

ARGUS

WILLAMETTE OPEN SPACE VISION

BY PAT HOCKEN, LWVLC PRESIDENT

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The southern Willamette Valley is a beautiful place. Though not now in the pristine condition that welcomed European settlers more than 150 years ago, it still offers wonderful recreational opportunities, rich farm soils, and habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Significant investment in sewage treatment facilities has improved river water quality by removing biological pollutants and by increasing dissolved oxygen. However, there are still problems caused by urban storm water and rural runoff as well as elevated temperatures and prescription drug residues. Rather than focus-

ing on such degradation in this column, I'd like to tell you about an exciting vision that proposes a collaborative approach to using the river more effectively as a community resource.

A draft of the Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan has just been published as a joint effort of many partners, including local governments, utilities, watershed councils, state agencies, and private non-profits. The purpose of the vision is to "provide an inspirational view of how the diverse open space network that lines the Willamette River can be enhanced in the

years and decades to come....The vision will help direct limited local financial resources and will also support local partners as they seek" additional funding. Further, "the vision is conceptual and is not intended to propose new regulations or mandates. It instead relies on voluntary action and collaboration for implementation."

The planning area is centered on Eugene-Springfield and includes the Willamette watershed from the Coast Fork and Middle Fork at the south to the confluence with the McKenzie at the north. For each of

(Continued on page 2)

THIRD THURSDAY BY NANCIE FADELEY

THIRD THURSDAY

No Mas Muertes
No More Deaths:

Humanitarian Aid on the
US/Mexico Border

April 15

Mallard Hall
725 West 1st Street,
Eugene

11:45 am

Lunch optional
\$10 (includes tip)

As of March 14, 2010, 74 bodies had been found on the Arizona border since October 1, 2009.

That's why the subject of our next Third Thursday is the dangers and suffering faced by immigrants trying to make it into the United States.

Our speaker will be No More Deaths volunteer, Katie Dwyer, a University of Oregon Honors College student who will tell about her experiences providing water, food, and medical assistance to migrants

walking through the Arizona desert. Dwyer is spending her spring break on another of her many No More Deaths trips. She will share photos and, perhaps, a video of her "spring vacation" in the wilderness on the Arizona border.

Call the League office, 541-343-7917, or e-mail us at league@lwvlc.org for lunch reservations. Reservations are an important help to the Mallard as it prepares for our Third Thursdays.



Katie Dwyer

**PROGRAM FOR APRIL
FIELD TRIP TO BUFORD PARK AND MT. PISGAH**
BY LINDA ROE, PROGRAM CO-CHAIR

**April 22, Thursday,
1 - 3 PM Pavilion at
Mt Pisgah Arboretum**

*There will be no unit meetings
in April*

This event will be a combination of presentations by the directors of Buford Park/Mt Pisgah and the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and an option of several pleasant interpretive walks in the park. They will be of varying distances and we will conclude by 3PM. The paths are packed gravel and loose bark and not wheelchair or walker friendly. However, the setting and wildflowers and oak trees are a real treat.

The 2,363 acre Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) is the largest of Lane County's 73 parks. Mt Pisgah Arboretum is a 210

acre area within HBRA is operated by the Friends of Mt Pisgah Arboretum. Chris Orsinger from Buford Park and Brad van Apple from the arboretum will give overviews of the goals and programs and explain how they work together. Restoration of habitat and flood plains, education, and recreation are all part of the big picture.

Come join us on this interesting and informative event along the coast fork of the Willamette River. It will take place in the arboretum's lovely new pavilion. The location is just fifteen minutes outside of Eugene and Springfield.

Sign up - by calling the league office. The deadline is Monday, April 19th. There will be carpools from Albertson's on 30th Ave

and Hilyard Street. Please indicate when signing up if you wish to be part of a carpool. Meet in the NE corner of Albertson's parking lot by 12:30 PM. There is a \$2 parking fee per car. We will have a number of passes available at the lot entrance so you can avoid using the machine. Exact change will be helpful.

