

ARGUS

October 2011

League of Women Voters Lane County



Presidents' Column Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

What's not to like about October? Units, Third Thursday, LWVOR workshop in Eugene, Halloween...it feels like the beginning of a great new year.

The Federal Role in Education is the topic for unit meetings both this month and next, with consensus questions both months. The

study will lead to a new position for action to be adopted by the League of Women Voters of the United States Board. There is lots to discuss, and more background material will be coming in November. For the times and places of unit meetings, check Page 2.

For some historical perspective, one of the

study topics chosen at the first general meeting of the then-Eugene League was Federal Aid to Education. That meeting was held on October 31, 1939. Almost 72 years later, it's still a vital issue.

Third Thursday will include the recognition of our newest class of 50-

(Continued on page 8)

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Third Thursday Information

- Hilton Garden Inn 3528 Gateway St, Springfield
- The \$13 cost for lunch includes beverage, dessert and tip. 11:45 am
- Beverage only with refills - \$2.50.
- Free program begins at 12:15
- For reservations, call the League office, 541-343-7917, or e-mail league@lwvlc.org for reservations.
- Reservations are very important.

Third Thursday - October 20

WHAT TO WATCH FOR AND WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR DURING THE 2012 SESSION

Political pollsters report that when asked "What/Whom do you trust most to give you accurate information?" a very frequent answer is "The League of Women Voters." So our next Third Thursday will be a conversation about the League's role in influencing legislative decisions and in preparing its members for elective office. All this will lead to a discussion about what may happen at Oregon's 2012 Legislative Session.

Our conversationalists will include two mem-

bers of the Oregon House of Representatives, Representative Jean Cowan, and Representative Phil Barnhart, plus our own Kappy Eaton who will host and participate in the conversation.

Representative Cowan, a former president of the Lincoln County League who represents Lincoln, and portions of Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill & Lane Counties, has been a member of the House since 2007. Representative Barnhart, who represents portions of Lane & Linn

County has been a member of the House since 2001.

And Kappy Eaton has spent decades in our State Capitol, testifying before committees, distributing copies of our studies and positions, and talking individually with legislators.



October Units-Consensus, Federal Role in Education (Part 1 of 2)

Monday, October 10 10 am

South Willamette #1
90 Westbrook way (block
beyond 46th) go R to
Edgewood Clubhouse 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, October 11 9:30 am

Coburg Road #3
2135 Rocky Lane
H: Dorothy Cruickshank
342 - 2577
C: Punky Smith
844 -9277

Wednesday Oct. 12 10 am

East Eugene #5
555 E. 15th
Central Presbyterian
H: Stephanie Winsor
342- 8243
C: Diana Grandberry
342 -8402

Noon

Cottage Grv/Creswell #8
Cottage Grove L.C.C
H: Gayle Downing
942 -8243
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 October 14 9:30 am

Cascade Manor
Cascade View Room #9
65 W 30th Avenue
C: Lorraine Abbott
434- 4107
Frank Carlton 434-4140

On-Line Unit # 6

Charlcie Kaylor
charlcie@efn.org
or
Chris Donohue
kimchee569@yahoo.com

**Anne Mehl,
Units Chair
302- 2806**

Unit Briefing

Tuesday October 4
3:00 pm at the
Atrium (Sloat room)

LWV of Lane County Board/Off Board Roster 2011-12

Co-Presidents
**SUE BOYD &
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN**

Secretary
MERLE BOTTGE

Treasurer
PHYLLIS LOOBEY

Action
**KAPPY EATON &
PAT HOCKEN**

Argus Editor
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance
JANET CALVERT

Historian
GAYLE DOWNING

Membership
SUE WIELESEK

Public Relations
FRAN BOEHNER

Units
ANNE MEHL

Voters Service
**FLO ALVERGUE &
BARBARA FRENCH**

Consensus on the Federal Role in Public Education by Pat Hocken

The League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) is participating in the study of the Federal Role in Public Education being conducted by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). The goal is to adopt a new LWVUS position that can be used for lobbying Congress, federal agencies, and other groups.

The LWVLC will devote both October and November units to discussing and answering the 15 consensus questions developed by LWVUS. (Just the number of questions makes it clear why we need two units on the topic.)

The focus for October will be the use and value of national standards for common core subjects as well as the assessment of student success in achieving the standards. The issues of federal mandates, a national curriculum, the reporting of results to parents and the community, and using test scores in teacher evaluations will be considered.

The focus for November will be on funding, the meaning of equity in public education, education for children with special needs, and early childhood education.

