

ARGUS

League of Women Voters Lane County

Presidents' Column

QUITE A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Co-Presidents Sue Boyd & Susan Tavakolian

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State Council last month was quite a rewarding experience.

The highlight for us, of course, was the presentation of the inaugural **Abigail Scott Duniway** award to **Kappy Eaton** by **Oregon Secretary of State, Kate Brown** (see below). The award, presented for outstanding and long term activism in government, honors her exceptional leadership and commitment to citizen engagement.

The reports at Council made it clear LWWOR has been busy, and we will be reaping some of the benefits of that activity.

Janet Calvert and Debbie Kaye (LWV of Portland) presented information on

the LWWUS Membership Leadership Development program to boost our membership and leadership skills. They were trained to work with local Leagues as coaches by LWWUS. Two additional Leaguers have also volunteered to be trained as coaches. Each coach will work with two Leagues; however, a coach cannot work with her own League. We will be submitting an application to participate in the program, but there is no guarantee that our League will be one of those chosen.

The long-awaited update of the Coastal Management position will be ready in late summer, and we will have

unit meetings this fall. Marnie Lonsdale, the chair, suggested we schedule two units on the topic, and we need a couple of members to help organize them. Please get in touch with Sue, Susan, or Program Vice President Mary Keating if you are interested.

Also in the works is the Children at Risk update adopted at the LWWOR convention last year. The state committee has developed a questionnaire for volunteers to use with agencies serving Children at Risk. We hope to find some members interested in what should be an interesting short-term interviewing project at the

(Continued on page 2)



Rep. Nancy Nathanson congratulates Kappy Eaton



Kappy & Kate Brown, Sec. of State

Photos by Flo Alvergue

LWVOR COUNCIL - Flo Alvergue, Events Chair



Photos by Becky Gladstone

Our hosting the LWVOR Council May 11-12 at the Phoenix Inn brought League members from around the state to Eugene. The highlight was Kappy Eaton's receiving the Abigail Scott Duniway award at the Friday night banquet. With some family members attending, Kappy was the only one surprised! Secretary of State Kate Brown presented her the award.

Thanks to all the LWVLC members who helped with the event: Miriam Aiken, Anne Best, Sue Boyd, Janet Calvert, Jean Carley, Dorothy Cruickshank (lovely flower arrangements), Becky Gladstone, Kathy Gonzalez, Carol Hildebrand, Pat Hocken, Barbara Prentice, Linda Roe, Susan Tavakolian, Lois Taylor, Veronika Walton, and Sue Wielesek. It would not have happened without your help!!

**Abigail
Scott
Duniway
places
her
vote,
1912**



Presidents' Column

(Continued from page 1)
local level. Becky Gladstone is co-chair of the state committee and can provide additional information.

Providing a boost in our visibility, LWVOR has joined with AAUW, the Oregon Commission for Women, and the Center for Women, Politics and Policy at Portland State to participate in the Rose Festival Parade in Portland June 9 in recognition of the Women Suffrage Centennial. The entry includes vintage cars and costumed marchers.

We should note that our League is planning an entry for the Eugene Celebration parade August 25

with a suffrage theme - much more about that in the August Argus. Another project recognizing our past is the publication of the newly revised edition of "More Power Than We Knew," a history of the LWVOR which includes the text of the original 1995 book and updates it to the present day. (See Page 3)

Looking to the future, LWVOR announced the formal recognition of a new Member-at-Large unit in eastern Oregon, the LWV of West Umatilla County.

One final note - as the host League for State Council, we were assigned responsibility for the nuts

and bolts of the event. Flo Alvergue and her crew deserve our thanks for a job well done. Also, the silent auction gift bag which Flo assembled from items donated by board members sold for \$80, the top bid for the bags from around the state.

AND IN LATE BREAKING NEWS - Our fall luncheon will be held September 20 with Margaret Hallock, director of the Wayne Morse Center at the University of Oregon, as the speaker. She is a PhD economist who has been active in economic and labor policy in Oregon since 1974 and has extensive experience in labor relations and state policy matters. **SAVE THE DATE!**

VOTER SERVICE – Miriam Aiken & Flo Alvergue, Co-Chairs

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9th, at the Morse Family Farm on Crest Drive for a candidates' forum that the League is co-sponsoring with the Wayne Morse Ranch Board. Letters will be sent to candidates in local and statewide races to invite them to participate. This event will be similar to the forum held there in '08, and there will be an ice cream social provided by the Morse Board.

