



LWV Corvallis

Serving Benton and Linn Counties

October 2005

An Update on CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Tuesday, October 18

7:00-9:00pm

With guest speakers:

Karmen Fore, District Director for
US Representative Peter DeFazio
Dr. Mark Lusk, Director of International Education,
Oregon State University
Jack Rogers, Director of Public Safety, OSU
Diana Simpson, Benton County Undersheriff

Corvallis/Benton County Public Library
6th and Monroe Ave, Corvallis
Co-Sponsored by Corvallis/Benton County Library

And for the first **unit meeting** of the year:
A discussion of civil liberty and security issues
With Nancy Roberts as facilitator. Please join us
**Thursday, October 25th at the
United Way Office
At 104 SW Second St. (next to Squirrel's)
11:00 to 1:00 pm (Bring your lunch)**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The kickoff meeting was well attended, and members listened to a presentation on league activities for the coming year prior to our guest speaker. Representative Kelley Wirth was unable to attend due to her injuries. Senator Frank Morse, who was appointed to the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature, asked for public input for that process. Of course, our members had many comments on possible legislative improvements. We appreciate the opportunity to hear about the progress of the legislature from Senator Morse during the session and during this commission review.

Membership forms were returned with a few volunteers for the new studies, the Observer Corps and Voter Service. We are pleased to have more participants in our study groups and monitoring activities. If you were not at the kickoff meeting, the membership form will be included in this bulletin.

We will need lots of help with the Homeless Youth Study in the fall, the Judiciary Study in the winter, and Voter Service in the spring. Please call or turn in the membership form (page 3) as soon as possible. The Homeless Youth Study group has been meeting during the summer and has prepared questionnaires for interviews of agencies by the local leagues. These interviews can start in October and could be completed this fall. The target date for the first report will be for the Annual Meeting in May.

The Oregon Judiciary Study Committee started meeting in August, interviewed the Chief Justice, and refined the scope of the study. The interview guides are in the process of revision and should be ready in late fall. The interviews for this study will likely be done in January. Our local Judicial System study can be done concurrently with the Oregon Judicial Study. Some work will be done early since the November program will feature our local judges.

The Grapefruit Sale brought the most volunteers and October is the time for members to sell those grapefruit to family, friends, and neighbors. This sale is critical for our operating funds. The cost of the grapefruit has increased so the price was increased this year. The price rose above our increase so our net gain will be smaller. Thus we need to sell more in order to make the same income. Try your fitness center or book group to sell a few more. If we each sell a few more boxes, we should come out ahead.

Karen

Board of Directors '05-'06

President Karen Nibler

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JoAnn Trow (Events)

Kate Matthews (Grapefruit Sale)

Corrine Gobeli (Nominating Committee)

Jean Nath & Patty McClintock (Membership)

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.

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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.



Support your local League

IT'S GRAPEFRUIT TIME AGAIN!

Our annual grapefruit fundraiser will be from October 10 to November 17. Funds raised will be used to support our local programs since very little is retained from our dues.

PRICES THIS YEAR: \$16 FOR A WHOLE BOX
\$8 FOR A HALF BOX

Please order early (and often!) with the form below. Your boxes of delicious grapefruit will be delivered in early December.

GRAPEFRUIT ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

No. of Boxes	Amount
_____ Full Box(es) @ \$16 each	_____
_____ Half Box @ \$ 8 each	_____
	Total _____

Send to: Kate Mathews
3336 SW Willamette
Corvallis 97333

Checks made payable to LWV CORVALLIS
Questions: 754-1172

\$\$ Dues Are Due\$\$

A big THANK YOU to those who have sent in their dues with the coupon from the bulletin or paid at the fall kick-off meeting. You SAVED League money!

Also much appreciated are donations to the LWVOR Ed Fund or the LWVUS Ed Fund. The Corvallis League's per member payment to the state and national League is reduced by the amount of these donations. Many thanks to Paula Krane, Clara Shoemaker, and Melvina Walter for their Ed Fund checks. ...Shelly Murphy, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

LWV Corvallis wants to know something about your interests as a member of the league. Please fill out this form and leave it for the membership chair at any of our meetings.

STUDY COMMITTEES – attend committee meetings and conduct research for

- National Studies –
 - Civil Liberties _____
 - Election Reform _____
- State Studies –
 - Judiciary in Oregon _____
 - Homeless Youth _____
- Local Study –
 - Judicial System in Benton County _____
 - Growth Management (ongoing) _____

OBSERVER CORPS –

Would you like to attend city/county/school district meetings and report back to the board?

- ____ City Council meetings
 - ____ City Planning Commission
 - ____ Benton County Commissioners meeting
 - ____ Benton County Planning Commission
 - ____ Corvallis School Board meetings
 - ____ Corvallis School District Budget Committee
- Do you currently serve on a city/county/school district committee? Which one?

LOCAL OPERATIONS – Could you help with the following activities?

