

ARGUS

League of Women Voters Lane County

Presidents Column 92 YEARS OF A GREAT IDEA Co-Presidents Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

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Third Thursday Information

- March 15
- 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.

The League's 92nd birthday anniversary last month seemed the right occasion to read a small brown pamphlet from the office files: "25 Years of a Great Idea." Published by the LWVUS in 1946, the great idea was, of course, the League itself. As the preface noted, "to go forward with renewed confidence, it is well to look back from whence we have come."

Speaking to the leaders of the National American Women Suffrage Association in the spring of 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt proposed "A League of Women Voters to finish the fight." The new organization would be a "living memorial" to all

those who had helped to bring about suffrage for women.

It was to have three specific objectives: first, for women to educate themselves, the new voters; second, to work for "needed legislation;" and lastly, to arouse many citizens to participate in government.

According to the pamphlet, "It was thought that the organization might accomplish its work in five years and then disband....This plan assumed that most women would become, for a while at least, members of the League. They would master the mechanics of voting, learning something about the process of

nomination and election procedures, and something about our form of government. They would catch up with the men....It did not take the Founders long to see that they had miscalculated. Twenty million women did not leap to the polls. Many displayed an aggravating lack of appreciation of the right which had been so dearly won, and did not seize the opportunity which the League afforded them."

By the presidential election of 1924 the League had embarked on a nation-wide campaign to "get out the vote," its early and enduring slogan. The results were somewhat disappointing, as the vote in 1924

(Continued on page 7)

Third Thursday

USDA Rural Development:
Helping Oregonians
Create an Economy
That's Built
to Last

Our speaker will be former Oregon State Senator Vicki Walker who is now State Director of USDA Rural Development. She will tell us about the work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Oregon.

Nancie Fadeley



UNITS – Privatization, Part 2

Monday, March 12

10 am - S. Willamette #1
90 Westbrook Way (block
beyond 46th)
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

UNTI BRIEFING
Tuesday–March 6
3PM
Atrium
Sloat Room

Tuesday, March 13

9:30 am
Coburg Road #3
2315 Rocky Lane
H: Jean Damon 968-1142
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, March 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 LCC
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

PRIVATIZATION–PART TWO BY Mary Keating

Delving into the world of government and privatization this month has provided us with an opportunity to share many experiences and opinions on the process. It is important that we realize that privatization is now a fact of life. Our role in discussing this aspect will not halt or speed up the privatization bandwagon. In the last thirty years, it has been increasingly used by government agencies in an effort to control spend-

ing. However, the ramifications of a poorly written contract with no oversight could ultimately backfire and cost more than if the process had remained as is. The League of Women Voters has an opportunity to present to local, state and federal governments guidelines when privatization proposals are put forth either in legislative or electoral formats. That is why our consensus responses are important. Our position on such mat-

ters counts due to the high regard the voting public has for the League.

The discussions I have heard in the two Unit meetings that I attended were intelligent and thoughtful. League members are well informed and conscientious when presented with the topics. I look forward to compiling the consensus reports next month.

Notices:

Did you try to call the League office recently and fail to get an answer? The office has been having difficulty with its answering machine activating after 10 rings. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused some callers, and we want to let you know that we are getting new equipment to remedy the problem.

We also want to let you know that the covered parking next to the League office is no longer available to us. The renovation has begun to accommodate the Eugene Municipal Court, which will be occupying a part of the building, and so the parking attached to the building is not available. Street parking or the lot across the alley from the building can be used for parking by League members.

Susan Tavakolian

VOTERS SERVICE - Flo Alvergue & Miriam Aiken, Co-chairs

With the filing deadlines fast approaching for the May 15th Oregon Primary expect to see more action on the part of voter service in the League. VOTE411 is collecting information online on various local and state races.

There will be candidates' forums co-sponsored with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce May 2nd and 3rd. Volunteers are needed for helping with these events. The League will provide questions for the candidates. In the late summer there will be a

candidates' forum co-sponsored with the Morse Family Ranch Board. Stay tuned for more details.

A naturalization ceremony was held February 10th, and Veronika Walton and I welcomed 27 new citizens from many different countries. We gave out TRYs and answered questions about voter registration, during refreshment time after the event. What a joyful occasion!

