

# ARGUS

## ASKING FOR ADVICE

by Miriam Aiken & Janet Calvert

**Inside this issue:**

UNITS	2
MENTAL HEALTH GROUP	3
ACTION	4&5
FUND RAISING	7
CALENDAR & MISSION	8

**The 2013-2014 LWVLC Advisory Board**

met October 18. Advisory Board present included:

- Dan Egan,** Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Carrie L Foster,** Jones and Roth, CPAs and Business Consultants
- Cynthia Pappas,** Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon
- Brett Rowlett,** Lane Community College
- Carman Urbina,** Superintendent's Office of Equity and Diversity Program, Eugene School District 4J
- (Michael Roberts** was out of town.)

League Board members present included Miriam Aiken, Janet Calvert, Pat

Hocken, Phyllis Loobey, and Susan Tavakolian.

League Studies

Susan summarized the League's studies and advocacy priorities, citing the focus on agriculture in Lane County. Dan noted that agriculture is the state's third largest industry and includes such products such as beer, wine and forests, as well as the traditional crops normally associated with agriculture. The board questioned whether the broad focus would interest members if it reminds some of grandpa's farm. They suggested focusing on issues such as land use, the environment and other agriculture related topics.

League Visibility

Susan asked for ways to increase League visibility, citing the proposed yard signs encouraging people to vote. The Board recommended we use the yard signs to promote ourselves by spelling out "League of Women Voters" instead of using only initials. They also suggested modifying the slogan to something like "Just Mail It" instead of "Just do it".

It was suggested when the League moderates candidate forums or debates our signs be present and visible.

Another option to gain visibility at election or registration deadline is to design an ad using a catchy phrase or slogan

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Third Thursday  
November 21  
Valley River Inn**

**11:30 Buffet**  
\$16 for lunch  
\$5 beverage only

**Free program  
at noon**

Lunch reservations  
required by  
November 18

Reserve at  
League Office  
(541-343-7917) or  
league@lwvlc.org

## THIRD THURSDAY Report From Our State's Lawyer

Our speaker will be **El-**  
**len Rosenblum,** the  
first woman to serve as **Ore-**  
**gon's Attorney General.**

As AG, she is legal advisor to our state agencies. She advocates for vulnerable Oregonians. She assists district attorneys in prosecuting crime, especially crimes against children including internet crime.



**LWV of Lane County Board & Off Board Roster 2013-14**

**Co-Presidents**  
MIRIAM AIKEN &  
SUSAN TAVAKOLIAN

**Vice President**  
MARY KEATING

**Secretary**  
MARJ MAXWELL

**Treasurer**  
PHYLLIS LOOBEY

**Action**  
KAPPY EATON &  
PAT HOCKEN

**Argus Editor**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Finance**  
JANET CALVERT

**Historian**  
GAYLE DOWNING

**Membership**  
ANNE BEST &  
KATHY MERWIN-GONZALES

**Public Relations**  
RHONDA LIVESAY

**Units**  
CHARLCIE KAYLOR

**Voters Service**  
ELLEN MADDEX

# UNITS - Charlcie Kaylor, Chair

## Monday, November 11

**10 am - S Willamette**  
90 Westbrook Way  
(Block beyond 46th)  
H: Barbara Greenley 684-9127  
C: Anne Best 343-5124

**2 pm - Harlow Road**  
394 Cherry Drive  
H: Barbara French 485-9090  
C: Mary Keating 344-4889

## Tuesday, November 12

**9:30 am - Coburg Road**  
2135 Rocky Lane  
H: Dorothy Cruickshank 342-2577  
C: Rhonda Livesay 228-4373

## ALL WEEK - On line

**In pajamas - at midnight?**  
Contact Charlcie 541-686-0124  
charlcie@efn.org

## Wednesday, November 13

**10 am - East Eugene**  
555 E. 15th, Central Presbyterian  
H: Stephanie Winsor 42-8243  
C: Diana Grandberry 342-8402

**2:30 pm - Cottage Grove/Creswell**  
Creswell Library  
H: Gayle Downing 942-1858  
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

