



Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

CHANGING AT THE TOP AND HARKENING BACK

by Charlcie Kaylor, President

LWVUS leadership structure has changed, as you can see below. Its CEO, Virginia Kase Solomón, recalls pre-19th Amendment days by being arrested for rallying in support of the Voter Rights Act. (See more on page 3.)

Well into the 21st century the League is moving to reflect its missions in new ways and with methods that worked more than 100 years ago.

LWVUS Announces New Executive Team

7/28/2021

WASHINGTON — Today the League of Women Voters of the United States is pleased to announce a new leadership structure and executive team that will guide the organization into its second century.

“I am thrilled to have this dynamic team of highly qualified women who bring diverse perspectives to strengthen the League’s impact on voters and our democracy,” said **Virginia Kase Solomón**, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “These successful women represent the future of the League and together create the strongest team possible to meet the unprecedented challenges our democracy faces today.”

Solomón is joined by the following members who round out the executive team:

[Ayo Atterberry](#), chief strategy officer, who will direct the League’s programmatic strategic focus

[Cecilia Calvo](#), chief development officer, who will oversee the financial stability and growth of the organization

[Sarah Courtney](#), chief communications officer, who will lead the League’s strategic messaging and brand visibility

[Ellen Hobby](#), chief operations officer, who will oversee the administrative and operational functions of the organization

[Kelly McFarland Stratman](#), chief of staff, who will coordinate the executive team and national board

[Celina Stewart](#), chief counsel & senior director of advocacy & litigation, who will lead the League’s advocacy and litigation focus

“I am filled with pride for our executive team, representing highly qualified and successful women in our field,” said **Dr. Deborah Turner**, president of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “With more than 750 local Leagues around the country, our legacy organization is deeply rooted in our communities. Our national staff in Washington brings stellar professionalism to the modern-day voting rights battle.”

Today’s announcement signals a renewed commitment and focus for the League to invest in strategic solutions to our nation’s challenges around elections and democracy. The League of Women Voters celebrated 100 years in 2020, and this month launched a [new initiative, ‘Women Power Democracy,’](#) to advance a stronger, more representative American democracy.

LWV of Lane County Board and Off Board Roster 2021- 2022

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president@lwwlc.org

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Units
MARY KEATING

Voter Service
PAULA GRISAFI

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Director
KATIE LOUGHARY

UNITS Mary Keating, Chair

In June, eighteen of our members participated in the *Pesticides and Biocides in Oregon* consensus unit meetings. Many members were not able to access the study online but have received the materials now by mail, so there will be an in-person meeting Tuesday, September 14 at 10 am in the League office. If you need a copy of the consensus questions, contact the office by phone, 541-343-7917, or by email, office@lwwlc.org.

Monthly unit meetings will resume in October. Depending on recommended protocols, meetings will be held virtually as well as in-person.

PROGRAM Linda Ferdowsian and Sabree Hamel, Co-Chairs

The initial committee meeting to discuss the material for October's units, *Ballot Measures*, will be Monday, August 9 at 1pm in the League office. In addition to or instead of ballot measures, the committee will pursue comparisons of voting methods, particularly STAR and Ranked Choice Voting. Anyone wishing to have input and help prepare the material is welcome to attend.

On August 11 at 10 am the *Wildfire Risk in Lane County* Committee will meet in the League office. Committee members are encouraged to bring any relevant and current resource materials.

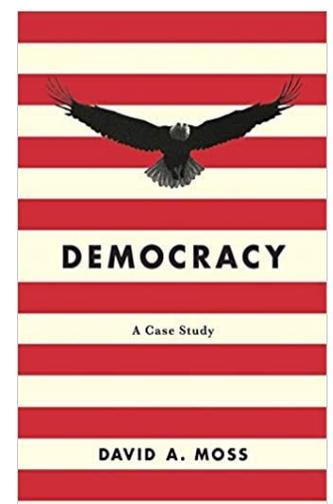
Preparation for *Elementary and Secondary Facilities (Broadband access in Lane County)* will begin the first week of September. We will be looking at the wording of our position. More volunteers are needed for this topic.

Mental Health Services, Drug Court and the Ramifications of Measure 110 is the unit topic for April 2022. That committee will be convening the second week of November.

DISCUSSION GROUP?

Several members are interested in having discussions for David A. Moss's book, *Democracy - A Case Study*, (2017) which is available online through the Harvard bookstore, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble for \$20.50 (softcover version). The discussion for Case #19 - *Citizens United* and corporate speech will be held in late August or early September, the place and time to be announced. If you would like to join in the discussion, please contact Sharon Amasha at sharonamasha@gmail.com.

