



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

Summer 2011

Board of Directors 2011-2012

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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.



LWVOR President *Marge Easley* presents to *Annette Mills* Corvallis LWV's Award for Outstanding Community Activism "for exceptional advocacy and educational efforts to benefit the Corvallis community."



Karen Nibler, Paula Krane, and Peggy Lynch, Corvallis Leaguers and State Action Committee members, at the State League convention.

LWVOR Convention Report

Seven Corvallis League members attended the May 13-15 State League Convention at Keizer: Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, Kate Mathews, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, Karen Nibler, and Janet Wolf-Eshe. Joining with League members from all over Oregon, we adopted a budget, elected officers for the coming biennium, and learned what our fellow Leaguers have been doing in their communities during the past year. Some special highlights of the weekend follow.

Award – LWVOR President Marge Easley presented two special awards; one, the "Outstanding Community Activism Award," went to the Corvallis League!

"Children at Risk" to be Updated – While no new studies were proposed, Karen Nibler advocated for an update of the state League's 1995 position. Since that time there have been additional issues of concern that are not addressed by our position. An update will provide us with an opportunity to craft a broader position that covers additional topics related to children at risk and to expand our understanding of the issues. After much discussion, convention delegates

agreed that an update of this position should be pursued.

"Silver and Gold" Workshop – Members of the LWVOR board put together an outstanding workshop on building involvement in the League. The name of the workshop came from a song many of us had learned as youngsters: "Make new friends, but keep the old... One is silver and the other, gold!" During the workshop, we learned some key tools to use to retain current members and attract new members, then broke into small groups for sharing and planning. Our "take home" assignment was to incorporate the following components into planning for the next League year:

- Plan a "fun" event and incorporate "fun" into two other events.
- Build social time for networking into at least two events.
- Partner on at least one event.
- Use at least three different times and/or locations.

During the LWVOR planning retreat July 6 we completed our assignment. Stay tuned for a great League year!

– Annette Mills, *Corvallis League delegate*



President's Corner – Kate Mathews

Greetings from your new president!

At our May 25 Annual Meeting we elected a new board of directors. You will notice that Annette and I have changed places—she is now our 1st Vice President. We owe a very BIG thank you to her for her three years as our president.

I also welcome our new board members: Lois Marie Zaerr, Secretary; Ann Brodie, Voter Service chair; and Beth Thoennes, continuing as bulletin co-editor.

The Annual Meeting dinner was ably planned by Louise Marquering and catered by Valley Catering, with desserts provided by League members.

Following our business meeting Rebecca Landis talked on “Food, Farmers and Our Future.” Rebecca is market director of the Corvallis-Albany Farmers’ Markets and president of the Oregon Farmers’ Markets Association. This talk helped us relate our League’s Local Food policy to local food production.

The summer board retreat was on July 6. We began planning a year of interesting presentations on subjects ranging from Education to Public Health to the Economy and more. Stay tuned for a fun and informative year!

Two studies this year will culminate in consensus. The first is a national League study: *The Role of the Federal Government in Education*, with consensus in November. To get you started one short study from LWVUS, “Common Core Standards” is inserted in this bulletin. The second consensus item is state League’s Coastal Management study. Also coming this year is a national League study on privatization.

2012 is a yearlong celebration of 100 years of women’s suffrage in Oregon. Look for announcements of upcoming activities.

I hope you are all enjoying your summer!



Board members at Annual Meeting, L-R: Kathy Merriam, Lois Zaerr, Sara Ingle, Kathy Conner, Beth Thoennes, Kate Mathews, Annette Mills Board members not shown: Ann Brodie, Paula Krane, Shelly Murphy, Nancy Schary, Janet Wolf-Eshe

Get League News by Email

The League maintains a List Serve for meeting announcements and action alerts.

If you are not receiving this information by email but wish to receive it, please send your email address to: cranep@peak.org

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

If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering or Beth Thoennes. We welcome your input.

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

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



League's Dental Health Project

The Corvallis LWV Dental Health Committee is part of the larger Benton County Oral Health Coalition. The Coalition is studying

how best to approach providing sustainable dental care for very low income and homeless adults. Toward that end LWV donated \$2500 to pay an OSU public health student intern to work on a county-wide needs assessment over the summer; Jill Hill was hired.

She has created a client questionnaire that is available in various strategic places throughout the county, including Vina Moses, the homeless drop-in center, Grace Center, Community Outreach, the Acorn Center and the Benton County Health Department.

This needs assessment information will be used in the planning process to determine a direction and then to apply for grants. Jill is also conducting one-on-one interviews with current and potential service providers.

– Dagmar Johnson, *Dental Health Committee*

Community Planning Update: Creekside Appeal Successful



Our League's appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) was successful. LUBA's opinion was final on June 28.

We won a remand on four points in our case; and we lost on four other points. (In this case, *remand* means the city has to further justify its rationale for its decision within the framework of the testimony and city code and policies already cited.)

Our win was substantial in that the parts of our case the court agreed with involve the determination of the base allowable developable area in the significant natural feature (the wetland, riparian area of Dunawi Creek). As an example, the court found inadequate justification for the city's doubling of the base developable area from 90,968 to 180,728 square feet.

What happens next? League and the developer (Bret Fox LLC) of the proposed Walgreens site on the northwest corner of 53rd St. and Philomath Blvd. can appeal this decision to the Court of Appeals by July 19, 2011.

If no appeal is made, upon a request for action by the developer, the city must satisfy the points made by the Court. The League will be following closely the process and language by which the City responds to LUBA's points. Those changes in findings are appealable again to LUBA.

This case has always been about protecting significant waterways and wetlands and assuring that the city follows its codes and policies to protect natural areas.

Thank you to all who supported the appeal, both monetarily and verbally.

– Marilyn Koenitzer, *Community Planning*



WELCOME!

New and Returning Members – Joan Canan, Ed Epley, Victoria Martinez, Bibi Momsen, and Lon Otterby

We look forward to working with each of you on issues important to our local area, our state, and our nation. You strengthen the voice of the League of Women Voters as it addresses those issues. — Janet Wolf-Eshe, *Membership*



**League of Women Voters
of Corvallis**
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Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

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_____ \$55 individual membership _____ \$82.50 household

_____ \$27.50 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

Active Member _____ **Inactive Member/Supporter** _____

What special skills/talents/interests can you 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, but contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.



In League

August

Wed 17 Board Meeting 10 AM

September

Wed 7 Board Meeting 10 AM

Tue 20 Kick-off meeting, Library 7 PM

Sat-Sun 24-25 Fall Festival – Voter Registration table