**4 pm - S.W. Eugene**  
2365 West 23rd Ave.  
H: Pat McDaniels 343-4728  
C: Sally Weston 484-4404

## Friday, November 15

**9:30 am - Cascade Manor**  
Cascade View Rm, 65 W. 30th  
C: Lorraine Abbott 434-4107  
Frank Carlton 434-4140

### Unit Briefing

Tuesday, November 5  
Atrium - Sloat Room  
10th & Olive Eugene  
3:00 pm  
All are welcome

## NOVEMBER UNIT TOPIC ARICULTURE IN THE NEWS BY PAT HOCKEN

Unit meetings in November will continue discussing agricultural issues as part of the local League's participation in the update of the Agriculture position of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). This month members will choose the specific topics to be discussed at each meeting by bringing an article about some aspect of agriculture to share. The article can be from a newspaper, magazine, the internet or other source.

This will be an opportunity for members to highlight their interests and concerns and to learn from each other. There will be no Every-member material distributed. Each member will be asked to spend a few minutes providing a brief summary of the article, its source, and its relevance to agriculture in Lane County and Oregon or to the LWVUS study. Other unit participants will then provide their reaction and any knowledge they have about the specific subject.

As a reminder, the LWVUS update will consider  
**1.** current technology issues in agriculture including GMOs, herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling and  
**2.** current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies, and the federal regulatory process.

## MENTAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP

### BY SUE BOYD

#### *Next Meeting*

*November 14,*

*10 a.m.*

*175 S. Garden Way*

*Tentative topic is transitional housing for the mentally ill.*

*If you have particular interests or topics you would like to explore, please let Kappy Eaton know.*

#### **Oregon House Majority Leader Val Hoyle**

got together recently with participants in the mental health interest group to brief them on both the regular and recent special sessions of the Legislature. She particularly noted a 43% increase in funding for the community mental health and addictions treatment system and, during the special session, an additional \$10 million to the Oregon Health Authority for community mental health, divided between children and young adults as well as programs related to mental health and substance abuse. An increase in cigarette taxes was dedicated to funding mental health programs.

She provided a progress report on the new psychiatric hospital under construction south of Junction City. Scheduled to open in 2015, it will have 174 beds and is expected to add 500 new jobs in Lane County. An August job fair which drew hundreds was aimed at filling the first 170 positions. The successful applicants will start training at the existing psychiatric hospital in Salem before being transferred to Junction City.

The question and answer session following her comments quickly became a general conversation among Rep. Hoyle and the ten or so League members there. She shared her experiences living with a brother who is schizophrenic. The importance of community based treatment and transitional housing for those leaving treatment facilities was discussed, as was the need to train police to deal with the mentally ill as people with an illness rather than criminals.

The League has a long history of studying mental health issues. Kappy Eaton, who hosted the meeting, recalled that it was a study item when she was president of our League back in the 1960's.

The interest group concept is new to us and may require some explanation. We borrowed the idea from the Portland League, and our mental health group got started last spring. An interest group differs from a study committee in several important aspects. Basically an interest group is simply League members pursuing a subject under the League

umbrella. It is not expected to produce a written study for consideration at units, it is not attempting to update or revise a position, and it does not need to have a formal structure. Ours makes decisions by consensus and Kappy Eaton recently agreed to be our chair. The topics for meetings are chosen by members based on their current interest in learning more about their chosen focus.

Of course, as Kappy noted, the League has been involved with mental health issues for decades. We have studied the topic at the local, state and national levels and have strong, broad-based positions which can be used for League lobbying. If the interest group finds an area where it believes that official League action might be appropriate, it can bring the matter to the Action Committee for consideration.



## LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

### Envision Eugene

As part of the Envision Eugene process to plan for the growth expected in Eugene over the next twenty years, the League board has voted to support two of the proposed re-designations of properties for residential use: the Naval Reserve site and the Irving Road/Eagles site. Making additional land available within the urban growth boundary as these two sites are, reduces the need to expand urbanization into existing farm land.

The Naval Reserve site, which is now owned by the City, is proposed to be re-designated from governmental to medium density residential for multi-family housing. The three-acre parcel, near Chambers and West 13th Avenue in Eugene, is ideally located near elementary and middle schools and grocery and other retail shopping. It is on a bus line and near a bike path and faces existing apartment buildings across 13th Avenue. Future development of the site is anticipated to be affordable housing through the city's land bank program.