Freddi Weishahn



VIRGINIA KASE SOLOMÓN, LWVUS CEO

Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair



Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters, was arrested on July 29, along with Texas Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and Johnnetta Cole, president of the National Council of Negro Women. Other activists who came to Washington for a rally in support for federal voting legislation were also taken into custody.

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation organized the protest with support from other voting rights groups. Carly Fiorina, a Republican who ran for president in 2016, was joined by other female leaders who spoke. “Does it make any sense that voting should be restricted to as short a time period as possible and that citizens must stand in line for hours at a time? How can we justify that as these citizens wait to vote, they may no longer be offered a chair to sit or a bottle of water to drink?” Fiorina said.

These women are carrying on the fight for suffrage that has been the keystone for the League of Women Voters for 101 years. Their actions illuminate the fact that voting is a right that we must constantly advocate for and protect. We must be vocal, and we should make all our legislators and leaders aware of the importance we place on its defense. Call your legislators and talk to family and friends in other states about the value of passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the gravity to our democracy of doing nothing.

“We must pass the Voting Rights Act because my people in Texas are suffering, my people in Mississippi are suffering, my people in Georgia are suffering. We are here to say that voting rights is a fundamental constitutional right. ... We will not be moved.” Jackson Lee said prior to her arrest and that of six others, including Solomon, who blocked the entrance to the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington DC.

Voter Service Meeting
Date and time to be decided
contact voterservice@lwvlc.org

(Quotes excerpted from a *Washington Post* article)

HOUSING IN SPRINGFIELD (AND BEYOND)

Springfield interim planning manager and LWVLC member **Sandy Belson** speaks with KLCC host Barbara Dellenback about housing solutions. They discuss the rising cost of housing, legislation aimed at creating affordable housing (House Bill 2001), and efforts to make sure everyone has shelter.

Belson speaks to the need for a holistic approach to the complicated issues of housing and debunks some misunderstandings of HB 2001.

This interesting and informative conversation can be found on KLCC’s website at: www.klcc.org/post/oregon-grapevine-housing-springfield



Charlcie Kaylor

THANK YOU

Jeanne Taylor, Secretary

Each year during the Annual Meeting the President appoints volunteers to proofread the minutes of the meeting. In April 2021 **Alida Rol**, **Susan Tavakolian** and **Merle Bottge** kindly volunteered to serve. On behalf of the Board, and especially from me, a sincere thank you is extended to Alida, Susan and Merle for the excellent, timely job they did. We sincerely appreciate the way Leaguers like these step up when they learn of a need. The minutes have been approved by the Board. If any member missed the meeting or for any other reason wants to read them, please contact me for a copy. secretary@lwvlc.org

ACTION UPDATE

Terry Parker, Chair

Public Safety

On July 26th, a **City Council Work Session** reviewed a working matrix created by the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Policy.

1) Each recommendation or policy area can be checked with the appropriate decision-making authority (city, county, state, federal), the change needed (city code, collective bargaining or training), with updates for current status. Progress will be re-evaluated in May 2022. Council plans to begin taking action on the recommendations when they return from break on September 8.

2) EPD Chief Skinner and Fabio Andrade of Human Rights Neighborhood Involvement updated council on the city's response to hate and bias crimes. Chief Skinner verified that the EPD is severely lacking diversity and must work harder at building trust, especially in the LGBTQ community. Andrade noted that the latest federal data show that ONLY 40% of hate crimes are reported because of mistrust and fear of retribution. The council voted to adopt changes to city ordinances regarding the penalty for hates crimes, which will now range from \$2,500 to \$6,250, and the addition of display of a noose as a bias crime of intimidation.

Climate

On July 19, 2021, Governor Brown signed **HB 2021** which will require retail electric providers to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions sold to Oregon consumers at least 80% by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040.

Juliana v. United States, the children's climate case, may be getting an opportunity to prove a constitutional rights violation by claiming ongoing injury and life-threatening harm based on recent rulings.

"The youth plaintiffs claim their constitutional rights to a stable climate are being violated through government support of fossil fuel extraction, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit dismissed their case last year. Attorney Julia Olson from Our Children's Trust, the nonprofit at the helm of this and

other domestic youth cases, told Judge Ann Aiken that the decision scrapping the case didn't bar plaintiffs from bringing fresh claims for declaratory relief." Jennifer Hijazi, *Bloomberg Law*, June 25, 2021

[New SCOTUS Precedent Used in Bid to Amend Kids' Climate Case](#)

July 31, **Lane County Climate Action Plan** winds up its outreach to stakeholders and community members through surveys and virtual public meetings. For more information on the draft framework see:

<https://lanecocap.participate.online/>

Homelessness

July 28, Joint Session - Eugene City Council and Lane County Board of Commissioners met to discuss the *Shelter Feasibility Study* and *Homeless Service System Transformation Framework* by the Tactical Assistance Collaborative (TAC).

