

ARGUS

THOUGHTS ON 2011

BY PAT HOCKEN, LWVLC PRESIDENT

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As the year comes to a close, it is always interesting to speculate on what the new year will bring. For many in our community, the burning question is "Will the University of Oregon Ducks beat the Auburn University Tigers to become the country's # 1 college football team?"

As League members we may ponder some different questions such as "How will the 2011 session of the Oregon Legislature play out with the budget shortfall, a still weak economy, an evenly divided House, an almost evenly split Senate, and a new Govern-

nor?" We have two great resources to learn the answer: Legislative Process Day on January 13 in Salem (see page 7 in this ARGUS) and the electronic Legislative Report published by the League of Women Voters of Oregon regularly throughout the session.

We might also wonder "How will local governments and school districts balance their budgets for 2011 in the face of reduced state and federal funding and increasing costs of employee benefits?" For that answer, we can probably rely on the local media. However,

the League may have a role in helping citizens understand Oregon's property tax limitations and the complexities of raising other types of tax revenue.

And then there are the issues of redistricting the seats for the Oregon legislature, city councils, and other government boards; the selection of the preferred alternative for Lane Transit District's West Eugene EmX project; the political dynamic of the new U. S. Congress, etc., etc., etc. Lots to anticipate.

Another undertaking that frequently

(Continued on page 6)

THIRD THURSDAY BY NANCIE FADELEY

There are many folks who need health care but can't afford it. Many of us have friends and family members facing such challenges. When facing these problems, it is easy to be discouraged. Our January Third Thursday speakers will offer some encouraging words about efforts to improve access to care, and to lower costs in Lane County at safety net clinics offering appropriate, affordable, quality health care.

**THIRD THURSDAY
Health Care for Those
Who Can't Afford It
January 20, 2011**

State Rep. - Val Hoyle
United Way of Lane County
100% Access Coalition

DeLeesa Meashintubby
Volunteers in Medicine

City Councillor - Andrea Ortiz
United Way of Lane County
100% Access Coalition
and Peace Health

Third Thursdays happen at
Mallard Banquet Hall,
725 West 1st Avenue, Eugene.
The free program begins
at 12:15 pm

A buffet is spread at 11:45.
The \$12 cost for lunch includes
beverage, dessert and tip.
Beverage only with refills - \$2.50.

For reservations, call the League
office, 541-343-7917, or e-mail
league@lwvlc.org for reservations.
Reservations are a priceless help
to the Mallard staff.



JANUARY - UNIT CHOICE BY PAT MCDANIELS

NO BRIEFING THIS MONTH

Monday, January 10

#1 10 AM – East Willamette. NEW MEETING PLACE: Home of Flo Alvergue, 430 East 46th.

Topic: Discussion of the book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan.

Contact: Emily Schue, 541-344-7597

#2 2 PM – Harlow Road. H: Barbara French, 394 Cherry Drive

Topic: **All things Plastic!** How the Oregon Legislature will be dealing with this problem.

Contact: Kay Huston, 541-607-8962

Tuesday, January 11

#3 9:30 AM – Coburg Road. H: Jean Damon, 2315 Rocky Lane.

Topic: **Development of the Goodpasture Island Bike Bridge.** Neil Bjorklund, Eugene Parks Planner will answer questions. Meet at Jean's and carpool to the bridge and return to Jean's.

Contact: Marjorie Smith, 687-9079.

Wednesday, January 12

#5 10 AM – East Eugene. Meet at **White Bird Dental Clinic**, 1400 Mill Street.

Topic: Tour of the facility. Contact: Diana Grandberry, 342-8402.

Unit #8. Cottage Grove/Creswell. Date and Time to be determined.

Topic: Review international use of **Aprovecho wood cook stoves** for mass feeding and later serve dinner for UN World Food Program staff Stove Camp.

Contact: Dian Missar, 942-7676, for further information.

#4 4 PM – S.W. Eugene. Meet at Eugene Parks and Open Space, 1829 Roosevelt Blvd.

