

# ARGUS

League of Women Voters Lane County

## ELECTION LAWS

### Things Look Different Here

Presidents' Column

Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

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Attendees at November's Third Thursday were treated to a dynamic discussion of Oregon's efforts to improve voter access and turnout by Secretary of State Kate Brown. She outlined a range of new technologies and outreach programs designed to make registration more available and voting easier.

However it appears, as the old slogan has it, things really do look different here. By coincidence, an email arrived that same Thursday with the text of a speech on state voting law changes which Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, gave at a US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee forum earlier in the week.

She began by saying "The League has been fighting for equal access to the polls since our inception 91 years ago, when our organization was formed by those who successfully fought to gain the right to vote for women. This year the League actively opposed voter suppression legislation in 21 states - we were successful in protecting the vote in 13 of those states but the remaining states did create new and in some cases insurmountable barriers

to the polls.

"Today we are experiencing an unprecedented attack on voting rights. This assault on voters is sweeping across the country, state by state, and is one of the greatest self inflicted threats to our democracy - our way of governing - in our lifetimes. These new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country - the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and the differently abled."

MacNamara explained why the League of Women Voters of Florida no longer registers voters: "This year the Florida legislature passed a new registration suppression law that requires volunteers to go down to local Supervisors' offices, register by providing detailed personal information, take an oath *and be held personally and financially liable if they do not deliver* the completed forms back to the Supervisor within 48 hours. Fines will be levied up to \$1,000 per person.

"The League cannot ask volunteers to take on this significant financial risk if they are late in returning registration forms.

"Through this law, Florida's politicians have taken aim at voters and the legions of volunteers who have over the past 91 years volunteered their time to register new voters, in the belief that active and informed citizens strengthen our democracy. This law brings back Jim Crow-style tactics to intimidate all Florida voters and volunteers who believe in the democratic process. The League of Women Voters of Florida has suspended their voter registration drives in the state because of the financial risks associated with the new law."

She concluded, "Now is the time to act. We must work together to repeal these unjust and prejudicial laws and implement new laws that will lower the barriers to voting and ensure that every eligible citizen will have the ability to vote and have their votes counted."

The complete speech with additional examples of voter suppression measures can be found on the LWVUS web site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). For information on the situation in Florida and efforts to overturn the new laws, check the LWV of Florida web site, [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org)

Sue Boyd

## PROGRAM PLANNING

### Units Chair – Anne Meh1

**Unit Briefing - Tuesday  
December 6 - 3:00 pm  
Atrium (Sloat room)**

#### Monday, December 12

**10 am - Salad Potluck**  
South Willamette #1  
90 Westbrook Way (block  
beyond 46th) go R to  
Edgewood Clubhouse by  
pool  
H: Barbara Greenley  
684-9127  
C: Anne Best 343-5124

#### 2 pm

Harlow Road #2  
394 Cherry Drive  
H: Barbara French  
485-9090  
C: Kay Huston 607-8962

#### Tuesday December 13

**9:30 am - Potluck**  
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](mailto:charlcie@efn.org)

#### Wednesday, December 14

**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  
Cottage Grove Library  
H: Gayle Downing 942-1858  
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

#### Friday December 16

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

## PROGRAM PLANNING

December units are the start of developing local and state program for the 2012-13 year. Members will review our positions and share thoughts for new studies of problems and concerns and offer suggestions for other kinds of activities. This time the LWVLC action committee is suggesting an update or restudy of our county government position. Be sure to attend units to see what other ideas might come up. And don't forget to bring your new League directory, which includes summaries of our local, state, and national positions.

*Sue Boyd*

## PARKING AT THE LEAGUE OFFICE

***There are going to be some changes around the League office building soon.***

The Eugene Municipal Court is moving into the second floor of the Roberts Building sometime late this spring, and that means not only remodeling upstairs but also changes in our parking

privileges.

We will be losing access to the covered parking underneath the second story as it will be fenced and locked for the exclusive use of the court and police. The five spaces on the west side of the building by the tire company will be reconfigured into four wider

spaces, two of which will be clearly designated for League use.

