



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

February 2010

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The League of Women Voters

a nonpartisan political
organization –

- * encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government,
- * works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and
- * influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Happy Birthday, League of Women Voters!

Celebrate with Birthday Cake and a Movie

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Meeting Room

6:15 PM – Refreshments & Member Recognition

7 to 9 PM – Film Showing: "Iron Jawed Angels"

You are invited to celebrate a landmark event for the League — our 90th birthday! Please join us at the library at 6:15 PM for cake and coffee.

We will recognize our seven new 50-year members with a special program. Those being honored are:

Martha Brookes, Nancy Leman, Mary Jo Levenspiel, Patty McClintock,
Katherine Merriam, Jo Anne Trow, and Melvina Walter

At 7 PM sharp, we will show the feature-length HBO movie "Iron Jawed Angels." This highly-acclaimed film recounts a chapter of US history of special interest to League members: the struggle of suffragists (National American Woman Suffrage Association) who fought for the passage of the 19th amendment.

The film focuses on two women, Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), and shows how they broke from the mainstream of the women's rights movement and created a more radical wing – pushing the boundaries of political protest to secure women's voting rights.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment was ratified. Its victory accomplished, NAWSA ceased to exist, but its organization became the nucleus of the League of Women Voters.

Mark your calendar for what promises to be an enjoyable, memorable evening!



Lucy Burns in the workhouse



President's Corner — Annette Mills

As I write this letter, we are just 10 days away from one of the most significant elections of recent years. Wearing its advocacy hat, LWV Corvallis hosted an outstanding program in January, encouraging citizens to vote "YES!" on Measures 66 and 67.

Our Governance Chair, Paula Krane, put together a stellar panel with representation from the state legislature, Benton County, OSU, Corvallis School District, and the business community. The panelists provided valuable data during their presentations and did an excellent job responding to questions from the audience. The meeting was well attended, and, despite the fact that attendees had to walk through a gauntlet of leafletters on their way to the library meeting room, audience members were civil and respectful throughout the evening. It was a wonderful example of democracy at work. Many thanks to Paula for heading up a program that made all of us proud.

By the time you receive this bulletin, we will also have had our two consensus meetings on Local Food. Assuming that these meetings resulted in consensus, it will now be up to the board to adopt a position on this important topic.



L-R: Tony Van Vliet, Jock Mills, Sara Gelsler, Annabelle Jaramillo, Katherine Cleland, Anne Schuster

I would like to express my gratitude to our Local Food Study committee – Diana Carsten (chair), Karen Nibler, Mary Anne Nusrala, and Marilyn Koenitzer – for their willingness to tackle this very broad and complex topic and to share what they've learned with fellow League members. We very much appreciate all the time, energy, and thought that they contributed to the study. Hopefully, their efforts will result in a new position and an opportunity for our League to advocate on issues related to food security.

This month, we have set aside an evening to celebrate our work—and our longevity! The League of Women Voters officially turns 90 on February 14. Our League Birthday Party will take place a few days earlier, on February 9. We've planned an evening of appreciation, food, and film that I think everyone will enjoy.

We'll begin by honoring our newest 50-year members for their long-time commitment to the League, followed by sharing a delicious birthday cake together. Then, we'll invite the public to join us for a viewing of "Iron Jawed Angels," which recounts the story of two key figures in the American suffragist movement. Film reviewers Ebert and Roeper have described "Iron Jawed Angels" as "*an important history lesson told in a fresh, and blazing fashion. Two thumbs up!*" We hope you'll join us for this special occasion.



Newsletter Mailing Help Needed

We need help preparing the League newsletters to be mailed—picking them up from the printer, labeling, bundling, and taking them to the post office. Can you assist us with this?

If you can spare an hour or two a month, contact Louise Marquering at lwvcLouise@AOL.com, or call Beth Thoennes at 541-752-7201.

