

ARGUS

LWVLC BOARD WORKING GROUP

by Miriam Aiken & Susan Tavakolian, Co-Presidents

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The LWVLC board has encountered some issues concerning nonpartisanship that it needs to explore in more depth than is possible at a regular board meeting. As a result, the board will meet in a special session to explore these issues. All LWVLC members are, of course, welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

The working group will discuss issues relevant to its functioning as a nonpartisan organization. Specifically, we want to explore our web site policies: what should be posted on the web site, how content should be managed, and regulating costs of maintenance of the site. Another issue that bears closer scrutiny and understanding

are the limits to individual board members and the organization as a whole on participation in the political process while remaining nonpartisan. Questions to be investigated include limits on individual board members' donations to candidates and political causes, and individual board members' support of particular candidates. It is critical that when members are recruited to run for board positions, that the candidates be aware of special restrictions on their specific offices. The results of the meeting may be incorporated into LWVLC by-laws.

League members have the right and are encouraged to be as politically involved as you wish and you can

voice your opinions as individuals. League board members have some restrictions in instances where the members' opinions may be interpreted as representative of the League. It is this distinction that the working group hopes to address.

The meeting will be held on January 16th at 2:30 pm in the LWV office.

For reference, please see the documents at these links, especially if you plan to attend the work group:

<http://www.lwvlc.org/about-the-league/policies-procedures>

<http://www.lwv.org/content/nonpartisan-policy>

Fourth Thursday JANUARY 23

Valley River Inn
11:30 Buffet
\$16 for lunch
\$5 beverage only
Free program at noon
Lunch reservations required by
January 20th
Reserve at
League Office
(541-343-7917) or
League@lwvlc.org

THIRD THURSDAY ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY THIS MONTH

On January 23 the subject will be
"JC-Biomethane: Recovering Nutrients & Energy from Food Waste."
Our speaker will be
Dean Foor, CEO.

Located in Junction City the state of the art biomethane production facilities will generate 1.5 megawatts of electricity... enough to power 1500 homes.

**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, January 13

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, January 14

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, January 15

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

2 pm - Cottage Grove/Creswell
Cottage Grove campus of LCC
H: Gayle Downing 942-1858
C: Dian Missar 942-7676

4 pm - S.W. Eugene
1375 Olive St., Apt. 606
H: Pat McDaniels 343-4728
C: Sally Weston 484-4404

Friday, January 17

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

Unit Briefing
Tuesday, January 7
Atrium - Sloat Room
10th & Olive Eugene
3 pm
All are welcome

JANUARY UNIT TOPIC PROGRAM PLANNING

Program planning will be the topic of our January units. We will review local and national program positions and also can consider new topics or updates. Our positions are our lobby-ing/advocacy statements

and are intended to be both durable and flexible. This is the time for members to weigh in with their sugges-tions for local topics, which will be forwarded to the board for consideration and possible adoption at our An-nual Meeting. Suggestions for LWVUS program go to the national Board.

Please bring the League directory you received last month. It has summa-ries of all local, state, and national positions and is a great reference during the unit discussion.

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

Next Meeting

January 8,
9:30 a.m.

175 S. Garden Way

Any League member is
welcome to attend.

Contact Pat Hocken for
directions.

Oregon Assembly 2014

The Legislature will hold the last of its three Interim Committees planning meetings January 15-17 to finalize the proposals that the committees have agreed to put forward in 2014. Each committee is allowed two bills and each legislator can introduce one. The even year sessions can run 35 days, and will convene February 3, 2014 and adjourn by March 9. No major legislation is anticipated. However, there will be some revisions to the tax cut business package passed in the Special Session, other budget adjustments and the March Revenue Forecast. This is also a time for task forces and special committees to present progress reports.

In anticipation of the longer (165 days) 2015 session, the 2014 Interim Committees will meet in May, September and November. During the 2014 shorter session, many organizations and advocates will start the conversations with decision-makers about the critical issues that need to be addressed in the future.

