



# Argus

League of Women Voters of Lane County Newsletter

## FALL KICKOFF LUNCHEON

**Our Fall Kickoff Luncheon will take place Thursday  
September 12, 2019  
Valley River Inn**

Please note that this is the *second* Thursday of the month.

The Membership Committee is pleased to report that **Chief Justice Martha Walters** has agreed to serve as our keynote speaker. The Honorable Justice Martha Walters is the first woman to hold the position of Chief Justice on the Oregon Supreme Court, and we are excited to have her share some of her experiences with us.



## SECOND AND THIRD THURSDAYS IN 2019-2020

Not all of our luncheons will be held on the third Thursday of the month. The LWVLC luncheons will take place on the following dates:

- September 12 (2nd Thursday)
- October 10 (2nd Thursday)
- November 14 (2nd Thursday)
- January 16 (3rd Thursday)
- February 20 (3rd Thursday)
- March 19 (3rd Thursday)
- April 16 (3rd Thursday)
- May 21 (3rd Thursday)

Membership committee meetings will take place on the second Thursday of the month. We will meet in the LWVLC office at 2 pm unless we have a luncheon scheduled for that date; in which case we will meet directly following the luncheon at Valley River Inn. We are always looking for people to join us.

**Darla McVay, Membership Chair** [membership@lwvlc.org](mailto:membership@lwvlc.org)

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## UNIT TOPICS CALENDAR

Now is your chance to learn more about some important topics and help prepare information for unit discussions. At its annual meeting the Lane County League approved the following topics for 2019-20:

### October: Ballot Measures

What are the state/local ballot measures?

What significant legislation has passed the state legislature?

### November: Planning and Zoning

What is the state of zoning in Lane County?

### December: Program Planning

Are there local League positions you would like to restudy and possibly revise?

Are there topics that you would like to study for informational background?

### January: Seismic Risks

What do we need to know about preparation for an earthquake?

How susceptible are our public buildings to earthquake damage?

What is the seismic sensitivity of various locations?

### February: Hate Crimes, Hate Speech, Bullying

How prevalent are these activities locally? And what can we do about it?

### March: Unit Choice

### April: Child Care

What is the current state of childcare in Lane County?

What is the cost and the availability?

### May: State Study on Cyber Security and Privacy Today

(LWVOR will prepare the material.)

These are very important topics for us to learn more about.

If you can help with any of these, please contact me.

**Susan Tavakolian** [susantavakolian@yahoo.com](mailto:susantavakolian@yahoo.com)



**Development:** Help us raise funds for League work - from scholarships enabling participation by potential members to supporting education on upcoming ballot measures. Your League needs help with selling ads for the annual directory (Janet Calvert will train you!), writing grants for specific projects, and supporting other campaigns.

**Sound like you? Call Janet at 541-686-2697**

## ACTION and ADVOCACY

It's summer and Action Committee members took July off. This year's remaining Action Committee meetings are set for:

August 7  
September 4  
October 2  
November 6  
December 4

Some local Leagues take a longer break. They might be onto something. As for LWVLC, unless changed, Action meetings will occur on these Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

Members are welcome to join us. If you're unable to attend regularly and would like to monitor an issue or be a liaison to an agency or partner organization, there's room for you, too!

The August 7 meeting will include a discussion on STAR voting. Many will remember this election method, **Score Then Automatic Runoff**, from November 2018 when a ballot measure proposing STAR voting for nonpartisan Lane County races failed, with approximately 52 percent of voters opposing and 48 percent in support. Efforts are underway to put the method in front of Lane County and Eugene voters in 2020. Other items for the August meeting include updates on local redistricting, student success legislation, gun safety, land use and transportation planning, and housing - and a possible 2020 ballot measure for local financing.

### *Looking ahead*

Action Committee members welcome your input in the coming months:

- What issues should we pay attention to? How do we identify issues for study and advocacy?
- Are some issues better for education and others appropriate for advocacy (action)?
- Who's missing from LWVLC advocacy deliberations?
- What resources (time, money, other) do we have and what should we spend?
- Could we involve and include more LWVLC members through action alerts, polling, unit discussions and online open houses? (Who would do this work?)
- How might we consider dissenting voices?

**Keli Osborn, Action Chair** [action@lwwlc.org](mailto:action@lwwlc.org)

**Action Committee Meeting**  
**August 7, 9:30 am**  
**LWVLC office**

## DUES ARE DUE

A big thanks to those who have already renewed your membership for 2019-2020.

This is a friendly reminder for those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2019-2020.

Remember you can now renew your membership and make contributions on line at <http://lwwlc.org/>

If you prefer to renew by mail, you can:

- download a dues renewal form from the [lwwlc.org](http://lwwlc.org) website
- **OR**
- return the renewal form included with this *Argus*.

Make your check payable to LWVLC and mail to:  
338 W 11th Ave. Suite 101, Eugene, OR 97401

LWVLC is now a 501(c)(3) organization, which means your dues are tax deductible

**Gary Harmon, Treasurer**

## IMMIGRANT NATURALIZATION

A decade ago almost one quarter of the US population was an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. In recent years between 620,000 and 780,000 citizens have been naturalized each year. Immigrants complete the naturalization process by ending with a swearing in ceremony. At that ceremony they take an oath of allegiance to the USA and obtain their certificate of naturalization. They can also apply for a passport and register to vote.