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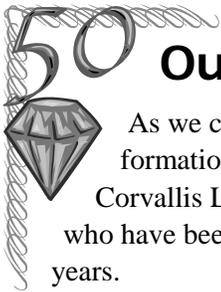


This bulletin is the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis*, produced 10 times a year.

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering – lwvcLouise@AOL.com.

Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. League membership is open to men and women of all ages.



Our Diamonds — 50 years in League!

As we celebrate the end of 90 years since the formation of the League of Women Voters, the Corvallis League is proud to have thirteen women who have been members for at least 50 of those years.

At our birthday party on February 9th, we will recognize *Martha Brookes, Nancy Leman, Mary Jo Levenspiel, Patty McClintock, Katherine Merriam, Jo Anne Trow, and Melvina Walter*. They join *Marge Chilcote, Louise Ferrell, Kitty Macpherson, Jean Marvell, Corrine McKenzie, and Jean Nath* as honorary 50-year members.

Betty Taira, League of Women Voters of the United States Membership Director said, when we requested seven certificates, “Your League must be doing good things or these people would not be supporting it for so long. I congratulate your League; fifty years is a very long time to be a member of an organization to which one must pay dues.” We hope many members will join us to hear what has kept these people in our organization for so long.

Martha Brookes said she took part in League activism as a child because her mother was a very active member. She joined when she arrived in Corvallis as a new bride.

Nancy Leman also joined League when she came to Corvallis. She knew Carol Krakauer, then active in the Corvallis League, when they had both lived in Massachusetts. Nancy will tell you that she hosted League

babies to allow others to discuss the issues of the day such as getting rid of the “drunk tank” at the county jail.

With husbands who were OSU professors of history and political science respectively, **Patty McClintock** and **Melvina Walters** were naturally attracted to the League’s mission. They find League informative and enriching and enjoy the people as well as the stimulating discussions of current issues.

Mary Jo Levenspiel first joined the LWV in Pennsylvania as a response to the McCarthy hearings. In Corvallis, she worked on local health care studies over two decades.

Kathy Merriam joined in Missoula, Montana to get some intellectual stimulation as she was at home with five children. She later served as League President in the Minneapolis area and was thrilled to be in attendance at a national convention where the keynote speaker was President Lyndon Johnson.

Jo Anne Trow, like Mary Jo and Kathy, joined League before coming to Corvallis. She was a member first in Pullman, Washington and then in East Lansing, Michigan, where she once used the League as a topic for a major sociology class paper.

Come to congratulate these amazing women and hear more of their stories at the library on Tuesday, February 9th! — *Shelly Murphy, Membership Director*

Water Resources Committee News



The LWVC Water Resources committee continues its efforts to stay current on local and state water issues and to plan for the April 13th general meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar for this date.

Committee member David Eckert has recently been appointed to the Advisory Team for the Mid-Willamette Basin Climate Futures Preparedness Program. This team, part of the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) at the University of Oregon includes Corvallis’s mayor and city manager. The CLI has been conducting climate futures preparedness forums in river basins (and their communities) around Oregon.

You are invited to test your water sense by answering the two questions below. If they intrigue you, please check out the EPA’s Water Sense website, www.epa.gov/watersense/. — *Corrine Gobeli, Water Resources Co-chair*

Test Your Water Sense *Answers on page 4*

- How much water can you save by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime? **A.** Up to 2 gallons **B.** Up to 4 gallons **C.** Up to 6 gallons **D.** Up to 8 gallons
- How much water used for irrigating lawns and gardens, on average, is wasted due to over-watering? **A.** 50% **B.** 25% **C.** 15% **D.** 10%



League Book Club Meets February 8

February can be a snowy month, so LWV readers meet again at the Old World Deli, Tuesday, February 8, at 2:30 PM. This month we'll be talking about *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by French philosophy professor Muriel Barberry, translated by Alison Anderson.

A publishing phenomenon in France, the book sold over a million copies and won four French literary prizes. Reviews are definitely mixed, with some critics wondering if American readers can understand the philosophical musings about class-consciousness. Join us and share *your* thoughts. If you have questions, contact Corrine Gobeli, 541-745-7736, or e-mail her at: gobelic@comcast.net.