The Eugene Celebration will be held August 24, 25, and 26. As it's an

election year, and we are commemorating 100 years of women suffrage in Oregon, we have an opportunity for a parade entry as well as the traditional booth. Search for your big hats, don a white blouse and long skirt, and plan to join us for a truck ride in the parade! To learn of events on the state level, google "Century of Action" online. The archival photos and articles are very interesting.

Flo Alvergue

CALL TO COUNCIL

The first Call to Council has been released, so mark your calendars for May 11 and 12th for the event at the Phoenix Inn in Eugene. Council and Convention are held in rotating years. There will be a Dine Around for members arriving on Thursday, but offi-

cial meetings begin on Friday through Saturday. As it's Mother's Day weekend, the meeting days were changed. If you would like to volunteer there is a need for LWVLC members to help with registration(2 hour shifts), hosting the Dine Around

on Thursday at restaurants near UO (or downtown) display set-ups, and flowers. Please call Flo Alvergue, arrangements chair for LWVOR, or leave a message at the office.

Flo Alvergue

DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Our Lane County League was well represented at the LWVOR "Day at the Legislature" event at the Capitol on February 7th with a contingent of 16 members. Those who attended were: Kappy Eaton, Janet Calvert, Becky Gladstone, Susan Tavakolian, Kay Robinhold, Linda Roe, Dorothy Cruickshank, Lois Taylor, Mary Keating, Flo Alvergue, Anne Best, Kathryn Merwin-Gonzales, Veronika and

Gerry Walton, and Anne and Roger Mehl. We were delighted that Emily Schue, a new resident of Salem, joined us.

The agenda included reports from the Action Committee on the legislative process and public access, legislative briefings, and a welcome and report on the Early Learning Council and Health Care Reform from Governor John Kitzhaber.

After lunch members attended hearings of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources committee and the Senate Environment and Natural Resources committee. Some members visited their legislators as well. All who attended the event found it informative and enjoyable.

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

Argus Editor
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

Finance
JANET CALVERT

Historian
GAYLE DOWNING

Membership
SUE WIELESEK

Public Relations
FRAN BOEHNER

Units
ANNE MEHL

Voters Service
FLO ALVERGUE & MIRIAM AIKEN

ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

State of the State

Legislation is either moving fairly rapidly through the Oregon House and Senate or dying in committees without a hearing or work session. This report is a slice of time as of February 24, based on what is currently the status of proposals being followed by the League.

Fiscal Policy

The rebalanced budget for 2011-13 was essentially agreed upon by the joint Ways and Means committee and legislative leaders at the start of this first Annual Session. More than \$100 million in lost revenue was made up by cutting 300 state middle management employees across state agencies, closing Santiam minimum security corrections center, cutting various low income projects such as TANF (temporary assistance to needy families), and cutting \$28 million in unspecified ways, but protecting K-12 education and Project Independence for seniors. The February revenue forecast has the General Fund down another \$35 million.

The Governor proposed changes to that budget because of its drastic impacts. Two that are included in the final rebalance agreement keep the TANF program funding at its current level, and the Santiam Corrections facility will not be closed. The \$28 million will be used to restructure state government business operations with permanent changes to the management of agency programs and services.

The final budget will provide an ending balance for the biennium of \$118 million and maintain a Rainy Day reserve of at least \$46 million. It also includes an Emergency Fund with about \$28 million for general purposes

and \$60 million for special purposes. That category would allow allotment reduction mitigation, foreclosure issues, and human services actual caseload increases and \$10 million for select education program reduction mitigation.

SB 202, which received a League Action Alert, was the latest version of an Emergency Fund which would be tied to personal income growth rather than revenue projections. It was a much simplified version of kicker reform and would return excess revenue to taxpayers when the fund reached 12% of the General Fund. Use by the Legislature was restricted. The hearing was positive, and the message to legislators was – pass the bill and send it out to voters to discuss and decide. It must be referred because it would amend the constitution. Thanks for your responses to the Action Alert. Unfortunately, the Senate President would not allow it to move and the opportunity was lost.

HB 4039, as amended, will revise the statute passed in 2011 to make the Senior Property Tax Deferral program more accountable and get the fund out of the red. The 1700 people who lost their deferrals because they have reverse mortgages will have a two year reprieve to start paying back taxes, and the two year reporting period will be increased to three. The program is expected to be out of debt by 2014. The bill has been adopted.

