

ARGUS

PROTECTING OREGONIANS

BY PAT HOCKEN, LWVLC PRESIDENT

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John Kroger
Attorney General

**Wednesday
September 22
Mallard Banquet Hall**

Buffet lunch begins at
11:15 am for \$12

Please prepay with a check to
LWVLC and send to our office
by no later than
September 15, 2010.

Can you guess the connection between recent news articles about electronic cigarettes, magazine sales, transportation of home-brewed beer, and a lawsuit against a resort? The answer is, of course, the involvement of the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ), which is the department led by Attorney General John Kroger. The four articles reported an agreement with the manufacturer to halt sales of electronic cigarettes in Oregon, the issuance of a scam alert for door-to-door magazine sales, a legal interpretation of a Prohibition-era law imposing restrictions on

home-brewed alcoholic beverages, and a lawsuit to recover Oregon loans and tax credits for a solar electricity generation facility that was not completed.

I thought it might be useful to provide a little background on the DOJ in preparation for AG Kroger's presentation to us on Wednesday September 22. (See details in the following article.) The two paragraphs below are from the Oregon Blue Book:

"The Department of Justice, established by statute in 1891, is Oregon state government's law firm. Administered by the attor-

ney general, it represents and advises all state elected and appointed officials, agencies, boards and commissions. The attorney general, by statute, has control and supervision of all court actions in which the state is a party or has an interest."

"In addition to legal services, the department has various program-service functions including child-support enforcement, technical and investigative assistance to district attorneys, organized crime investigation, consumer protection and service, charitable trust supervision,

(Continued on page 2)

MEMBERSHIP - FALL LUNCHEON

Grab your coat and grab your hat - but before you come over to the sunny side of the street for the fall luncheon, check your calendar! Because of scheduling conflicts for our speaker, Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, this year's fall luncheon is on a Wednesday.

Prior to his election in 2008, he served for many years as a federal prosecutor and also taught at Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College. His speech will focus on the charge to his office to afford legal protections to Oregon citizens.

Since the primary purpose of this meeting is membership recruitment, please, please invite a friend. Like many organizations, the local League lost members last year, and we are in need of new members.

We urge you to seek out potential members from all political persuasions; the more diverse our membership, the more carefully discussed and debated our positions will be. Information for potential members will be available at the luncheon, as will information about volunteer positions and unit meetings.

If you want a guest to receive a written invitation, or a membership packet prior to the luncheon, please contact Veronika Walton at 344-1565 or guvwalton@msn.com.

Please feel free to call me to arrange for a ride if you need transportation or assistance. Mallard Hall is accessible and the buffet allows for vegetarian options. **Sue Miller Wielesek**
piggoleto@gmail.com
(H)343-8432 (C)554-7735

UNITS - ANNE MEHL, CHAIR

A New Unit Is Born

*There once was a lady from Eugene
Whose intellect was terribly keen.*

By the League she'd enthuse,

An additional unit she'd choose.

*But enough of limerick style,
Babs French is our gal -*

The newly formed unit will be found at 394 Cherry Drive, off Harlow Road at **Barbara French's** home. The first meeting will be Monday October 11 at 2 pm. Gathering new and old members from Springfield and Harlow area, Babs will need help welcoming, discussion leaders

for the monthly topics, and a recorder. Please join her in her efforts. Units are the stimulant for new friendships. Join us in our "Local Lyceum"!

Any of the units will welcome you for learning exchange about water and food sustainability, education in Lane County, immigration, the legislature, and many other topics. What's happening in your Lane County neighborhood? Come learn with us.

Anne Mehl

eUnit Launched

Finally! An internet unit for those of us who can't commit to a specific time and place. You can attend from home in your pajamas at 2am, if that's what works for you.

Chris Donahue and Charlcie Kaylor will be working together to host this unit. To start, all you need to join is an e-mail account and know how to click on "Reply to All". If we see the need to become more sophisticated we will explore other methods.

