

ARGUS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Linda Lynch

People tell me summer is a lull time for much of the League's work. If that is true, it is a good thing that I have had time to begin learning how the league has and has not changed since I last served on your board! For example, I doubt that three ((or maybe four) decades ago we worried about audits, insurance, or filing our corporate status with the state. For sure, we were not filling out forms on line or creating passwords to access state and national League databases! I'm not certain we even knew the word "database".

Times change, but many things do not. We need to embrace our history but prepare for the future. Locally, the Board met/retreated to discuss plans for the coming year and to set some modest goals for ourselves. I say "modest" because I hope I can trick myself into thinking they will be easy to achieve: increase our visibility, find more (some?) ways to involve new (or inactive) members, and become more technologically adept. We have ideas about all of these, but as you can well imagine, it is a journey, not an event. Watch for progress reports on each of those goals, as we embrace our future.

As I read news from our national president, Elisabeth

MacNamara, I am struck by two things: our 95-year history to protect voting rights and the need to prepare to continue that fight for the next 95 years and more. (Times change, but some things do not.) Here in Oregon we may not have that immediate sense of betrayal caused by voter suppression resulting from state laws that restrict access to the ballot. But that concept is driving much of the agenda for the national league now. Two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a key part of the Voting Rights Act (the same one I lobbied in 1981 when I was on the state league board!), leading to an attack on the voting rights of American citizens. Despite public outcry since the decision, Congress has failed to repair the VRA.

Two national studies on Key Structures of Democracy will be included in our program this year. The first asks whether it is time to consider a second Constitutional Convention (the first was when? 1789!). The second examines the role of money in politics. (Don't get me started!)

In our immediate plans, the League board has endorsed the proposed five year levy to help create Eugene's library of the future. The levy question will be on the November ballot, and as you



know, turnout in an off year is often low. We will also register UO students to register during their registration for fall term classes.

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day August 26, remember the people of North Carolina who right now are fighting enactment of an omnibus anti-voter bill. We may be happy about passage of a law that requires the Oregon DMV to share information about potential voters with the Secretary of State's Office, for purposes of registering those people to vote or updating their registration. But in North Carolina, the League of Women Voters is the lead plaintiff, along with the U.S. Department of Justice and the NAACP, challenging the constitutionality of this law. The case is currently being heard in Federal Court. Times change, but some things do not.

FINANCE

by Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

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

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League Directory - help wanted

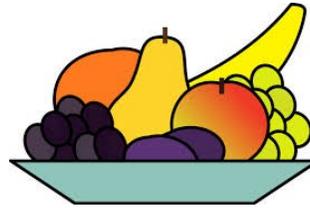
Your League Directory is a handy tool. It contains the names and contact information for all of our members, condensed versions of local, state and national positions and basic information about League. The good news is that the cost of printing and distributing the League Directory is more than covered by the advertisements purchased by supporting organizations and businesses.

The price of a business card sized ad is \$50 and a full-page ad is \$75. Advertisers are listed in every edition of the ARGUS and on our web page. Most advertisers have supported us for several years and we welcome new advertisers.

Please consider contributing 5-10 hours during September and October to be part of the Directory Advertising Team.

We will:

- Brainstorm ideas for new advertisers
- Contact past and prospective advertisers
- Make follow-up calls to current advertisers
- Proof directory to assure accuracy



Our League Fruit Sale begins in October with delivery in December. You, too, can be on the Fruit Loop team.

Call Janet Calvert

541-686-2697 or Marj Maxwell, 541-345-9351 to become part of this important and fun-loving team.

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Best & Kathy Merwin-Gonzales, Chairs

The Membership Committee is excited to announce that this year's fall luncheon will feature Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins. She will be speaking about motor voter registration and the mandated public records review.

The luncheon will be held at Valley River Inn on September 24 from 11:00 to 1:00.

Members are encouraged to bring a guest. The first twenty guests who are registered will be treated by the League.



Watch for Sine Die Legislative Report In the September Argus

ACTION - Local

by Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

Next Action Committee Meeting

9:30 am

June 5

Location to be
determined

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

Contact Pat Hocken
jphocken@comcast.net

541-343-1138

for location information

Eugene Library Levy

The Eugene City Council on July 13 voted unanimously to place a local option property tax levy to support city libraries on the November 3 ballot. Prior to that the League submitted testimony in support of such a measure and of submitting it to the voters.

The levy would raise \$2.7 million annually for five years beginning July 1, 2016 and would cost the owner of an average Eugene home about \$3 a month. The levy is intended to supplement the current funding budgeted in the city's general fund, which is expected to continue at the same level. The additional revenue will be used for specific purposes, including:

- 1) adding 22 hours of service each week at both the Bethel and Sheldon libraries, to provide 48 hours over six days a week, and adding three hours on Sunday mornings each week at the Downtown library to provide 64 hours over seven days a week;
- 2) adding \$300,000 annually to the library's materials budget for new books and other resources, such as access to laptops;
- 3) increasing programming for early literacy and teen services.

The League will be working with other library supporters on the campaign to pass the measure in November. Look for updates on how you can help.

Envision Eugene

The Eugene City Council has provided the final direction to staff to allow completion in early 2016 of the multi-year process to adopt a 20-year Envision Eugene

growth plan for the city. The Council adopted the "hybrid option" recommended by the City Manager and supported by the League. With this option, a baseline urban growth boundary will be adopted using the 2009 population forecast available when the process began and the basis for all previous staff work and public comment. The just-issued 2015 population forecast will be used for monitoring of the plan and the identification of urban reserves, which are areas considered appropriate for future development, when needed.

The following are excerpts from the League's July 20 communication to the Mayor and Council:

This hybrid option will allow adoption of an urban growth boundary based on previously performed staff analyses and significant community feedback, as well as accelerated monitoring of future land needs and availability, plus long-awaited neighborhood planning efforts.

The manager's recommendation will also direct planning staff to develop urban reserves based on the latest population forecasts. Moving forward in this way will be a great investment in the city's future. The League urges you to support the city manager's recommendation.

Thank you for considering the League's long interest in this matter.

Moving Ahead

The League continues to follow Moving Ahead, a joint planning project of Lane Transit District and the City of Eugene to determine

what improvements are needed on major transportation corridors for transit riders, pedestrians, and bicycle riders. Corridors under study now are Highway 99, River Road, Coburg Road, 30th Avenue to Lane Community College, and MLK Jr Blvd/Centennial Blvd. Community meetings were held in June and are scheduled in August and September. On September 14 there will be a public open house at the Eugene library to release possible designs. The LTD Board and the City Council will have a joint work session on September 28 and during October are expected to reduce the number of corridors under consideration to four. The ultimate goal is to prioritize transit, walking, and biking projects along the selected corridors so they can be funded and built in the near-term.

Further information is available at the project website <http://www.movingahead.org/>. Posted on the website are schedules of upcoming events, background information, maps, and preliminary design options.

Action Committee Meetings

Any League member is welcome to attend the Action committee meetings. At these meetings, the committee discusses pending governmental action at the local and state level and considers whether League advocacy is needed and appropriate. Committee recommendations are referred to the LWVLC board, which decides what actions should be undertaken.



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
League@lwvlc.org
Lwvlc.org

CALENDAR

AUGUST

12, 10am - Voter Service committee meeting
19, 1:30pm - Board meeting

SEPTEMBER

24, 11am - Fall Luncheon w/Jeanne Atkins

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.

Office Summer Hours
Monday and Thursday
11am to 1:30pm

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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

- 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)