Leadership Summit

Held December 9 in Portland, the eleventh annual Oregon Leadership Summit was cosponsored by Senators Wyden and Merkley, Governor Kitzhaber, Oregon legislative leadership (majority and minority), and the Oregon business community through the Oregon Business Plan. Its purpose is to look at what has occurred in Oregon during the last 12 months, particularly in business and education, as well as legislative decisions, and discuss next steps. The Oregon Business Plan outlines a framework and a vision for Oregon's future, and establishes a strategy for success. The following areas are deemed critical:

People: A talented workforce which calls for wise educational investment and job creation

Productivity: Quality infrastructure, resource utilization, competitive regulations and business costs

Place: A high quality of life that attracts and retains talented people

Pioneering Innovation: A culture of research, commercialization, and innovation in product and process design

The Summit is comprehensive and overwhelming in the amount of information available. The morning panels were followed by afternoon breakout groups focused on specific goals related to the critical areas. There is enough for a week's conference which leads to some frustration for participants because you can only take in one breakout group. If you are interested in learning more about the Oregon Business Plan just Google the name or go to oregon-businessplan.org and click on the link About the Plan.

2014 Legislative Day

Scheduled for Monday, February 10, in the State Library across the street from the Capitol, the 2014 Legislative Day will feature speakers on the League's legislative agenda as well as opportunities to attend hearings and visit legislator's offices.

Use the registration form on the LWVOR's website or in this issue (page 6) and the February Argus.

Save the date:
LWVOR Legislative Day
February 10, 9:30
State Library
(Registration page 6)

VOTER SERVICE Ellen Maddex - Chair

East Lane Commissioner Candidates' Forum,
7 - 9 PM,
January 9th
Cottage Grove High School, 1375 S. River Road

The League is co-sponsoring the Forum with Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society

LOCAL ACTION - Pat Hocken, Action Co-chair

BEST

The League board has approved a \$100 contribution to Better Eugene- Springfield Transit (BEST) from the League's Action budget. BEST continues to advocate for the full build out of the EmX system included in the regional transportation plan. It has also embarked on a community education program to showcase the benefits of public transportation and bus rapid transit projects such as EmX.

City of Eugene Budget

The League is preparing testimony for a January 21 Eugene Budget Committee public hearing on potential cuts to the general fund of the city budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year which begins July 1, 2014. The gap in the general fund is expected to be \$3 million. This hearing will not address new revenue sources or changes that require new policy direction from the City Council. Those will be considered later in the process.

The League board has approved a recommendation from the Action committee which contained the points below and details of applicable League positions.

The League will speak in support of keeping the Sheldon Pool open, keeping the Downtown library open 7 days a week, and continuing funding for the mental health court, teen court, and second CAHOOTS van.

These items have been proposed for cuts in the past but have been tentatively removed from the current list of reductions. Nonetheless, the board felt it im-

portant to remind the budget committee that these services have significant community support.

We will support increasing park fees by about 5%, with increases targeted to special classes or events, and the availability of scholarships for low income residents.

We will speak in favor of using about \$600,000 from the Stormwater Fund to cover parks maintenance cost that are directly related to stormwater management.

We will support continued funding for intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration as provided by the Lane Council of Governments for planning and the Lane Metro Partnership for economic development.

We will request that cuts to the Human Services Commission (HSC) Discretionary Funds be eliminated or minimized. The HSC is a collaboration of Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County that provides grants to local non-profits to enable them to provide housing, crisis care, and health-care services.

Finally, we will oppose closure of the Sheldon and Bethel branch libraries and reducing the parks maintenance budget. At the present time there appears to be some budget committee consensus that closing the branch libraries is appropriate, given the substantial total cost savings of about \$600,000 and the significantly higher number of daily visits to the main library.

If you have questions about the budget committee process, the details of potential reductions, or the anticipated League testimony, please contact me.