The Irving Road/Eagles site, formerly used as a golf course, is proposed for re-designation as low density residential for single family housing. It is located at the corner of Irving Road and the

Northwest Expressway and surrounded on three sides by single family homes. The church which now owns the property plans to use the building and parking lot and to sell the unneeded golf course acreage. Irving Elementary School is nearby, and the amount of available open space on the site offers the opportunity for the city to create a neighborhood park.

### City of Eugene Budget

The Eugene Budget Committee continues to meet to consider the impact of city policies on the budget and to gather information about potential strategies to close the budget gap expected for the 2014-2015 budget. It also scheduled five interactive community workshops to discuss the situation and seek suggestions. The League has been following the committee's deliberations. I hope many of you were able to attend one of the workshops. The last two workshops will be held Tuesday October 29 at Willamette High School and October 30 at Churchill High School, both from 6-8 p.m.

If you have thoughts about the city budget, either the revenue or expenditure side, please send them to me. Undoubtedly, the League will be testifying next spring on the 2014-15 budget

proposal by the City Manager that will be acted on by the Budget Committee and ultimately the City Council.

### Observer Corps

League members are still needed for our growing Observer Corps. Observing local government meetings either in person or electronically is an excellent way to educate yourself and to update the League on the activities and functions of governments. Members continue to observe the meetings of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, and more observers for other groups would be welcome. Please contact me at 541-343-1138 or [jphocken@comcast.net](mailto:jphocken@comcast.net) if you want to learn more about this opportunity. I will provide all the training and assistance you need to get started and can accompany you to a few meetings.

### Action Committee Meetings

*Just a reminder* - Any League member is welcome to attend Action Committee meetings. This committee reviews ballot measures and proposed actions of local governments and makes recommendations for League advocacy to the board.

### Next Meeting

November 4,  
9:30 a.m.

175 S. Garden Way

If you can't attend the meeting but have an interest in an issue, contact Pat Hocken.

## ACTION - State of the State by Kappy Eaton, Action Co-chair

### Fiscal Policy

It wasn't easy, but on October 2, 2013, the Oregon Legislature came together to enact a series of laws that enhance public education at all levels, improve the mental health system, protect seniors, assist the working poor, adjust the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), and pave the way for research and future action on the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). As more than one legislator said in the Senate and House chambers, after the votes, "This is Oregon, not Washington, D.C., and we have acted as Oregonians".

Following is a summary of the action in the Capitol between September 26 and October 2, after Governor Kitzhaber called the Legislature in to a Special Session scheduled for September 30.

The House Speaker, Tina Kotec, and the Senate President, Peter Courtney, established the Special Committee on the Special Session which consisted of both House and Senate members from both political parties, and which they co-chaired. Five legislative concepts (LCs) were drafted for consideration by the committee, based on the bills that were defeated at the end of the regular 2013, 77th Session of the Oregon Assembly, July 8.

Two public hearings on the five LCs were held on September 26 and 27.

Each session lasted about five hours, with overflow audiences and passionate pro and con arguments.

On September 30, the Legislature formally met in Special Session, and spent the day waiting for the Special Committee to hold a work session on the five bills and move them to the respective chambers for discussion and passage. That didn't happen until October 1. The House took its first vote on HB 3601 since this was the proposal to raise the revenue needed to accomplish the goals of PERS reform and more dollars for schools at all levels, mental health, and the working poor. If it failed, the whole deal was off. The Constitutional requirement for a revenue bill meant at least 36 representatives must support the bill. Five House members were excused. The vote was 33-22. The Speaker immediately disappeared, and the Democrats met in caucus.

In the meantime, the Senate was discussing its three bills related to PERS and the GMOs. Each bill was presented jointly by a Democratic and a Republican and all passed with bi-partisan support. After some arm twisting by both caucuses, the House took another vote, and the revenue bill passed, along with the increase for the School Fund. The two chambers exchanged bills, passed them, and adjourned on October 2.

So what is the result?