**Voter Service  
Committee Meeting  
September 10, 2 pm  
League Office**

The number of immigrants going through the process in a given area determines the frequency of these ceremonies. In Eugene they happen every three months and in Portland once a month. Anyone who has witnessed the ceremony knows how moving it can be for the new citizens and their family and friends. It is also a profound and uplifting experience for anyone who attends, as many in the LWV have done while registering the newly minted voters at these ceremonies. Anyone who is interested in attending these ceremonies and helping to register new voters should contact me.

**Paula Grisafi, Voter Service Chair**  
voterservice@lwwlc.org.

## GUN SAFETY UPDATE - AUGUST 2019

**National:** As of July of this year no gun safety laws have passed in the U.S. Congress. The House has passed measures that have been sent to the Senate where further action is unlikely. Even so, there is a glimmer of possibility - federal funding for the research of gun violence and its prevention is getting bipartisan attention.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, created in 1992, is under the umbrella of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In 1993 research published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that individuals with a gun in the home were 2.7 times more likely to become homicide victims. The gun lobby, threatened by implications of the findings, banded to pass the Dickey Amendment, which stipulates that no CDC funds could be used to advocate or promote gun control. As a result research screeched to a halt. Finally some twenty years later

and after many additional gun violence deaths, legislative thinking has softened to the point where several ranking Republicans on important committees in both the House and Senate agree that the CDC has *"the authority to do gun violence research... if they want to."* Of course this means that research into the cause of gun violence that doesn't promote gun control is acceptable and brings up the next point - the need for funds.

In mid-June the full U.S. House of Representatives appropriated \$50 million for CDC research. The Senate has not acted on the House's action, and it is unclear when action might be anticipated, but according to one expert, the chance for passage could be as high as 50 percent.

**Oregon Update:** The Omnibus Gun Bill (SB 978) died in this year's legislature, the victim of political expediency. Likewise, the Safe Storage component of the bill, which was repackaged as HB 2505, failed to pass.

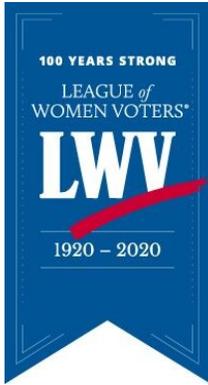
The only gun safety bill to pass the session that just ended was HB 2013. The bill closed a loophole for the relinquishing of firearms by domestic violence abusers in an existing bill.

**Looking ahead:** State of Safety, an Oregon nonprofit, filed a prospective petition for placing Safe Storage on the 2020 ballot with the comment: *Disappointed but not Discouraged*. Given the lack of new gun safety

**stateofsafety**

legislation, both nationally and here at home, *Disappointed but not Discouraged* is a reasonable position. **Donna Michel**

## COUNTING DOWN TO 100



### Avoiding Volunteer Quicksand

Have you ever volunteered for what seemed to be a simple assignment only to find yourself mired in "volunteer quicksand," working on a project requiring more and more of your time?

That won't happen to volunteers for the events we're planning to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries

of LWV and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution.

Instead of asking for an open-ended commitment, we're asking for only as much time as you have to give. Once you hit that limit, you're done. Really.



No long-term commitments, no countless meetings - no quicksand.

These anniversaries are momentous occasions that deserve grand celebrations. You can ensure their success by giving as little as three hours of your time to one of the events below. Find more detail on volunteer assignments at [LWVLC.org](http://LWVLC.org).

- Lane County History Museum exhibit
- "History Pub" presentation
- A trivia contest
- Second/Third Thursday presentations
- Essay contest
- LWVLC's historical timeline
- A tea at Shelton McMurphey Johnson House

Which event would you like to work on? Contact me about how much time you have to give. It could make all the difference.

**Kathy Madison** 1540katmad@gmail.com



### The Women's Suffrage Movement Started with a Tea Party

It was at this small gathering where Elizabeth Cady Stanton and four others let the discontent of their lives boil over - and decided to do something about it.

<https://www.history.com/news/early-womens-rights-suffrage-seneca-falls-elizabeth-cady-stanton>

### A SPECIAL TEA EVENT! SHELTON MCMURPHEY JOHNSON HOUSE MUSEUM

This event is a fundraiser and kick-off of a year-long celebration activities in 2020.

We will have entertainment, a raffle, and of course our wonderful 'Afternoon Tea' for each guest. Prizes will be awarded for best Suffrage costume!

The Women's Suffrage Tea will be on Monday, August 26th at 11 am.

Our tea is three courses (Savory, Scones, and Dessert) each with an especially selected tea for each course.

Parking is free in SMJ Parking lot, accessible off of Third and Pearl.  
\$50 per ticket - special event/fundraiser!



338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101, Eugene, OR 97401 541-343-7917

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

## CALENDAR

(For more information see page reference.)

### AUGUST

- 7 - 9:30 am, Action Committee (page 3)
- 8 - 2 pm, Membership Committee (page 1)
- 21 - 1:30 pm - LWVLC Board meeting - League office
- 23 - Midnight - *Argus* submission deadline
- 26 - 11 am, Women's Suffrage Celebration Tea Party (page 5)

**SAVE THE DATE - September 12**  
**Kickoff Luncheon**  
**With Oregon's**  
**Chief Justice Martha Walters**

**Thanks to our  
2018-19 Directory  
Advertisers**

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**LWVLC Summer Office Hours**  
**Monday and Thursday**  
**11 am - 1:30 pm**

**DONATE NOW**

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