

# ARGUS

## PERSISTENCE AND PATIENCE

BY PAT HOCKEN, LWVLC PRESIDENT

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About 15 months ago, our local League had two events to learn about Lane Transit District's bus rapid transit or EmX system and its extension to West Eugene. In January 2010 we had a tour of the proposed routings and the opportunity to ride on the existing line. At February 2010 units we discussed information learned on the tour as well as material prepared by a League committee.

Our involvement did not stop then. Throughout 2010 and early 2011, members of the League's Action committee continued to follow the project by attending open houses and meetings of the groups that would need to approve the EmX extension. I say "continued" because we had been attending for many months before the tour.

Finally, it was crunch time, time to weigh in on the proposals. We submitted testimony three times in three months to decision makers, including two presentations at well-attended, somewhat boisterous public hearings. In addition, many members responded to my action alerts and testified at the hearings or contacted officials by e-mail to support the project and the League's preferred routing.

There is still more. The Metropolitan Policy Committee approved the West 6th/7th route as the preferred route, i.e., the route to be subjected to the rigorous environmental impact statement (EIS) process required for projects receiving federal funding. In a few months, when the EIS is issued, a final decision on proceeding with the West Eugene extension will be made. Although the route selected is not our first choice, we are very pleased that the project has survived some serious challenges and is still moving forward. We will, of course, express our views again this summer.

I laid out the details above to remind us of how long it may take to accomplish our goals. And I didn't include the work of citizens that led to the inclusion of the bus rapid transit system in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan transportation plan back in 2001.

Of course, as supporters of women's suffrage and equality, we are not unfamiliar with the virtues of persistence and patience in obtaining voting and other rights. It was 72 years from the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the first Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 and an-

other 72 years until the adoption of the 19th amendment in 1920. In Oregon, it took six attempts before male voters finally approved the vote for women in 1912.

Most of us can name a project or a program to which we have devoted our time and energy for many years with mixed success. We have new libraries in Creswell and Eugene but not a county library system. We have a great facility for the detention and treatment of delinquent youth in the Lane County Serbu Center but insufficient funds to fully operate it. We may soon have no vacant pits in downtown Eugene though we still have other redevelopment needs.

The League has an important role to play in the betterment of our local communities. Armed with as many facts as we can glean and the positions adopted by our members, we can accomplish much. We would love to have your help and that of other members and other citizens in working on significant community issues. Contact me or Kappy Eaton or just show up at an Action Committee meeting. (See the ARGUS for the date and time.)

And the League will be persistent and patient.

# CENSUS & REDISTRICTING

## ANNE MEHL, UNIT CHAIR

### Monday May 9

10 am

South Willamette #1  
147 Westbrook Way (1 block beyond 46th, then right on Westbrook Way to Edgewood clubhouse on right by pool)

H: Barbara Greenley, 684-9127

C: Emily Schue, 344-7597

2 pm

Harlow Road #2

394 Cherry Drive

H: Barbara French, 485-9090

C: Kay Huston, 607-8962

### Tuesday May 10

9:30 am

Coburg Road #3

2135 Rocky Lane

H: Dorothy Cruickshank, 342-2577

C: Punky Smith, 844-9277

### Wednesday May 11

10 am

East Eugene #5

555 E. 15th Avenue

Central Presbyterian

H: Stephanie Winsor, 342-8243

C: Diana Grandberry, 342-8402

12 Noon

Cottage Grove/Creswell #8

Contact Dian Missar for location

H: Gayle Downing, 942-1858

C: Dian Missar, 942-7676

4 pm

S.W. Eugene #4

2365 W. 23rd Avenue

H: Pat McDaniels, 343-4728

C: Sally Weston, 484-4404

### Friday May 13

9:30 am

Cascade Manor #9 (Cascade View Room)

65 W. 30th Avenue

C: Lorraine Abbott, 434-4107

Frank Carlton, 434-4140

### On-Line Unit #6

All week, anytime, anywhere

Charlcie Kaylor - [charlcie@efn.org](mailto:charlcie@efn.org)

Chris Donohue - [kimchee569@yahoo.com](mailto:kimchee569@yahoo.com)

### Unit Briefing

Tuesday May 3rd - 3 pm

at the Atrium ( Sloat room )

10th and Olive

All are welcome.