League members will be able to use the parking area across the alley south of the building. The municipal court will have 15 spaces designated for its use, and the remaining 20 can be used by League

members on a space-available basis. The building management also will put up a key box by the door on the alley and provide keys for League use.

The court's hours of operation are 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

*Sue Boyd*

## OCCUPY WALL STREET – A LOCAL LEAGUER'S OBSERVATIONS

This is a report on my experience with this movement in New York City earlier this month. Fortunately, my husband and I did not get caught in any of the violent confrontations that occurred on the November 17th "Day of Action" though we were

definitely in the area, not by any good planning. At noon, we were tourists enjoying a pleasant stroll on the bike and pedestrian walkway across the Brooklyn Bridge, which at 6:00 p.m. was the site of many arrests as protesters tried to block vehicle ac-

cess to the bridge. (This protest was intended to call attention to deteriorating public infrastructure.) In our attempt that afternoon to visit a museum in the area that we discovered was closed due to the demonstrations, we were within a block of the



New York Stock Exchange, which protesters had tried to close earlier that day amid another violent confrontation with police. We

*(Continued on page 6)*

## VOTER SERVICE

### Flo Alvergue & Barbara French, Voter Service Co-chairs

#### Let's Talk about Who Can Vote

Our primary activity for the month was a naturalization ceremony that Christy Albin, Sue Boyd, Mary Keating, and Veronika Walton attended on behalf of the League. It's always so heart-warming to greet these new citizens and offer them their voter registration forms, a small American flag, and our best wishes.

Also, if you have been watching the news, you know that worrisome voter registration requirements and voting laws differ greatly among our 50 states. In Oregon we are unusual in requiring people to register 21 days before an election unlike many other states where same day registration is possible. We are not very avant-garde in that respect, I'm afraid. People here seem to be afraid of voter fraud, but the U.S. Justice Department did not prosecute a single individual for impersonating another voter at the polls between 2002 and 2007, according to our LWVUS president's office in a brochure entitled "5 Myths About Voter Impersonation."

Interestingly, at the November Third Thursday lunch, Secretary of State Kate Brown told us, however, that Oregon allows

felons who have served their sentences to vote, unlike many other states where they are prohibited from ever voting again. We are among 34 states that allow ex-felons to vote.

Another aspect of uneven voter qualification among the states is the kind of IDs people are expected to have to register. Again according to the LWVUS president's office brochure referenced above, 11 percent of eligible voters, or about 21 million people, don't have updated, state-issued photo IDs, and most states require producing a passport or birth certificate to get one.

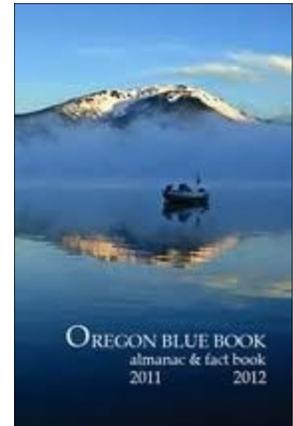
Do you know the rules for voter ID in Oregon? Here's an excerpt from the [Oregon Blue Book](#) which is the official state directory and fact book about all levels of government in Oregon available online. Published since 1911, it is produced and updated by the Oregon State Archives, a division of the Secretary of State's Office: **"New laws require that people must provide identifying information to register to vote. A person registering to vote is asked to provide identification only if they are a new registrant in the state. Identification is not required for updates. As of Janu-**

**ary 1, 2006, individuals must provide a current, valid Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicles (DMV) Driver License or identification (ID) card. If the individual does not have a current, valid Oregon DMV Driver License/ID, the last four digits of the individual's Social Security number must be provided. If the individual has neither a current, valid Oregon DMV Driver License/ID nor a Social Security number, the individual must affirm this and, if they are registering by mail, must provide a copy of one of the following:**

- **valid photo identification,**
- **paycheck stub,**
- **utility bill,**
- **bank statement,**
- **government document, or**
- **proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or**
- **the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act."**

If such things interest you, maybe you'd like to join the Voter Service Committee and learn more, or just go online and Google all things voter. You might try VOTE411 for starters.

