



## HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY FOR BENTON COUNTY

Presentation by Karen Nibler

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Corvallis Public Library

645 Monroe Street

Please bring your Program Planning Form from page 5 to this meeting

**Tuesday, April 11, 2006**

Coffee, tea and snacks available

Co-Sponsored by Corvallis/Benton County Public Library

### **Come Share Your Vision for Oregon's Future**

### **Join with Other Oregonians to Make Your Voice Heard!**

**Hosts:** Jack McGowan, SOLV, Jefferson Smith, Bus Project, & Bob Stacey, 1000 Friends of Oregon, LWV of Oregon

**When:** Saturday, **April 29, 2006 9:00am – noon** (light breakfast provided)

**Where:** LaSells Stewart Center, OSU Campus

**Who:** Oregonians who care about Oregon should attend! This includes students, farmers, homeowners, renters, union members, parents, teachers, business owners, people of faith, retirees, and you!

**Go to** [www.friends.org/EnvisionOregon/Corvallis](http://www.friends.org/EnvisionOregon/Corvallis) **for more information.**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER –Spring Forward

This month our focus is springing ahead to look at local program planning for next year. We will report on local **Homeless Youth Study** results. Homeless Youth is a state level study on our agenda next year. The **Oregon Judiciary** is the second state level study which will report back to the members next year.

**Study** is the process by which all levels of League create or update their public policy positions. Positions are reviewed each year and are added, dropped, or amended after members study the issue, reach consensus or concurrence and adopt the position at an annual meeting or convention. **Action** is when the League acts using one of these positions. Action includes writing letters to the editor or local officials, monitoring government committees, or writing testimony for governmental or legislative hearings. If a position covers an issue, we do not need to restudy in order to take action.

The largest role in league program is education about topics of community interest. Local league invites agencies to educate members on current policy and practices, i.e. county finance, transportation, and prevention services. **Voter Service** is also an education function when we host ballot measure and candidate forums. The local board is eager to hear what issues local members want to explore. Positions may be adequate for action on a subject, but we may need updated information rather than a study and a new or updated position. What topics do you want featured for the monthly programs in the coming year?

We have received two requests for support on national issues; one on **Universal Health Care** from Massachusetts and another on **Death Penalty** from Illinois. We must determine on which governmental level action is needed. LWVUS staff will lobby Congress using adopted positions, and universal health care is a national concern. States have jurisdiction over state public safety systems and laws, so the Death Penalty fits with state study and action. States are burdened with health care costs so that is also a state interest. Local issues are concerned with city, county and school issues or the application of state or national laws within their areas. What fits for Corvallis issues?

I hope I've given you some food for thought for the program planning meeting. Please join us for this discussion. Karen Nibler

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#### Mission

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

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the LWV Corvallis and is produced nine times a year. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older.



## LOCAL HOMELESS YOUTH STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

Benton County Juvenile Department reports 91 runaways in 2004. There were 128 in 2003, of which 45 were unduplicated cases. Of the 45 runaways 13 were boys and 32 were girls. The Alternative High School sees a high number of homeless, 22 out of 55 students sleep elsewhere for safety.

Jackson Street Shelter reported they currently serve 75 youth bed/nights a year all but 5-10 are duplicated counts. CARDVA and COI do not serve youth without their families. One leader said the community does not see homelessness as an issue after Jackson Street Youth Shelter opened in 2001.

Jackson Street Shelter provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, respite care and counseling for the family and youth. Jackson Street also serves pregnant girls or teen moms with a baby. Parent Enhancement Program reports that 7 pregnant or parenting teens have been homeless and move from home to home frequently.

Kids on their own are eligible for OHP and food stamps as a household of one, but they probably do not know this. There are barriers to access to state services. They have to stand in line; there are at least ten pages of paperwork. They would need to have a social security card and ID and tell a story to a case worker.

Several agencies identified child welfare custody of teens as a systems problem. Child Welfare has a limited number of foster homes. Residential treatment programs are open to statewide referrals and usually have waiting lists for placement openings. The most recent legislative session underfunded the Department of Human Services agency so there are staff cuts at the branch level. Oregon Health Plan is questionable; it has been restricted to children and disabled persons, with limited non-disabled adult access to benefits.

### McKinney Vento Homeless Education Program

The numbers of homeless students in grades 6 through 12 were 101 in Corvallis and 27 outside in Benton County in 2004. These numbers include youth who are part of homeless families as well as unaccompanied youth.

Monroe reported 15 homeless youth being served by the school based on teacher reports. Philomath said officially one youth was reported but estimates that 10 to 15 per year are homeless. He said most districts

were under-reporting due to interim situations. Homeless youth over 18 are not counted by schools.

The Family Outreach Advocate for the Corvallis School District 509J is Carolyn Hinds. The McKinney Vento program was designed to provide services to highly mobile or homeless families, such as assistance with enrollment, school supplies, vaccinations, transportation, and links to community services. Carolyn says lack of subsidized housing is a critical problem in Corvallis, and she spends much of her time linking parents to housing resources.

Many homeless families and children lack basic hygiene products. She asks for donations of laundry detergent, toilet paper, sanitary napkins, tampons, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. If you would like to help, you may drop items off at her office in Linus Pauling Middle School. Or you may bring supplies to the April meeting on Homeless Youth and we will pass them on to Carolyn.