Included with this ARGUS

are the consensus questions we will cover at October units and the background reading to help you start thinking about the questions. Our local committee of Barbara French, Susan Tavakolian, Deborah Duke, and myself has selected the readings from a much larger body of material provided by LWVUS.

Please come to October units to learn more about this important subject and to share your views on the consensus questions. All members are welcome to attend briefing as well.

MEMBERSHIP – Sue Wielesek

The Membership Committee wants again to welcome the following members who have joined since the publication of last fall's directory, and two former members who have rejoined. Our new members are Miriam Aiken, Karen and David Johnson, Helen Posey, Sandi and Paul Pattison, Peggy Robinson, Janell Sorensen, and Dan Egan, head of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Helen Matthew and

Catherine Ann Minor have rejoined the League.

The Committee wants to acknowledge the many contributions of the six League members who died in the last year: Dora Harris, Pat Helmers, Sumy Anhorn, Ralph Fishrup, Phyllis Pears, and Penny Anderson. They were a smart, funny lot of people, and our store of accumulated wisdom has been decreased by the death of each.

Finally, thanks to the Membership Committee members for their hard work this year, and to many others who helped with the League's Fall Luncheon. A reminder - please do everything you can do to encourage new members to join, and everything you can do to encourage new members to come to Third Thursday luncheons and become involved in units.

THE FRUIT SALE BEGINS! – Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

The League's first fruit sale fundraiser begins now and will end November 10.

League members and supporters will soon receive a letter detailing how to purchase fruit for their own enjoyment and sell it to friends, neighbors and business associates. Everyone who buys a \$25 (20 pounds) box of delicious premium apples, pears, grapefruit, oranges or a combination

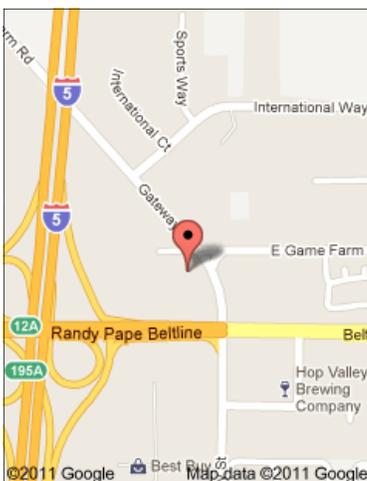
box helps support the League and a healthy diet. If every member buys or sells two boxes of fruit, the League will earn about \$2,000.

The time is right. The fruit will arrive the first week in December just in time for holiday gifts and entertaining.

Offer your friends, relatives, coworkers, civic minded acquaintances an easy solution for a holiday

gift giving and suggest it's a delicious way to support the League. The most important thing is to ask. Help make League's first Fruit Sale a success!

Questions? Call Janet Calvert, 541.686.2697 or member of the **Fruit Loop Committee:** Christy Albin, Fran Boehner, Merle Bottge, Barbara French, Kay Huston, Mary Keating, Marjorie Maxwell, Sally Mills, and Sharon Posner



GETTING TO THIRD THURSDAY – Flo Alvergue

An Alternative to I-5

On a recent pleasant fall afternoon I took the EmX from 10th & High (where I have an OLLI parking permit) and rode into Springfield all the way to Gateway. Since serving on the search committee for our new Third Thursday venue, the Hilton Garden Inn, I wanted to see how long the trip would take on the EmX. I would plan on about 45 minutes on the bus

from Eugene Downtown Station plus a short 5-minute walk from the nearest station to the Inn, International Way West. The walks across the streets are pedestrian-friendly, allowing plenty of time.

The other nearby station is Kruse Way, across from Crossroads Center (Starbucks and Staples among others), but is a little longer hike. There is a brief 3-4 minute wait on

the bus as you come in to the Springfield Station at Pioneer Parkway.

Day passes are \$3.00, but I advise members to get a senior pass (if you're of that age) for \$3.00 with photo at the Downtown Station during office hours, good forever! I've enjoyed having mine for several years.



