

ARGUS

League of Women Voters Lane County

YOU NEED TO GET OUT MORE

Presidents' Column Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

That's the short version of the advice we got from members of the League Advisory Board when we talked with them in mid-October. They told us what we have heard before from our state and national organizations: If the League is to be useful and important to the next generation of voters then we have to reach out and become more involved with social media - Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, blogs and all the rest of it - and meet them where they are.

Because the League's financial position is relatively good, they also suggested that we invest some of our money in our future and spend it to develop the kind of media presence we want. We don't need to do everything ourselves.

Besides taking a look at our financial position, they had been asked to comment on our ongoing efforts to use electronic media more and the possible need to rely less on print media for our voter education efforts, such as They

Represent You.

The members of the Advisory Board who met with us were Dan Egan of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Carrier Fortier from Jones and Roth and Cynthia Pappas from Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon. Also on the board but unable to attend were Michael Roberts, Roberts Professional Construction Services, Inc.; Brett Rowlett, Lane Community College; and Carmen Urbina, Eugene School District 4J.

(Continued on page 6)

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Third Thursday Information

- November 17
- Buffet 11:30
Program 12:15
- Hilton Garden Inn, 3528 Gateway, Springfield
- The \$13 cost for lunch includes beverage, dessert and tip.
- Beverage only with refills - \$3.
- For reservations, call the League office, 541-343-7917, or e-mail league@lwvlc.org for reservations.
- Reservations are important.

Third Thursday Voter Engagement for 2012

In Oregon and nationwide, many are concerned about the ballooning amounts of money now spent in election campaigns, the sources and the influence of those moneys. And, in a number of states, legislators say they are fighting fraud by supporting laws that make it more difficult to vote. That's why, at our next Third Thursday, we will hear from the person responsible for applying Oregon election laws, and for investigating election law violations.

Our speaker will be **Secretary of State Kate Brown**, Oregon's chief elections officer. She spearheaded legislation creating a searchable online database of campaign contributions and expenditures. Has it made a difference? How about her efforts to reform Oregon's initiative process? And what could be the effect on our vote-by-mail system if the U.S. Post Office cuts costs by cutting down on delivery days?

She'll talk about all that and more at our next Third Thursday.



CONSENSUS—FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION—Part 2

Units Chair—Anne Meh1

Monday, November 7 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 November 8 9:30 am

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

4 pm

S.W. Eugene #4
2365 W. 23rd Avenue
H: Pat McDaniels
343-4728
C: Sally Weston 484-4404

On-Line Unit # 6

Charlcie Kaylor -
charlcie@efn.org

Wednesday, November 9 10 am

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

Noon

Cottage Grove/Creswell #8
Creswell Library
H: Gayle Downing 942-8243
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

Thursday November 10 Unit #4 now meets Tuesdays

Friday November 11

9:30 am - Cascade Manor/
Cascade View Room #9
65 W 30th Avenue
C: Lorraine Abbott 434- 4107

**Unit Briefing - Tuesday
November 1 - 3:00 pm
Atrium (Sloat room)**

Join Us for the Consensus Meeting on the Federal Role in Public Education by Pat Hocken

In November, the League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) is continuing our discussion of the Federal Role in Public Education as part of the study 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.

Unit attendees considered the first nine consensus questions in October. This

month we will address questions 10-15 plus take another look at the general questions 1-3. 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.

EVEN IF YOU MISSED OCTOBER UNITS, WE WANT YOU TO ATTEND IN NOVEMBER. You can still make a contribution to the discussion and consensus decisions because we will cover different topics. All

members are also welcome to attend briefing on Tuesday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m. at the Atrium building in downtown Eugene.

Included with this ARGUS are the November consensus questions and the background reading for them. 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.

BURT EATON

The memorial service for Burt Eaton will be October 28 at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church at 15th and Ferry, Eugene, with a reception following.

UNIT CHOICE COMING UP IN JANUARY

It's not too soon to begin thinking about what your unit might like to do in January. Unit choice proved to be so popular the first time we tried it that we decided again to suggest that individual units pick a special topic

or activity, something they feel would be interesting, educational, or just plain fun. Last January one unit choose a book to read and then discussed it. Several units planned field trips, with the White Bird Dental Clinic and the Goodpasture Island Bike Bridge

among the destinations. The Cottage Grove unit reviewed international use of the Aprovecho wood cook stove and later served dinner to the UN-World Food Program staff at the Stove Camp. What will be your unit's choice?