## MAY UNITS BY PAT HOCKEN

Oregon Redistricting in 2011 is the topic for May units. The focus will be on the 2010 Census results and how they will affect the redrawing of geographic boundaries for seats

in the Oregon legislature and on city councils. Please join us for the last unit meetings before our summer break. Unit meetings will resume in October.

### League Opposes Termination of EAC - Apr 20, 2011

League President Elisabeth MacNamara entered testimony into the official record on HR 672 which would terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and transfer some of its duties to the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

### LWV OF LANE COUNTY BOARD/OFF-BOARD ROSTER 2010-11

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*Vice President & Program*

**PAT McDANIELS**

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**ANNE MEHL**

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**SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN**

## MEMBERSHIP - SUE MILLER-WIELESEK, CHAIR

Dear League Members,

The Membership Committee invites you to join us at Tsunami Bookstore, 2585 Willamette Street, on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a delightful evening with Barbara Pope, author. She will review her newest book, *Blood of Lorraine*, an historical novel. Her

earlier novel, *Cezanne's Quarry*, will also be available. Guests are most welcome.

If you have any transportation issues, please call me at 343-8432, cell 554-7735, or contact any of the Membership Committee members, Flo Alvergue, Rosie Janz, Veronika Walton, Fran Boehner,

Pat Hocken, or Renee Buchanan, and we will arrange transportation for you. The Spring Soiree is supposed to be fun and social, and we don't want you to miss it because it's a bit harder to get around.

Warm regards, and hoping to see you on the seventh.

## NEW MEMBERS



Two of our newest members are **Sandi and Paul Pattison**, a pair of retired teachers living in Saginaw - not Saginaw, Michigan, but the town just outside of Cottage Grove.

Sandi was born in Guam, an "Air force Brat". She ended up in the State of Virginia, where she attended Lynchburg College and the University of Virginia. She taught in public school systems for 32 years, and retired in 2007. Her teaching included the primary grades through community college levels. She and Paul have two sons who live in Portland. Her hobbies now include children's theater, Ophelia's

Place, and Project Mentoring. She writes for a variety of causes and reasons, knits up a storm, and reads almost constantly.

Paul was born in Orange County and attended the University of California at Santa Cruz, and the Univer-

sity of Virginia, where he met Sandi. They moved to Cottage Grove in 1979. He has taught special education and middle School core subjects, and retired in 2008. Between them they completed 64 years of teaching. Paul's current main hobby is working to turn his 19 acres of land into a preserve. That doesn't keep him busy enough, so he also sings with the choir at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene.

Sandi and Paul make a great addition to the League of Women Voters of Lane County! Welcome!

**Fran Boehner**

**Louise Wade** has lived in Eugene since 1975 when she became a professor of history at the University of Oregon. Her specialization is American social and urban history. Born in Toledo, Ohio, Louise holds a degree from Wellesley and a PhD from the University of Rochester. In Chicago she worked on a book on the meatpacking industry.

When Louise first saw the McKenzie River, she fell in love with Oregon and decided to accept the job offer at UO. She continued to teach there five years after retirement. She became interested in the League earlier in her UO career, but was too busy to join until she moved to Cascade Manor and began to participate in the unit there. Community advocacy in her neighborhood association at Quail Run fed her interest in civic issues. She has been an active member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for a number of years.

We are very glad you joined LWVLC, Louise!

**Flo Alvergue**

## ACTION BY KAPPY EATON

### Local Issues

Opponents have gone from “no build” on W.11th to “no build” on W.6th and 7th, and the EmX western expansion is still not fully approved. The League’s message through all these months has stayed focused on public transit, cost containment, and the environment. After thorough discussion, our preference was West 11th, but we can support the 6th/ 7th alternative. Lane Transit District, the Eugene City Council and the Metropolitan Policy Committee have now agreed that 6th-7th alternative will be the option submitted to the environmental assessment. Stay tuned.

The cities of Eugene and Springfield as well as Lane County intend do the necessary redistricting of city wards and county commissioner districts, respectively. Eugene is still determining its citizen involvement activities. Springfield will begin its work with a draft plan prepared by the Lane Council of Governments. The Lane County Board of Commissioners has appointed a 7-member citizen committee to make a recommendation to the board. League will be monitoring these activities to ensure there is adequate

citizen participation and that approved criteria are being used.