Next: March 8 – *Revolutionary Road*, by Richard Yates

April 12 – *The Cunning Man*, by Robertson Davies



SUSTAINABILITY FAIR and TOWN HALL 2010

Thursday, March 11

Register TODAY - Space Is Limited!

Sustainability Fair, 5:30 PM

Town Hall Meeting, 7 PM

CH2M Hill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th

All Corvallis area residents are invited to attend the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, March 11, at the CH2MHill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street, on the OSU campus. Don't miss out on one of our community's most important events of 2010!

Plan to arrive at 5:30 PM for the Sustainability Fair, which will feature exhibits by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's partner organizations and action teams. Come and learn about the wide variety of efforts that are already under way to create a sustainable community. Food, music, prizes, and informative displays promise to make this a lively and engaging event.

At 7 PM, attendees will gather in the ballroom for the Town Hall Meeting, where the focus will be on the sustainability efforts of the whole community. Participants will be invited to engage in a community conversation about how we're doing and what else needs to happen to accelerate our efforts to become a thriving, sustainable city and county.

Event organizers are planning a highly interactive program, and the event itself will demonstrate

sustainability by analyzing various event features such as energy and water use, waste generation, and refreshments that are primarily local. Help make the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall Meeting a model event by doing the following:

- **Use energy-efficient transportation** – Walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus to the event. Bike racks are on the north side of the Alumni Center and on the northwest side of LaSells Stewart Center. For bus routes, see www.corvallistransit.com.
- **Leave no trace** – Bring only recyclable, compostable, or reusable items with you to the event. (Example: Bring your own water bottle or mug.)
- **Turn trash to treasure** – Place recyclable and compostable items in the proper receptacles. We will have staffed recycling stations.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, a network of nearly 150 organizations in Corvallis and Benton County that are working together to accelerate the development of a sustainable community. The Coalition includes non-profits, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations – all working on different aspects of sustainability.

Everyone is welcome to attend the March 11th Town Hall Meeting, but space is limited! On-line registration is strongly encouraged. Simply go to the Sustainability Coalition website to register — www.sustainablecorvallis.org.

Answers to Test Your Water Sense

1. D. The average bathroom faucet flows at the rate of 2 gallons per minute. By simply turning the tap off, you can save more than 100 gallons of water per person per month. **2. A.** Water efficient irrigation systems help save water, potentially more than 11 billion gallons per year across the United States. This is equal to the amount of water used by 3,200 garden hoses flowing constantly for one year.

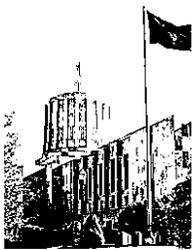
www.epa.gov/watersense/text_based.html



February 15: Application Deadline for Special Funds Grants

Thanks to the generosity of long-time League members Kay Dick and Grace Phinney, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis has unrestricted memorial funds that may be used by League members for League projects, pending review by the Special Funds Review committee and approval by the LWVC board. Applications are received twice a year, in February and October. *The application deadline is February 15 for project start-up in May.*

If you have an idea for a League project that would require funding, please consider applying! Guidelines and application forms are available upon request and can be downloaded from our website—www.lwv.corvallis.or.us. Applications should be submitted to the LWVC President, who will forward them to the Review Committee.



LWVC Sponsors February 27th Town Hall on Special Session of the Oregon Legislature

Saturday, February 27, 10 AM — Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

The Oregon Legislature will convene a special session on Feb. 1st and work for about a month. To read bill proposals and to access the Committee Schedule, go to www.leg.state.or.us and click on “2010 Special Session Bills and Legislative Concepts.”

