



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

December 2012

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## Consensus Discussion – League of Women Voters of Oregon’s Study Coastal and Nearshore Oregon: Using and Protecting Our Natural Resources

Marine Reserves – Ocean Energy – Estuaries  
The Coastal Management Zone – Mining and Dredging

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

645 NW Monroe Avenue

**Consensus Questions**, with your November bulletin, may also be found on our website: [www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us).

**The study is available online at:** [voteoregon.org/lwvimages/coastal-study.html](http://voteoregon.org/lwvimages/coastal-study.html)

**Executive summary** (shorter) at: [voteoregon.org/lwvimages/CoastalExecSummary1.pdf](http://voteoregon.org/lwvimages/CoastalExecSummary1.pdf)

*Consensus:* To achieve its mission, the LWV researches and studies issues and discusses findings to reach consensus in an open, constructive, and stimulating setting. It takes action for or against issues which the membership has studied and reached consensus. The League lobbies and testifies on current issues and promotes active and informed participation.

We hope to see you at this meeting to add your voice to our decision-making process.

*Sponsored by LWV of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library*

*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.



## President's Corner – Kate Mathews

**Looking back on the Election.** We presented three Voter Service forums for the public, presented ballot measures several times, and registered voters at the Fall Festival and the high schools. With the election behind us we can concentrate now on other activities. But I cannot help but wonder why more states have not moved to Vote by Mail. I believe it eliminates so many problems and has proven to have no more fraud than polling places or early voting. But I am preaching to the choir!

**We had a wonderful November program** on the Oregon coast, presented by Dr. Mark Hixon. If you missed it you missed one of the highlights of the year. His fascinating talk gave us good background information for our consensus meeting on coastal issues. Everyone should have received a copy of the study, “Coastal and Nearshore Oregon,” in late September; and the consensus questions were in the November bulletin. I hope you are reading the materials and will participate on **December 5.** (Please note that the date has been changed from December 4.) Participating in consensus is an important part of the League of Women Voters and, like voting in elections, you should not leave decision-making to others.

**I also hope that you ordered your fruit!** While it is too late to put in an order now we have ordered a good bit extra in anticipation of those who forgot. So it won't be too late to purchase fruit for yourself or to donate to a non-profit agency, like Community Outreach. To do that, call Louise Marquering, 541-753-0012.

As you are no doubt aware, our fruit sale provides the funds to run our local program and put out the bulletin. As is true with many national organizations today the dues we collect only cover our national and state League per member payments. If you wonder why we can't just have a local organization, it's because most of what the League does has wider implications, and a national and state organization carries more weight.

**You will note that we have changed our program planning meeting** from December to January. Thus, over the holidays I hope you will be thinking about areas we possibly should be studying, updating, or concentrating on in the next year or two. We will have our usual delicious soup supper provided by the Board.



### November 7 Board Meeting Notes

The Board discussed League meetings being on YouTube—someone has filmed parts of our public meetings and posted them online. Should permission be required? Should we have a statement that there be no film or pictures at our meetings? The state League is looking into this situation.

**2013 meetings:** January - *Program Planning*; February - *Community Planning*; March - *Education*; April - *Climate Change*; and May - *Annual Meeting*.

Our next Board meeting is December 5. Board meetings are open to all members—call me for the locations.

– Kate Mathews, President

## LWV of Corvallis

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## LWV of Oregon

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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.



## Local Food Committee Testifies to Planning Commission and Council

**In 2010 the League of Women Voters of Corvallis adopted a position on Local Food.** This position supports access to local

food and encourages local laws and land use plans that include space for food production. It encourages local businesses in food production, distribution, and processing that is sustainable and supports a viable food system.

**One of the City Council's goals** for the 2011-12 biennium has been "to strengthen access to and availability of locally produced food and community gardens." In pursuit of this goal, the City's Planning Division staff, in cooperation with Benton County Health Department staff, first identified barriers to access and availability of local food and then proposed a set of changes to the Land Development Code (LDC).

These changes relate to gardens, market gardens, and community gardens; aquaculture; horticulture; and tree,

row and field crops. With the approval of the Corvallis LWV board, our Local Food Committee set out to review these proposed changes to the Local Food provisions of the LDC.

