



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

March 2013

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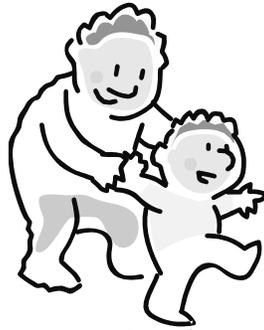
Kirk Bailey, Sara Ingle, Sue

Mariner, Annette Mills, Janet

Wolf-Eshe

Nominating Committee

LWV of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Present



Getting Off to a Good Start: Early Childhood Readiness

Tuesday, March 12, 7 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

“Devoting resources to early learning programs is the most cost-effective and high-yield investment we can make as a state . . . Children who arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed are more likely to read at grade level in third grade, graduate high school on time, and move on successfully in life.” *Gov. John Kitzhaber*

The evening’s panel discussion focuses on programs for children ages 0-6 and Oregon’s Early Learning Council goals.

Members of the panel are:

Cindy Bond, Manager of the Relief Nursery at Old Mill School, where Healthy Start also is housed

Debbie McPheeters, Linn Benton ESD Special Education/Early Intervention Specialist

Joanne Sorte, Director of the OSU Child Development Center and OSU Head Start campus lab

Roberta Weber, OSU Researcher in Human Development and Family Studies, Child Care Specialist, and a member of the Early Learning Council

Moderator: Karen Nibler

Following the panel presentations, questions from the audience are invited.

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.



Celebrate Sunshine Week, March 10-16
Open government is good government!

Tour the Benton County Courthouse – March 13, 4-5 PM.

See this historic building and meet some of our county employees. Meet at the 4th Street entrance by 4 PM. Jill Van Buren, retired Benton County Elections Supervisor, will lead the tour. With only 20 spots, sign up now! RSVP: annbrodie143@comcast.net, 541-757-1728 to reserve your place.



President's Corner – Kate Mathews

While talking to friends the other day we decided that January, February and March were so busy because it is dark and drizzly and we need something to do until we can garden or hike!

Our first Legislative Town Hall was well-attended with 50 people.

Many thanks go to Sara Gelser and Betsy Close for sharing their insights on how this Legislature might develop. We look forward to hearing more in Town Halls on the first Saturdays of each month through June. The forum on Accommodating Growth, Preserving Neighborhoods was also well-attended – 55 people – with lots of questions. I hope to see you at our March 12th meeting on Early Childhood, in connection with our Children at Risk study.

If you missed the Legislative Process Day, you still have the chance to register for Day at the Legislature in mid April, when you can visit our state government and talk to legislators. Have you signed up to receive the Legislative Report put out by the state Action Team? Go to www.lwvor.org and you can sign up to receive it. Another state League function to put on the calendar is the State Convention May 17 and 18.

I would like to thank Louise Marquering for setting up the interviews with our local legislators. Those who helped were Laura Lahm-Evenson, Laurie Mason, and Shelly Murphy. The state League prepares a list of questions to ask and the interviewers send back the responses to the interviews for the state to compile. A final thank you goes to Paula Krane for hosting a 93rd LWV birthday party on Feb 14th. It was a small but lively group, complete with birthday cake.



WELCOME!

New Members Claudia Keith & Marilyn Walker



February 6 Board Meeting Notes

Membership – We reported 141 members to the national LWV at the end of January. This is the basis of our Per Member Payment to the national League.

Program Planning – We approved the State Program information from January's membership meeting to send to LWVOR.

Sustainability Fair & Town Hall is March 14. The League will have a booth at the Fair. We will submit photos for the scrapbook.

Meetings – Our February, March, April and May meetings are planned. See the calendar on the back of the Bulletin.

Legislative Town Halls –55 attended the first one on February 2 with Rep. Sara

Gelser and Sen. Betsy Close. We decided that we should have question cards, as well as having oral questions. At the next meetings legislators will speak about their own bills. Should we also have themes such as PERS, Public Safety, Social Services, Water, Taxes? The next Town Hall is March 2. If you can contribute a few goodies let Doris Waring or Laura Lahm-Evenson know (so they do not get too much).

Community Planning Committee - Shelly Murphy reported that they have been busy. See her report on p.3.

The next board meeting is March 7, at 10 AM, at Kate Mathews' home.

LWV of Corvallis

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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.



Sara Gelser and Betsy Close at February 2 Town Hall

Legislature 2013 Town Hall Meetings

Saturdays – March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1 – 10 AM
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Attend and learn a lot! Legislators speak first about current legislation and their priorities. The meeting then is open to audience questions.