HB 4088 and 4157, dealing with the Senior Medical Deduction, are waiting for amendments after a House Revenue hearing. One may be passed because that will

increase General Fund revenue, but it also could be dropped for consideration in 2013 if legislators want more time to work out details. At this point, that's probable.

HB 4132, another revenue measure, proposes that any cuts to allocations to state agencies in future biennia must be matched by sunset tax credits by the same percentage. The hearing was positive, but no work session was scheduled so it died in committee.

HB 4176, an emergency measure related to dealing with counties that are about to default, will pass. It sets up a procedure for the Governor to declare a county as fiscally distressed if the county requests that designation. At that point, the Governor would establish an audit/assistance committee made up of four members, including two recommended by the Senate President and House Speaker, and the county commissioners and sheriff would make up the rest of the committee. Curry County has already indicated it will have to default on June 30, and both Josephine and Lane counties are about at that point. Two other bills relating to county funding are expected to pass.

HB 4177 would allow counties to request dollars from the County Assessment Function Assistance Fund for 2011-12 in conjunction with federal dollars. **HB 4175** would permit counties to use federal forest reserves for roads in conjunction with law enforcement needs under certain circumstances.

SB 1585, heard on Feb. 20, would require that public education receive no less

**Next Action
committee
meeting on
March 7,
at 9:30 a.m. at
Kappy Eaton's,
175 S Garden Way
All members are
welcome.**

Action - continued

than 50% of the total allocations of the General Fund, lottery, Rainy Day and Educational Stability Funds, and the Emergency Board. It is dead.

Higher Education

The Governor's priorities this short session are in higher education and health care. Two important bills - HB 1581 and HB 1538 had informational hearings on Feb. 20. The first deals with the new Chief Education Officer and spells out responsibilities. The panel of speakers at the hearing was asked to identify and clarify that supervisory role and the achievement and compact terms. The second proposal deals with the role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission relative to the Oregon Education Investment Board and the transfer of responsibilities from the State Board of Education. SB 1538 also received an informational hearing. It clarifies the role of the Higher Education Coordinating Council which was established by SB 242 in 2011. It is uncertain whether any of these bills will pass, much to the dismay of the Governor.

Campaign Finance

HB 4152 would require reporting contributions

and expenditures of \$1000 or more every two days during the last 30 days prior to an election. However, it would remove the seven day reporting of any other contributions and expenditures and only require reporting every 14 days during the 30 days period. The League believes this violates a citizen's right to know about candidates and elections during a critical time period, and the inclusion of contributions in that amount is not necessary. The bill died in committee.

Elections

SB 1516 and 1517 established the HAVA (Help America Vote Act) Task Force which was established by statute in 2011. It needs to pass so the compliance with HAVA review and report can be made to satisfy the Federal Elections Commission. There are heavy financial penalties for non-compliance. HB 1516 was never heard, and SB 1517-A was completely changed to enact additional ballot security provisions and clarify absentee voters. It may be voted on by the Senate. The Senate bill apparently nullified HB 4174 that also provided specific regulations for unused ballots and was

pulled from its hearing in House Rules without the knowledge of the eight people who had come to testify on it.

HB 4173 which deals with the issue of candidates having more than one party designation will pass. It allows county clerks to place the extra party name beneath the candidate, instead of beside so as not to cause more expense for ballot printing.

The deadline date for the November Voter's Pamphlet has been changed due to the timing of the national party conventions.

Various Other Important Measures

SCR 204 commemorates the 100th anniversary of Oregon women's suffrage. It has passed the Senate and the House and will be signed by the Governor.

SB 1548 bans advertising of job openings with a statement denying applications of unemployed persons. This bill will pass.

HB 4104 would allow the state Water Resources Department to pursue development of Columbia River resources. The

League opposes this bill and issued an Action Alert.

SB 1508 allows establishment of a beverage distributor's coop for collections. It has amendments and is going to the Senate floor.

SB 4095 deals with farm and forest lands and changes the definition of marginal lands. The results could be damaging in Southern Oregon. The League is opposing and an Action Alert has been issued.

HB 4926 would provide three more judges for the Appeals courts. They are essential to Oregon's judicial system, but funding is a problem. The proposal passed Housed Judiciary and the Ways and Means Committee agreed to allow three more Appeals Court judges but they won't be funded until 2013.

SB 1548 prohibits an employer to advertise for a job vacancy with the restriction that unemployed persons cannot apply. This bill will be enacted.

