



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

December 2010

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Jo Anne Trow, Doris Waring

Nominating Committee

The League of Women Voters

is a nonpartisan political organization that—

- * 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.



SOUP'S ON!

Annual Social & Program Planning

Delicious
Soups, Breads
& Desserts
provided by
your LWV
Corvallis Board

Tuesday, December 7, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall
2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis

Celebrate our past! Create the future!
We look forward to seeing YOU!

Bring your own
Bowl, Plate,
Cup, and
Utensils
for a waste-
free supper!

Get Ready! Read the program planning guides (pages 3-4), reflect on community issues that could benefit from our study or action, new studies or directions at state and local levels that might address them, and what practical considerations might be involved.

Thought Starters— Local Program *(add your own)*

Does Corvallis need more or fewer one-way streets? How can traffic flow be improved?
How can the Library operate to the greatest benefit of the community?
Is it time to address the question of TREES?

Thought Starters— State Program *(add your own)*

What changes should be made to the structure of Oregon's Executive branch?
Should the Superintendent of Public Instruction be appointed?
Do we need a Lieutenant Governor? How to finance Higher Education?

Introduce League – Bring a Friend!

Our Program Planning meeting and Soup Social is a great time to introduce a friend, neighbor, or family member to the League!

Good food and the interesting discussions of our 2011-12 State and Local League activities, goals and committees may even persuade them to become members—each membership makes the League's voice stronger!

– Janet Wolf-Eshe, Membership Chair



President's Corner — Annette Mills

Our League has been very active and highly visible this fall.

Thanks to the efforts of many LWVC members, we are making an impact in our small corner of the world. Following October's focus on Voters Service activities, we turned our attention in November to education and advocacy. Here's a snapshot of some of the highlights:

- **Water Resources** – Early in the month, our Water Resources Committee led an excellent public meeting that featured information from Part II of the LWVOR water study. The consensus meetings that followed provided an opportunity for members to participate in the unique League process that will result in a new state position on water quality and quantity. Special thanks to Corrine Gobeli, Liz Frenkel, and Peggy Lynch for so ably representing the Water Resources Committee at these November meetings, and to those League members who took time to participate.
- **Appeal of the Planning Commission Decision on Creekside Center** – Upon the recommendation of the League's Community Planning Committee, the LWVC Board voted to appeal a decision by the Corvallis Planning Commission regarding a proposed development at 53rd and Philomath known as the Creekside Center. In testimony delivered on behalf of the League on November 1, I cited two elements of the plan (a multi-modal path through a wetland and two above-ground stormwater detention facilities) that League believes should be eliminated since they are in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and other city plans. City Council ruled 4 to 2 in favor of the Planning Commission's decision at their November 15th meeting. At the time of this writing, we are seriously considering appealing this decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Liz Frenkel has worked exceptionally hard on this very detailed and complex issue and deserves our deep gratitude.
- **Support of a Code Change *re* Agricultural Sales** – Making use of our new Local Food position, the LWVC Board voted to support an amendment to the city's Land Use Code that will allow the sale of agricultural products in specific non-agricultural zones. Our testimony urged City Council to approve Option 2, which requires that the products for sale must be grown at least in part by the operator of the facility. In this case, Council agreed with us by a vote of 8 to 1.

December is program planning month, and I hope you all have Tuesday, December 7th marked on your calendar. That's the date of our annual "soup social" and program planning event – a great time to visit with old and new friends, to enjoy true comfort food, and to share in the challenge of determining our future direction. I'll see you there!



The League Housing committee is hard at work!

Our top priority is investigating the opportunity to change the Linn Benton Housing authority's policy with regard to "project based" Section 8 housing vouchers. We will be talking to present and former housing authority board about the pros and cons of this policy change.

We also plan to testify at the state level about the state's ten-year plan to address homelessness, and at the local level about the allocation of emergency housing funds. There will be a local meeting on January 13, so we need to get ready to testify then.

We will also be working with the Willamette Neighborhood Housing services to urge them to reserve some units for homeless persons. In addition we want to gather some information about access to dental care for homeless adults.

So... we have plenty on our plate. It is all interesting and lots of fun! Stay tuned for results. *Contact chair, Barbara Ross, 541-752-3605, if you want to join in..*

LWV of Corvallis

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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, story ideas, comments, or submissions 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.

Prepare for Program Planning

League Program is the League's "reason for being," the basis for both education and action. It consists of governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. The process starts with *selection and adoption*, continues with *study and discussion*, and culminates in *action and change*.

You can help create a lively, stimulating meeting!

Come to the December 7th program planning meeting prepared to offer your ideas. Be creative, dream about studies or educational/advocacy projects that will make a difference in the community, make League a more vital organization, and engage your heart and mind.

1. Review League positions (online or in your *Handbook*). These positions, covering many areas, are used for action at the state and local level. They were reached after careful study and discussion, and are the framework against which we measure all actions taken in the League's name.