Topic: Neil Bjorkland, Planning Manager will share pictures and maps and tell us what is happening with **city parks**. He will also talk about the challenge the city faces in maintaining its many parks. If you wish to attend, respond no later than Monday, January 10.

Contact: Merle Bottge, 687-1777.

Sunday, January 23

#9. Please note the new time and date.

Cascade Manor Auditorium. 2 PM. Sponsored by Cascade Manor and the LWVLC.

Topic: UO Professor Michelle Wood to report on the **Gulf Oil Spill Disaster**. As Director of the Ocean Chemistry Division for the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory of NOAA in Miami she is in the center of the storm regarding the explosion of BP's Macondo oil well and the impact of nearly five million gallons of crude oil on the Gulf. She will also provide a brief overview of her UO research that involves the Oregon Coastal waters.

Contact: Frank Carlton, 434-4140.

Online Unit

6.

Study methods of organizing other on-line units.

Contacts: Charlcie Kaylor, charlcie@efn.org

Chris Donohue, kimchee569@yahoo.com

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Updating TRY

Now that we have recovered from the activities of the general election, the Voter Service Committee is in the process of revising "They Represent You." The committee is verifying all of the changes to elected government officials that are relevant to Lane County. This

brochure is one of the most-requested publications available from the League, and so we need to make sure that the information is completely accurate. In January, we will be verifying that all of the government officers' names, titles, addresses, phone numbers, and web sites are correct and proofing all the data. If you would



like to help us, please contact us to volunteer.

Susan Tavakolian

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIELD TRIP SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2011 BY BETTY HOSOKAWA

Join us for this special opportunity to have our own personal guided tour of the two new and recently opened buildings on the LCC campus, the soaring Health Sciences Center and the stunning Long House. The event starts at 10 am in the LCC Center for Meeting and Learning with coffee, tea and an update by Brett Rowlett from Community Relations on exciting new programs and other happenings on campus. This will be your opportunity to ask all those questions you have been harboring about LCC.

We will then head to the east end of campus for tours of these two impressive but very different buildings. (For our significantly mobility challenged members we have arranged for round trip car transport to be provided by League volunteers between the Center and the site of the tours.) After the tour we will head back to the Center for a delicious soup and salad luncheon prepared by their catering staff as a conclusion to our visit. If you would like to attend the tour but are unable to stay for lunch, please contact Linda Roe or Betty Hosokawa.

Advance reservations are required for this trip so that we can let LCC catering know how many to plan for. The luncheon is \$13, payable in advance by **January 31**. Please send your check to the League office, payable to LWVLC, with LCC field trip in the memo line. Directions to LCC and where to park will be included in the February Argus.



A NON-CALORIC GIFT OF LWVLC IN THE NEW YEAR ANNE MEHL - UNIT CHAIR

January's "Unit Choice" is an opportunity to introduce your neighbors and friends to the kaleidoscope of treats the Lane County League of Women Voters offers: Brain power exercise through books; peek into sustainable culture on a visit to Aprovecho; overview of the Parks and Open Spaces; background on recycling

of plastic dealt with by our Oregon legislature; the Gulf oil spill through the eyes of the NOAA chemistry division director.

If your gift is to someone whose time is limited, tell them about our online unit.

Your gift can include an invitation to the Third Thursday (See page 1.)

AND that's only January's offering! What a gift platter to offer a potential member. This gift is less caloric than a holiday cookie. Please see the January unit choice descriptions with date and content information.

No briefing in January or February!

ACTION BY KAPPY EATON

Oregon Leadership Summit

The week of December 13 was filled with Oregon's future. The Oregon Leadership Summit was held for the ninth time in Portland, sponsored by the **Oregon Business Plan** with Oregon Senators Ron Wyden, Jeff Merkley, Governor Ted Kulongosky, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Dave Hunt. Several hundred public officials, legislators, business heads, private and non-profit agencies and members of the general public spent a day discussing the fact that **Oregon cannot do business as usual.**

Wyden talked about the importance of a forest plan for Eastern Oregon, followed by one for the West; permanent federal tax code changes; export laws favorable to agriculture; good news for Oregon with Google and Intel investments; continuation of the O&C funds for counties.