DIRECTIONS Take 30th Ave. past LCC over the highway to the end. Left at the stop sign. Right after the Shell station, East Franklin Blvd. Go under the underpass. First left on Seavy Loop Rd. Park entrance is at the end of the road just after crossing the river. Drive straight to the main entrance to the parking lot. ENJOY!.



VISION - CONT.

the eight elements of the vision (habitat; non-motorized transportation; recreation; visual quality; urban interface; history, education, and sense of place; working landscape; and tourism) there are several goals which in turn are supported by recommended actions.

It turns out that some of the problems described in the second paragraph above are addressed in the recommendations, but the vision is much broader. Buford Recreation Area (BRA) and Mt Pisgah,

which League members will visit on our April 22 field trip, appear in several of the strategies, which I will describe to give you a sense of the components of the vision. BRA is a site identified for two habitat strategies: side channel restoration to enhance fish habitat and conservation and restoration of a prairie/oak savanna complex. A recommendation to improve non-motorized transportation is the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Middle Fork to connect Springfield and BRA. A suggested location for the creation of a safe location for swimming and water

play is the BRA on the Coast Fork. And finally strategies to support the element of visual quality include maintaining the public vista points at BRA from which to view the river and the valley.

The LWVLC board has agreed to endorse the Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan "as a confirmation of the cooperative effort that created" it. If you would like to learn more about the vision, it can be downloaded from www.lcog.org/willamette. A printed copy is available to borrow from the League office.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF LANE COUNTY
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WILL IT BE THE YEAR WITHOUT PROGRAM?

BY PAT HOCKEN

I think the answer to the question is definitely NO since we will figure out a way to prepare and present materials for unit meetings in 2010-11. A little background for you. Linda Roe and Chris Donahue are completing their two year terms as program co-chairs and do not plan to continue in those roles. The nominating committee tried diligently for several months to find league members who were willing to serve in that position but was unsuccessful.

So as of June 1, there will be no league leader with the direct responsibility to

make sure that topics are selected for unit discussion and that material is prepared to promote that discussion. The system that has been used in the past seems to be

breaking down. There are fewer members volunteering to research and prepare materials, and there are fewer members volunteering to chair a committee of such researchers and writers. This places a large burden on the program co-chairs who now need to perform the work that the missing volunteers previously did in addition to their primary role of supervising the entire process.

made available by the lack of units in April.

The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm how we can continue to deliver program without overtaxing anyone. Do we need a program committee rather than program chairs? Could we find a source of discussion materials other than locally generated reports? For one month each year, should each unit be responsible for planning its own

meeting?

PROGRAM BRAINSTORM
Tuesday April 6 at 3 pm
Atrium 10th and Olive, Eugene

I would encourage and welcome any league member to attend this session even if you are

I have invited unit leaders to meet with me on Tuesday April 6 at 3 pm at the Atrium. I have taken over the briefing time and place that was

not a unit leader. Even if you don't have a solution, your input may trigger creative thinking by others.

VOTER SERVICES - SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN, CHAIR

Candidate Debate

The Lane County League is co-sponsoring a candidate debate for the open position of County Commissioner, District #2 with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Northwest Natural Gas. The forum will be held Wednesday, April 21, 2010 in the Council Chambers at Springfield City Hall, 225 N. Fifth St. The event will start promptly at 5:30 pm., and will conclude by about 7 pm. The format will consist of a mix of questions which the Springfield Chamber and the LWVLC are preparing and will be presented to the candidates in advance, as well as questions posed the day of the forum by interested members of

the public attending the event.

We need volunteers to take written questions from the audience. If you would be willing to help, please contact me at susantavakolian@yahoo.com or call me at 541-999-4197.