If you want to join, have questions, or can help with technology, please don't hesitate to talk to **charlcie@efn.org** or **kimchee569@yahoo.com**

Charlcie Kaylor

PROTECTING - CONT.

and crime-victim compensation. In all, the department and attorney general have responsibility and authority under more than 350 state statutes."

Wow!!! What a huge assignment.

According to the 2009 Annual Report of the Oregon DOJ, the department's mission is "to provide outstanding legal and child-support services to Oregonians and their government. We are dedicated to:

- Fighting crime and protecting crime victims;
- Improving the well-being of Oregon's children;

- Protecting the environment;

- Fighting for Oregon consumers, workers, investors, and taxpayers;

- Promoting a positive business climate;

- Providing great legal services to Oregon's state government; and

- Defending the rights of all Oregonians."

DOJ actions highlighted in the report included helping to dismantle two major drug trafficking organizations, the creation of a new environmental crimes unit, securing passage of new state legislation to protect crime victims, and recovering \$20 million from the managers

of the Oregon College Savings Plan and \$16.8 million from pharmaceutical companies.

Obviously, my short summary about the DOJ is a weak substitute for hearing directly from AG Kroger about the DOJ's successes and challenges. His presentation at the fall luncheon will be an exciting way to begin the 2010-11 League program year. It is very much in keeping with one of the League's primary focuses, which is learning about government structures and processes as well as current issues and controversies.

See you at the luncheon on Wednesday September 22.

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Speakers' Bureau

An important volunteer opportunity is available. The League needs volunteers to present the seven November state ballot issues and/or the three local issues to various groups in Lane County that may request it. If you would enjoy being a presenter, contact Dale Haynes at 541 343-2193 or dalerhanes@comcast.net and plan to attend Kappy Eaton's speaker training on October 5 at 2:30, prior to the unit briefing. Thanks to Dale and Kappy.

The seven statewide issues on the November ballot are: Authorization for medical marijuana dispensaries; mandatory minimum sentences for certain DUI and sex crimes; approval for 15% of lottery profits to go to parks and natural resources; authorization for a Multnomah County casino, which also needs a constitutional amendment; authorization for annual legislative sessions; provisions for home loans for veterans; and approval of the lowest-cost borrowing for state real and personal property projects. The three local issues on the ballot pertain to Lane County charter amendments.

Debates

The League is partnering with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce again to sponsor a forum for candidates representing Springfield. The debate will take place at the Springfield City Hall on October 14



at 5:30 PM.

The League is also co-sponsoring a debate with the City Club of Eugene for U.S. House District #4, the seat currently held by Rep. Peter DeFazio, IF at least one other candidate agrees to participate, as dictated by our board policies. The debate will take place at noon, September 10 at the Eugene Hilton.

Naturalization Ceremony

The League helped celebrate the naturalization of 17 immigrants from 11 countries on August 13 at the Federal Courthouse. We provided American flags and voter registration materials to the new citizens. Interested in representing the League at the next naturalization ceremony? Contact us. It's an inspiring and fun event to attend.

Eugene Celebration

The Eugene Celebration is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 28 and 29, and Fran Boehner is spearheading the LWVLC booth on the causeway. As in past years, the LWVLC will provide voter materials and information to participants in the Cele-

bration activities. This activity is a good opportunity to showcase the LWVLC and provide valuable information to Lane County citizens, so drop by the League's booth.

Mock Elections for Lane County High School Students

Eva Schweber, the Mock Election Coordinator for LWVOR, has reported to us that the new curriculum for this year's mock election has been sent to the Department of Education for compliance review but will soon be posted for our use. She says that she would love to come visit our schools and offer teacher education, classroom or out-of-school hour programs free of charge. Here's another opportunity for you to join in educating the public. Call if you would enjoy coordinating this activity with Eva.

In short, if you want to become involved in Voters Service activi-

ACTION BY KAPPY EATON

November Ballot Measures.