**Barbara French**



#### 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**

#### Directory credits:

Many thanks to Veronika Walton, Linda Sage and Phyllis Loobey for their hard work in putting together the latest edition of the League directory. Love that green cover!

## ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

### State of the State

The *November legislative Interim committees* met to discuss and finalize the issues to be addressed during the 2012 Annual session. On the surface, there appear to be significant areas needing attention, and a brief 35 days to deal with them. We can expect some short term decisions and many items deferred to the full 2013 Assembly. The time frame is February 1 - March 6, but the leadership hopes to Sine Die by February 29. Following is a summary of some of the issues.

**Economic Forecast:** The September revenue projection had the General Fund budget for 2011-13 down about \$200 million from the adopted biennial budget (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013). The December forecast now shows a deficit of \$306 million. All state agencies have submitted, by the Governor's request, adjusted budgets showing cuts at 3.5%, 7% and 10.5%. It is likely that 3.5% reductions will be implemented in many cases, although the meager reserves may cover some of the shortfall. Comparing Oregon's very slow recovery from the Great Recession to the wider country, the state economist cited the continuing down trend in housing and creation of new jobs, but employment has increased slightly, though unevenly across the state. Rural areas have not recovered, and much of the state from Linn County, across to Deschutes, including Lane, and all the way to California are still under the recovery radar. Personal income tax revenue has increased about 2%, but corporate

taxes have declined sharply, and revenue from the lottery and estate taxes is also down. He indicated a 40% chance of another recession. We can expect some serious impacts from the projected budget cuts, particularly in the area of social services. There will be another economic projection early in the February session to allow for legislative economic adjustments as needed.

### Fiscal Policy Issues:

(1) Major changes to the Senior Tax Deferral program were made by the 2011 Legislature (HB 2543). This tax assistance provision was enacted about 20 years ago to allow older home owners to defer their property tax payments. The state would reimburse the counties, and the loans would be repaid by the owners before or when the home was sold. More and more people have been enrolling in the program, and there have been serious defaults in repayment. As a result, the budget had to be shored up by a loan from State Lands funds. To correct the problem, the 2011 session established strict criteria for participants and required a report from the program director to the joint revenue committees on November 17. Included in the restrictions are a low income level, residency of at least five years, no reverse mortgage, house insurance and recertification of eligibility every two years. There has been a hue and cry from program participants this year as many received bills for property taxes which have previously been paid by the

state. Many were removed from the program because they had reverse mortgages (37%); 8% were over the real market value level; 5% had less than five years residency; 6% had no home insurance; 8% were over the asset or income level. The director estimated that the program could be back on the positive income side by November 2013 under the current law.

(2) The Oregon Department of Transportation reported on the development of road user fees as an alternative to the current fuel tax. The Road User Fee Task Force was implemented under HB 2138 (2011) and directed to report on the work plan. The criteria includes availability, adaptability, reliability and security of recording and reporting miles; protection of personally identifiable information; ease and cost of administration relative to fuel tax; and methods of collection. The Task Force has adopted policies for a pilot project, adopted evaluation criteria and endorse a research program for answering questions about distance based charges. In beginning to phase in the strategic plan, the Task Force will look at concept and functional design. There will be at least 15 months for this study. A quick look at the plan is fascinating, and more information will come in the next Argus.

(3) The Revenue Committees will submit the following bill draft requests for 2012:

- a. Modifications to the Senior Tax Deferral Program - possible restriction changes; technical revenue changes

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**Next Action  
committee meeting  
on December 7 at  
9:30 a.m. at  
175 S. Garden Way.  
All members are  
welcome.**

**Action - Continued****Local Action Update****Envision Eugene**

The League plans to testify on November 28 before the Eugene City Council on the issue of land for additional housing for the city's expected population growth. We expect to support staff proposals to (1) decrease the proportion of single family housing relative to multiple family housing, which is currently about 61% to 39%, (2) accommodate additional multiple family housing within the existing urban growth

boundary, and (3) adopt strategies that will provide flexibility in using available land within the existing urban growth boundary for single family housing.