**On September 19, the League testified** before the Planning Commission and offered recommendations on a number of items, three of which were forwarded to Council as part of that Commission's recommendations.

**On November 5, the League addressed City Council** to applaud the inclusion of local food as one of their four goals, to commend the Planning staff on their work, and to reiterate some of our recommendations. Following testimony by Local Food Committee chair Annette Mills, Councilor Richard Hervey thanked the League for our substantial contribution to the process.

As this bulletin goes to press, the City Council is scheduled to make a decision on proposed text amendments to the LDC on November 19 or December 3. — *Annette Mills*



## Community Planning Update

### Should Corvallis establish a Special District for Parks and Recreation Services?

Based on the Corvallis City Council goal for 2011-2012 to "Create a financially sustainable City budget," a Feasibility Study for the Establishment of Park and Recreation District was funded by the City of Corvallis.

**A Park and Recreation District (PRD) is classified** as a Special District defined by State statute. It is considered to be a "local government" and a separate legal entity with a separately elected governing body. This means that a PRD could operate all of the current Parks and Recreation Department services and levy its own taxes to provide those services. Thus, taxes currently levied by the City of Corvallis for parks and recreation could be available to fund other city services.

**The boundary of a PRD may be larger** than the City of Corvallis and all of the residents within that boundary would pay to support its services through property taxes. There are over 60 park and recreation districts in Oregon in areas such as Bend, Redmond, Springfield and Tualatin Hills.

The Feasibility Study was released in August 2012 and presented to the Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation

Board (PNARB). The Board made a recommendation to the City Council that they move ahead with the next steps to establish an appropriate boundary and determine the costs and benefits, along with a citizen survey to determine public opinion on the issue.

**There are many questions to be answered** before any plan for a district is placed before the voters. The City Council—on a close vote (5-4)—directed the Parks and Recreation staff to continue to pursue the potential establishment of a PRD with the recommended boundary to be the same as that of the Corvallis School District. The critical information to be determined is the cost/benefit analysis and the impacts on taxpayers.

This proposal is under serious consideration by the City Council but ultimately it will be up to the voters to decide if they want to establish a PRD. The report back to Council on this issue will be in the next couple of months. Stay tuned. — *Betty Griffiths, LWV of Corvallis Community Planning Committee Member and Chair of the City's Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board*



## The Coastal Study: A Good Read!

In 24 years as a League member, I have read many League studies and have been impressed with the consistently high quality of these documents. LWVOR's recently released study on coastal and nearshore Oregon ranks at the top of my list. It took longer than expected for the committee to complete this study, but it was well worth the wait—and it is well worth your time to read it!

*Did you know . . .*

**In 2010, President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order, *Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes***, establishing a national policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.”

**Oregon has an Ocean Policy Advisory Council** that includes governor-appointed members from ocean users and local governments, and non-voting members from seven state agencies and Oregon Sea Grant (OSU's coastal extension program administered through NOAA).

**Oregon is one of just three states** (Rhode Island and Massachusetts are the other two) that have special mapping

tools to provide information about fishing grounds, the ocean floor, coastal and marine animals, recreational uses, and more. The work of these three states influenced the direction of President Obama's National Ocean Plan.

**Coastal wetlands moderate the damage** caused by storms and tsunamis.

**Oregon has 22 major estuaries** that have been severely impacted by human activity.

**During the summer, “dead zones” occur** off the coast of Oregon, affecting the health of marine life and having a significant economic impact on fisheries

**Oregon's coastal area is continually under attack** from the forces of nature, such as ocean tides, rising sea level, storms, increases in air temperatures, changing pH of waters, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

**Oregon's coastal communities have a higher retirement population** than the rest of Oregon and the nation.

*These are just a few of the many fascinating facts* that I have learned from reading this excellent study.

Whether you own property on the coast, love to eat local seafood, or enjoy the natural beauty and richness of Oregon's coastline, I encourage you to read “Coastal and Nearshore Oregon: Using and Protecting Our Natural Resources”.