The League will concentrate its advocacy efforts this fall on Measure 71, Annual Sessions, a constitutional amendment referred by the 2010 Special Session. We have a long history of support for the Legislature meeting every year, dating to our study of the Oregon Constitution in 1971. Among the most significant reasons for support are (1) the need for a regular fiscal review by the entire Assembly of the biennial budget which is passed 26 months from its finish; (2) the ability to provide for mandated, limited times of each session: 160 days in the odd year and 35 days in the even year; and (3) the need to avoid costly Special Sessions and provide flexibility to address serious budget problems for providing education, human services and public safety services and programs. The Oregon League has placed a "Vote Yes" argument in the state Voters' Pamphlet and expects to be active in support both at the state and local levels.

Two other initiatives received League attention. The LWVOR Board approved the recommendations of the Action Team to:

- Support Measure #76 which would amend the constitution to allocate 15% of

lottery funds to parks, natural resources and water programs. This would continue the allocation definitely beyond its current sunset in 2014 and provide needed resources, particularly for water projects and research.

- Oppose Measure 73 which would mandate minimum sentences for certain drunken drivers and sex predators. No funding source is provided and the significant cost would take scarce funds from education, human services and public safety services.

The League will take no action with regard to the -

- Medical Marijuana Dispensary proposal, Measure #74;
- the Wood Village casino, Measure #75;
- the home loans for veterans, Measure # 70; and
- authorizing use of the lowest cost borrowing for state projects, Measure #72.

Measures 74 and 75 are initiatives, and Measures 70 and 72 are constitutional amendments from the Legislature.

At the local level, the only measures which have surfaced are from the Lane County Board of Commissioners seeking three additional amendments to the County Charter. Voters approved three amendments at the May Primary election. All six are related to administrative authority and seek to

clarify and broaden authority for changes made by the commissioners and the county administrator. The Action and Voters Service committees are researching these proposals and will provide additional information for both League members and the public prior to the election November 2nd. It is our understanding at this time that the county probably will not issue a voters' guide.

State of the State. The formal revenue forecast for September will not come out until August 26 (after this is written). but the early projection given to the Governor indicates another multi \$ 100 million shortfall is expected. On top of the \$577 million announced for June, the state could be facing over \$1 billion in deficits for state agency programs and services. Most state agencies were required to take a 9% cut starting July 1, resulting in restrictions in services across the state to education, social services, public safety, and other programs. It was hoped that the new federal stimulus package would help ease the situation, but the apparent loss of additional state revenue may jeopardize the ability to avoid further serious cuts. There are still 10 months left in the 2009-11 biennium, and, by law, Oregon cannot

have an unbalanced budget.

Government Efficiency Task Force. The GETT will present its recommendations on September 16, and the legislatively authorized group will forward them to the 2011 Legislature. From the draft suggestions, there are a few which would indicate possibilities for both efficiency and cost-saving which may give them more credence than otherwise. Some, like the move to modernize voter registration procedures, are already expected to be proposed. Local legislator, Rep. Nancy Nathanson, has been chairing the GETT and has vowed the report "will not gather dust on the shelf". If there are possibilities for more effective and efficient and less costly ways of sharing state and local services, this might be a good time for those to get consideration.

Tidbits of Action Information:

Citizen Initiative Review Panel demonstrations, using Measures 73 and 74, were held for five days each and resulted in statements for the state Voters' Pamphlet, and generally have been deemed both helpful and successful by participants, the media, and observers. Healthy Democracy, the organization that plans and

(Continued on page 5)

PROGRAM FOR 2010-2011

The tentative program calendar for unit (small group discussion) meetings and other meetings is below. Additional details including Third Thursday speakers will be provided in the ARGUS as they are finalized.

September: Fall Luncheon on September 22. Attorney General John Kroger Speaking
October: Unit meetings - Ballot Measures

November: Unit meetings - Update on Tax Increment Financing/Urban Renewal.

December: Unit meetings - Program Planning for 2011-2012.