Merkley addressed better access to capital for small business, clean energy grant programs, conventional lumber protection and transportation. Pat Reiten, Oregon Business Plan chair, talked about the goal for the Business Plan for quality jobs for every corner of Oregon, with 25,000 new jobs each year for 10 years and having Oregon per capita exceed the national

average by 2020. Critical to economic causes are a talented workforce, quality infrastructure for productivity, a high quality of life, and a culture of research commercialization and innovation.

In the spirit of changing how Oregon budgets and looking at providing services, the Governor's Reset recommendations were discussed, particularly with regard to carrying forth the interim budget reductions of 2010, keeping state employee compensation in step with all working Oregonians, keeping school employees compensation in step with state employees, modifying retiree PERS benefits, holding the line on spending for services and supplies, and implementing the Reset Report recommendations which will provide savings of \$2.2 billion in 2011-13 - about 2/3 of the projected deficit for the next two years.

Governor-elect John Kitzhaber supports the Reset and moving to stop Oregon's disinvestment in its future. He would establish regional economic strategies with field offices for regional development. The state budget will be developed to address public investment and take the resources available in new directions. We will hear much more about this when

the 2011-13 budget is revealed sometime after January 10.

The whole attitude of the speeches and the workshops was framed in the idea of changing how the state operates with a focus on changing the delivery of services, accountability and raising income, both urban and rural.

Legislative Interim Committees Choose Issues for 2011 Session

Informational and Bill Drafting Hearings were held by the Legislature's Interim committees from December 14-16. This was the third time they met in 2010, after the Special Session in February. Unlike the short session where the number of bills were limited, it appears there will be no lack of discussion on myriad issues come February. With the passage of annual sessions, the Legislature will meet on January 10 to install public officials, as provided in the Oregon Constitution, but they will then recess until February 1 when formal hearings and floor sessions will begin. The pre-session bills will have been drafted and formally filed by then; leadership and committee chairs and members have already been designated.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

With an evenly divided House, there will be co-Speakers and Majority leaders. Peter Courtney has already been designated President in the Senate, where Democrats hold a two vote majority. While House committees usually will have two co-chairs, four Senate committees will have minority chairs, a courtesy shown by the President and Democratic Caucus.

Following are some of the issues to be discussed in selected issue areas:

Senate Rules agreed to bill drafts as follows:

- (1) initiative reform which requires a chief petitioner to disclose any system of bonus, incentives or minimum expectations of signatures to be obtained by paid petition passers;
- (2) requires the Water Resources Dept. to report biennially to the Legislature regarding measurement of significant diversions of surface water from high priority water sheds;
- (3) ethics reform which requires investment officers and assistant investment officers to file statements of economic interest with Ethics Commission;
- (4) limits ability of Secretary of State to impose a penalty on a campaign committee;
- (5) establishes a Campaign Finance Fund to continuously appropriate moneys to the

Secretary of State to operate ORESTAR;

- (6) amends election laws to remove an “unfulfilled pledge, subscription, agreement of promise” from definition of a contribution requiring reporting;
- (7) reduces maximum penalty for failure to file statements of economic interest with Ethics Commission from \$5000 to \$1000 and
- (8) prohibits providing pre-paid postage for signature sheets for petition or prospective petition for state measure to be initiated.

House Rules agreed to the drafting of more than 40 bills. More info to follow.

House and Senate Revenue committees filed an even 100 bill drafts. A significant number in both chambers deal with sun-setting tax credits. The House will consider kicker law and Rainy Day Fund reform, changes to the elderly health care deduction, senior property tax deferral, and changing the method of personal surplus revenue from refund to state tax credit. The Senate will consider placing the Rainy Day Fund into the constitution and diverting the kicker into a fund, changing the minimum corporate tax base to value added, several ways of diverting the kicker into reserves, the applicability of requiring a 3/5 majority for tax expenditure modifications, and some type of Measure 50 (1997) property

tax change to address the inequity of local assessments.