The League is supporting School District 4J’s bond levy, to be voted on at the May 17 Primary Election. It is for the purpose of rehabilitating and maintaining several schools and replacing Roosevelt Middle School. The levy is very specific as to the uses of the dollars to be raised. While we recognize the need for additional funds for Eugene and Bethel schools, our positions do not allow us to support or oppose the proposed four year Eugene income tax to support teachers and programs in the two districts.

### State Issues

**Fiscal Policy.** The 2011-13 Oregon Budget proposed by the three co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee has received very mixed reviews. However, the K-12 public education portion, \$5.7 billion, has been passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. Critics say it isn’t sufficient and feel more of the \$298 million remaining in the Educational Stability Fund should be allocated. Proponents feel it is prudent to keep as much as possible in reserves in case of an-

other economic downturn. Remaining to be funded, with still a \$2.5 billion shortfall, are the huge Human Services budget and that for Public Safety. Coming out of the severe recession slowly, there are still many unmet needs of children, seniors, the disabled and families. Also, protecting at risk kids under the Juvenile Authority and keeping those persons needing longer incarceration in prison, along with those needing mental health attention, require corrections dollars. The coming weeks hold some gut-wrenching decisions for law makers, and probably no one is going to be very happy. The May revenue forecast, expected about May 19, will set the final revenue amount on which the balanced budget must be made. Unlike some states, Oregon’s Constitution requires a balanced budget, and that, actually, is the only thing required of the Legislature to do, along with the decennial redistricting of legislative and Congressional boundaries.

**Redistricting.** The House and Senate Redistricting Committees have held 12 regional meetings around

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Next Action  
committee meeting:  
9:30 am  
May 2nd**

*(Continued from page 4)*

the state, finishing in Salem on April 19. At each hearing, maps of the area were provided to allow participants an opportunity to see where population shifts had occurred. The two committees will continue to meet jointly during the rest of April and for awhile in May. There will be at least three public hearings for citizens to comment on the maps. These will be visible online as well as in the Capitol. A new Redistricting plan must be submitted to the Legislature in time for the projected June 30 adjournment, but in any event, by July 1. If the Legislature is unable to agree on a plan, or the Governor vetoes the plan, the Secretary of State has until August 15 to prepare one which would be reviewed and adopted by the Supreme Court. The State League will continue to provide input to the Redistricting committees, with particular emphasis on population deviation, criteria such as communities of interest and diversity representation, and overall attention to fairness and one person/one vote.

**Natural Resources:** It is a fight to protect land use and water right now. It appears the ban on BPA in sippy cups and baby bottles

will make it through the Senate, and the ban on one-use plastic bags at grocery checkouts has a chance in the House. Some changes to the bottle bill such as higher bottle deposits, area redemption centers and additional types of beverage containers may make it through the Assembly although, the bill right now calls for a phase in by 2016.

**Human Services:** The Health Authority bill (almost 200 pages) is still in process; single payer is out. Local services and programs for families in need, seniors, mentally ill, disabled, children are all being scrutinized. All will be cut back because of the lack of revenue.

**Tax expenditures, the kicker, and the Rainy Day Fund.**

These are all linked because there are discussions around them which could lead to changes which the League and many others support. A new research study on income tax expenditures (credits and deductions) shows the steady increase (10% since 1999) of new expenditures even as the General/Lottery Fund resources declined. If the many new ones had not been added during the six biennia (1999-2011), there would be \$2.7 billion more in the General Fund. There could be several more mil-

lions (up to \$300) available if -

- (1) if all sun setting tax credits were allowed to die (\$40 million);
- (2) the senior medical deduction were subject to a means test (\$148 million); and
- (3) the ratio of managers to line staff in public employees was increased from the current 5.2 (\$71 million).

There is a constitutional amendment being proposed to put the Rainy Day Fund into the constitution and to fund it by changing the allotment of the kickers, personal and corporate. The personal kicker percentage would not change - it kicks if the surplus revenue from personal income taxes is 2% more than the projection. However, the surplus revenue from the kicker would be split 50-50 between the Rainy Day Fund and rebates to the taxpayers. The corporate kicker would all go to the Rainy Day Fund. Another bill to provide a tax credit instead of a check to taxpayers eligible to receive a kicker benefit probably will pass. This will save more than a million dollars.

The next Argus will carry information on the changes to election, initiative and ethics laws.

To receive LWVOR's legislative reports by e-mail sign up at - <http://www.lwvor.org/legislativereports.htm>

# ANNUAL MEETING REPORT BY PAT HOCKEN

The annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lane County was held Saturday April 23.