January: Units - Unit Choice - Each unit selects own topic and program

February: Saturday morning Tour of Lane Community College

March: Units - Topic to be determined

mined

April: Units - The Federal Government's Role in Public Education (New study adopted by the LWV of the United States.)

May: Census results, and redistricting: How is it coming?

FALL WORKSHOP COMING

The League of Women Voters of Oregon Fall Workshop will be held on Saturday October 16 at the Eugene Garden Club. Mark your calendars and look for more information in the October ARGUS.

Pat Hocken

ACTION CONTINUED

hosts the CIR, was successful in getting a bill passed in 2009 which recognizes the CIR as a voter education tool and allows for publication of statements in support and opposition from the panels after their discussions and preparation of such statements. A \$200,000 grant will be used for the formal evaluation of the process, under the direction of a University of Washington project.

The Attorney General has announced the **recovery of more than \$60 million** for Oregon workers, consumers and taxpayers over the last 18 months. This has come from investigations and suits against corporations, banks, and pharmaceutical companies charged with consumer fraud of various kinds.

The League has been invited to participate in a **Summit on Redistricting** to be held September 16 at The Willamette University Center for Law and Government. Among the issues for discussion are recent changes in the federal enforcement of the Voting Rights Act as well as different systems for the redistricting process. It should prove interesting and, hopefully, enlightening.

Former Secretary of State Phil Kelsling issued a review of the state's May Primary Election voting profile which has both interesting and perhaps disturbing party information. A few of his observations:

- The median age for all voters was 59, which can be broken down as 61 for Rs, 60 for Ds, 57 for Independent Party members, and 52 for non-affiliated.
- Those age 18-24, 40% are registered as neither D or R;

60% of that 40% are unaffiliated with the remainder in minor parties.

- Of voters under the age of 38, the likely registration is other than D or R.
- Of voters between 60-79 the percentage registered as D or R is 85%
- 45% of Ds voted; 50% of Rs voted; 25% of others voted. The latter is impressive because the others could not vote on party nominees, only issues and the percentage is much higher than in other states.

- Registered voters most likely to vote were in the 71-80 age group. 72% actually voted - 72% of Ds and 76% Rs and 56% others. Voters in this age group are five times more likely to vote than those 18-24. Those 60-71 years were next highest.

The Action committee assisted the Voters-Service committee in preparing questions for the

LWVLC Action Committee will meet September 1 at 9:30 am, in the League office. All members are welcome.

PREPARE FOR URBAN RENEWAL DISCUSSION

BY JANET CALVERT

Seldom are urban renewal and tax increment financing (TIF) a topic of conversation while sipping a cool drink, exchanging information about grandchildren or bemoaning this year's garden.

However, in 1989-90, League members spent a lot of time and effort researching these somewhat complicated topics, which resulted in two publications.

League members discussed the committee's research and reached a position that "supports tax increment financing as one means of funding public urban renewal projects."

Originally urban renewal was a means for public bodies to clean up blight as set out in ORS Chapter 457. It has evolved as a "means to support economic development and civic improvements by financing needed public improvements within designated open spaces, public plazas, parking garages, land acquisition, renovation and façade improvements or environmental improvements." (Eugene Urban Renewal Plan Update)

Urban Renewal, TIF, and tax laws have changed since our first study and the Board felt that an update was needed. A committee is researching these changes and will present their findings as the topic for November units. You can read the 1990 study (still has good basic information) on our web page www.lwvlc.org under "publications".

What has Urban Renewal done in Eugene and Springfield? Identify which of the following improvements or structures where Urban Renewal projects funded by Tax Increment Financing.

(Answers bottom page 8.)