[Low Barrier Shelter & Navigation Center](#)

Councilors and commissioners agreed that much has been accomplished since the study was completed in 2019, although many in the community have not acknowledged, or are unaware of, the progress. Sarai Johnson, Joint Housing and Shelter Strategist, forecasts that the high number of unsanctioned campers in our county (approximately 2,000) is likely to continue into the foreseeable future because of COVID-19 restrictions for space, recent legal rulings, and the fact that our area is still extremely lacking in enough affordable housing. Commissioner Trieger sees an urgent need for support for staff who serve the unhoused because of the additional burden on them caused by wildfire displacement. The City of Springfield opted out of the TAC report but will be invited to future meetings.

For updates on the latest progress in reducing homelessness and current and future transportation projects see "Keeping in touch: Notes from the Mayor," posted July 26, 2021:

[Community Updates · Eugene, OR · CivicEngage](#)

Freddi Weishahn

**No Action Committee
Meeting in August**

If you are reading this electronically, usually, any words that appear in blue is a live link. Reading the print version? Go to the LWVLC website to find the electronic version of this *Argus* and click on the words in blue font to link to the site cited.



Suzanne Marion (Hunter) Boyd, 81, died on July 14, from a stroke caused by a heart infection.

Most of the following is gleaned from the obituary in *The Register-Guard*, and I highly recommend you read it in its entirety at

<https://www.registerguard.com/obituaries/p0127164>

It is a misnomer to call me the *Argus* editor. I'm an aggregator and arranger of articles by others. The real editors have been Sue and Merle Bottge.

(Direct quotes from the newspaper are in this font.)

Sue's experience in journalism -

- Managing editor of the 1960-61 *Oregana* year-book and writer for the *Daily Emerald*.
- Graduated with honors in journalism at University of Oregon
- A summer reporter at the Lodi, CA newspaper
- Newsroom news librarian for 20 years at *The Register-Guard*
- Executive committee member for the Eugene Newspaper Guild

Also -

Sue worked for California Governor Edmond (Pat) Brown, and her senior thesis was on California farm workers.

Sue was a 50+ year member of the LWVLC. Soon after Sue joined "...the League was instrumental in advancing Oregon's model land use planning law, known as SB 100. The experience enabled Sue to become a community leader in promoting the local implementation of the land use planning law."

After I was appointed to the Lane County Planning Commission, she was my mentor. It was surprising to hear how much more difficult the job was when she served on the commission. There couldn't have been anyone more qualified than Sue.

"... she ... assisted the League in the proper implementation of the state's new land use planning process by becoming a plaintiff in a lawsuit that resulted in clarification of the responsibilities of local government regarding annexation, land use, and urbanization. In addition, she was involved in planning commission decisions that protected the McKenzie River."

Sue's League involvement included -

- serving as president twice for LWVLC,
- holding roles with the state League,
- attending a national convention,
- and copy editing the *Argus* for many years.
- This is the first issue edited without Sue.

"She continued editing League writings the rest of her life, bringing both her journalistic skills and knowledge of Oregon history and laws."

Charlcie Kaylor

Sue Boyd and I have shared the honors of proofreading the *Argus* for the past several years, Sue's background knowledge of League, community, and state history was invaluable in making sure the *Argus* provided accurate information. She was also a stickler for referring to the Eugene paper, *The Register-Guard*, correctly. I will miss our conversations on comma placement, capitalization, and other such esoteric topics.

Merle Bottge

I got to know Sue when I was asked to serve as president of LWVLC. I had not lived very long in Eugene and felt that I didn't know the community well enough to be president. I asked if someone who knew the area could be co-president, and Sue agreed to serve with me. It was my lucky day! Sue was wonderful to work with; she was smart, clever, and very knowledgeable about the community. I feel very fortunate to have known Sue and know that our community and the League are the poorer for her loss.

Susan Tavakolian

She was the ideal involved citizen. Paying attention, going to meetings, willing to serve and not seeking fame or office.

Linda Lynch





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

CALENDAR

AUGUST

No Action Committee meeting this month

Voter Service Committee meeting (see page 3)

18 - 1:30 pm, Board meeting

19 - 2 pm, Membership Committee

20 - Midnight, *Argus* deadline

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Kickoff Luncheon at Valley River Inn

Fourth Thursday, September 23

***Thanks to our
2020-21 Directory
Advertisers***

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Folkways

Long's Meat Market

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Freddi Weishahn, Development Chair

In this next fiscal year, LWVLC will be looking at the possibility of grants to expand our advocacy and activities. If you would like to suggest a new project or help with grant research, please contact development@lwvlc.org. Our League is fortunate to have a membership with so much experience and accomplishment, and we would like to hear from you.

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