With the primary behind us, we can look forward to a number of initiatives that will be on the November ballot. Remember, if ap-

proached by petition signers, "Think before you ink"! April 25th and 26th voter service co-sponsored candidate forums with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce with mayoral and city council candidates appearing the first night and legislative candidates the second night. Thanks to Pat Hocken, Janet Calvert, Stephanie Winsor, Susan Tavakolian, and Miriam Aiken who joined me in assisting with the events.

On the same day that LWVOR Council began, the naturalization ceremony took place at the

Federal Courthouse in Eugene. Thanks to Miriam Aiken and Stephanie Winsor for answering the call from Judge Anne Aiken's office to participate. Twenty-four new citizens were naturalized in an impressive ceremony that occurs every 3-4 months here.

Thanks to all League members who helped with the distribution of the state Voters' Guides throughout Lane County. Many voters found these informative prior to voting in the Oregon primary.

Order Your Copy of *More Power than We Knew*

The celebration of the League's history continues. LWVOR is now taking orders for the second edition of *More Power than We Knew*, a history of the League of Women Voters of Oregon from 1920 to the present day. This 120-page book includes the text of the original 1995 edition by Mary Alice and Donald Moore plus a great deal of additional information that takes us to the present day, 8 pages of color photographs, and many informative appendices.

The authors of the updated text included Marge Easley, Jane Gigler, Libby Medley, and Kris Hudson, although many other League members lent their help and support. This nicely bound book is something you'll want to keep as an important record of our state League. It would also make a great gift or library donation. The initial printing is only 200 copies, which will be available by the end of June. The cost is \$12.00 if you want to

pick up the book at the League office or \$16.00 if you would like the book mailed to you. Get your order in soon!

To place your order, send your check (made out to "LWVOR") to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302. Please include your name, mailing address (if the book is being mailed), and the number of copies you would like.

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

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Voters Service

FLO ALVERGUE & MIRIAM AIKEN

**I find it helpful to organize chores into categories -
Things I won't do now.
Things I won't do later.
Things I'll never do.**

(Quote via Eleanor Mulder)

ACTION – Kappy Eaton & Pat Hocken, Co-chairs

STATE OF THE STATE

Oregon's Economy Slowly Growing

On the plus side, comparing with the March fiscal projection for the state, the June 2012 revenue forecast shows an employment gain of 3,676 jobs (0.2%) and corporate income tax collections up \$8.32 million (14.5%). While personal income tax income declined \$22 million, personal income rose slightly, 0.2%. The change for the General Fund projection for the 2011-13 biennium shows revenue down \$199 million (1.4%), but the new forecast (including lottery funds) is an increase of \$115.7 million from March, the first upside in many quarters.

The projections for the reserve funds, which are calculated based on the biennium ending balance are much improved. Last July 1, the beginning balance was \$15.5 million. Deposits of \$238.5 million have been offset by rebalancing budget withdrawals of \$182.7 million. Because of the improved revenue, the new ending balance is \$167.3 million, up from \$95.1 million projected in March, and only \$10.5 million on July 1 last year, with no new rebalancing required. The major reserve funds are Education Stability and Rainy Day.

Overall, the revenue growth in fiscal 2013 is expected to roughly match the modest gains seen in fiscal 2012. Revenue growth is expected to accelerate somewhat during the 2013-2015 biennium as the housing market begins to wake up, but gains will remain below historic norms, according to

the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. The September revenue forecast will be presented to a joint meeting of the Senate and House Revenue committees on August 29.

Fiscal Policy Issues

In addition to the economic forecast, the two Interim Revenue committees heard reports regarding the implementation of the new amended senior property tax deferral program and local government property tax trends. The Joint Legislative Task Force on County Payments head an update from four counties.

Briefly, (1) the new senior property tax deferral goes into effect June 4. It was expected to affect 1664 accounts, but the total was 1520. Thirty-two counties are involved with the 2011-12 tax year payments which total \$3.1 million. Applications for the 2012-13 tax year are 850, with only 640 acceptable under the new law. There are 127 appeals pending, based on the denials resulting from the law changes. The state fund is now in the black; (2) a panel of four county assessors, including Lane County's Annette Spickard, told the committee members of the problems related to property tax measures #5(1990), and measures #47 and #50 (1996 7) related to the permanent tax rates for each county and how the limits and the relation of real market value and assessed property values are negatively affecting county revenues. Real market values of property continue to fall away from assessed values. Foreclosures continue to rise. The

Legislative Revenue Office reported that school districts could see about a 2 to 2.1% growth in property taxes. Districts could see about a \$20 million distribution from the Common School Fund.