An additional \$244 million has been added to the 2013-15 adopted budget. Most of the changes will take place on July 1, 2014. Of the \$140 million for public education, the 197 school districts will share \$100 million; Community Colleges, \$15 million; and the four year institutions, \$25 million. The budget note mandates that the higher education funds must be used for tuition relief. The cigarette tax, which will rise to 13 cents next year, and another cent per year until 2017, will become a dedicated revenue source for mental health programs, with \$20 million next year. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) increase to 8% to assist the working poor, protecting services for the elderly, cuts for small businesses, and education dollars come from the reduction in PERS colas (from 2% to 1.25% for pensions up to \$60,000 and .15% for those over \$60,000), the senior medical subtraction revision, and the reduction in the personal income itemized tax deduction for individuals with incomes over \$100,000 and couples over \$200,000.

To see the final version of the bills online, go to [www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills\\_laws](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws) and click on Special Session 2013.

Legislators, for the most part, felt good about accomplishing positive outcomes for education and PERS. Their attitude seems to be that if problems arise as implement-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Speakers at October Third Thursday from Springfield School District



Herticia Martin Edd, Superintendent



Al King, School Board



Devon Ashbridge, Communication Specialist

### **ACTION** continued

*(Continued from page 5)*  
ing the changes moves forward, they can be discussed in the 2014 session.

### **Interim Committees**

As the planning for the

2014 session continues, the Interim committees will meet November 20-22 to decide on draft proposals for Legislative Counsel and hear progress reports from various task forces and special committees. The

December Revenue Forecast will be presented to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Revenue committees November 22.

### **ADVICE** continued

*(Continued from page 1)*  
with the League's name and logo and used annually. A day might be designated when the League encourages people to vote through ads or signs.

#### Fruit Sales

Janet reported last year the League raised almost \$3,000 with fruit sales the option to purchase boxes of fruit for FOOD for Lane County and receive a tax deduction. For this year it was suggested the sign up form and the colored fruit advertisements have the League's logo.

#### Budget

Phyllis reported we are about on target with the budget and noted that the board took the committee's advice and upgraded

the web site. It was suggested we might want to analyze the number of hits on the web site, and count which links were used and how often. Such counts could provide insights into areas where more information might be added or modified.

Discussion focused on organizational goals for 2014 and the money/effort spent on these goals. The budget could be measured against these goals. A four year strategic plan was recommended with at least three goals to be reviewed annually. Specifically, we should think how to spend our money including a signature League activity.

#### Membership and Lead-

#### ership Development

Janet reported the Membership Leadership Development program has several printed "guidance" helps, one of which is Reaching Out to College Students." It suggests working with faculty and staff to develop a continuing program focusing on the value of students voting, and the impact voting has on them now and in the future. The University of Oregon has a nonprofit management course in which students can be assigned the task of working with non-profits. The students gain knowledge working with a non-profit and the organization gets "free help" and fresh ideas.

# FRUIT SALE by JANET CALVERT, Finance Chair

## GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE



Now is the time to get serious about selling fruit boxes to help support the League. The deadline for all orders (order form and checks in the office) is Thursday, November 21.

A successful approach by a Fruit Loop member Marj Maxwell, was to distribute an order form to each person at a gathering. It is quick and easy

to place an order, write a check and give it to you the seller. That eliminates forgetting to mail it or bringing it to the office.

Do remember to ask friends, neighbors, exercise buddies and business associates to enjoy fruit during the holidays or donate it to FOOD for Lane County. Prices remain the same as last year.

Our goal is two to three boxes per member to clear \$3,000. If you have questions, call Janet Calvert, 686-2697 or Mary Keating, 344-4889.



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 \$65
- Household (Two people at the same address) \$97.50
- Student \$20
- Individual after February 1st \$32

Name

Address

Phone

Email (for League use only)

Thanks to our 2012-13 Directory Advertisers

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EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF LANE COUNTY

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Eugene, OR 97401  
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League@lwvlc.org

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the web!  
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## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 4, 9:30 a.m. - Action committee, pages 4 & 5
- 5, 3 p.m. - Unit briefing, page 2
- 11-15, Units - Agriculture in the news, page 2
- 14, 10 a.m. - Mental Health Group meeting, page 3
- 20, 1:30 p.m. - Board meeting, League office
- 21, Third Thursday - Valley River Inn, page 1
- 21, Fruit Sales Orders Due
- 22, ARGUS deadline - midnight

**The League office is open  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
11 am to 1:30 pm  
The office will be closed Friday  
November 29 in celebration of  
Thanksgiving Day.**

#### ***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.*