Extension Levy Debate

On April 30, the LWVLC and the Eugene City Club will sponsor a debate on the Lane County property tax levy to support the Lane Extension Service at noon at Mallard Banquet Hall, 725 West 1st Avenue in Eugene. This is a City Club regular meeting at which everyone is welcome. Gallery seating for non-members is only

\$5, which includes coffee and a cookie. Lunch is available for purchase at every Friday forum. Cost for members and nonmembers depends upon location.

Voter Guides

We will also need volunteers to help deliver Voters' Guides for the May Primary so that we reach as many voters as possible. We particularly need volunteers who may live or travel to the areas outside Eugene and Springfield such as Cottage Grove or Florence. If you can help with the distribution of the Voters' Guides, give me a call or email me at the above address.

ACTION BY KAPPY EATON

So What's Going On? Actually, quite a lot.

Check out the following:

1. Citizen Advocates for Public Safety (CAPS). This is the volunteer, nine member group, led by Jean Tate and Dave Frohnmayer, which is looking at the problems of Lane County's rising crime rate. We are a diverse group of long-time county residents interested in looking both at causes and solutions. After talking with many county law enforcement and social program workers, interested individuals, and organization representatives, we are planning Listening Posts for the public to come and voice their concerns and suggestions.

CAPS gave a presentation to the Lane County Board of Commissioners (BCC) on February 23. Contrary to the media reports, we did not suggest a public safety tax levy. Our report included a power point report on our findings which indicated our strong concerns about the need to link criminal activities with the gap in social services and programs. The county is preparing a poll for citizens to help assess their readiness to support actions to counteract both crime and underlying root causes. What is the level of public funds which would be supported and what types of services

will be among the questions asked. After the results have been analyzed, CAPS will review to see if some type of funding proposal seems feasible. We will not support any proposal that does not have full support from the BCC.

PARTICIPATE: On April 6, from 5-7 p.m. at the Fairgrounds, CAPS will hold a meeting to listen to area residents about public safety. Co-sponsors are the League of Women Voters of Lane County and the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce (and possibly the Springfield Chamber). We need you and your neighbors and friends to come and add their voices to the conversation.

CAPS will be holding a Listening Post in Florence on March 30 and later in Oakridge. Please call Kappy (541-344-2027) if you are willing to help by greeting, helping people sign up and write comments, etc.

2. Two Oregon constitutional amendments will be on the November 2 General Election ballot. They were referred by the February Special Session of the Legislature. Changing the biennial status of legislative meetings to annual sessions is of interest to the League, primarily because we adopted a position many years ago when studying the Oregon Constitution and state government in general and recognized then that only

meeting six months out of 24 was not conducive to effective and efficient managing of state government.

The proposal would have each annual session starting in February, with the odd-year meetings being 165 days, and the even year sessions, 35 days. Extending the deadline would take a 2/3 vote of each chamber.

The second proposal deals with extending the credit of the state (bonded indebtedness) for acquiring, constructing, repairing, equipping and furnishing buildings, land and other projects that the Assembly determines will benefit higher education institutions or activities.

The accompanying caveat is that the bonded indebtedness shall not be incurred to finance such projects unless the constructing authority conservatively estimates that the project will have sufficient revenues to pay the debt and operate the projects with the loaned funds. At this point, the League has taken no position and may not.

3. The biggest disappointment regarding the Special Session was the inaction regarding the **Kicker law**. Proposals by the Governor and the Senate and House Revenue committees were not considered, primarily (according to legislative leadership) because there wasn't

time to educate the public or the finances for mounting a strong campaign to pass a referred constitutional amendment.

The state continues to lose revenue from the huge number of tax credits (\$27 billion per biennium) and from the surplus tax dollars when the kicker kicks. Even in these economic times, there is evidence that the corporate kicker will operate, and because the projection of revenue from personal income taxpayers is so low, even a minor increase could cause the state to return dollars still desperately needed to provide services.

4. The Action committee, after hearing a presentation on the **Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan** by Jeff Krueger, LCOG senior planner, recommended endorsement to the Board. The Board agreed, based both on our earlier endorsement of the River to Ridges plan and the comprehensive description and maps accompanying the proposal.