It is likely that the bottle bill will again be discussed along with banning plastic bags. Women’s health issues are of concern (see article in Dec.17 Register Guard) to the Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance whose members (including League) are looking to strengthen penalties for human trafficking and better coverage for cancer screening and treatment, as well as more help for domestic violence victims. On the radar screen is a proposal to ban products, particularly canned goods and baby bottles with dangerous contents of BPA.

This, however, is an austere time, and no dollars for new or program expansions are projected to pass. Strictly looking at the budget for outcomes and continuing the interim spending cuts is expected. Unemployment and low wages are still significant economic factors. And job creation is high on the legislative agenda.

Next meeting of Action committee: January 5 , 9:30, in the office

**Next meeting:
November 5
in the office
at 9:30 am.**

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WORKSHOP

BY FLO ALVERGUE, EVENT COORDINATOR

The biennial Legislative Process Workshop will be held from 9:30 to 2:30 pm on Thursday, January 13th, in Room 50 of the State Capitol in Salem. This is an opportunity to learn how the Legislature is structured and operates, particularly in the new divided political party configuration of 30-30 in the House and 16-14 in the Senate.

The program will include a mock hearing on a new Bottle

bill, perhaps a visit from Gov. Kitzhaber at lunch, and a panel of Legislative reporters who will talk about how they operate during a legislative session.

See the registration form on page 7. It's also posted at www.lwvor.org. The deadline for registering is January 7th.

The cost of the workshop and materials is \$18 including lunch (with a veggie option). The cost is \$11 without lunch.

Parking passes for \$6.00 are sold in Room 49 at the State Capitol. These passes may be used in any 10 hour metered parking spaces within the area defined on the back of the pass, allowing one to park all day. 10-hour visitor meters are located on Court Street. They require approximately .75/per hour.

For further information, contact Kappy Eaton or Flo Alvergue. Call Flo for carpooling.

HEALTH CARE

The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Through decades of work in their communities, League members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that healthcare reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account.

(Continued from page 1)

accompanies the rollover of the calendar is a consideration of our own personal situations, including finances, health, and priorities. We think about what we want to accomplish in the new year, and we make resolutions.

I'd like to share one bit of wisdom for this annual endeavor, from a slightly unusual source. It is from Chip Kelly, yes the **Chip Kelly** who is the coach of the UO football

team. (Remember this article did begin with football!) In an interview with the Register Guard in 2009, he referred to the five components of his "Win the Day" philosophy for the football program, which are intellectual growth, spiritual growth, social growth, skill development, and physical development. He stated the need to simultaneously work toward all these goals: "You have to be balanced. If you're off on one, it's skewed."

Participation in the League of Women Voters can certainly result in intellectual growth, social growth, and skill development - three of the five components in Kelly's list. Why don't you adopt as one of your 2011 resolutions to become more active in the League? You can choose from plenty of opportunities: unit meetings, Third Thursdays, Legislative Process Day, the Lane Community College tour, study committees, special projects... Happy New Year.

- What is Oregon’s legislative process?
- What will our first official “annual session” be like?
- How will the historic 30/30 tie in the House affect the process?
- What does the new leadership look like?
- How can League and AAUW members have an impact on budgetary decisions?

Join us to hear from elected officials and action leaders to learn about these important issues!

Legislative Process Day



Thursday January 13, 2011

Oregon State Capitol

Hearing Room 50

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM



Sponsored by LWV of Oregon and Oregon AAUW

Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form or register online at www.lwvor.org by Friday, **Jan. 7, 2011**

Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!