Sue Boyd

VOTER SERVICE

Flo Alvergue & Barbara French, Voter Service Co-chairs

This fall has been quiet on the voter service front, but wait until next spring! Oregon's statewide primary will be May 15th, and there are bound to be measures in this coming general election year that will be placed on the ballot. According to the Register-Guard (October 16, 2011) Basic Rights Oregon's board will soon make a decision on whether to put forward a ballot measure for the November 2012 election to overturn Oregon's 2004 constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. No

state has adopted it through a vote of the people. Six states recognize gay marriage, including New York and Iowa where the change was made this year.

One of the most exciting services the League performs is attending the Naturalization ceremonies held at the Federal Courthouse about every 3 months and helping with voter registration of new citizens. The next event will be Friday, Nov. 4th, at 10:30. If you have not attended one before, you

are in for a treat - such a happy occasion. We hand out TRYs and other materials and enjoy meeting people from all around the globe. Babs French and Veronika Walton will be there and would be happy to have members join them.

Speaking of TRYs, there are several boxes that need distributing, so pick up a handful when you're in the office and take to friends, family, book groups, and other organizations.

Flo Alvergue

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

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SUE WIELESEK

Public Relations
FRAN BOEHNER

Units
ANNE MEHL

Voters Service
FLO ALVERGUE & BARBARA FRENCH

ALBERT AND ANNABEL KITZHABER

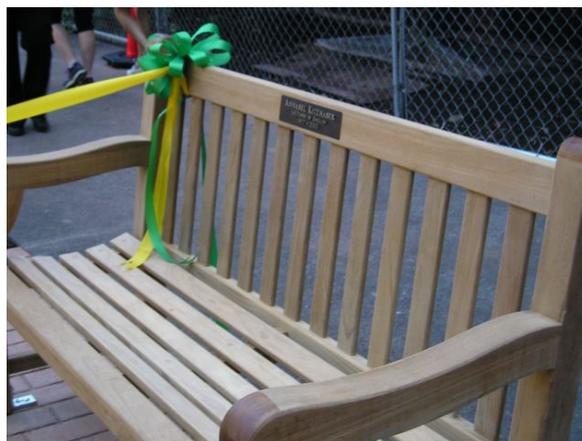
The dedication of benches honoring the late Professor Albert Kitzhaber and Annabel Kitzhaber was held September 26 in the courtyard of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall on the University of Oregon campus. Remarks by their children Ann Kitzhaber Kemmy, and Governor John Kitzhaber, followed the welcome by UO President Richard Lariviere.

Also speaking was Kappy Eaton, who paid tribute to her role model, mentor and friend:

"It was Kansas' loss and Oregon's tremendous gain when Al and Annabel Kitzhaber emigrated to the University of Oregon and Eugene in 1962. They brought their unique combination of professional excellence and personal civic involvement, and made a difference in this community and in the state for 40 years.

While both of them contributed in many ways, Annabel's leadership and support for the League of Women Voters was truly outstanding. Whether it would be baking cookies for a membership function, providing voter education through ballot measure explanations, editing study materials and publications or guiding board members, she gave generously of her time and talents....Annabel was particularly interested in and knowledgeable

about Oregon finances. She coauthored a League publication titled '*Oregon Taxes and You in 1972*' in an effort to help citizens understand the complexities of the state's fiscal policies. She could always respond to questions about the efforts to reform the tax system, and she provided valuable background to the League's Action Committee members."



ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE State of the State

- After meeting in September to discuss work plans and continuing issues for the 2012 Annual session, the Oregon legislative Interim Committees will convene again November 16, 17 and 18. At this time actual bill drafts will be discussed, with a December 5 deadline for drafting requests. The December General Fund Revenue forecast is expected at a join meeting of the two Revenue committees. The September forecast projected a \$200 million deficit for the current budget (2011-13). The Ways and Means committee will be dealing with this issue as it receives the new data.

- Of the Revenue bills we discussed in the October Argus, the changes in the senior property tax deferral being implemented are drawing intense criticism as the 2012 property taxes are being delivered to senior home owners who have received tax deferrals. The major problem arises when a home owner has accepted a reverse mortgage and a tax deferral. Currently this is possible and creates a

real problem when people are dropped from the deferral program and face property taxes when home equity has been diminished. It is expected that the 2012 session will deal with this.

- Ballot access issues are plaguing voters in many states as legislators pass bills curbing voters rights. Requiring voter identification to get a ballot at the polling station, providing fewer places to vote, making it harder to register, and limiting new parties in seeking recognition are some of the tactics being used to discourage voter participation. Particular targets are low income persons and students. While we have not seen the blatant and aggressive actions in Oregon, every session there are bills heard to diminish ballot access, and it requires diligence to oppose them. The Oregon vote by mail system offers protection, but there are groups that persist in efforts to limit voter registration.