The Vision and Plan have been developed by a large group of well known environmental and climate change groups. There are vision elements with goals, doable over time, and the development of resources to fund both public and private property participation. You can

(Continued on page 5)

ACTION CONTINUED

view the narrative and maps in the office or online at <http://www.lcog.org/willamette>.

5. There are 70 initiatives

filed for the 2010 General Election as of March 19. Ten of them are actively being circulated. Of these, the League has tagged seven to be of interest:

- 13 Requires increased minimum sentences for certain repeated sex crimes; incarceration for repeated driving under influence. Petitioner: Mannix
- 19 Establishes property tax exemption for senior citizen's primary residence; reduces local government property tax revenue
- 30 Amends constitution: recognizes that certain human beings have right to life, beginning at fertilization; prohibits all abortions
- 42 Amends Forest Practices Act; imposes new requirements, restrictions; requires adoption of rules; authorizes citizen lawsuits
- 44 Expands laws allowing defensive use of deadly force; eliminates liability for injury/death of trespassers
- 50 Amends constitution: Repeals current legislative redistricting process, creates new process conducted by appointed commission of retired judges

●70 Amends constitution: Continues lottery funding for parks, beaches, wildlife habitat, watershed protection beyond 2014; modifies funding process

6. The Oregon Water Resources

Commission is holding meetings around the state to discuss the important issues related to groundwater, water sheds, drought (Lane County has been identified as a drought area), pollution, etc. The League of Women Voters of Oregon is co-sponsoring these meetings and asking local Leagues to assist.

PARTICIPATE: On June 10, from 5-7, Eugene Public Library, the Commission is holding a meeting. For the Lane League, such things as greeters, sign-ups, cookies, etc are suggested, along with reviewing the many exhibits and discussions with facilitators who are knowledgeable about local and state water issues.

7. The Government Efficiency

Task Force (GETF) has held three meetings to discuss ways to provide more efficient and effective delivery of public services which both state and local agencies provide. The four subcommittees have been meeting regularly and their minutes indicate creative discussions with both GETF members and many additional stakeholders, including League members. Reports are given at each meeting of the whole group. Recommendations are due in

April to start the drafting of the report to the 2011 legislative session. Details of the recommendations will be part of future Argus articles.

8. Mindful of the continuing

criticism of Oregon's open public meeting and public records laws, the Attorney General is holding discussion sessions around the state. Billed as the **Government Transparency Initiative**, the AG's systematic review of the laws will examine the weak points and give suggestions for improvements in time for the 2011 legislative session. The meetings are co-sponsored by the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association, with the purpose to gain insights from the media, public, and governments officials. The first session was held February 24 in Salem. Others are scheduled for Bend, Eugene, Portland, Pendleton and Medford.

PARTICIPATE: Eugene-Springfield area folks will have an opportunity to share their opinions about open meetings and public records on May 5 at 6 pm. The location has not yet been determined, and we will get the information to you ASAP.

Next meeting of the Action committee: April 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the League office.

LWVLC Action Committee will meet April 7, 9:30 am, in the League office.

ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 24TH

Please join us for the 2010 annual meeting (local convention) of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. It will be held on Saturday April 24 from 9 am until noon at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street, Eugene. At the annual meeting, we will elect officers, adopt a budget and program, and consider by-laws changes for the 2010-

2011 League year. We will begin with a potluck brunch and social time followed by the business meeting at 9:30 am.

Included with this ARGUS or sent to you separately is the annual meeting workbook which provides the details of the event and the background materials for the decisions on the agenda. As you

will note, there are significant changes proposed to the by-laws, primarily to streamline them and bring them into agreement with sample by-laws available from the national League.

If you plan to attend, please sign up at the office by April 20. Hope to see you then.