Name: _____ League/Branch: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch: \$18.00 LWV or AAUW member \$23.00 guest

Choose one: Veggie Pesto Wrap Mesquite Turkey Blue Cheese Wrap

Workshop only: \$11.00 LWV or AAUW member \$16.00 guest

Make checks payable to **LWVOR** and return with this form to

LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **January 7, 2011.**

Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.



OREGON HISTORY

1912 Women's Suffrage Proclamation Transcription

PROCLAMATION

State of Oregon
Executive Department,
Salem, Oregon, November
30, 1912

Whereas: The women of Oregon, after long and patient effort, have persuaded the men of the State to place them upon a footing of political equality by granting to them the right of suffrage through an amendment to Section 2 of Article 11 of the Constitution of the State; and, Whereas: Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Secretary of State of the State of Oregon in the presence of the Governor of the State of Oregon, did on the 29th day of November 1912 canvass the official election returns for the general election held in the State of Oregon on Tuesday, the fifth day of November, 1912; and, Whereas: It appears from the said official canvass that the following measure has been approved by a majority of the electors of the State of Oregon who voted therein: "Section 2 of Article 11" of the Constitution of the State of Oregon shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. In all elections not otherwise provided for by this Constitution, every citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, who shall have resided in the State during the six months immediately preceding such election, and every person of foreign birth of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, who shall have resided in the State during the six months immediately preceding such election, and shall have declared his or her intention to become a citizen of the United States one year preceding such election, conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization, shall be entitled to vote at all elections authorized by law."

And Whereas: The above quoted amendment, at the mentioned election received 61,265 affirmative and 57,104 negative votes. Now, therefore, I, Oswald West, Governor of the State of Oregon, by virtue of the authority, in me vested, and in obedience to the provisions of Section 9 of Chapter 226 of the General Laws of Oregon for the year 1907, do hereby make and issue this proclamation to the people of the State of Oregon, and vowing that the

said amendment to "Section 2" of Article 11 of the Constitution of Oregon, is now, and hereafter shall be, in full force and effect as a part and portion of the Organic Law of the State of Oregon.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the State of Oregon to be hereunto affixed this 30th day of November 1912.

OSWALD WEST,
Governor.

Attest: BEN W. OLCOTT,
Secretary of State.

*The above is transcribed by
Abigail Scott Duniway
in her 79th year.*

Abigail Scott Duniway signs Oregon's Equal Suffrage Proclamation on Nov. 30, 1912 as Governor Oswald West and Viola M. Coe watch. (Image courtesy Library of Congress)



GOT BOOKS?

Books can be left in the blue box at the office, or we will be happy to pick them up at your home. Just give us a call.

Elleen and Louie Levy
541-343-7592



Always say “thank you”

The next time you get a load of mulch from Lane Forest Products or buy a chop from Long's Meat Market, be sure to thank them for supporting the League. Diane of Studio D has a very satisfied group of League customers and if you are into all things made of beads, travel to Dorena and see what Baker Bay Bead Company has to offer. While you may not need the services of Unique Properties (Gail Newton) or Mortier Engineering (Charlcie Kaylor, our ARGUS editor) very soon, a thank you to them would be appreciated.

The six advertisements appearing in your new Directory more than paid for the printing and mailing of this essential document. We all used the Directory last month to refresh our understanding of League's local and state positions. Of course, the directory is a basic tool that helps us contact each other and is an important membership tool. Let our advertisers know you appreciate their support.

Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

PLEASE GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND

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

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LANE COUNTY

Membership Form

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

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CALENDAR

JANUARY

NO BRIEFING

5 Action Committee, 9:30 am

10-14 Unit meetings

13 Legislative Process Day, Salem

17 MLK, Jr. - Office closed

18 Membership committee, 10 am

19 LWVLC Board, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

20 Third Thursday, 11:45 am

23 Cascade Manor Unit, 2 pm

FEBRUARY

NO BRIEFING OR UNITS

2 Action 9:30 am

5 Lane Community College Tour, 10 am

16 LWVLC Board, 1:30 pm

17 Third Thursday, 11:45 am

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.