**West Eugene EmX**

League member Sally Weston and I met with Lane Transit District's General Manager Ron Kilcoyne to obtain an update on the status of the West Eugene EmX proposal. It was his expectation that the Eugene City Council and the Lane Transit District Board will consider final

approval of the project in the spring. We also discussed possible activities the League could undertake in support of favorable decisions by these bodies.

As reported last month, the preliminary findings of the environment analysis required by the Federal Transit Administration 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**



*(Continued from page 4)*

- b. Clarification to the business energy tax credit reform based on Department of Energy issues
- c. Change HB 2012 (2011) to expand the transient lodging tax to residential facilities
- d. Clarify centrally assessed property to focus on enterprise zones
- e. Modify SB 818 (2011) to require property assessment be based on highest, best use assessment

**Elections:** The Senate Rules committee has only focused on approving executive appointments in its two interim meetings. The House Rules committee has heard invited testimony only on whether or not to ban election of precinct committee persons on Primary election ballots (see October Argus) and on possible changes to SB 270A which failed on a floor vote in June, 2011. At its November meeting the committee listened to support for changes to campaign financing by amending the

definition of contributions to exclude pledges of support dollars which are now part of funding reports. Also in that bill there are proposed changes to the penalties for late reporting by campaigns which are now in aggregates of \$5,000, even for inadvertent errors. Both issues will be heard in the 2012 session.

**Access Issues:** LWVOR Action committee has sent a letter to legislative leadership regarding issues of access for citizens during the 2011 session. We commended the Legislature for longer notice of hearings and work group opportunities, but expressed concern about the "paperless" trend and the keeping of archival materials and witness testimony. Also of note is the late receipt of amendments and the put back of the public witnesses until legislators and/or individuals have been heard.

**Natural Resources:** There are a number of ag-

riculture issues including the lack of tax credits for farmers, the fact that small to mid acreage 26,000 farmers had only \$10,000 or less in profits, and the problem of trying to increase local market produce on small acreage. The 10 year strategy for energy will be discussed in May, and there is a conflict between the DLCD and Eastern Oregon over wildlife. In February there will be a discussion about toxic materials in the water supply and water quality in general because of cuts to the DEQ budget.

**Social Policy:** The Oregon Commission on Children and Families is being phased out, to be subsumed in part by the Early Learning Council. The transition functions are supposed to occur by July 1, 2012, but it now appears that will be delayed until September or even until 2013. Incremental changes are expected in the 2012 session. The Human Services Steering Commission reported on

the capacity for services versus budget limits and sustainability with no increase in employment. Food stamps and financial assistance applications are at an all time high. There is a need to change the current laws regarding the use of alcohol and drugs with more impaired driving caused by medications or substances other than alcohol. There are increasing problems in the corrections and judicial systems. Sex offender registration is one issue, along with expunction of records and no registration at the lowest level, and the continuing problem of mental illness and incarceration. DUIs and jail time, the addition of a three judge appeals court to the system and the budget for the courts all are expected issues before the 2012 Judiciary committee.

**Kappy Eaton**

## Getting to know...



**Jacque Branford**



**Miriam Aiken**

**Jacque Branford** was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and moved with her family to the Eugene/Springfield area when she was five years old. She graduated from Churchill High School in 1974 and now resides in Springfield. She was attracted to the League through the legacy of her mother, Dora Harris. She describes herself as "a little bit political" but very interested in learning about government affairs through the League. Jacque has three children and two grandchildren. She is currently the stay-at-home grandmother of a granddaughter while her daughter attends school. Her sons live in Dubai and have established a fitness company for expatriates there. Jacque and her family have enjoyed several visits to Dubai and Egypt, and she values the exposure to other cultures.

Jacque worked in patient registration for the Eugene/Springfield/Cottage Grove Peace-Health Corporation for 22 years, starting out part-

time and working into the position of manager of patient registration. She considers her career as an expression of The American Dream.

Jacque enjoys bicycling and attending festivals with family members in her 2002 Mitsubishi Spider convertible.

**Miriam Aiken** moved to Eugene in the fall of 2010 at the suggestion of a Eugene friend she had met through the Peace Corps. She taught elementary English for the Corps in The Philippines after graduating from Bowling Green University, where she majored in sociology and psychology.