Legislative information is on League's web site – www.lwvor.org/current-issues-2/legislative-report/ and the Legislature's site – www.leg.state.or.us/.

All local legislators have been invited to participate in the Town Hall Meetings.



Community Planning Update Citizen Participation

The League says that citizen participation results in better government decisions. So, on a local level, the League's Community Planning Committee urges you to speak up.

We hope that all who attended the League's public forum "Accommodating Growth/Preserving Neighborhoods" are now better informed about what is happening in the neighborhoods around OSU and with the \$300,000 City/OSU Collaboration Project. Many thanks go to Marilyn Koenitzer and Betty Griffiths for inviting the panel of speakers. If you have questions or suggestions for any of the Collaboration Project Work Groups (Neighborhood Livability, Parking and Traffic, and Neighborhood Planning), all of their meetings are open to the public and public input is always welcome. The *Gazette Times'* local government reporter James Day has been doing a good job publicizing the times and places for these meetings. You can go to their website:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/collaboration/>.

Since citizen participation is most valuable early in the game when a proposal is starting through the process, this is a good time to register your opinion on the **Public Safety Tax** proposal. You can call or email your City Councilor – email addresses for councilors: (*note*: change the number to match your ward) ward3@council.corvallisoregon.gov, or Mayor Julie Manning at mayor@council.corvallisoregon.gov.

Information About the Public Safety Tax Proposal

At its February 4th meeting, the Corvallis City Council voted 5 to 2 to accept the Administrative Services Committee's recommendation to pursue further the

development of a Public Safety Tax to be collected from City residents via their City Services bill. *It is a tax, not a fee*, since it is not tied to services provided directly to the person who pays.

The Public Safety Tax is meant to fund the reopening of the Walnut Fire Station, add a Fire Department Training Lieutenant, a Fire Protection Officer, a School Resource Officer, and six Police Officers. The charge would be a flat rate per account except where there is a single meter for multi-family units. Work is continuing to determine how these would be billed. Using utility customer data collected by City staff, a charge of \$5.43 for each single family account would raise about a million dollars. It was recommended that this tax be implemented July 1, 2013.

In the past, when additional revenue was needed, City Councils have designed local option levies that can reduce the impact on low-income community members. The proposed Public Safety Tax does not take this impact into consideration, and can be increased if a need is seen. On the other hand, local option levies require a vote of the people and, by state law, must be renewed at least every five years.

The issue will be discussed at the Administrative Services Committee meeting on March 20 at 3:30 PM at the Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison. Check the *Gazette-Times* Calendar for dates and times of other public hearings on this issue. More information can be found at www.corvallisoregon.gov.

So, don't just gripe to your neighbors, let your Councilor know how you feel. Your opinion can make a difference.

– Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair

What a Swell Party It Was!

On Thursday, February 14 the Corvallis League celebrated League's 93rd birthday with a tea at Paula Krane's home. Paula and Kate Mathews served the LWV-colored cake to commemorate the birthday deliciously.

We shared photos and stories of early suffrage workers: first, Ernestine Rose (1810-1891), Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), and Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), then League's first presidents – Maud Wood Park (1871-1955), Belle Sherwin (1868-1955), Marguerite Wells (1872-1959), and Pattie Ruffner Jacobs. (Look them up on the Internet, or get the story book from Beth Thoennes.) What amazing women! We have cause to be grateful to them. *Paula Krane, Kate Mathews, Jan Ames*



Successful Legislative Process Day, January 17

Legislative Process Day was a huge success. Over a hundred people registered for the day. Speaker of the House Tina Kotek gave her vision of the current session. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum informed the audience about what her office would be working on during the legislative session. Jada Rupley of the new Early Learning Council gave us an overview



of its program, which aims to ensure that all children receive education and adequate health care.

Left: "Not Ready For Prime Time Players" Karen Nibler, Peggy Lynch, Paula Krane

Right: Annette Mills & Victoria Martinez



Once again, the Not Ready for Prime Time Players (many from the Corvallis League) presented an informative skit on testifying before a legislative committee on the National Popular Vote. The LWVOR Action Committee plans a Day at the Legislature for mid-April and will send us information soon. Keep it in mind!



LWV of Oregon – Raffle 2013

The raffle is back! And that's exciting! First of all, it's a fundraiser for local Leagues. Each ticket sold equaling the number of members on our League's roster on January 31 will give our League \$1 per ticket. All tickets sold *over* the number of members on that date will benefit our League \$2 per ticket sold.