VOLUNTEER FORM

NAME _____

BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU (PHONE/E-MAIL) _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE MARK ALL THAT INTEREST YOU

- ONE-TIME PROJECTS - Projects arise throughout the year that need extra helpers
- OFFICE WORKER - Take a shift about once a month. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 am to 1:30 p.m, 338 West 11th Avenue, Suite 101. Welcome guests, answer phone calls, check and respond to phone messages, check the mail, and occasionally help with mailing and phoning.
- NEWSLETTER MAILING - Work with the team that prepares the ARGUS for mailing (about 3 hours per month)
- UNIT LEADER - Lead the discussion or serve as recorder at a unit meeting. Help plan a unit choice meeting.
- PRIVATIZATION STUDY - The League of Women Voters of the United States is studying the privatization of government services. Join the local committee to learn more and to coordinate the use of the LWVUS study material for unit meetings.
- COASTAL MANAGEMENT STUDY - The League of Women Voters of Oregon is studying Oregon coastal management. Join the local committee to learn more and to coordinate the use of the LWVOR study material for unit meetings.
- VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE - Activities may include working on candidate debates, distributing voters guides, researching and writing information about ballot measures, helping to register voters.
- SPEAKERS BUREAU - Become trained as a speaker on ballot issues to make presentations to local groups and organizations.
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Help with the fall luncheon or a meet-and-greet for new members, call members, write brief bios of new members for the newsletter.
- OBSERVE GOVERNMENT MEETINGS - Watch the meetings of a City Council or the Lane County Board of Commissioners or other agencies in person or on television to update the Action committee.
- WEBMASTER TEAM - Become trained to help maintain our website.
- NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES - Attend the naturalization ceremonies for new citizens, welcome them with an American flag and voter registration materials.
- EUGENE CELEBRATION - Help set up the booth at the Eugene Celebration in late summer. Staff tables and pass out voter registration materials and information about the League.

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM in any of the following ways:

MAIL TO LWVLC, 338 West 11th Avenue, Suite 101, Eugene, OR 97401
 TURN IN at Fall luncheon, Third Thursday, or a unit meeting.
 E-MAIL TO league@lwwlc.org

LWVOR Fall Workshop

Saturday, October 22

Phoenix Inn, Eugene

850 Franklin Blvd.



GATHER NEW INFORMATION

Action Committee Hot Topics

Update on Oregon's 10-Year Budget Plan with Michael Jordan,
Oregon's Chief Operating Officer (or Sarah Miller)

Children at Risk, Privatization, & Education Study Updates

Special Guest Susan Wilson, LWVUS Liaison



EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

Vote411 Voter Service tool

LWVOR's brand new web sites

Oral history video how-to



Online registration available at www.lwvor.org/



LWVOR Fall Workshop registration form

Advance registration required—due **Oct. 13, 2011**

Yes, I want to attend the LWVOR Fall Workshop!

Name: _____

LWV Member? Yes No If yes, indicate League: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch: \$24.00 member; \$29.00 guest (Vegetarian option will be available)

Workshop only: \$16.00 member; \$21.00 guest

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **October 13, 2011**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

State of The State

A funny thing happened - not on the way to the Capitol - but in the Interim Rules committee hearing on September 21. During three days in September, all of the legislature's interim committees are meeting to review the implementation of some of the 2011 bills, discuss work plans for the 2012 annual session, and propose drafts for bills to be brought forward in that first annual session from February 1 through March 6. Two more meetings will be held in November and January to finalize committee agendas.

HB 2492, an elections bill to discontinue the process of choosing precinct committee persons (PCPs) on the Primary Ballot every other May, did not make it through the committee/passage in June. Championed by the Oregon Association of County Clerks (the folks who run elections) and approved by the Association of Counties, the dash-3 amendments were up for discussion September 21 in House Rules. The amended proposal would no longer allow write-in votes for precinct committees at the Primary election. A person's name could be on the ballot only if there were at least two seeking the position. For persons who filed in a non-competitive race, they would automatically be elected.

Invited testimony was presented by representatives of the county clerks and representatives of the Democrat and Republican

Central Committees. In their advocacy for HB2492, the following precinct data was brought forward by the clerks:

- 17,244 Precinct Committee Person positions (number of Oregon precincts)
- 3453 candidates who filed to fill those positions
- 13,991 positions receiving write-in votes
- 37,352 the number of write-in votes tracked and logged by county clerks
- 1238 persons receiving the number of votes needed to elect - (3) needed
- 681 of those persons receiving enough votes who accepted the position
- \$250,000 the total cost of having the PCP position on every precinct ballot

The proponents claim continuing the PCP ballot elections is neither efficient nor cost effective, particularly in these times of county fiscal crisis across the state. They believe the political parties should choose their precinct representatives.

The two political parties (surprise, surprise) did not agree with the other party's viewpoint. The Ds' speaker supported the cost-saving element of the proposed changes. They agreed with the Rs that precinct work serves as a party participation building block, but felt that there were easier and more productive ways to get involved. The Rs were adamant against any changes in the system. They felt strongly that eliminating the write-in votes and not being on the ballot would be detrimental to the public interest in elections. Further,

while cost savings are important, the amount saved was not sufficient enough to warrant changing the system.