- US Bank Eugene
- Eugene Public Library
- Hilton Conference Center
- Tiffany Building, restoration
- Downtown Athletic Club
- Ya-Po-Ah Terrace
- Development of Gateway area

Lane Transit District Downtown Station

Wayne Morris Federal Courthouse

McDonald Theater, restoration

Royal Building, Springfield (St. Vincent De Paul)

Wildish Theater

Park Blocks- Eugene

Schaeffer Building, restoration

Tiffany Building

Full City Coffee

Fifth Street Market

The Tate

WOW Hall

Urban Renewal update committee: Renee Buchanan, Merle Bottge, Dale Haynes, Ruth Hermach, and Janet Calvert.

Call Janet, 686-2697 if you wish to be part of this committee.

CONFERENCE ON OCEAN IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: SCIENCE, PEOPLE AND POLICY

A one-day conference will held on Friday September 10 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Knight Law Center at the University of Oregon. The event is free and open to public. However, space is limited, and registration is strongly encouraged to ensure adequate space and materials as well as

lunch for the audience.

About the conference The earth's oceans buffer us from climate change by absorbing heat and dissolving CO2 initially discharged into the atmosphere. The resulting thermal expansion of the ocean contributes to sea level rise

along with melting ice caps and glaciers. Further, the ocean's increasing acidity is adversely affecting important ocean ecosystems and species. Accelerated sea level rise adversely affects low-lying island and coastal communities as well as

(Continued on page 7)

STIMULUS MONEY FOR OREGON

This information was taken from a report of Oregon's Economic Recovery Executive Team. The total amount invested in Oregon through June 30, 2010 has been \$2.8 billion.

President Obama signed the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** ("ARRA") into law on February 17, 2009. This \$787 billion national economic recovery initiative will provide around \$3.9 billion to Oregon over three years, in addition to making \$37 billion in competitive grants available to all states. Oregon is poised to receive \$3.9 billion to assist schools, help meet rising demands for social services, increase unemployment benefits, and create jobs through capital construction projects statewide.

Equally important, the competitive grant programs in ARRA represent opportunities for Oregon to demonstrate how smart investments in our communities can create sustainable economic activity throughout the state. Details for the second quarter of 2010 are as follows:

Community Service - \$5.5 million in block grants to reduce pov-

(Continued from page 6)

erty, revitalize low-income communities, and assist low-income families to become self sufficient, funding 95 FTE this quarter.

the ecosystem. This conference highlights the relevant science, the impacts on people, and potential policy and legal responses to these impacts of climate change.

erty, revitalize low-income communities, and assist low-income families to become self sufficient, funding 95 FTE this quarter.

Education - \$306 million in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds for education to keep school doors open and teachers employed, funding 2,185 FTE this quarter.

Employment - \$780 million in extended and emergency unemployment payments for thousands of Oregonians seeking jobs.

Energy - \$525,000 through the State Energy Program for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the state, funding 14 FTE this quarter.

Health & Human Services - \$159 million in food stamp assistance to serve approximately 300,000 Oregon households each month. \$20.7 million from the Child Care Development Fund for low-income families and parents receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to assist with child care, funding 21 FTE this quarter.

Housing - \$11.7 million in low-income weatherization assistance to increase energy efficiency in homes and help underserved communities, funding 129 FTE this

The audience will include University of Oregon and Oregon State University faculty and students in disciplines related to climate change, public and private sector decision-makers, and community members.

quarter.

\$3 million through the **Homelessness Prevention** program to keep individuals and families in homes and help those who are homeless be quickly re-housed, funding 23 FTE this quarter.

Natural Resources - \$1.3 million to protect the environment through the cleanup of petroleum from leaking underground storage tank sites, funding 8 FTE this quarter.

Public Safety - \$54.2 million for 14 correctional institutions in the state to retain jobs, funding 736 FTE this quarter.

Transportation - \$169 million for highways, roads, bridges, public transit and port projects in Oregon, funding 310 FTE this quarter.

Workforce - \$32.4 million for dislocated workers to assist unemployed Oregonians with reemployment and skill development opportunities, funding 157 FTE this quarter.