- When an Oregon sitting member of Congress resigns and the Governor

sets election dates, the Secretary of State must authorize the rules for the timelines and procedures necessary to conduct a special primary and a general election to fill the vacancy, and to provide a Voters Pamphlet for the elections. In many other states, the Governor may appoint a replacement. It has been the policy in Oregon to allow the citizens to elect their representative.

Rep. David Wu resigned from his position as the member of Congress from Oregon's 1st Congressional District last summer, and the primary election was set for November 8. Several members of the Republican and Democrat parties are seeking the endorsement of their respective groups. After the primary, the two major party two nominees may be joined by nominees from the minor parties who have until December 1 to file by petition. The general election will be held January 31. According to news reports, there is much interest in the election, and a close race is expected.

Kappy Eaton

**Next Action
committee
meeting on
November 2 at
9:30 a.m. at
Kappy Eaton's
new residence.
All members
are welcome.**

Local Action Update

This is a report on some of the local government issues being tracked by the League of Women Voters of Lane County. If you wish additional information about any of them, please contact me or come to the next Action committee meeting on Wednesday November 2. We will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in one of the community rooms of the Garden Way Retirement

Community. Let me know if you need directions.

Lane County Redistricting

The League testified before the Lane County Commissioners on October 5 and has prepared testimony for presentation on October 26 on the redistricting scenarios under consideration. Our earlier testimony supported scenarios 1 and 3 as reasonable options and opposed scenarios 4-7.

Within minutes of the conclusion of the October 5th public hearing, the commissioners acted to add a previously unpublished scenario at the request of one of the commissioners and to select the new scenario as one of three final options. This action was taken in the face of overwhelming support at the hearing for the scenario 1, which leaves the current boundaries unchanged.

At this point, the League

Action

believes that the process has become so politicized that the only supportable option is to retain the current boundaries which include equal population within a variance of 1%. The latest information seems to indicate that the other scenarios produce geographic results that would either benefit or disadvantage various incumbents or future candidates.

The planned testimony for October 26 is reproduced below.

Envision Eugene

The League continues to follow the City of Eugene's efforts to plan for the management of the population growth expected in the next 20 years. In October, the Action committee was briefed by a city planner on the potential expansion of the City's urban growth boundary (UGB)

for single family residential purposes. We expect to testify before the City Council on this matter at a public hearing on November 21. A public open house and a council work session are scheduled in the weeks before the hearing.

The other major unresolved issue is the potential expansion of UGB by 400-500 acres for industrial uses. The League expects to weigh in on this topic at a public hearing before the Eugene Council on December 12. A public open house and a council work session are scheduled before that date.

If you are interested in urban planning and land use goals, please join the Action committee in our information gathering and deliberations.

West Eugene EmX

The Environmental Analysis (EA) of the West Eugene expansion of the EmX system is being prepared by Lane Transit District (LTD). Upon completion by LTD and review by the Federal Transit Administration, the EA will be released for public comment around the end of 2011. LTD previously submitted its grant application to the FTA for federal funding.

In late October, LTD had public open houses to share information about the latest design refinements and the environmental analysis work. Preliminary findings are that the West Eugene EmX is a highly cost effective project that will reduce congestion for buses and other traffic and will support land use and economic development plans.

Pat Hocken

If you are interested in urban planning and land use goals, please join the Action committee in our information gathering and deliberations

Testimony on Lane County Redistricting

Below are the comments the League has prepared for the October 26 public hearing before the Lane County Commissioners on redrawing the boundary lines of commissioner districts.

"We want to emphasize our strong support for Scenario 1, the status quo option. It is the one favored by the majority of those who have testified, meets all the legal criteria and will cause the least disruption for citizens and governmental units alike.

It is also immune to the

charges of gerrymandering which are flying around, a consequence of the disappointing way the county has handled the redistricting process.

That process began with an advisory committee making incremental adjustments to existing boundaries. It wound up with a bundle of radical changes dropped on the table at the last minute with little opportunity for scrutiny and comment from the people most affected, Lane County voters. The unfortunate result is a public suspicious of

the motivation behind the proposed changes.

The last thing Lane County needs is right now an electorate that does not trust its leaders. Tough times may require tough solutions, and we should be looking for ways to cooperate and work together.