*NOTE:* The study is best read in “bites” since it is so full of valuable information. I read it in three sittings and found this was a good way to absorb the information. Reading it in sections also makes it easier to fit into your schedule.

– *Annette Mills, Vice President, LWV of Corvallis*



## Education Committee Gathering Early Childhood Information

**Taking its lead from the LWV of Oregon's Children At Risk study**, the

Education committee has been busy organizing and implementing a survey of local organizations that offer services to children ages 0-6. Our focus has been to understand what is available for young children that would lead to their academic “readiness.” Academic “readiness” is determined by many factors, including health, social welfare, socio-economic status, and education.

While state government pursues a course to centralize services for children (with the purpose of eliminating redundancies), we are assembling a directory of comprehensive services. The outcome for this important work is yet to be determined.

Early in this committee's formation, the state League decided to table the Children At Risk study this year. Committee members Eleen Bauman, Susan Fairchild, Jean Marvell, Bibi Momsen, Deborah Morera, Karen Nibler, Mary Piehl-Daly, and Nancy Schary felt that gathering information in anticipation of statewide change would be beneficial for the state League.

The committee met in mid-August to introduce us to each other and brainstorm organizations that we would interview. By our third meeting in November, our organizational interviews were completed and we began the process of finding patterns in service offerings. We will provide an informational meeting to League in March.

– *Victoria Martinez, Education Committee Chair*



**Coming Soon!** January 8, 2013, 6-9 PM

### State & Local League Program Planning + Soup & Sociability

What study and action would you like to see in League do? We'll start the ball rolling on programs for the LWV of Corvallis 2013-2014 and the LWV of Oregon 2013-2015. More details will be coming in the January bulletin.



**Thanks to all who renewed their membership.** If you have not sent your membership renewal yet, we look forward to receiving it soon.

The League is an important tool to know and understand local, state, national and worldwide issues.

Local League membership includes membership in the state and national Leagues with information and involvement in their programs. Be a part of this dynamic group of citizens!



# WELCOME!

New Members—

May Dasch and Marge Stevens

We look forward to working with you in League!



## Local Food Committee Hosted Second Annual Taste of Corvallis

The October 24<sup>th</sup> program, in conjunction with national Food Day, was designed to educate attendees, motivate everyone to action, and celebrate initiatives in the Corvallis area to help develop a healthy, secure, and sustainable food system.

**Speakers included** Jen Brown of the Edible Corvallis Initiative (ECI), Cindee Lolik of First Alternative Co-op, and Rebecka Weinstein of Ten Rivers Food Web. These organizations have been instrumental in efforts to address all three aspects of a sustainable food system: social, economic, and environmental. They shared an impressive list of accomplishments, including these:

- ECI grows 7,000-8,000 pounds of fresh produce each year at SAGE Garden. It is all donated to families in need, who also receive education about healthful food choices.
- First Alternative Co-op offers hundreds of locally-grown, locally-produced items. One of its primary objectives is to keep money and jobs in our community.

- Several years ago, Ten Rivers Food Web initiated the Bean and Grain Project, supporting grass seed farmers in converting their land to bean and grain production.

**Brief films interspersed with presentations** focused on:

- the edible schoolyard,
- a vision for a sustainable food future, and
- what individuals can do to help create that future.

**After the program, participants sampled** a variety of foods from local food producers and supporters, including Kings Valley Gardens, La Mancha Orchard, Nuts Around the World, Greenwillow Grains, the Edible Corvallis Initiative, First Alternative Co-op, and the Food Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.

Members of the League's Local Food Committee worked hard and had a lot of fun bringing the event together. Special thanks to: Camille Freitag, Anne Harding, Kate Mathews, Leslie Melnyk, Mary Anne Nusrala, and Bob Scott for their contributions to this successful effort!

— Annette Mills, Chair, Local Food Committee

**Your Fruit Order is on its way...**



**Look for it in early December**

If you can help unload or deliver fruit please email Louise Marquering at LWVCLouise@aol.com or call her at 541-753-0012. Thanks to all who've already indicated they'll help deliver. We'll call delivery volunteers when the

fruit arrives. Volunteers then will call purchasers on their list to schedule fruit delivery time.