The intriguing part came with the questions from Rules committee members to the witnesses. They asked a great many of the clerks, particularly about how the write-in votes were counted and the labor intensive aspects of the work. Because there were costs to all counties, there was interest in the savings. The most intensive comments came from two Republican Rules committee members to the representatives from their own party. They were highly critical of the idea that precinct committee work was the best way to get involved with the party; that everybody wants their name on a ballot rather than being appointed, and the lack of support of cost-cutting practices at the local government level. This is the first instance I have experienced where the party members did not see eye to eye publicly. Also of note was the fact that the two committee members represent the very conservative and the more central views of the Rs on the committee. If the discussion indicated anything, it was that HB 2492 may move forward this time.

The Senate and House Revenue committees met separately to draw up their respective work plans and possible legislative proposals for the 2012 annual session February 1 through March 6. In a following joint meet-

Next Action
Committee meeting
on October 5th
9:30 a.m. at
Kappy Eaton's
Garden Way
Retirement Center
175 S. Garden Way
All members are
welcome.

(Continued on page 7)

Action (continued)

ing they had updates presented in the areas of Tribal property tax exemptions, reverse mortgages and their fiscal impact, federal Highway Trust Fund, Department of Revenue Audit follow-up, and corporate minimum income tax issues. This provided a mirror of what may be key elements for discussion next year.

Both committees will be considering potential legislation (1) to modify the senior and disabled property tax deferrals program changers contained in HB

2543 and (2) clarifications to the business energy tax credit reform bill, HB 3672. They also will be looking at an update for the connection to the federal income tax code and for performance contract language for the Department of Revenue information system project. In addition, the House Revenue committee will consider clarification of tribal property for tax purposes (HB 2566), applying transient lodging taxes to residential care facilities (HB 2012), and inclusion of prepaid telecommuni-

cations services in the 911 tax base subject to sound collection methodology.

Some of the issues raised during the invited testimony and the adopted work plans include the calculation of the kicker and treatment of tax credits under the corporate minimum tax law (one company is suing because it was not allowed to use its tax credits to offset its minimum tax); local finance issues such as the impact of falling property values and property tax

Measures 5/50 and the end of federal timber revenues; medical expenses, the itemized deduction threshold and the Oregon senior medical deduction; and the Reserve Fund Policy with options for building reserves in a volatile world. If these sound like a huge plateful, join the crowd. It is likely that some of the more comprehensive problems will be examined and discussed, and then put on hold until 2013.

Kappy Eaton

Local Action Update

Several local government issues are being tracked by the League of Women Voters of Lane County as reported below. If you wish additional information about any of them, please contact me or come to the next Action committee meeting on October 5. We will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in one of the community rooms of the Garden Way Retirement Community, Kappy's new home. Let me know if you need directions.

Envision Eugene

A planner from the City of Eugene will attend the Action committee meeting on October 5 to brief us on the issue of a potential expansion of the City's urban growth boundary (UGB) for residential purposes. As reported in previous ARGUS articles, this is one of the still unresolved issues in the Envision Eugene process to plan for the management of growth over the next 20 years. We want to be prepared to testify before the Eugene Council when

they next schedule a public hearing on this matter, probably in the next few months. If you are interested in urban planning and land use goals, please join us to learn more.

The March 2011 Envision Eugene draft proposal recommended another expansion of the UGB to add 400-500 acres for industrial uses. The League co-presidents, Kappy, and I recently met with representatives of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce to learn about the background and specifics of the proposal. We also discussed the four areas that are being studied for such an expansion.

Redistricting

In September, the League testified before the City of Eugene about the two ward redistricting scenarios that had been developed by city staff. We stated that both scenarios were acceptable according to the criteria the League had adopted, and we commended the city for its transparent process.

The League continues to follow redistricting efforts for Lane County Commissioner districts and the City of Springfield Council wards.

Regional Transportation

At the Action committee meeting in September, we learned about the current update of the Regional Transportation Plan from Paul Thompson, a planner with the Lane Council of Governments. We will review the details of the plan at the next meeting to determine if there are specific items the League wishes to comment on before the public input deadline in early November.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the West Eugene expansion of the EmX system is still being prepared, and opportunities for public comment are anticipated in a few months. Lane Transit District has submitted its grant application for federal funding, which is, of course, depend-

ent on the successful completion of the EIS and approval of the project by the Metropolitan Policy Committee.