A good first step is to adopt Scenario 1, the cleanest, most popular option on the table. Selecting it, we believe, would help clear the air. It is the best choice for Lane County."



Fall Luncheon Speaker
Bob Baugh



Co-presidents Sue Boyd and
Susan Tavakolian with Bob Baugh



Susan with Robin Wisdom, LWVOR President
at the Fall Workshop

Photos by Flo Alvergue

Presidents' Column

(Continued from page 1)

Participating League members were Janet Calvert, Phyllis Loobey, Flo Alvergue and ourselves.

The Advisory Board has been part of the League for many years, though not mentioned in either our bylaws or board policies. Once known as the Men's Advisory Committee, it was originally composed of businessmen in the community who gave advice on fundraising be-

cause they knew where the money was, according to Finance Chair Janet Calvert.

Many Leagues do not have such a group. However, Janet said, "I do think it is valuable, but I may be from the 'old school'. League members/leaders do develop "blindness" and this is one way to know what some members of the community are thinking or observing."

We will be hearing more about various new technologies in the future. LWVOR's fall workshop included sessions on web site development, Vote411 and production of videos such as the YouTube presentations on its web site featuring League leaders (including Kappy Eaton).

We both have signed up for the LWV Privatization Study List on the LWVUS web page and found it

offers some fascinating comments from members of other Leagues on next spring's study topic. Their critiques of privatization efforts in their areas reveal how broad the movement has become. If the topic interests you, sign up on the LWVUS web page to see what people are saying - there's no obligation to do anything but read and learn.

Sue Boyd

REMEMBERING PENNY ANDERSON

Hello, LWV of Lane County, I noted the death of Penny Anderson with sadness. She was an active member who did a lot for the League in the "old days". I remember that she was super helpful at the garage sales--and we couldn't have managed without Les. When I was President I spent three months in

Santa Barbara so Penny, as 1st Vice President, took over and did a super job. I'm sure the old-timers like me have other good and interesting memories too. A great lady. Sue Girardeau

Note: Sue, who now lives in Green Valley, AZ, Penny and I were LWVLC delegates to the LWVUS convention in Detroit in 1984. - Sue Boyd

NANCY COOPER

A long-time member who had been living more recently in South Pasadena, CA, died September 23. She was 92. During her League years, Nancy was an officer and board member, serving as voter service vice president, program vice president and units chair and unit coordinator. She also worked on the state elections law study.

MARY LOU HILDRETH

Died October 2. She was 95. She joined the League in the 1980s and was an officer and board member, as well as unit coordinator and hostess for the West Eugene Unit 2. Remembrances were suggested to the University of Oregon Chamber Music Series.

DON'T GET "SPOOKED" BY ALL THOSE BOOKS

Most of us seem to accumulate too many books. We have a good suggestion to help you solve that problem. You can donate them to the Lane County League of Women Voters ongoing fund raiser. This

past month has brought in \$146.10 from your nice donations. That brings our total since July 1 to \$940.10 Thank you very much. You can continue to leave the books in the blue box in the office, or

you can give us a call to pick them up. We'll be happy to do that.

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



NOVEMBER 10 IS DEADLINE FOR ORDERING FRUIT BOXES



Thank you to the members who have sold fruit boxes to friends, neighbors or associates. We're off to a good start in meeting the \$2,000 goal that was set by the Board.

However, we need a strong finish. As the rush of the holidays approach, purchasing boxes of fruit is a wonderful gift that is nutritious, delicious and supports the League.

The best way to sell fruit is by **asking a person directly**. Making an announcement at a meeting, I have found, is not very effective.

Additional order forms are in the office. On the order form, print clearly the name of the purchaser, phone number and email address and indicate the type(s) of fruit box ordered. Send the order form and check to the League office.

The first week in December, all persons ordering fruit will get an email or phone call

announcing where and when the fruit can be picked up.

Questions. Please call Janet Calvert 541-686-2697 or a 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.

Janet Calvert

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

336 West 11th Ave., Suite 1
Eugene, OR 97401

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

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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1, Unit Briefing - 3 pm Atrium (Sloat room)**
- 2, 9:30 Action Committee - see page 4**
- 4, 10:30 am, Naturalization Ceremonies - page 3**
- 7-11, Units**
- 10, Deadline for ordering fruit boxes - page 7**
- 16, 1:30 pm Board meeting, League office**
- 23-25, Office closed for Thanksgiving**

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 11 am to 1:30 pm.
In December the office will be closed the last two weeks of the month,
reopening on Wednesday, January 4.