HB 4146, human trafficking, allows expunging of juvenile records for underage prostitution. It will pass.

Local Action Update Lane County Department of Health and Human Services

A Lane County government issue that the League is following is the reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services to absorb the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Youth Services. Alicia Hays, the director of the expanded

department, will attend the Action committee meeting on March 7 to discuss some of the expected benefits of the reorganization such as potential cost savings or improved service delivery. We have also asked her to provide details of the anticipated revenues and expenses for the consolidated department for the current (2011-12) and next (2012-13) fiscal years.

Lane County Public

Safety A separate article about this critical County service appears on page 8 of this ARGUS.

Envision Eugene We now know some dates for the final phases of this many-year process to plan for Eugene's growth for the next 20 years. The Eugene City Manager will issue a comprehensive recommendation on

March 14, which will be followed by several community forums and other outreach to inform citizens of the details of his recommendation. The Eugene City Council will hold a public hearing on April 16.

Look for information in next month's ARGUS about the highlights of City Manager's recom-

(Continued on page 6)

THE BIG READ: Fahrenheit 451 by Carol Hildebrand

Fahrenheit 451 is one of those books you don't forget. (The movie was good too, though I always say the book is better than the movie...) The story of a fireman whose job is burning books (kindling point Fahrenheit 451) is striking enough. But, as I realized recently, it has a lot more to say than I remembered from reading it as a student. For example, in Ray Bradbury's dystopian society, people go around with "shells" in their ears, listening to music and voices, ignoring family and friends. He wrote this in 1953.

During the month of March, everyone is invited to join the Big Read, with talks, workshops, films and shows for all ages, featuring *Fahrenheit 451*. Activities include free talks by Ursula K. LeGuin on Saturday, March 24, 2:00 at the Downtown Eugene Public Library, and by Ray Bradbury biographer Sam Weller on Saturday, March 3, 2pm at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. The movie will be shown a couple of times, there will be book groups, an art exhibit, performances of the play and a dance program. Even activities for the kids. Some free copies

of the book are available at Eugene Public Library, and you can find it at local used bookstores.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, who awarded a grant to bring our community together to celebrate books and writers. Local sponsors are Springfield and Eugene Public Libraries, Lord Leebrick Theatre, City of Eugene, University of Oregon Book Store, Friends of Eugene Public Library and Eugene Public Library Foundation. For more information <http://www.eugene-or.gov/library>.

(Continued from page 5)
mendation and opportunities to learn more about it.

West Eugene EmX

We are still eagerly awaiting the release of the environmental assessment (EA) by the Federal Transit Administration, which will **start** a 45-day comment period. The projected date for release is now early March. The EA will provide a comprehensive, scientific analysis of numerous parameters for the build and no-build alternatives.

The public hearings before the City of Eugene Council and the Lane Transit District Board are still anticipated in May or June.

The League has been working with the West EmX Yes group of local business people who support the project. Their purpose is to make citizens and elected officials

aware that there are many business owners who do not agree with the very vocal and visible opponents. Please let me know if you would like a **West EmX Yes** button or a bumper sticker.

The League has received answers to most of the questions about the project that we submitted to Lane Transit District staff. A few of the responses are provided below.

With regard to the number of jobs created by the project, "The number of construction jobs has been conservatively estimated at approximately 1200....The total payroll for the construction and design... is estimated to be approximately \$50 million."

With regard to bike and pedestrian facilities, "The introduction of EmX actually improves bike facilities. In fact, the first two EmX corridors included

construction of bike lanes where they did not previously exist. LTD has worked with the City of Eugene and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to incorporate improvements to the bike system that could be implemented as part of the West Eugene project. For example, the EmX alternatives include two new bridges over the Amazon Channel exclusively for bicycles and pedestrians that would connect existing trail systems and neighborhoods south of the Channel with EmX along West 11th Avenue, and provides (according to the Eugene Weekly) the largest single sidewalk improvement project in the City's history by bringing all sidewalks up to current standards (or better) along the route wherever the project constructs right of way."

The following two snippets are from the EmX

Basics section of the frequently asked questions that appear on the district's website.

With regard to neighborhood livability, "...EmX vehicles use a hybrid-electric propulsion system with a diesel engine. This system results in less noise and emissions than a conventional diesel bus...."

