



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

December 2011

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Nominating Committee

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.



Soup's On!

Annual Social & Program Planning

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

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
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 on pages 3-5.

Reflect on community issues that could benefit from our study or action.

What new studies or directions at national and local levels might address them?

What practical considerations might be involved?



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 2012-13 National and Local League activities, goals and committees may even persuade them to become members—each membership makes the League's voice stronger!

— Janet Wolf-Esbe, Membership Chair



President's Corner — Kate Matthews

The Corvallis League has been busy! Our new Local Food committee successfully organized an event for our community's participation in National Food Day on October 24, and they continue to meet and plan activities. Community Planning has been busy sending letters and testifying on development extensions, riparian areas and streams, and city growth.

We had 31 people participate in consensus on The Role of the Federal Government in Education. There was lively discussion over the questions in the two consensus meetings. Thank you to the committee who put together the presentations and led the consensus discussions: *Craig Leman, Nancy Leman, Victoria Martinez, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, and Anne Schuster.* We were able to reach consensus on most of the questions, and it was a worthwhile experience, I hope, for all. We hope when all the reports from around the country are collated that we will have a position on Education which League can use.

Our Fruit Fundraiser has ended and the fruit should be delivered by the end of the first full week of December. Volunteers can always be used to help deliver the boxes. We do order extra boxes so if you failed to get an order in or would like an extra box do call Louise Marquering at 541-753-0236. *A big thank you goes to Louise* for getting all this put together!

Our December meeting is our annual program planning meeting. This year we will look at our national and local positions. You even get a soup dinner to entice you to come and give suggestions! They can be suggestions for new studies or to update positions we reached quite awhile back. We only have positions that we can use on issues if we have gone through the consensus procedure, an essential part of League involvement.

We have two more consensus issues coming up in the spring: They are the national League study on *Privatization* and the state League study on *Coastal Issues*. Please consider joining one of those committees to prepare for these presentations.



WELCOME!

New Members, Mary Daly-Piehl
and Cindy Hallett

Thanks to you who have renewed your membership in this important organization!

If you have not sent your membership renewal, we look forward to receiving it soon. The League is a wonderful tool to use for

increasing our knowledge and understanding of many local, state, national and worldwide issues. Be a part of this dynamic group of citizens! — *Janet Wolf-Esbe, Membership Co-chair*

Your Fruit Order is on its way...



Fruit is scheduled to arrive at Kate Mathews' house on Thursday, December 8.

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 you who have already indicated you will help. We will call the delivery volunteers when the fruit arrives and each will call purchasers on their list to deliver at a convenient time.

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 basis for both education and action. It consists of governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. The program process—

- *starts* with selection and adoption,
- *continues* with study and discussion, and
- *culminates* in action and change.



Come to our December 6th program planning meeting prepared to offer your ideas about studies and educational or advocacy projects that will make a difference in the community, make League a more vital organization, and engage your own heart and mind.

1. **Review League positions** online, at www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/stand.php, or in your *Handbook*. These positions, covering many areas, are used for action at the national, 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 Voter Service and citizen education** integrated into the program?

Current Positions – LWV of Corvallis

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 age 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.

Public Policy Positions – League of Women Voters of the United States



REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance

Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President

Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers and expand international trade and that advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

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Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.



SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit

Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United

States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services

Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Buy Local First on December 3rd – and Every Day!

Want to help create a vibrant local economy and have some fun in the process? Take the *Buy Local First Challenge!*

Every time you spend money, you have a chance to “vote” with your dollars.

Making your purchases at locally owned independent businesses benefits our community far more than if you spend your money at national chain stores or franchises. Every dollar spent at a locally owned independent business generates 2 to 4 times more economic benefit measured in income, wealth, jobs, and tax revenue than a dollar spent at a globally owned business. In fact, \$45 of every \$100 spent at a locally owned independent store goes back into the local economy, while only \$13 out of \$100 spent at a chain store stays in the community.

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and CIBA (Corvallis Independent Business Alliance) have joined forces to create an ongoing campaign to encourage purchasing from locally owned independent businesses. It kicks off during this year's holiday shopping season with two events:

Buy Local First Day – Saturday, December 3, 2011

- Visit a participating business for special treats, sales, or discounts. For example, a 10% discount is being offered on all products at First Alternative Co-op, Animal Crackers Pet Supply, and Many Hands Trading. Gracewinds Music is offering cider and cookies, while Garland Nursery will have food samples and raffle/door prizes all day.
- For a list of participating businesses and what they're offering check out www.facebook.com/CIBACorvallis or www.sustainablecorvallis.org.



Buy Local Hero Contest – December 3 - 17, 2011

- *Save receipts* from money spent at locally owned independent businesses in Corvallis. It doesn't matter how much you spend – just visit as many locally owned independent businesses as possible! (Retail stores and service sector businesses qualify, as long as they are locally owned and independent.)
- *Turn in the most receipts from different locations and win* a basket filled with fabulous prizes donated by local businesses. For example, First Alternative has created a winning collection of delicious Local 6 products, Big River has donated a \$100 gift card, and Footwise has contributed one pair of Birkenstock clogs or sandals up to \$130 in value – plus a pair of cozy merino wool socks. And there's a lot more!