*Note:* Extra boxes were ordered, so if you didn't get a chance to order fruit you may still be able to get some.



## LWVOR Statement of Principles on Health Care

*From LWVUS Health Care Position*

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has worked hard to ensure access to affordable, quality health care for all residents and to ensure

the protection of patients' rights. We favor a system that meets the following criteria:

- **Provides access to a basic level** of quality care for every U.S. resident (universal coverage);
- **Includes coverage** for the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care (including treatment for drug and alcohol addiction and developmental disabilities);
- **Contains effective cost-control** strategies;
- **Is financed through general taxes** in place of individual insurance premiums (national health insurance plan);
- **Permits consumers to purchase** services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level; and
- **Ensures that services are equitably** distributed.

**The League recognizes that the equitable allocation** of resources may become problematic. The League recommends strategies such as allocating medical

resources to underserved areas, training health care professionals in needed fields of care, standardizing basic levels of service, using community rating instead of experience rating and establishing insurance pools for businesses and organizations.

**The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services** should not be a consideration in the allocation of medical services.

In the event it becomes impossible to provide full services for all patients, the limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together:

- The urgency of the medical condition,
- The life expectancy of the patient,
- The expected outcome of the treatment,
- The cost of the procedure,
- The duration of care,
- The quality of life of the patient after treatment, and
- The wishes of the patient and family.

The League believes that in order to accomplish appropriate reform and implement a comprehensive health care system, the process must assure opportunities for citizen participation, and be open, accountable, representative and responsive at every level.



## More Power Than We Knew, 2011 Edition of LWV History in Oregon

An updated edition of LWVOR history from 1920 to the present is now available. Marge Easley, Jane Gigler, Kris Hudson and Libby Medley produced this new edition, which contains and updates the 1995 "More Power than We Knew," by Mary Alice Moore and Donald E. Moore. The books are on sale at the state League office for \$12 or mailed to you for \$16.

*Note:* The League of Women Voters of Corvallis has donated a copy to the Corvallis Public Library.



## Thrift Shop Consignments Benefit League

Are you wondering what to do with all that clothing and other items you no longer use? Why not consign them for sale at the OSU Thrift Shop?

The League gets 75% of the asking price and the other 25% goes to grants and scholarships in our community. Kate

Mathews who works there and can consign items under the League's consignment number. Call her at 541-754-1172 to make arrangements.

The Thrift Shop accepts clean, seasonal functioning items. Check at their website to see what they can't take: [oregonstate.edu/groups/osufolk/tsnotake.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/groups/osufolk/tsnotake.htm).

# Legislative Process Day



**Thursday, January 17, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Hearing Room 50  
Sponsored by: LWV of Oregon, • AAUW of Oregon, • Oregon Commission for Women, • Oregon NOW

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum
- House Speaker Tina Kotek (*invited*)
- Oregon's legislative process
- Hearings (*if available*)
- Preview of issues in the 2013 legislative session
- How to have an impact

## Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form by Friday, **January 11, 2013**

**Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization affiliation (if member of sponsoring org): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop with lunch:**  \$21.00 member of sponsoring organization  \$26.00 guest

**Workshop only:**  \$12.00 member  \$17.00 guest

### Parking Pass:

Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for **\$8.50** (\$8.00 for pass, plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee. I have included my mailing address.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **January 11, 2013**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org).



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us  
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**December 5 – Consensus!**  
***Coastal and Nearshore Oregon***



## LWV Calendar

December 2012

*Fruit Delivery* – first week of December

- Wed 5** Board Meeting, 10- NOON  
Coastal Study Consensus, 7-9 PM
- Sat 15** Bill of Rights Day

## January 2013

- Wed 2** Board Meeting, 10- NOON
- Tue 8** Soup Potluck – State & Local  
LWV Program Planning
- Mon 14** Legislature convenes
- Thu 17** LWVOR Legislative Process Day

## Join the League!

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** *City, Zip+4 digits* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$60 individual membership    \_\_\_\_ \$90 household

\_\_\_\_ \$30 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.