With regard to sustainability, "Expanding public transportation is seen as a major component of the community's sustainability efforts. Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (about 50% in our community).... EmX has been the most efficient and successful strategy to encourage increased use of public transportation in our community."

Pat Hocken

Getting to know... by Jeanne Armstrong

Kathi Merrick

Kathi's introduction to the League of Women Voters occurred some twenty years ago when she had the opportunity to pop in on a meeting. She noted the bipartisan, informed nature of League work and is pleased to find that the League today continues to function on those principles.

Kathi grew up in Burlingame, California and attended high school there. She earned her degree in Sociology at the University of Portland and resided in Portland for about eight years. Now Portland has become a destination for visits.

Kathi's husband Patrick is a physician whose work has taken them to various locations. He did an internship in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Kathi developed an interest in jewelry making. She is a silversmith and also enjoys other country crafts,

including bead work and photography. Her photos focus primarily on people, animals, and flowers.

In past years Kathi and Patrick lived in Etna, California, where Patrick worked in National Public Health. From there they moved to Eugene, where they have resided for the last 34 years. They are parents of two sons and grandparents to two grandsons, ages 2 and 4.

Kathi has enjoyed recent League events in Eugene and will attend units as they fit into her various activities.

Kathryn Merwin-Gonzales

Kathryn is a recently returned native Oregonian, who lived and worked in Colombia, South America for many years. In 1967, following her studies at Willamette High School and the University of Oregon, Kathryn joined the

Peace Corps and began seven years of service in the village of San Pedro, Colombia, where she helped villagers get involved with issues in their



community. There she met her husband, Gabriel, who was a medical student in orthopedics, doing a required year of community service. Kathryn and Gabriel are the parents of five children. They have just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

During her years in Colombia, Kathryn taught English to both children and adults in various venues, including a bilingual school, a Montessori school, among colleagues of her husband, and in private practice. Spanish became Kathryn's second language as she became immersed in the culture.

Kathryn is experimenting with her new Kindle to facilitate reading as she and Gabriel travel to visit their children in the United States, Colombia, and Chile.

Kathryn was attracted to the League because she wants to be involved in her community, much as she encouraged villagers in Colombia to get involved with theirs. She has worked all her life, enjoys being with other people, and now wishes to work with others in community matters.

Welcome to the League, Kathi & Kathryn.

Presidents' Column

(Continued from page 1)
was only a little higher than in 1920. League leaders realized that they were committed to a year around job of continuing political education. The notion of disbanding in five years was forgotten.

Jump ahead to 2012.

Much about the birthday message from LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara would seem familiar to our foremothers: not the refer-

ences to our Facebook page and Twitter feed, but the choice of a project to commemorate the event in yet another presidential election year.

She wrote, "Our birthday wish this year is a special one. 2012 is an important election year and there is a great deal of work to be done to help register, educate and mobilize voters. That is why the League is launching an important campaign - *Power the Vote!* Its focus

at the local level will be registering new voters through community and high school voter registration efforts and also through local and state candidate debates. Nationally, the League is also fighting to protect voters against suppressive election laws.

Here in Oregon our primary will be May 15. We already have received requests to assist with candidate forums, and there will be local measures on the

ballot as well. Voter service is part of our DNA. We hope that our members will be generous in contributing their time to help make these efforts successful.

Our voter service chairs are Flo Alvergue and Miriam Aiken. We were very sorry to lose Barbara French, who did a wonderful job, but delighted to welcome Miriam when she agreed to take over.

Sue Boyd

LEAGUE BOARD ATTENDS PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Lane County went as a group to a hearing on February 22 before the Lane County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on a proposed ballot measure to amend the Lane County Charter. After learning of the 15-minute hearing only six days earlier, the Board voted in an e-mail meeting it was critical we express our strong opposition to the proposal and that we accompany Susan Tavakolian as she presented the League's testimony.

Here is some background

on the situation. Recently the Citizens for a Safer Lane County P.A.C. requested the Commissioners place on the May 15, 2012 primary ballot a charter amendment that would define "Public Safety Services" as "programs and services provided by the departments of the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Youth Services." The amendment also guaranteed an allocation of the first 60% of discretionary revenue to Public Safety Services and specifically dedicated 42% to the Sheriff's office, 9% to the District Attorney's office, and 9% to Youth

Services. The BCC reviewed the proposal earlier in February and scheduled a very brief public hearing February 22 for comments before making a decision. Only members of the PAC and the League Board attended.