Our senators and representatives will play important roles during this session. Issues they will take up include annual sessions, kicker reform, adjustments to the Business Energy Tax Credit, child welfare case-load adjustments, driver’s licenses for undocumented workers, full-day kindergarten, greater access to Oregon Health Plan for children and families, reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities, and working to reduce greenhouse gases in our transportation sector. Of

course, the budget will continue to be a top priority and policy work will, in part, depend on the outcome of the January 26th election on Measures 66 & 67.

To follow the session, read LWVOR’s weekly Legislative Report (sign up at www.lwvor.org), and contact your legislator about issues important to you.

Come to the League-sponsored Town Hall meeting to hear what our legislators did and did not do in this special session.

Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

NOTE: Legislators may have a floor session on Saturday, February 27, if they are not finished on Friday. To find out if the Town Hall has been postponed, check our website – www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/.

493 Boxes! Another successful Grapefruit Fundraiser

We sold 485 boxes and, with the extra boxes given us, the total was 493! Many League members and friends of League helped with this fundraiser:

Thank you to those who helped with the mailing!

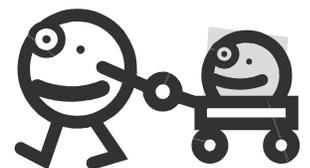
Louise Marquering, Jan Ames, Ruth Gallagher, Elinor Griffiths and Katherine Merriam

Thank you to those who helped unload the truck!

Jan Ames, Jan Bottjer, Louise and Dennis Marquering, Joe Nibler, Dick Waring, Russ Youmans

Thank you to those who delivered boxes!

Jan Ames, Laney Bardeen, Norm and Pat Bishop, Jan Bottjer, Ann Brodie, Carolyn Brumley, Marcia Cutler, Paula Krane, Louise Marquering, Shelly Murphy, Jack and Jean Nath, Joe Nibler, Joann Overton, Barbara Ross, Jo Anne and Cliff Trow, Doris and Dick Waring, Janet Wolf-Esche, Russ and Mary Youmans, and Lois Marie and Joe Zaerr



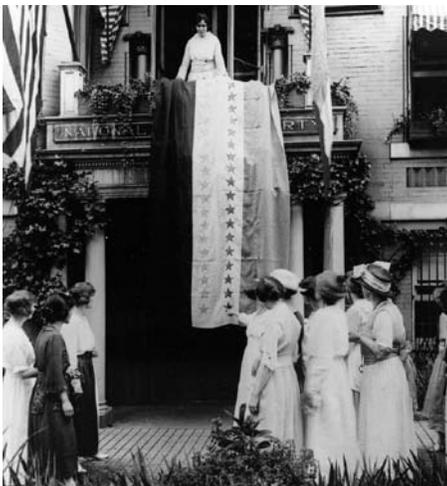
The League of Women Voters Through the Decades

Compiled by Kay J. Maxwell, *League of Women Voters, 2007*

Founding and Early History

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea—that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.



Alice Paul, National Chairman of the Woman's Party, unfurled the ratification banner from Suffrage headquarters, when Tennessee, the 36th state, ratified, August 18, 1920. Library of Congress photo

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to

the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two

years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work.

From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From the beginning the League took action on its stands; for several years, through effective lobbying, the League got selected issues included in the platforms of both major political parties and worked for enactment of legislation furthering its program goals. Over the years many procedural changes have been made in the way League program is defined, adopted and structured, but through all the changes the basic concept of study-member agreement-action has remained constant.

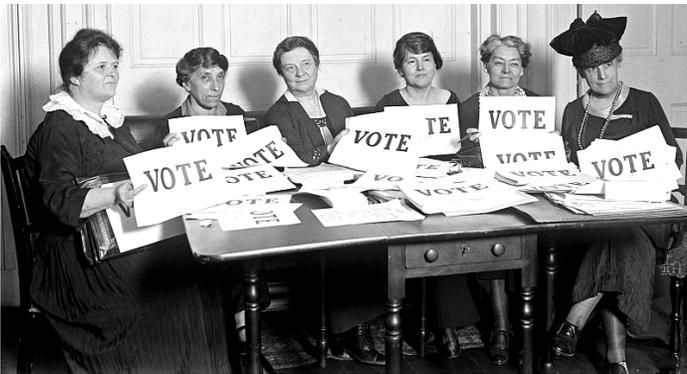
The League is political, but non-partisan. It never supports political parties or candidates, but it does study issues, develop consensus positions and then actively work to support those positions. As Carrie Chapman Catt noted in 1919, *"Is the (League) political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League."*