In 1968 Miriam settled in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C., where she lived and worked for 42 years. She recently retired from a career in social science research management, working for a number of companies, including the National Association of the Deaf, an advocacy organization for the deaf community. Miriam did volunteer work

for The Smithsonian Institution, serving at the information desk in several galleries and as a docent in The Castle.

She is an avid reader, favoring British historical mysteries, and is never without a book at hand. On arrival in Eugene, one of her most time-consuming but ultimately rewarding tasks was unpacking and sorting through books.

During Miriam's first year in the Eugene/Springfield area, she has discovered and enjoyed the richness of the community and its many offerings in the arts.

She is attending the Monday morning League unit and feels she is gaining new perspectives as she participates in such things as the current focus on the role of the federal government in public education. Miriam is considering opportunities for engaging in local volunteer programs.

Welcome to the League, Jacque and Miriam!  
**Jeanne Armstrong**

*(Continued from page 2)*

were also within a block of Zuccotti Park, where police had cleared the encampment of the Occupy movement at 1:00 a.m. two days previously.

Strangely, during the lulls when we were present, the atmosphere on the street was almost mellow. This was true even as we stood with office workers and many police officers

on a sidewalk near a barricaded intersection and across the street from a peaceful march of a few protestors through the financial district. It was true again in the Starbucks near Wall Street and the park, where we mingled with folks from the Occupy movement, journalists, police officers buying coffee, and workers.

Reactions in New York City are mixed as they are in Eugene. Many residents are seriously irritated by the disruption caused to their daily routines like the women on the street we heard muttering: "Why don't they get a job and just go home." Others bring food to the protesters and otherwise express their support. That evening Mayor Bloomberg stated that some protesters "deliberately pursued

violence" and that "the police maintained incredible restraint." However, at noon he had described the protests as a dire sign of the public's economic fears. He said "The public is getting scared. They don't know what to do, and they are going to strike out....They just know the system isn't working, and they don't want to wait around."

**Pat Hocken**

## A BOOK REPORT

Book donations have come in steadily all month, so, thank you very much to all of you who have contributed. The sales this month brought in \$108.75. This brings the total since July 1 to \$1,048.85.

Your used book donations can be left in the blue box at the office, or if you cannot get them there, we will be happy to pick them up at your home. Just give us a call.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

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



## FRUIT SALES EXCEED \$2,000 GOAL!



Thanks to each of you who purchased boxes of fruit for your own enjoyment or as a holiday gift. A special "Fruit Loop" cheer to members who sold fruit boxes to friends, business people and other acquaintances .

As of 11-19-2011, we sold 379 boxes of fruit and netted \$3,012. One business purchased 135 boxes of fruit, which allowed us to far exceed our goal.

Soon after Thanksgiving you will receive a phone call or email telling you when to pick up your order. Our distribution site is Merle Bottge's home, 1777 W. 24<sup>th</sup> (24<sup>th</sup> and Chambers).

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR FRUIT PROMPTLY.

The Fruit Loop Committee appreciates all the "asking" which resulted in a very successful sale.

Committee: Christy Albin, Merle Bottge, Fran Boehner, Janet Calvert, Barbara French, Kay Huston, Mary Keating, Marj Maxwell, Sally Mills, Sharon Posner

*Janet Calvert*

### Thanks to our 2011-12 Directory Advertisers

- Lane Forest Products
- Baker Bay Bead Co.
- Eugene Hotel
- Mortier Engineering
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of U of O
- Aayres Appliance Repair
- Long's Meat Market
- Studio d Hair salon
- Unique Properties

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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for League use only) \_\_\_\_\_



## League of Women Voters Lane County

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## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

**6, Unit Briefing - page 2**  
**7, 9:30 Action Committee - see page 4**  
**12-16, Units**  
**21, 1:30 pm Board meeting, League office**

**In December the office will be closed  
the last two weeks of the month,  
reopening on Wednesday, January 4.**

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

#### *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.*

#### **Mark your calendar!**

- There will be no Third Thursday in December.
- January 19 when our Third Thursday speaker will be Eugene 4J's superintendent of schools, Dr. Sheldon Berman
- No Unit Briefing in January  
Unit Individual Choice in January 2012