Task Force on County Payments

Lane, Curry, Josephine and Klamath counties reported on their implementation of the 2012 session county fiscal relief measures – HBs 4175, 4176 and 4177. These laws allowed the use of federal road funds for public safety patrols, access to state government cooperation in assistance to default counties (at their request), and use of the special assessment function fund, respectively.

Commissioner Sid Leiken represented Lane County, indicating that the 2012-13 budget reflects 25% cuts across the board to county services, the probable impact on public safety, and that the county had not accessed either HB 4176 or HB 4177, but did use public safety patrol funds from HB 4175. He indicated that Lane, as a more urban county than most of the O and C counties, has somewhat different problems. He did not go into any details about the proposed budget shortfall consequences.

Curry's representatives (by phone) included all three commissioners, the sheriff and the assessor. HB 4175 was used to add deputies; they were unable to use HB 4176 for assistance in planning and managing their crisis because it required \$75,000 in matching funds, and HB 4177 has not been

(Continued on page 5)

**Next Action
committee
meeting on
Tuesday June 5th
at 9:30 a.m. at
Kappy Eaton's,
175 S Garden Way
All members are
welcome.**



Action - continued

(Continued from page 4) used.

Curry is in serious fiscal decline and may be considering some tax vote, but the failure of the Josephine tax proposal in May is concerning.

Josephine will probably use HB 4175 to provide rural patrols since there are none under the current budget cuts. The commissioner questioned whether or not use of the assistance program under HB 4176 would be of any use to the very distressed local government, but it is being considered. HB 4177 has been used to provide funding for the tax assessor. Minimum levels of state mandated services are being provided. However, the failure of the May tax proposal is causing additional problems. Klamath county has used funds from HB 4175 to keep the jail open and additional patrol officers, as well as freeing up funds for the sheriff, the district attorney and for union contracts. HB 4176 and HB 4177 have not been used. There was general agreement among the commissioners that the public does not understand the fiscal problems and believes there are sufficient funds to operate as usual. They also felt that the state should handle basic security with legislative funding.

Status of 2012 Initiatives

Campaign committees for 10 of the 38 statute and constitutional amendment initiative proposals certified for circulation, prior

to the 2012 General Election, have submitted signature sheets as of May 23. The deadline for filing is July 6. Forty-five were originally submitted to the Secretary of State, but seven were rejected or withdrawn. Only two had unpaid petition passers as the signature gathering industry has increased in Oregon over the past 15 years. Four of the six most likely to qualify for the November 6 ballot are constitutional amendments. Total valid signatures for constitutional amendments are 116,284 and for statutes, 87,213. The Elections Division indicates that about 25 percent more signatures than the qualifying number are necessary to account for invalid ones.

These are the ballot titles of initiatives with signature numbers large enough to probably make the ballot:

#5 Constitutional amendment to prohibit real estate transfer taxes, fees, other assessments; except those operative December 31, 2009. 118,760 signatures on file May 10, 2012

#9 Statute to allow personal marijuana, hemp cultivation/use without license; commission to regulate. 107,992 signatures on file May 23, 2012.

#24 Constitutional amendment to allow adult marijuana use, possession, production; except actions endangering children, property; state may regulate. 122,337 signatures on file May 18, 2012.

#35 Constitutional amendment to allocate corporate income/excess taxes kike refund to additionally fund K-12 public education. 101,000 signatures on file May 23, 2012.

#36 Constitutional amendment to establish privately-owned casino; mandates percentage of proceeds to state education fund (Part 1 of 2). 112,219 signatures on file May 11, 2012.

#38 Statute to authorize privately-owned casinos in Wood Village; mandates percentage of proceeds to dedicated state fund (Part 2 of 2). 104,809 signatures on file May 11, 2012.

Other citizen proposals with filed signature sheets include

#11 ballot must contain full text of certain initiatives - 22,190 signatures;

#12 no petition sheets should be discarded if a signature is invalid - 20,606;

#15 phase out of the death penalty—36,237;

#21 ban of commercial gill-net fishing on Columbia—20,593.

It is not expected that any of the other 28 initiatives will reach the ballot.

As of now, the November state ballot could have five initiatives and two constitutional amendments referred by the 2011 Legislature. Additional measures are expected from local governments. For Eugene and Lane County voters those

would be a continuation of the tax to fund street repairs and some tax for public safety funding respectively. Those decisions will likely be made in August.