The following actions were taken at that meeting. Susan Tavakolian and Sue Boyd were elected as co-presidents for a two- year term beginning June 1. Also elected for two-year terms were Merle Bottge as secretary and Flo Alvergue,

Kappy Eaton, Pat Hocken, and Charlie Kaylor as directors. Continuing elected board members will be Phyllis Loo-bey as treasurer and directors Barbara French, Fran Boehner, and Anne Mehl.

The budget for 2011-2012 was adopted as proposed, and the recommended dues increase was also approved. The dues for 2011-2012 will

be \$63 for an individual and \$94.50 for a household, and for 2012-13 will be \$65 for an individual and \$97.50 for a household.

The board recommendation to revise the Tax Increment Financing position was adopted. All local positions, including the revised Tax Increment Financing position, were adopted for use in future years.



Photos by Flo Alvergue

Board Members present at the meeting - Pat McDaniels, Sue Miller-Wielesek, Janet Calvert, Merle Bottge, Susan Tavakolian, Sue Boyd, Kappy Eaton, Barbara French, Flo Alvergue, and Pat Hocken



Susan Tavakolian & Barbara French at sign-in



Nancie Fadeley peruses potluck

## THIRD THURSDAY SPEAKERS

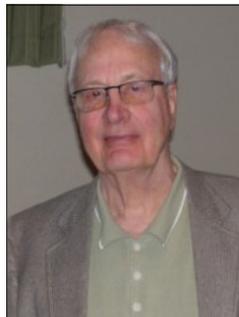


Photo by Gayle Downing

Former Peace Corps speakers - Dr. Nicole Brule, Dorothy Soper, Chris Chaplin, & James Cloutier

# ALMOST SUMMER!

There are signs all around us that let us know spring is finally here. That means summer is almost around the corner. We want to remind all of you that our used book fund raiser continues all year long, even during the summer months. Most of us will be finding more time to read, and when you make room for the new books, remember that we will be happy to find

good homes for the books you are ready to give away.

During the past month, one of your book donations even found a new home in Russia. It was the first eBay sale we have made to that far away country.

During the past month, your used books have brought in \$154.00. That brings the total since July 1, 2010 to

**\$1,107.37.**

Book donations can be left in the blue box in the office, or you can give us a call to pick them up at your house. We will be happy to do that, whether it is just one book or 100 books. Please give us a call. Thank you,

**Elleen and Louie Levy  
541-343-7592**



## PHYLLIS PEARA 1927- 2011 BY ROSIE JANZ

Phyllis Peara, a cherished member of our League, died March 6<sup>th</sup> of congestive heart failure. As her neighbor, friend and fellow League member, I often marveled at her feisty spirit, high energy and intellect. Phyllis frequently shared her experiences while serving as President of League chapters in both Wilmette and Park Forest, Illinois. She was also especially proud of the fact that she had initiated a League chapter in Council Bluffs, Iowa and had served as their president as well. Since she and her husband Ed moved to Eugene, she has been an active participant in our League's unit discussions and meetings and has served on numerous committees. It came as no surprise to me when her husband recently told me that, in the past, she had been recognized as the "Outstanding Woman of the Year" in a suburb north of Chicago. I'm sure we can all agree that Phyllis was a League "Super Star" that will be very much missed! A memorial service for her is planned to be held at 2:00 PM, May 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

### PLEASE GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND

Thanks to our  
2010-11 Directory  
Advertisers

Lane Forest Products

Mortier Engineering

Baker Bay Bead Co.

Unique Properties

Long's Meat Market

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 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 101  
Eugene, OR 97401

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LANE COUNTY

#### Membership Form

- Individual \$63
- Household (Two people at the same address) \$94.50
- Student \$20
- Individual after February 1st \$30

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

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Email (for League use only)



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VOTERS LANE COUNTY**

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Phone: 541-343-7917  
league@lwwlc.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## CALENDAR

### MAY

- 2, 9:30 am - Action
- 3, Briefing - page 2
- 7, Membership Spring Soiree from 5 to 7 pm - See page 3
- 9 - 13, Units CENSUS & REDISTRICTING
- 17, Election Day
- NO THIRD THURSDAY IN MAY

## SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE

The League office will be closed Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day.  
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day in September, the League office will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am to 1:30pm, except on Monday, July 4, when it will be closed for Independence Day.

### *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.*