This raffle is also very important to the LWVOR's treasury, as it helps defray council and convention costs, and will aid the state's advocacy efforts. Sales end in May.

Each "Tech Chic" prize is the best of its type. First and second prizes, iPad3 with Retina display (value \$729) and iPad Mini (value \$559), include WIFI and cellular capacity. Nook HD+ (value \$299), our third prize, received *Consumer Reports'* highest rating for e-readers of its type for speed in powering up and page turning.

Only 2000 tickets will be sold around the state. Tickets will be \$10 each. Sign up now and buy lots of tickets to support your state and local Leagues. **Please contact Kate Mathews**, kate.mathews@comcast.net, for a short-term job heading up ticket sales for our League.



CONNECT! at the Sustainability Fair & Town Hall Thursday, March 14

Sustainability Fair, 5-7 PM — Town Hall, 7-9 PM
CH2MHill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street, at OSU

The Fair and Town Hall encourage connections between people, the community, and our environment. They will be model sustainable events, featuring zero waste, low energy and water use, and local food. Attendees are encouraged to help out by using energy-efficient transportation to get to the event: walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus. See www.corvallis transit.com for bus routes.

The Sustainability Fair will include more than 50 hands-on exhibits, highlighting sustainability efforts of local businesses, organizations, and Sustainability Coalition action teams. A local high school string quartet will provide music. Refreshments feature food grown or produced in the Local 6 area – Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, and Polk counties.

The Town Hall Meeting, highly interactive, follows the fair in the Alumni Center ballroom. The keynote speaker is Rob Dietz, author of *Enough Is Enough: Building a Sustainability Economy in a World of Finite Resources*. The book has received much acclaim since its January release.

OSU Professor of Philosophy Kathleen Dean Moore says of *Enough Is Enough*, “This is the book we’ve all been waiting for as we watch the growth economy collide catastrophically with the constraints of a finite Earth. It’s a clear, informed, practical, honorable, and witty guide to where we are, where we need to go, and how to get there. If you are one of so many of us who are bewildered or despairing about the fate of the future, this is the book that will give you an energized sense of purpose and reason-based hope.”

Other great features of the Town Hall include:

- An on-screen “2012 Community Scrapbook” of photos from Coalition partners celebrating their sustainability efforts.
- A “speed dating” activity to introduce participants to actions in twelve areas: Community Inclusion, Economic Vitality, Education, Energy, Food, Health and Human Services, Housing, Land Use, Natural Areas, Transportation, Waste Prevention, and Water.

Both events are organized by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, a network of more than 250 partner organizations and hundreds of individual volunteers working together to create a sustainable community – environmentally, socially, and economically.

Primary sponsors are the First Alternative Co-op, the OSU Sustainability Office, and Samaritan Health Services. Additional financial support is provided by dozens of Coalition partner organizations, including the League of Women Voters, as well as by individual “Town Hall Heroes.”

This event is free, open to the public, and well-worth your time! All are welcome, but *space at the town hall meeting is limited*. Register at www.sustainablecorvallis.org **no later than March 11th**. For more information, call 541-230-1237.

The League needs a volunteer to staff its table at the Sustainability Fair from 5 to 7 PM. If you can do this, please email shellym@peak.org.



Climate change is accelerating, and we'll need to adapt . . .

Find out more – Tuesday, April 9, 7 PM, at Corvallis Public Library

“Living with Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest”

Presentation by Richard Waring, Professor Emeritus, OSU College of Forestry



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March 2, 10AM
Legislative Town Hall
Corvallis Public Library



League Calendar

March

Women's History Month

- Sat 2 Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library
- Wed 6 Board Meeting, 10AM
- Fri 8 International Women's Day
- Sun 10- Sat 16 Sunshine Week
- Tue 12 General Meeting: *Children At Risk*, Library, 7PM
- Wed 13 Sunshine Week Courthouse Tour, 4 PM
- Thu 14 Sustainability Fair; Town Hall, 5-9PM

April

- Wed 3 Board Meeting, 10AM
- Sat 6 Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library
- Tue 9 Gen. Mtg. *Climate Change*, Library, 7PM
- Wed 10 LWVOR Day at the Legislature *tentative*

May

- Wed 1 Board Meeting, 10AM
- Sat 4 Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library
- Fri 17- Sun 19 LWVOR Convention, Coos Bay
- Tue 21 Election Day – Special Districts
- Tue 28 LWV of Corvallis Annual Meeting

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.