### SPEAK OUT! - Tell Congress what YOU want in U.S. Health Care. Monday, April 17 7 p.m. Corvallis Public Library

What health care benefits are most important to YOU, your family and our community? How should we pay for it? What changes do you want? Dr. Rick Wopat will discuss "Negotiating the Path to Universal Health Care Coverage-Challenges and Possibilities". Dr. Chinh Le and local health care advocates will facilitate the SPEAK OUT session.

Congress passed legislation directing the Citizens Health Care Working group (CHCWG) to recommend a plan of action for health care that works for all Americans. YOUR opinions will be registered with the federal CHCWG. Let's be sure Congress hears what Corvallis and Benton County residents want!

Sponsored by Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates and Benton County Commission on Children and Families

### Join Us for Another Good Book.

On April 10, 7:30 PM we'll be transported to Shanghai, China, during World War II as we read the story of Ursula Bacon and her family who flee Hitler's Germany for refuge when no other country will take them in. Shanghai Diary is the book; Ursula Bacon is the author; Corrine Gobeli's is the place. Call Corrine at 745-7736 (cgobeli@aol.com) for directions.

## "ENVISION OREGON"

### Reviewing Oregon's Land Use Planning

The 10-member Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning (SB 82) has been appointed and meetings have begun. YOU can be a part of this effort. Watch [http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/30\\_year\\_review.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/30_year_review.shtml) and sign up to learn about meeting dates: [listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/sb82taskforce](http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/sb82taskforce)

Share YOUR values and principles which the Task Force should consider when reviewing the program. See the notice on page 1 for the first meeting in Corvallis. LWVOR is a co-sponsor of this meeting of the 1000 Friends of Oregon. Sign up to attend at [www.friends.org/EnvisionOregon/Corvallis/index.html](http://www.friends.org/EnvisionOregon/Corvallis/index.html) (It's a 3-year project!) League Action Committee member Peggy Lynch is monitoring this project for the League. Contact her at [ZULUDAR@aol.com](mailto:ZULUDAR@aol.com).

### Political Play in Corvallis

"You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake". The Nevada Shakespeare Company presents *A Single Woman*; a lyric and gripping mosaic based on the life, speeches, letters and interviews of Jeannette Rankin, lifelong pacifist and first woman elected to the US Congress. Deliciously political, occasionally chilling, ironic and idiosyncratic, *A Single Woman* illuminates the role of the individual in the American legislative process. Jeanmarie Simpson inhabits the role of Rankin; Cameron Crain performs the role of Everyman, rendering cameos of such luminaries as Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Harry Truman, Fiorello LaGuardia, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul and Coretta Scott King, as well as dozens of nameless characters from small children to sharecroppers to journalists.

*A Single Woman* focuses on Rankin's activities as a suffragist and pacifist as well as her congressional career. Elected to the House from Montana in 1916, Rankin put forth a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote. She voted her conscience against U.S. entry into World Wars I and II. JFK later said of her: "Few members of Congress have ever stood more alone while being true to a higher honor and loyalty."

The performance is Saturday, April 22, at 7:30 pm. in the Methodist Church on 12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe. A donation of \$10 is suggested. The play is for mature audiences.

## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING 2006

The board delayed local program planning until spring to allow a separate time to discuss local issues. This year we will report on the results of the local Homeless Youth Study in Benton County prior to discussing local program planning for next year.

Recent local studies include:

- Reorganization of Department of Human Services
- Funding Options for Local Government
- Affordable Housing in Corvallis

There has been some interest in Health Care for All lately with discussions sponsored by other organizations. And Growth Management in Corvallis and Land Use planning in the Urban Growth Boundary are still hot topics. There are strong state and national positions for advocacy but members may want to develop another facet of the local position.

This is the time to be considering updates to our positions. Please refer to your local handbook or look up the positions on the website before the April meeting.

In order to propose a new study or update, members shall put the proposal in writing and submit to the board one month before the annual meeting, May 24. This timeline allows for development of the proposal before our April meeting and well within the month before our annual meeting. Any new proposal will be included on the annual meeting agenda and voted on by the members. Directions to the board may be recommendations on program emphases or action priorities.

**The Local Program Planning form is on page 5. Please bring it to April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail it to our Post Office Box 1679, Corvallis, 97339-1679. Your input is important.**

## Local Program Planning

Please use this form to make recommendations for local program and for By-law changes. Please bring it to the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail it to our Post Office Box 1679, Corvallis, 97339-1679. Your input **is** important.

Retain: No change in positions	Further Study: Establish a committee to study background information to support the position or research the topic, inform the members and seek a new member agreement on the position.
Emphasize Action: Establish committee, monitor, advocate and/or educate	Drop: Position may not again be incorporated into the program without a new study

### Current Program

Position Title	Retain	Emphasize Action in 2006-07	Further study	Drop
Community Planning				
Comprehensive Planning R'97				
Urbanization '99				
Open Space '91				
Transportation '74				
Corrections '57/'58				
Adult Corrections '57/'58				
Juvenile Corrections '59/'60				
Health Services in Benton County				
Public Health Services '67/'68				
Health Care of the Elderly				
Know Your Schools '83				
Financing Corvallis Public Library '85				
Study of the Benton County Charter				
Child Care in Benton County '87				
At Risk Youth '88				
Primary Prevention of Violence '96				
Housing				