2. Think about our community, the "burning" issues and questions, the needs of citizens, and gaps in service.

3. Consider what might be desirable in addressing the gaps or issues.

- What issues are most critical to our community?
- What issues will stir the imagination of our members?
- What would give League greater visibility and credibility?
- What studies or projects would help the League link with diverse individuals and organizations?

4. Consider what is feasible, given League resources and expertise.

- How could LWV help achieve appropriate public policy or action on these issues?
- What League positions currently exist?
- Is the issue timely?
- Who in League will chair the study committee?
- Who in League will join the committee?
- Could League form partnerships with other public or non-profit/private organizations?

5. How are voters service and citizen education integrated into the program?

League of Women Voters of Oregon Current Positions

For details of these positions go to the state League website: www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions.htm.

Governance. Citizen Participation and Access; Constitutional Provisions; Economic Development Revenue Bonds; Election Laws; Emergency Board; Fiscal Policy; Initiative and Referendum; Oregon Election Methods; Oregon State Courts; Redistricting

Natural Resources. Air Quality; Coastal Management (and Offshore); Energy: Conservation; Nuclear Energy; Land Use; Parks; Seismic Risks; Water: Policy and Planning; Water Quality, and Water Resources of the Columbia River and the Columbia River Task Force

Social Policy. Adult Corrections; Child Care; Children at Risk; Education: Public Postsecondary Education; Farmworker Issues; Health Policy: Adult Mental Health in Oregon, Mental Health Services for Children and Youth, Physical Health Care; Homeless Youth in Oregon; Housing; Juvenile Justice; Women's Issues

Legislative Process Workshop

January 13, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Oregon State Capitol, Salem

Sponsored by LWV of Oregon & AAUW
Register by January 7



- What is Oregon's legislative process?
- What will our first official "annual session" be like?
- How will the historic 30/30 tie in the House affect the process?
- What does the new leadership look like?
- How can League members have an impact on budgetary decisions?
- Hear from elected officials and action leaders to learn about these important issues!

Watch for more details and registration forms, available soon in LWVOR's Voter and at www.lwvor.org.

Your Grapefruit *and/or* Orange Order is on its way...



Current Positions – LWV of Corvallis

League of Women Voters positions on issues of concern are reached after careful study and discussion. They are the framework against which members measure all actions taken in the name of LWV at all levels.

Community Planning. Support of effectively implemented comprehensive citizen-based land use planning that maintains and enhances community livability and protects resource lands. Support for adequate and safe transportation alternatives, preservation of open space, and urbanization policies which foster healthy and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop and play.

Corrections. Support the provision of adequate corrections, with emphasis on appropriate alternatives and diversionary services facilities for adults and juveniles and assistance to their families.

At Risk Youth. Support for adequately funded programs for children from early childhood to emancipation who have problems that contribute to their leaving school early.

Health Services in Benton County. Support for public health services including the County Health Department and dissemination of health information including information on family planning and recognition of drug abuse as a health problem. Support government programs that protect the health and welfare of the elderly.

Know Your Schools. Support rules and procedures for citizen participation in all Corvallis School District board and committee meetings. Support a policy for handling letters concerning teachers.

Financing the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

Support adequate and stable funding that provides free access to quality library services for all Benton County residents.

Benton County Charter. Support inclusion in the Charter, provisions that make the Board of Commissioners responsible for policy and communications and give an appointed County Manager specified administrative duties. Support for an appointed Assessor and a Sheriff that is a nonpartisan office. Support for required public hearings by the Charter Review Committee.

Child Care in Benton County. Support for enforced standards for childcare facilities, government programs to train providers, referral services, and low-income subsidies. Promote the consideration of childcare issues by employers.

Primary Prevention of Violence in Linn and Benton Counties. Support for comprehensive and integrated violence prevention and intervention programs that involve all sectors of the community.

Housing. Promote partnerships between public and private entities to establish low income housing units, and year-round homeless shelters.

Local Food. Access to safe, local, nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food. Encourage preservation of space for food production, local agricultural businesses, sustainable farm practices. Education for all ages in food production, preparation and preservation and in food choices for health. Collaboration and coordination of local food groups to support local food policies.



Community Planning Update: Creekside Development Plan Approved

On November 15, the Corvallis City Council upheld the Planning Commission's decision to give the go ahead for building the Creekside Neighborhood Shopping Center on the northwest corner of 53rd Street and Philomath Boulevard. In spite of the League's objections, well-articulated in testimony two weeks earlier, only two Councilors voted "no" to development in the highly protected proximate wetland located on the site.

Making the case for League at the hearing on November 1st, President Mills summarized our 16-page appeal with professionalism. Her presentation was accompanied by a

PowerPoint production, with maps and photos showing the floodplain area to be lost with development.

In the next month, the League will have to decide whether or not to appeal this decision to the State's Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Going to LUBA is a time-consuming and costly undertaking, as we will need professional legal help in making our case.