Glenwood Redevelopment

The City of Springfield has issued a Glenwood Refinement Plan draft, which details how Glenwood could ultimately be redeveloped. The draft is an update of a 20-year-old plan and focuses on the resource of the Willamette River corridor as an impetus for redevelopment. The Action committee will consider the draft and potential testimony at its next meeting

Pat Hocken

Boyd, Hocken, Mulder, Eaton, & McDaniel of Action Committee consider Eugene redistricting.



Photo by Flo Alvergue



Straw Ballot Results Eugene Celebration 2011

Each year at its Eugene Celebration booth, the League of Women Voters of Lane County conducts a very unscientific straw poll. The results from this year are shown below.

- 1. Do you support reducing the federal deficit by-
 - a) reducing spending? yes 98 no 57
 - b) repealing some of the Bush-era tax cuts? yes 174 no 7
 - c) raising taxes on higher income earners? yes 143 no 8

- 2. Do you support the right to collective bargaining for public employees such as the employees of city, county, and state governments and school districts? yes 172 no 12

- 3. Do you support revising the kicker income tax refund to create an Oregon rainy day fund? yes 163 no 18

- 4. Do you support a special county property tax for public safety (sheriff patrol, jail beds, etc.)? yes 109 no 44

- 5. Do you support the extension of the EmX bus system to West Eugene by way of West 6th and 7th, Garfield, and West 11th? yes 126 no 44

President's Column

year members. They are Joyce Andrews, Jeanne Armstrong, Rosemary Batori, Cleo Burtner, Beth Campbell, Alice Dugan, Kappy Eaton, Marion Esty, Nancy Francis, Ruth Miller, Eleanor Mulder, Nancy Fadeley, Emily Schue and Barbara Wolfe.

This will be the first Third Thursday at our new location, the Hilton Garden Inn on Gateway in Springfield. For a map showing its location, driving directions, and information on getting there by EmX, see Page 3.

Tying in with the topic of Third Thursday, the state League has asked us to make a list of League members who have been elected to an office - school board, city council, county commission, state government or federal government, anyone in

our League who was ever an elected official. They may have joined the League before the election, during their office term or after their term ended. They may have been an elected official in some other state before joining the League - that counts too. If you have dates - fine, but it is not necessary. If the description fits you or someone you know, send us the information by phone, mail, or email, and we will compile the list and forward it to Salem.

The LWVOR Fall Workshop will be held October 22 at the Phoenix Inn, Eugene. The registration form is on Page 5.

Of special interest are the technology training sessions. According to Becky Gladstone, a member of the LWVOR technology

committee, one presentation will include a general how-to of websites set up through Wordpress, which our Lane site uses. There will be a tour through the new LWVOR website with information on how to set up and edit a website. JV Media, the company that has been working on the LWVOR website, will give the tour, with wireless (wifi) access.

The other tech training will be on the Vote411 site, and how to customize it for local use. There will also be a session on how to make oral history videos.

As for Halloween, if trick-or-treating is not your thing, take a moment to toast our local League on its 72nd anniversary!



A Season for Reading

What a wonderful summer we've had! Change is in the air, though, and it won't be long before the rainy weather will return. I can't think of anything more comforting than curling up in a comfortable chair with a good book, maybe in front of a crackling fireplace. When you finish those books, remember that the Lane County League of Women Voters can use them. We have a profitable fund raiser that sells the used books you donate. They are sold to local book stores or on eBay. Those

that do not sell are donated to the Eugene Public Library for their book sale.

We have received some very nice donations during the past month. Thank you to those of you who have left books at the office or called us to pick them up. Your donations have brought in \$157.75 this month, bringing the total for the year to \$794.00.

Your used books can be left in the blue box that is in the work room at the

office. If you are unable to take them there, or if there are too many, please give us a call. We will be happy to pick them up at your home.

Thank you,
Eleen and
Louie Levy
541-343-
7592



**Don't forget to fill out your
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES form
and send it to us by postal service,
email, or taking it to units.**

**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**

Please give this to a friend

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

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

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)



League of Women Voters Lane County

338 West 11th Ave., Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: 541-343-7917
league@lwlvc.org

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THIS IS THE LAST ARGUS

you will receive unless you pay your dues by October 15.

Can't remember if you paid? If there is a star ★ next to your name on the address label of this issue, you are a member in good standing. If not, we need to hear from you.

calendar

october

- 4, 3 pm - Unit Briefing, Atrium See page 2
- 5, 9:30 am - Action Committee - page 6
- 10 - 14, Unit meetings - page 2
- 13, Fall Workshop registration deadline
- 20, Third Thursday - page 1
- 22, Fall Workshop - page 5
- 31, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY EUGENE LWV! 72 YEARS!

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.

The League office is open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 1:30pm.