The 1920s

Organization Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA. State Leagues were the keystone of the League's structure, and had the responsibility for organizing local Leagues. By 1924, the National League was organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. Twenty-three state Leagues and 15 city Leagues maintained regular business headquarters, nearly all with one or more paid staff. A convention, held annually at first and then later biennially, of the state League representatives selected a program that for many years was national, state and local all in one.

Local Leagues were not represented at the conventions and the state League delegates also chose the national

officers and directors: *to the latter the Leagues looked for leadership which molded them together into one effective organization. The National Board continued the practice of extensive field work which had been so successful in the suffrage movement. Its members carried the enthusiasm and inspiration for the whole League to the remotest and smallest towns. The League had from the beginning the dual advantages of grassroots and central thinking, planning and leadership. That the League structure ran somewhat parallel to the structure of our federal system was an additional advantage because it provided experience which made our form of government more understandable. (25 Years of a Great Idea, 1950)*



National League of Women Voters, 1924. Library of Congress Photo

During its first two decades, the League concentrated on study and getting needed legislation passed. All League program at the national, state and local levels was proposed by national Board program departments and standing committees and then authorized by the national convention. The national Board furnished study materials for all national and some state items. This led to national Board and staff expertise and legislative successes that overshadowed the goal of political education of the public at large. The structure that developed in the departments and committees of the National League tended to build up special interests and specialists in subject matter. But there was a sense that another facet of League purpose—development of the well rounded, effective individual—suffered by comparison.

Issues League President Maud Wood Park called the first League program adopted in 1920 a kettle of eels. And no wonder! It contained some 69 items grouped in broad subject areas: child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public

health and morals, and independent citizenship for married women!

The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.

The League also set up classes to train volunteer teachers for citizenship schools. And the League organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated "Know Your Town" surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns activities. In 1928 the League sponsored "Meet the Candidates," the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum. Voters service efforts remain a hallmark of the League's services to the electorate today and laid the foundation for the efforts that make up the League's education program—from candidate debates and candidate questionnaires produced by Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded.

• • •

Conclusion While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today—The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.

"Over the years, the League has also been a training ground for women who want to serve in public office. In fact, the League's ability to prepare women for public life may be its finest legacy to the nation."

(Nancy Neuman, President, LWVUS, 1986-90)

There is probably no other national volunteer organization in America that inspires such a great degree of commitment from its members. As a direct result of that commitment, the League of Women Voters has evolved from what it was in 1920, a mighty political experiment designed to help 20 million enfranchised women carry out their new responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

www.lwvor.org/documents/LWVThroughtheDecades_April2007.pdf
Excerpted, with permission, from the League document, "The League of Women Voters Through the Decades."



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CORVALLIS

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- ___ \$55 individual membership
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- ___ Contribution*
- ___ I'm a new member. *Please call me.*
- ___ I'm renewing my membership.
I first joined the League in _____ (year).
- ___ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
Please call me.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages. The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV of Corvallis and mail to: LWV of Corvallis, Attn: Membership P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.



League Calendar

February 2010

- Tu 2** Board Meeting 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
- Mo 8** LWV Book Club 2:30 PM
- Tu 9** LWV 90th Birthday Party 6:15 PM
Film: *Iron Jawed Angels* 7-9 PM
- Su 14** LWVUS, State of Oregon birthday
- Sa 27** Legislative Town Hall 10 AM

March 2010

- Tu 2** Board Meeting 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
- Tu 9** General Meeting 7-9 PM
- Th 11** Sustainability Fair 5:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting 7 PM