All League members are welcome to be involved in the discussion. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Koenitzer (541-754-0656), Liz Frenkel (541-754-6790), or Shelly Murphy (shellym@peak.org).



The Water Committee Thanks You!

Thanks to all the League members who attended the water resources presentation and the consensus meetings. Water quality and quantity are complex issues, and we appreciate your thoughtful questions, comments and discussion. Thanks, too, to Ruth Gallagher and Patty and

Tom McClintock for hosting the consensus meetings.

The local committee is reviewing your comments to the sometimes highly technical consensus questions. Once reviewed, they will be sent to the board for review and approval and then to the state League for incorporation into an updated position.

– Corrine Gobeli, Chair



League Book Club – Monday, December 13, 2:30 PM

La's Orchestra Saves the World, by Alexander McCall Smith

In December we'll be discussing a "gentle, old-fashioned" book, set in rural, wartime England. Alexander McCall Smith wrote *La's Orchestra Saves the World* to honor both the ordinary people who struggled during the war and the Polish servicemen, who were, in his words, "betrayed" and their contributions to victory ignored.

Join us at New Morning Bakery at 2:30 PM Monday, December 13. Please call or email Corrine Gobeli to let her know if you will be attending.

Upcoming Books

- January 10** *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett
February 14 *And The Pursuit of Happiness*, Maira Kalman
March 14 *Every Man Dies Alone*, Hans Fallada
April 11 *Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English*, Natasha Solomons
May 9 *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul*, Tony Hendra
June 13 Meeting to select books for 2011-2012



Local Food Committee in Action

Meeting November 9, League's **Local Food Committee** reviewed a proposed amendment to the

Corvallis Land Development Code that would allow sales of agricultural products in some nonagricultural zones. Testimony in favor of this amendment was prepared and then presented by LWVC President Annette Mills at a City Council public hearing on November 15, using our local food position supporting improved access to local food.

Committee members are involved in local food in many ways: **Marilyn Koenitzer** is our land use expert. New

committee member **Patty McClintock** is active in social action programs at the United Methodist Church (Patty and her husband Tom worked with Stone Soup for years).

Annette Mills is one of the leaders of the Sustainability Coalition which has a Food Action Team. **Karen Nibler** works with Stone Soup. **Mary Anne Nusrala** participates in food action through Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and St. Mary's Catholic Church and attends Ten Rivers Food Web meetings.

Potential committee members are invited to email Karen at niblerk@comcast.net for more information.

Get Involved in State League!

Would you like to:

- Meet additional like-minded League members?
- Meet and work with state policy makers?
- Participate in engrossing conversations?
- Promote better citizen involvement?
- Enhance Oregon's democracy?
- Learn more about Oregon's governmental policies?
- Improve state laws and policies?
- Protect Oregonians' rights?
- Inform Oregonians about state issues that affect them?
- Make the League of Women Voters more effective?
- Learn how the LWV gets its job done?

If you answer "Yes!" to some or all of these questions, then you might enjoy working with the League of Women Voters of Oregon! To help with League work at the state level, please consider a one or two-year position on the board or on a statewide committee of the LWVOR, starting in June 2011 (or even now).

Specifically, we need women and men to help with Membership, Voter Service, Action, Outreach, Technology, Development, Studies, and the Nominating Committee.

In May 2011 at the LWVOR Convention in Salem, League members will elect a *President*, a *First Vice-President*, a *Secretary*, at least *three directors* (one of whom will be Education Fund Chair), and a *Nominating Committee* for the 2011-13 term. Over the next few months, we will write and call local League Presidents, asking for recommendations.

Serving on a state committee or the LWVOR Board is a great opportunity to learn more about how democracy works in Oregon, to make democracy work better in our state, and to make the League work better at all levels.

Please tell your local president that you would like to be considered for the state board or a state committee, or email a member of the LWVOR Nominating Committee. Thank you!

LWVOR Nominating Committee: Margaret Noel, Chair, mrgtnoel@comcast.net; Pamela Ashland, misschattr@verizon.net; Judith Benjamin, jeg@mind.net; Janet Calvert, jankcalvert@comcast.net; Jane Giegler, jg@efficientfrontier.com; Rose Lewis, lewisr@xpressdata.net.



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Join the League

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$55 individual membership _____ \$82.50 household

_____ \$27.50 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

Active _____ Inactive Member / Supporter _____

I first joined the League in _____ (year) _____ (place).

What special skills/talents/interests would you like to share with the League? _____

LWV's membership year begins in October.

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

December

Grapefruit Delivery

Tue 7 Potluck & Membership Meeting

Mon 13 League Book Club, 2:30 PM

Fri 10 Board Meeting, 10 AM

January

Mon 10 League Book Club, 2:30 PM

Opening day, Oregon Legislature

Tue 11 *General Meeting* "How to Pay for What Citizens Want," 7 PM

Thu 13 First call to LWVOR Convention
Legislative Process Workshop, Salem

Fri 14 Board Meeting, 10 AM