Regional Solutions

Six League members attended a public meeting on December 8 to learn more about Oregon's Regional Solutions initiative to better align state economic and development programs to support local priorities. Most of the approximately 50 people in attendance were local government officials or representatives of state agencies. (I will not repeat here all the details I provided in the December Argus about the structure and the priorities that have been proposed for our region which contains Lane, Benton, Linn, and Lincoln counties.)

The program included a presentation by Michael Jordan, the state of Oregon's Chief Operating Officer, who described the initiative and the legislative direction. The meeting was led by Adam Davis, the researcher who conducted the 2013 Oregon Values and Beliefs Survey, and who shared his report and its relevance to the Regional Solutions approach.

Attendees were asked to submit written comments on three proposed scenarios for effective collaboration between the state and local governments and regions on economic development. The scenarios were

- 1) Align grant and loan resources for industrial development, from identification of land through finalization of development ready sites;
- 2) Create a flexible funding account using existing fund-

ing that can be deployed immediately to seize opportunities; and

- 3) Create a common application for site certification that acts as a "one-stop" for permitting, using an expedited project review process. Attendees were also asked to submit open-ended comments on any related issue.

During the full-group discussions, several participants expressed concern that the focus and language of the scenarios was applicable to the recruitment of large business not the development and growth of local small to medium businesses. The local representative of 1000 Friends of Oregon also questioned the inclusion of the Goshen Industrial Site opportunity as one of our regional goals because she believes the financial and other barriers to its development have not been fully considered.

Transparency

The League has sent a letter to the Lane County Board of Commissioners requesting greater transparency in informing citizens about administrative issues and encouraging the Board to move forward with the hiring of an internal auditor. The communication was also submitted as a letter to the editor to The Register Guard.

LEAGUE 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY VOTE TO ADMIT MEN by Sue Boyd



Norman Turrill

In the spring of 1974, 40 years ago, the League made a bylaws change that still resonates today. The occasion was the LWVUS Convention at which delegates voted to admit men - a controversial decision at the time.

Mary Sherriffs and I were two-thirds of the Central Lane County delegation. Held in San Francisco, that was our first national convention, and we found it a bit daunting, at least I did. Fortunately, our local League president was the third delegate, and there could have been no better guide for novices than Annabel Kitzhaber.

Annabel was a member of the LWVUS Budget Committee that Convention. Her experience was broad - she began as president of a provisional League in Logan, Utah, and then served on local and state boards in Kansas, New Hampshire and Oregon. Joan Rich, whom many will remember as a long-time Action Committee

member and unit hostess, attended as an observer.

Presiding over the Convention was the formidable Lucy Wilson Benson, winding up her third term as LWVUS president. She would go on to become the under secretary of state for arms control and international security affairs, at the time of her 1977 appointment the highest position ever held by a woman in the US State Department.

The main argument against admitting men was a concern that they would take over the League, simply because they were used to being in charge and running things. At least that is the way I remember the discussion, though it was not a point of view to which I was sympathetic. I thought it was a particularly poor and somewhat hypocritical argument since in those days we were campaigning for the Equal Rights Amendment and a Union Square dem-

onstration in its support was one of the convention activities. And, in the end, the bylaw change passed rather easily.

The Convention keynote speaker, the historian Henry Steele Commager, asked Mrs. Benson if he could become the first male member, but she informed him that her husband had already filled that role.

Contrary to the fears of bylaw change opponents, there was no surge of overbearing new male members. In fact, it was not until 2008, some 32 years after the change passed, that the LWVUS Convention delegates elected its first male LWVUS/LWVEF board member. He was, of course, Oregon's Norman Turrill, now serving his third term. He had originally joined the Seattle League in the 70's but did not become active until later. He has been a state president in Nebraska and Washington and a state Board member in New York and Oregon.



Joe Walicki
LWVLC's first male member in 1974

MENTAL HEALTH STUDY GROUP Florence Alvergue

December's meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions. LWVLC has positions on mental health with concurrence in 1986 and 1996. These will be the topic of discussion. Housing issues may also be discussed at this or a future meeting.