Pat Hocken

**High Tea
Meet & Greet**
Saturday
April 10th
2 to 4 pm
Shelton-McMurphy
House



Friday, March 26, 11:50 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. (lunch available)

HILTON EUGENE, 66 East 6th Avenue, 12th Floor

INSIDE THE SPECIAL SESSION

Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene)

Representative Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass)



March 18th Third Thursday

Mayor Kitty Piercy with
speaker Michele Stranger Hunter

Photo by Flo Alvergue

DEATH WITH DIGNITY

BY LINDA ROE, PROGRAM CO-CHAIR

A question came up at some of the March health care units about the logistics of making the decision to end of life using Oregon's Death with Dignity Act. According to the **Lane County Medical Society and The Compassion of Oregon** organization in Portland the following are the steps to take.

1. One should first ask his

own physician if he would agree to write a letter of recommendation and prescribe appropriate drugs for this purpose for his own patients.

2. If needing further help, contact the **Lane County Medical Association**. The caller will be given the name and phone number of The Compassion of Oregon, a Portland based organization, which deals only with this issue. At the suggestion of

the Oregon Medical Association all county medical associations in Oregon follow this same procedure.

3. Compassion of Oregon will provide names of local physicians willing to participate. There is also a support group in Eugene who volunteers to be with the patient at the time the patient wishes to take the prescription to end her life.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

FLO ALVERGUE, VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

For the fourth consecutive year, Project Homeless Connect was held at the Lane County Fairgrounds as a one-stop shop with more than 80 social service agencies participating. About 1400 guests came to the six-hour event. LWVLC members who joined me in shifts during the day were Veronica Walton,

Eleanor Mulder, Lois Taylor, Helene England, and Susan Tavakolian. We registered about a dozen voters at our table, and distributed our "They Represent You" publication and day bus passes. In the haircut area there were 275 who received haircuts by professionals from Super Cuts throughout the day.

Other services included information about housing, employment, Social Security, medical and dental treatments, and vet care. There were nearly 900 volunteers who assisted in these services. As our members concluded, it was a most "impressive" event and "very well organized."

Feedback for the high court

Monday, March 15, 2010

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. expressed doubt about having members of the Supreme Court attend the State of the Union address. He was upset that President Obama directly criticized the court's 5 to 4 decision injecting corporate funding into candidate elections.

Since the Supreme Court is the opaque and most isolated branch of government, perhaps the justices should recognize that a little honest feedback can be a good thing.

It is particularly important in this instance, since the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* clearly revealed that the majority on the court has an astonishingly naive view of how corruption works in our nation's capital. Everyone else in the room understood that allowing huge sums of unregulated cash into our elections will undermine the role of individual voters and further expose our elected officials to the siren calls of corporate lobbyists.

Buck up, Mr. Chief Justice. Occasionally there are some things you really need to hear.

Mary G. Wilson, *President League of Women Voters of the United States*
LWVUS submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.



FOCUS ON THE LEAGUE IN THE McCARTHY ERA

BY NANCIE FADELEY

*The following report is from an unpublished history *More Power Than We Knew: The League of Women Voters in Oregon 1920-1995* written by Mary Alice Moore and Donald E. Moore. I obtained a copy of the publication from the League of Women Voters of Oregon office in Salem.*

During the McCarthy era, the League was often the target of witch hunts. National, state, and local League leaders, including Emily Logan, president of the League of Women Voters of Oregon, were called “fellow travelers” and “comsymps,” and reported to the House Un-Americans Activities Committee.

Walt Disney’s appearance before that committee received much media coverage when he testified that the League was a “Commie front

organization.” Later he said he misspoke and was really referring to the “League of Women Shoppers.”

How did the League respond to those attacks? The national League published *Self Government U.S.A.* and *Individual Liberties U.S.A.*, booklets that League members used as they studied and discussed academic freedom, textbook censorship, attacks on public schools, loyalty oaths, and security-risk programs. From the American Legion came charges that the writers of those booklets had “Communist front records.” A Portland leader of the Oregon Legion Auxiliary identified the League as an organization that was dangerous to “our American heritage.”