Note: Funding is the cumulative amount spent from Feb. 2009 to Jun. 2010. Jobs activity is calculated as full-time equivalent (FTE) for the second quarter in 2010.

Pat Hocken

To view the agenda or to register go to http://www.waynemorsecenter.uoregon.edu/pages/events_themes/oceans_conference.html or contact the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics at 541-346-3700. **Pat Hocken**

MRS. PANKHURST HAS BEEN CLAPPED IN IRONS AGAIN BY NANCIE FADELEY

This summer when my daughter Shira and I were on a “roots” trip to the Isle of Man, we walked into Tynwald, the oldest parliament in the world. There we met Geoff Corkish MBE MHK. To our delight and surprise, with no prompting, this member of Parliament took us on an hour tour of Tynwald. He was proud to tell us that no other parliament in the world has such a long unbroken record. He credited the Vikings who founded Tynwald in the Eighth century with estab-

lishing an administrative system that continues to this day.

Corkish listed off a number of other firsts, like the first legislative body to adopt electronic voting. But here’s the first that interested us the most: In 1881, the Isle of Man was the first country in the world to give women the right to vote in national elections.

When he took us to the Legislative Council room where members of Parliament meet in joint session

with a few other non-elected Isle of Man leaders, he pointed out the chair that was the chair of a Emmeline Pankhurst descendant. (She was not a member of Parliament, but was chosen by members to sit in on the Legislative Council.)

We left Tynwald humming “Sister Suffragette” from Disney’s Mary Poppins, especially the line that goes “Take heart, for Mrs. Pankhurst has been clapped in irons again.”



Emmeline Pankhurst arrested

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Ginny Buck joined our League this year with the encouragement of her friends, Anne and Roger Mehl. This is the first time she has been a member of LWV, but has long admired the way the League studies and shares information about issues. Ginny is interested in conservation issues, especially land and water.

Ginny is a board certified pediatrician and also board certified in pediatric and adult asthma, allergy and immunology. She has practiced as an allergist since she finished her medical training in 1977, and has lived in Eugene for 31 years. Her husband, Rick, is also an allergist. They have three grown and married children and one granddaughter, "Abby," who

lives with her parents in North Carolina.

Ginny lists gardening, reading, and outdoor activities such as canoeing, sailing, and hiking among her hobbies. Welcome to LWVLC, Ginny!

Flo Alvergue

SUMMER BOOK REPORT

Hopefully, you have all enjoyed the summer as much as we have. You have done a marvelous job of keeping us supplied with the used books you have donated to our fund raiser. All summer we have had four grocery sacks full of books to take to Smith Family Book Store every Saturday morning. Some of the books

you've donated were also sold on eBay. Since our 2010/2011 year started on July 1st sales of books have totaled \$239.50. That is a wonderful beginning to our new year. It will be interesting to see if we can top last year, which totaled \$1,816.50.

This is a good time to clean out your book shelves and donate those books you have read over the summer. The books can be left in the blue box in the work room at the office, or we will be happy to pick them up at your home. Just give us a call. Thank you.



Elleen and Louie Levy
541-343-7592



MRS. FREEMAN



Mrs. V. H. Freeman (Olga)
1946 Eugene League President

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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

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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1, 9:30 am, Action Committee
- 10, Noon, Candidate Debate for Oregon Dist. 4 U.S. House of Representatives
- 22, 11:30 am, Fall Luncheon, Mallard Hall
- 22, 3pm LWVLC Board Meeting
- 24, midnight, ARGUS deadline

OCTOBER

- 5, 2:30 pm training for Speakers Bureau followed at
3 pm briefing for units, Atrium
- 11–15 Units
- 14, 5:30 pm Springfield Candidates Forum
- 16, 9 am to 3 pm LWVOR Fall Workshop
- 20, 3 pm LWVLC Board Meeting

In September LWVLC office hours return to
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 1:30pm
Closed on September 3 and 6, for Labor Day weekend and
September 22, for the Fall Luncheon.

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.*