University Governance: Institutional Boards

The Special Committee on University Governance, meeting bi-weekly, has now heard from the State Board of Higher Education (with 6 recommendations), the presidents of the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Western Oregon and Eastern Oregon Universities, the Chancellor of the State System, student representatives and the Governor. While not specifically supporting any specific model of local boards, the concept of more campus governance is viewed favorably by all except the small institutions and the students. The Governor has indicated he does not think it necessary for the smaller schools to have local boards, but he feels the larger institutions will be enhanced by them.

The state board's recommendations regarding powers for OUD and local boards are summarized below:

- powers reserved to the OUS - approval of missions and degree program, property ownership, state government interaction and funding, OEIB compacts, fulfilling state rules and policies
• powers that that require state board approval—

(Continued on page 6)

LOCAL ACTION UPDATE

The League of Women Voters has been busy in May. We testified before the Eugene City Council regarding Envision Eugene, and we testified before the Lane County Budget Committee (see separate article with our comments and the impact page 7.)

We submitted letters to the editors of The Register-Guard and the Eugene Weekly, opposing the issuance of a McKenzie River water right to Willamette Water Co. Both were published. We also sent letters to the gover-

nor and state legislators about this issue.

Eugene Road Repair Measure

The Eugene City Council has directed city staff to develop a five-year bond measure to continue funding street repairs as well as bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The measure is designed to continue the funding from the \$35.9 million bond measure adopted in 2008 and expiring in 2013. The Council expects to give final approval in July to placing the proposal on the November ballot. The measure would

levy a property tax to retire the bonds.

Lane County Fiscal Situation

The League will continue to follow Lane County's fiscal situation and give input on a more permanent revenue solution as the opportunity arises. As we pointed out in our testimony, all the shifts to provide more public safety services are only temporary answers.

Pat Hocken

**July Action
committee
meeting date to
be determined.**

(Continued from page 5)

standards for student residency, Oregon student tuition rates, bonds backed by the state, suing public entities, mortgaging property

- powers that require state board advice and consent—hiring and reappointing president, president evaluation, termination of president (prior consultation with board)

- coordinated powers in parallel by institutions and state board—internal audit, achievement compacts, capacity planning to meet 40% goal, financial aid and policies for Oregon students, legal advice

- board appointments and composition—majority appointed by

Governor with Senate confirmation, at least 11 members with students, faculty, state board, one size does not fit all

Women's Health and Wellness Alliance

At its May 22 meeting, members discussed possible issues for the 2013 legislative session. The final decisions will be refined and reduced over the summer and fall. The following are some of the suggestions:

1. TANF support (temporary relief for needy families);
2. assistance structure for prostitute survivors;
3. spousal support – opposition to limit on number of years married proposal;

4. trafficking support/shelter;
5. domestic workers bill of rights;
6. age level support for girls;
7. healthy kids act – toxic materials;
8. undocumented women female services;
9. insurance coverage for secondary screening (after surgery follow-up); and
10. domestic and public record issues

July Action committee meeting TBD

Kappy Eaton

LEAGUE TESTIMONY TO THE LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE BY PAT HOCKEN

On May 17, Co-president Susan Tavakolian testified before the Lane County Budget Committee on behalf of the League. Her comments are below.

We are pleased to report that the budget committee followed our two recommendations to shift resources to public safety functions. The budget they approved also included other re-allocations for a total shift of about \$3.5 million to the sheriff and district attorney and away from other departments. The next and final step in the Lane County budget process is for the Board of Commissioners to adopt a budget by June 30 before the beginning on July 1 of the 2012-13 budget year. The Commissioners have the authority to make some limited changes to the budget approved by the Budget Committee.

Testimony

I am Susan Tavakolian, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the budget committee about the proposed 2012-13 Lane County budget. Thank you also for broadcasting your meetings on MetroVision, Channel 21; it is invaluable in allowing citizens to follow your deliberations from home.

We are here this evening to recommend two shifts in resources to refocus them on the public safety system, which has been severely impacted by de-

clining revenues for many years and faces a loss of 25% of its employees in the proposed budget. First of all, we must recognize the obvious: A budget decrease of \$100 million and 17% overall necessitates substantial cuts even to essential programs. However, the League favors determining expenditure decreases based on established priorities rather than on across-the-board cuts.

We believe that the services of the medical examiner, including a morgue, must be maintained in Lane County. This function is critical for both law enforcement and grieving families. We urge the budget committee to amend the budget by redirecting resources to the District Attorney to provide a medical examiner. We support the suggestion by the county administrator to use the car rental tax, currently budgeted as resource for the Public Works Department, as a partial funding source. We commend the county administrator for reprogramming resources in the current fiscal year to maintain this critical service through June 30.