In an interesting twist, the PAC representative told the BCC that the PAC wished to withdraw the proposal from consideration because they realized there was insufficient time for voter education before the May election. In addition, the PAC decided to change its focus to developing a plan to actually

raise more tax revenue to fund public safety such as by establishing a county service district.

After the public hearing at which Susan was the only person who testified, League board members remained for BCC discussion about plans to investigate statutory options to raise additional property taxes for public safety and to find ways to involve the cities of Lane County and community organizations like the League in the deliberations. The League's appearance at the hearing certainly reminded the BCC of our availability to be part of the solution.

Pat Hocken

Here's what we said -

Board of County Commissioners, Lane County

I am Susan Tavakolian, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Many of the League's board members are here with me today to urge you not to place the proposed Lane County Charter amendment on the May 2012 primary election ballot.

We oppose commissioner action to submit this measure for a May vote because there is little community awareness of the proposal, and there has been no community discussion about the proposal, which would substantively amend the charter by guaranteeing a specific share of discretionary funds to three county functions. The proposed measure has not been reviewed by the county charter review committee, the county's own official advisory group. In addition, there is not sufficient time before the election date to educate vot-

ers about its provisions and their impact. Rushing a significant charter amendment to the ballot after an extremely brief public hearing is not a sound strategy to engender voter trust, which is stated as a purpose of the proposal.

The League is well aware of the county's fiscal crisis, the lack of adequate funding for public safety, and the mistrust expressed by some citizens. We have been strong proponents of adequate facilities and funding for public safety for over 30 years. Our organization worked hard to pass the bond measure for construction of the "new jail" in 1979 after spending hundreds of hours manually gathering the inmate data that showed the need for a new facility. We vigorously supported the two recent county income tax measures to raise additional dollars for public safety, broadly defined to include treatment and prevention as well as the

absolutely necessary sanctions of prosecution and incarceration.

The proposed amendment raises many questions and fundamental issues that deserve time for explanation and discussion. Inserting the public safety funding requirements into the reserve fund subsection of the spending limitation section of the charter is a complex, not easily understood method for establishing the spending restrictions. It is not clear why the "guarantees" for public safety funding are needed at this time in advance of a potential future county request for additional taxes for restricted purposes. The effect on other necessary county functions such as assessment and taxation and election management is not known. The definition of public safety is far narrower than that previously recommended by the cities of Lane County after a series of meetings designed to identify a package of

needed public safety improvements for which additional tax revenues would be sought. It appears that the amendment would override and restrict many of the decisions of the statutory budget committee and the commissioners themselves and would not allow any flexibility to deal with emergencies or new priorities.

In conclusion, in the interest of transparent open government and respect for the voters, the League of Women Voters asks you to not take hasty action to place this charter amendment on the May ballot. We know a solution must be found to adequately fund county services and that voters will want to be assured of accountability before agreeing to additional taxes. However, we believe more time and community dialogue is necessary before placing anything on the ballot. We hope we can work with you in addressing the county's financial problems.

SPRING CLEANING TIME AGAIN

Spring is in the air. If you plan to go through your book shelves and make room for new books, remember our ongoing fund raiser. We want to thank those of you who have left books in the blue box at the office lately. Some of the books have been sold

to people as far away as Canada and England. Sales in the past month have amounted to \$129.50. This brings the total since last July 1 to \$1,491.60. You're doing a good job of helping our League.

Let us know if you cannot get your used books to the office, and we will arrange a time to pick them up at your house.

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



LWVLC Board and Co-President Susan Tavakolian attend and speak at the Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Thanks, Barbara!

We want to thank Barbara French for her service to the League as co-chair of the Voter Service committee, and it's with regret that the board accepted her resignation as co-chair for the remainder of the year. Barbara has been an energetic League member. She helped organize candidate forums in the last election cycle and was a key player in putting

together the TRY for the current two-year period. In addition, she started a new unit, the Harlow Road unit, which she will continue to host, and brought the highest number of new members into the League over the past year.

Thanks, Barbara, for all your work for the League.

Susan Tavakolian

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 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 \$32

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

MARCH

- 6, Unit Briefing
- 7, Action Committee – 9:30 am (page 4)
- 12 to 16, Units (page 2)
- 15, Third Thursday - (page 1)
- 21, Board meeting, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

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.