But the League did not back down. In 1953, the Oregon League was among the or-

ganizations that successfully opposed legislation proposing negative loyalty oaths.

The next year, the national League began a campaign called the Freedom Agenda, a campaign designed to increase understanding of the Bill of Rights and of the 14th Amendment. Oregon League members participated in that campaign by discussing constitutional rights in all League units and at public meetings co-sponsored with other organizations.

When the American Legion demanded that the League give up its Freedom Agenda campaign, the League’s National President, Percy Maxim Lee, traveled to Indianapolis—the Legion’s headquarters were there—and made a speech promising that the League would “work all the harder to secure thoughtful and free discussion of our constitutional liberties.”

Generations of Leaguers

As part of the continuing celebration of the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, the League of Women Voters of Oregon is compiling a list of current League members whose mothers or grandmothers were also members of the League. I would like to broaden that a bit to include fathers or grandfathers who were also League members. If you are descended from a league member, please send me that information, including the name of your relative(s) and the League(s) that she/he was a member of. It will be interesting to see the list.

Pat Hocken

A REMINDER

Several people have remembered lately to leave used books in the blue box at the office. Thank you very much! This is a fund raiser for our League, and so far this year, the sales of these books have brought in \$1,660.00.

Some of them are sold on eBay, and several sacks of books are taken to Smith Family Book Store each week. Tsunami accepts rare books on consignment, and the League has some placed with them at the present

time. If you are unable to get your used books to the office, please give us a phone call. We're happy to pick them up at your home.

Thank you.

Elleen and Louie Levy
541-343-7592



REVENUE AND SPRING CLEANING

Many of you will recall that the League has had a variety of revenue generating activities over the years. The success of these efforts has made a difference -- a big difference. The dues have not been raised since 1998. Supplemental fund-raising has been the key to maintaining dues at the same level for twelve years. Selling your donated books, which raises about \$2,000, is the one fund raiser still ongoing.

This background is to help you understand why the Board is examining the fund-raising potential of a "shredding event". This matter was discussed in an earlier issue of the Argus. At this time, ten members have indicated interest in participating. To successfully hold this event, we need more than ten participants. I would estimate at least 40 - 60 participants.

So, let's go over the details:

When May 1, 2010

Where Parking garage at the League office

Who League members, friends, relatives, neighbors

What Professional shredding company providing fast, secure shredding of your confidential as well as all that other paper you've been keeping in files, boxes in the attic, etc.

Cost 10 cents/pound - staples and paper clips

OK! Remember, supplemental fund-raising helps to pay the bills and kept dues at \$60 since 1998. If you want to help keep dues at the same rate while you are doing a little Spring housekeeping, call the League office, 541/343-7917. We'll put you on the list. Thank you.

Phyllis Loobey, Treasurer

PLEASE GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND

Thanks to our
2010 Directory
Advertisers

Lane Forest Products

Mortier Engineering

Baker Bay Bead Co.

Unique Properties

Long's Meat Market

Dr. Mathews Dental
Group

Studio d - Hair salon

As a member of the League, you will receive the monthly newsletter from LW LC (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

- | | |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address) | \$90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (after February 1) | \$30 |

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS LANE COUNTY**

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CALENDAR

MARCH

30 - 2 pm - Voter Service

APRIL

No units this month

- 6 - 3 pm - Program Brainstorm - page 3
- 7 - 9:30 am - Action
- 10 - 2 to 4 pm - Meet and Greet, SMJ House - page 6
- 15 - 11:45 am - Third Thursday at Mallard Banquet Hall
- 21 - 3 pm - Board meeting
- 21 - 5:30 pm - Candidate debate - page 3
- 22 - Field Trip! - page 2
- 24 - 9 am to noon - Annual Meeting - page 6
- 30 - Noon - Extension Levy debate- page 3

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.