Meetings are open to any member and guest who are interested in this vital area of study. One recent program focused on current and past legislation in this field with Rep. Val Hoyle as our speaker. Another program was presented by Susan Ban, executive director of Shelter Care, who ex-

plained her organization's community services and residential programs for homeless families with children and mental health services.

Next Meeting
January 9th,
10 a.m.
175 S. Garden Way



Day at the Legislature

Monday February 10, 2014

Oregon State Library (across the street from the Capitol)

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Oregon

Highlights

Registration 9:30 AM

Workshop: 10 AM – 3 PM with lunch at noon

Tentative topics: Early Learning, Higher Education, Gun Safety Background Checks, and Regional Solutions plus reports from LWVOR Action Coordinators.

**Space is limited
ONLY 75 SEATS
Register early!**

Day at the Legislature Registration Form

Register by Monday, February 3, 2014

Name: _____

If Member (indicate League): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch: \$ 21.00

Lunch Choice:

Box lunch features sandwich, salad, chips, and dessert. Choose: Turkey Roast Beef Vegetarian

Parking Pass:

Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for \$15.50 (\$15.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee and I have included my mailing address. (Note: parking fees have doubled in 2013. Meters are \$1.50/hr.)

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org. Register online and get map, parking info, and agenda at <http://www.lwvor.org/day-at-the-legislature/>.

Registration must be received by February 3, 2014.

FUND RAISING by Janet Calvert, Finance Chair

FRUIT SALE ON ICE

*Oh the weather outside was frightful
But the Fruit Loopers were so resourceful
And Merle's was certainly a no go
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow*

*It doesn't show signs of stopping
So the office was of our choosing
With emails and phone calls galore
Let it snow, pick up fruit, let it snow*

It's best not to go on, but here are the facts.

League members and satisfied community buyers purchased 324 boxes of fruit with 63 going to Food for Lane County. Buyers designating fruit as a donation will soon receive a letter for tax purposes.

This year our net was \$2,900, which is \$116 more than in 2012. This revenue is essential for League support and activities. Thank you all.

A special thanks to our landlords, Micheal and Demus Roberts, who were happy to let League use empty rooms down the hall. Also thanks to all the fruit buyers who adapted to the email and phone updates and braved still slick roads to pick up fruit.

The Fruit Loop Committee was amazing! Mary Keating recorded all sales onto spread sheets and sent out emails telling buyers when and where to pick up fruit; Sally Mills and Linda Roe, called people without email, twice, about changes and Barbara French arranged for two hard working fellows to unload all the boxes.

Thanks to Merle Bottge who cleaned her garage to prepare for fruit distribution, ultimately not needed, and distributed the last few boxes of fruit. Bouquets to Fran Boehner who sold fruit to Cottage Grove folk, to Sharon Posner who used her salesmanship skills and to Marj Maxwell who was most willing to staff distribution shifts and to her husband, Dan who helped unload the huge delivery truck.

A very special thanks to Phyllis Loobey, our treasurer, who dealt patiently with all the deposits and made the arrangements with FOOD for Lane County.

Best of all, I have received many comments from buyers, League and community, about the high quality of fruit that they are enjoying.



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*

Lane Forest Products

Baker Bay Bead Co.

Eugene Hotel Retirement

Home Force

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
of U of O*

Aayres Appliance Repair

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Kopi-O Cafe

Long's Meat Market

Studio d Hair Salon

Unique Properties



EDUCATING VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF LANE COUNTY

338 West 11th Ave.,
Suite 101
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-343-7917
League@lwvlc.org

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*We're on
the web!
lwvlc.org*

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 4, 9:30 am, Action meeting
- 7, 3pm, Unit briefing - page 2
- 9, 10am, Mental Health Study Group - page 3
- 9, 7pm, East Lane County Commissioners
Candidates Forum - page 3
- 13 - 17, Unit meetings - page 2
- 28, 2pm, Membership meeting

FEBRUARY

- 10th 9:30 Day at the Legislature - page 6

The League office is open
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
11 am to 1:30 pm
Holiday closure December 23 through
January 3

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.