft plan recommends further study of three corridor concepts that would improve safety and reduce congestion on the highway while minimizing impacts to the surrounding community and providing improved access for those who bike, walk, and take transit. The plan must be endorsed by the City of Eugene, Lane County, and the Metropolitan Policy Committee before adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

After adoption, the plan will be subjected to environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is required for federal funding. The NEPA process will include more detailed and rigorous analysis of project impacts and recommend a preferred alternative. There will be opportunities for public comment throughout the upcoming activities. Additional information is available at the project website www.beltlineplan.com.



75th CELEBRATION UPDATE



**Save the date:
Sunday afternoon,
October 19 from 1-3.**

We now have a location for our 75th Anniversary Celebration; the ballroom at the **Ford Alumni Center at the University of Oregon.**

We are indebted to the support and cooperation of the U of O Government and Community Relations office by making it possible for the League to use this beautiful new facility. It is the perfect place to celebrate League's notable past and prepare for renewed efforts to encourage informed and active participation in civic issues.

The celebration will feature **Gov. Barbara Roberts** along with special entertain-

ment, displays, activities and light refreshments. The event is free of charge. **IMPORTANT: Each member and guest must have a reservation.**

To make the event special, we still need your help. Please search those boxes under the bed or elsewhere for old League photos or documents that you would like to share. We encourage you to tell us about your "favorite League activity or memory by writing a short (three or four sentences- not more than 250 words) piece for the ARGUS. We will feature one or more of these memories

each month. Send your article to ARGUS editor, Charlcie Kaylor, charlcie@efn.org.

Contact a member of the Diamond committee if you find a League treasure that you are willing to share. Let's make this a year of memories, new accomplishments and conviction that every voter and vote does make a difference.

The Diamond Committee: Flo Alvergue, Sue Boyd, Kappy Eaton, Becky Gladstone, Jennifer Haynes, Charlcie Kaylor, Rhonda Livesay, Susan Tavakolian, Janet Calvert, Chair

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.

Remember that each member can bring a single guest for free (up to 30 available). Be ready to reserve their place and yours when you read the information in next month's ARGUS.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON EMISSIONS STUDY GROUP – Ruth Duemler



A LWV study group is forming for December units on Climate Change and Carbon Emissions.

A resolution was passed by National LWV to support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy fast enough to avoid serious damage to the cli-

mate system. We have had a visit with city's Assistant Manager Matt McCrae, who gave us materials and information on the city of Eugene's Action Plan for Climate Change.

Our next meeting will be at 1745 Fircrest Dr. by Hendrick's Park on August 6th at 10am. Please call 541-484-6145 Ruth Duemler

TESTIMONY

Lane County Board of Commissioners
Public Service Building
Eugene, Oregon
June 17, 2014

I am Susan Tavakolian, president of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding the Lane County budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The League supports the budget that was approved by the Lane County Budget Committee and urges the Board of Commissioners to adopt it. We are pleased that the budget recommended to you by the Budget Committee generally maintains the level of services and employees that has been in place for the current 2013-14 fiscal year.

The stability of funding in the FY15 budget for several

elements of the public safety system is positive and noteworthy after many years of reductions or proposed reductions. Specifically, the five-year local option levy approved by voters in 2013 is providing a second year of funding for the same level of jail beds and juvenile services. Twenty-four-hour Sheriff's patrols will again be provided by using reserves transferred from the Road Fund. The District Attorney's office will be able to add two assistant district attorneys for county prosecution.

We recognize, however, that the budget is balanced at this level for FY15 partly because of the unexpected receipt of a federal Secure Rural Schools payment in late 2013. Looking out a few years, serious shortfalls in resources for the General Fund and the Road Fund are projected due to the

constraints of Oregon's property tax laws and the uncertainty of federal payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) and federal timber revenue. In such a scenario, severe cuts to services and staff would be required.

You are, of course, aware of these potential challenges and actively working to find resources to close budgetary gaps. The League has previously urged the Commissioners to develop a ten-year public safety plan to address all aspects of this critical county service.

We continue to believe that the adoption of such a plan to define and find ways to implement a balanced public safety approach is essential, especially in the context of budgetary gaps.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our comments on the budget to you.

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incurred to finance the corpus of the fund, not to exceed at any one time more than one percent of the real market value of all the property in the state. The Legislature shall establish the Student Opportunity Fund to be used exclusively for Oregon students pursuing post-secondary education, including technical, professional and career training.

Board Notes continued

(Continued from page 1)

waiting lines. This was the first contested election in many years.

The comprehensive workshops were on three tracks - local, state leaders, and membership, leader development and well planned. We had lots of both speak-

The amendment sets out other sources of money for the Fund, including investment. Legislation also would include details of the student assistance program.

Referendum

403: Senate Joint Resolution 203, 2014, first rescinds SJR 34 passed in 2013, and then proposes a constitutional amendment to Article XV regarding serv-

ing in the Legislature if employed by a school board, a public university, or an educational supervising board or commission. There would be no bar to legislative service for such employees. Also, the amendment would allow a judge of any state court to be employed by the National Guard for performing military service or to teach at any public university.

ers and conversations about voting rights, campaign reform, voter registration and heard some horror stories as well as hard fought legal battles with League successes. We tried to pitch vote by mail to states having problems, but they all seemed to think there was a lot of fraud!

The Omni Hotel, in Dallas, was HUGE, and we walked blocks inside all day. The food was excellent, with a variety of restaurants in the hotel - good because we were not near any outside.



COUNTDOWN TO CONVENTION



As announced in June, Lane County League has been selected to host the League of Women Voters Oregon Convention May 2015. So... there will be many, many opportunities to help with this event. There are the jobs listed on page 2 and more. Have a skill you can contribute to the effort? Even if you have limited time, talk to Rhonda Livesay at livesayr@comcast.net or 541-228-4373 to find out where you can help.

If you can't commit now, every ARGUS will have a list of needs and an update on the events. So be sure to WATCH THIS SPACE.

SPRINGFIELD UNIT POSSIBILITY

ATTENTION: LWV members in Springfield! There will be a gathering **October 14th at 5 - 6 PM** at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce located in the historic Springfield Train Depot on 2nd St. to discuss forming a study unit. Ballot measures will be the topic of discussion, and all interested members and potential members are invited. Guests are welcome!

Flo Alvergue, Units Chair

Frances Doreen Jones - 1929-2014 passed away May 27

Doreen was an involved League member for many years, particularly in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. She was active on study committees and in unit meetings. When she was no longer active, she got the League to establish a Subscribers option to allow her and others to receive current League materials.

Kappy Eaton

I remember Doreen as an environmentalist who was well versed about anything for which she advocated. *Ellen Maddex*

I loved listening to Doreen's gentle British voice at briefings. It made me reflect each time how important it has been for individual women in every world culture to be invited to learn and speak about local and national affairs, and how important it is that groups like League continue to call a diverse group of women together, often with the challenge to stay informed and to vote. I will miss her quiet reminder of the importance of the League of Women Voters. *Dian Missar*

Please give this to a friend



Thanks to our 2012-13 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 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)



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

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Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
league@lwv1c.org
Lwv1c.org

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CALENDAR

AUGUST

6, 9:30 am, Action Committee, page 3
12, 1:30 pm, Membership Committee
14, 3 pm, Chat & Chew-5th Street Market
20, 1:30 pm, Board Meeting
22, Midnight - ARGUS deadline

SAVE THE DATE

September 18th, Fall Luncheon
October 19th, 75th Anniversary
May 2015, LWVOR convention in Eugene

Summer office hours
The League office is open
Monday and Thursday
11 am to 1:30 pm

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.