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded.

When we shop at locally owned independent Corvallis businesses, all of us stand to win. Your support helps ensure the long-term environmental and social, as well as economic, well-being of our community. Local ownership minimizes the chance that a company or business will pull up stakes and move to another town. Local businesses help our community retain its unique character. And spending money at locally owned businesses decreases transportation costs, reduces the use of underpaid labor, and rewards those that are not shipping jobs overseas.

Whether you're spending money for your daily needs or making special purchases for the holidays, make it a habit to think “LOCAL” first. Mark your calendar, plan to take the challenge, and be part of the fun!

Save These Dates!

General Meeting: Rethinking Economics – January 10

Legislative Forums – January 28 & March 3

Details will be in your January League bulletin

Day at the Legislature - February 7

Watch for details and registration forms, available in January from LWVOR.



Community Planning Update: League Takes a Stand

Recent Action

Oct. 3: **Memo to Mayor Manning and Members of City Council** advocating for returning cost-recovery of land use application processing to 50% from the City and 50% from the developer. This equal sharing of costs ensures that community concerns are treated with as much importance as those of the developer.

Oct. 19: **Testimony at Council Administrative Services Committee** requesting a reduction in land use appeal fees to assure citizen's ability to participate in land use decisions and recommending the City bear 50% of the cost of processing land use applications (see above).

Nov. 7: **Testimony during Visitors' Propositions** recommending that the City follow its Code regarding the expiration of land use applications and not grant blanket extensions for two years.

League sent letters to:

- the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club, supporting their efforts to get the City to enact a plastic bag ban, and
- to the City's Capital Improvements Commission supporting the Tunison Neighborhood Association's request to add a bike path from their neighborhood to Avery Park to the list of future capital projects.

Action in Progress

Riparian Corridor Protection Overlay Zone

The Community Planning Committee is currently preparing letters to the editor of the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* in support of the proposed Benton County Stream and Riparian Corridor Protection Overlay Zone. League has strong national, state, and local positions expressing its concerns that water quality be protected; that local, state and national requirements be met; and that the public be involved in all policy decisions. Based on these positions, the League supports regulatory protection for the identified "significant riparian and wetland areas."

We all benefit from this protection because intact riparian areas stabilize eroding banks; protect against flood damage; enhance fish and other wildlife habitat; filter runoff/contaminants. In addition, intact wetlands improve water quality; store floodwater; provide fish and wildlife habitat; and protect rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Moreover, taking this action to protect water quality now will save tax-payer dollars.

The County has heard mostly from people who oppose the establishment of this regulation, so encouragement from supporters is urgent. Please let the Commissioners know that you think this overlay zone to protect riparian areas is important to our community.

LWVC Food Day Featured "A Taste of Corvallis"

Imagine a room full of 120 people of diverse ages, economic levels, and ethnicities – all drawn together by their interest in local food. They spend their evening "feasting" on two films, one featuring nationally-renowned local food advocates, the other a locally-produced film about the Starker Arts Garden for Education in Corvallis. Interspersed with the films are "snapshots" of local food initiatives—2-minute presentations by a range of speakers. After the program, participants graze from table to table, sampling a variety of food items provided by producers, processors, and retailers of local food.

The scenario described above is exactly what happened at the LWVC Local Food Committee's inaugural event, "A Taste of Corvallis," held on October 24th in conjunction with national Food Day. The program was designed to educate, to motivate, and to celebrate all the great activities that are taking place in the Corvallis area to help develop a healthy, secure, and sustainable food system.

Speakers for the evening included representatives of Benton County Health Department, Community Table, Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Market, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Food Action Team, Farm-to-School, First



Grazing locally at "A Taste of Corvallis"

Alternative Co-op, Jammin' for the Hungry, Latinas Unidas Salsa Garden, Marys River Gleaners, OSU Extension, OSU Organic Growers Club, OSU Student Sustainability Initiative, Producing for the Future, Slow Food Corvallis, South Corvallis Community Food Center, Sunrise Corner Community Garden, Ten Rivers Food Web, That's My Farmer, and Willamette Seed & Grain.

Members of the League's Local Food Committee worked very hard and had a lot of fun bringing the event together. Special thanks to Victoria Martinez, Leslie Melnyk, Mary Anne Nusrala, Marie Long, and Camille Freitag for their contributions to this successful effort!

- Annette Mills, Chair, LWVC Local Food Committee



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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See you December 6
at our Program Planning
Soup Supper!

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

Sat 3 "Buy Local First" Day

3-17 "Buy Local" Hero contest

Tue 6 Potluck & Program Planning 6-9 PM

Wed 7 Board Meeting 10 AM

January

Wed 4 Board Meeting 10 AM

Tue 10 General Meeting: Rethinking
Economics, Library 7 PM

Sat 28 Legislative Town Hall, Library 10 AM