The second adjustment to the budget we are recommending is to transfer reserves from the Road Fund to the Sheriff's Department to minimize the loss of rural deputies. The safety of Lane County citizens should be the highest priority for county government. More deputies are essential for

maintaining a basic, though woefully inadequate, level of police services in our sprawling county. Therefore, we urge the budget committee to include in the 2012-13 budget a \$2 million transfer from the Road Fund to the Sheriff's Department to be used for rural deputies.

We recognize that both our recommendations will shift resources from the Public Works Department to public safety functions. We greatly value the activities of the Public Works Department in managing county parks and maintaining and improving roads. However, at this time of fiscal crisis we believe that public safety should be the county's number one priority. We also recognize that the transfer from the Road Fund is not a permanent solution, but a temporary fix.

Unfortunately, our recommendations are but minor patches on the budget, a small shift in priorities for scarce resources. They do nothing to address the loss of jail beds, prosecutors, youth services, and other vital services. It is beyond the power of the budget committee to restore those services to an adequate level. We strongly urge the county commissioners to investigate and support ways to raise new revenues for public safety.



PICTURE PAGE

New Member Meet & Greet



Dorothy Cruickshank, Anne Best, & Sally Weston



New member, Marilyn Ulvaeus



Becky Gladstone models the 1912 costume she made for the Oregon Suffrage Centennial



Candidates' Forum April 25
Flo Alvergue, Susan Tavakolian, Miriam Aiken, Janet Calvert, Pat Hocken, and Pat Riggs-Hensen.

Linda Roe & Kathy Gonzalez at LWVOR Council May 11



REST, RELAX AND READ

Summer is almost here, and, I'm sure you are all looking forward to a change of pace. It is time to rest, relax and read. Be sure to remember our League fund raiser when you finish your books. We will continue collecting and selling them through-

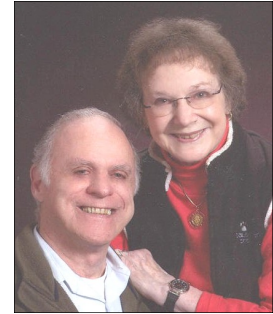
out the summer.

Lately, we have received several very nice donations. Thank you to those of you who have left your books in the blue box at the office or have given us a call to pick up books at your house. In the past

month, sales have amounted to \$76.25. This brings our total for the year to \$1,714.95.

Thanks and enjoy your summer,

Eleen and Louie Levy
541-343-7592



DESIGNING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Dr. Richard J. Jackson will discuss the link between our health and the way our communities — especially suburbs — are designed. Obesity, asthma, diabetes and heart disease are all aggravated by the auto-centric way we live our lives today. For the first time in two centuries, children today face shorter life expectancies than their parents due to unhealthy lifestyles. Dr. Jackson will talk about how well-designed communities and better trans-

portation choices can enable physical activity and improve both our physical and mental health.

The free event on June 19 will be at the Eugene Public Library in the Bascom-Tykeson Room from 5 to 7 p.m. Reception until lecture at 5:45 pm. Dr. Jackson is Professor and Chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Jackson lectures on many issues, particularly related to built environment and health. He hosts a 2012 public television series Designing Healthy Communities which links to the J Wiley & Sons book by the same name. He co-authored Urban Sprawl and Public Health and Making Healthy Places in. Dr. Jackson's lecture is part of the 2012 Healthy Communities Speaker Series. Local sponsors include the City of Eugene, Lane Coalition for

Healthy Active Youth (LCHAY), Lane Livability Consortium, Lane County Public Health, City of Springfield, PeaceHealth, Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARS), Lane Council of Governments, and Capella Market.

For more information about the program in Eugene, contact Terri Harding, City of Eugene, (541) 682-5635 terri.l.harding@ci.eugene.or.us

Pat Hocken

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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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$63 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household (Two people at the same address) | \$94.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual after February 1st | \$32 |

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)



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CALENDAR

JUNE

5, Action Committee – 9:30 am
19, Designing Healthy Communities (page 9)
20, Board meeting, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, office

JULY

TBD, Action Committee
18, Place and time to be determined

AUGUST

15, Board meeting, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, office
17, Possible ARGUS deadline
25, Eugene Celebration Parade

SEPTEMBER

9, Candidates debate at Morse Ranch
20, Fall luncheon

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 and Thursday from 11 am to 1:30 pm.