- ____ Grapefruit sale – deliveries
- ____ Voter Registration
- ____ Refreshments for meetings
- ____ Voters Guide Distribution
- ____ Computer graphics
- ____ Speakers' Bureau/ Ballot Measures
- ____ Publicity – posters
- ____ Candidate Forums
- ____ Facilitator for Discussions
- ____ Moderator for forums

If you want to receive E-mail announcements from the local league, please send your new e-mail address to Paula Krane at kranep@peak.org. Postal address changes go to Shelly Murphy at Shellym@peak.org.

NAME: _____
Phone: _____

In Memorium - Rita McDonald (1906-2005)

Rita McDonald was a fixture on every water-related committee I knew about in the Corvallis League from the time I joined the League in 1965. Rita had a high, soft little voice and at first seemed little-old-lady ineffective. Then if the conversation veered into muddy waters or in a direction she thought inaccurate, Rita would suddenly become incisive and in very clear terms explain the errors and omissions in our thinking. For years, I'd call Rita and ask what "navigational servitude" means or what is the "public trust doctrine". Sometimes, she would patiently explain it to me. Sometimes she would get back to me, complete with chapter and verse – always the perfect librarian and archivist/.

Rita, according to our records, joined the Corvallis League in 1963-64 and was a member as long as she lived in Corvallis.

Born in Canada, Rita earned a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, eventually working as a librarian and archivist in Montana State. Meanwhile, she joined the WACs, ultimately working as a librarian and archivist at the Pentagon. In 1962, she moved to Corvallis and worked until her retirement at the OSU engineering library. Rita lived with a fellow librarian and League member, Katherine Osborn, until Katherine's death.

Rita received special acknowledgment for her work with the state league's study, Oregon's Water: By Whose Authority, published in 1976 and was one of the study team for Oregon's Water, also published by LWVOR in 1976.

Rita was a joy to know and will live in my memories.

Liz Frenkel

Local Voices" Report Examines Public Views on Civil Liberties & Homeland Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The League of Women Voters (LWV) released the findings and recommendations from its *Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities* project. *Local Voices* is a multi-faceted initiative to foster a public dialogue about the balance between civil liberties and homeland security, and share the results with decision-makers.

The LWVUS report was released to Congress and the media on September 7, 2005. The report contains findings and recommendations taken from focus groups in various parts of the country and from national polling data. Copies went to every member of Congress, select members of the Administration, and state and local officials.

The Key findings were: 1. There is a lack of in-depth knowledge about "homeland security." 2. Civil liberties are deeply valued. 3. People struggle to balance security and liberty. A majority oppose secret searches. The government needs justification and judicial oversight to obtain personal records. People are struggling with racial, ethnic and religious profiling. 4. Systems of checks and balances are seen as vital. 5. Concern of a slippery slope often emerges in the context of the focus group discussions. 6. Many call for more openness in government regarding homeland security efforts and their effects on civil liberties. 7. As a result of discussion, people perceive the importance of personal involvement. 8. Public deliberation matters on this topic.

The report concludes with recommendations and challenges to policymakers at all levels of government, to the media, to community organizations and to the general public regarding ways to strengthen public understanding, involvement and confidence in the range of conversations, decisions and tradeoffs between civil liberties and homeland security. The full report is on-line at www.lwv.org.

Copies of the report are available online at the League's Web site: [Local Voices report](#).

Civil Liberties

**In The National Voter
October 2005**

coming in

[LWV in Action: Protecting Civil Liberties](#)
[Local Voices on Liberty and Security](#)
[Transparency, Liberty and Security](#)
[Security vs. Liberty: A Balance in Crisis](#)

LWVUS CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON D.C. LAST JUNE MOVED CIVIL LIBERTIES TO THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. AS A RESULT, LWVUS STAFF HAVE PRODUCED THE ABOVE REPORT AND ARE ACTIVELY LOBBYING CONGRESS. SEE THE LETTER BELOW.

To: Members of the US House of Representatives
 From: Kay J. Maxwell, President
 Re: Support HR 1526, the SAFE Act

The League of Women Voters believes that basic civil liberties must be preserved and protected as the nation seeks to guard against terrorism and other threats to national security. We therefore ask that you support and cosponsor H.R. 1526, the SAFE Act (Security and Freedom Ensured Act of 2005).

For the past 85 years, members of the League have been steadfast in their conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country. There are fundamental principles that guard our liberty -- from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches -- that must be preserved.

Today, League members are concerned about the impact of the USA Patriot Act passed by Congress in October 2001. We believe that the SAFE Act would address some of the most problematic provisions of the USA Patriot Act. It would limit so-called "sneak and peek" searches, which allow secret warrants, to specific instances where there is a risk of flight or danger to life or physical safety.

In addition, the SAFE Act would limit law enforcement requests for business records by requiring evidence that the records relate to a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power, and are not merely part of a "fishing expedition." In sum, we believe that the SAFE Act would provide reasonable checks on some of the most extreme sections of the USA Patriot Act.

These are challenging times for all Americans. We recognize that there are real and serious terrorist threats. The League believes that the SAFE Act would preserve authority for law enforcement officials to combat terrorism. At the same time, it would protect innocent Americans from unrestricted government surveillance. The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor and support H.R. 1526.

CLEAN WATER

Marion-Polk League of Women Voters Sponsors Panel on Improving Worldwide Water Access Through Better US-UN Relationship

On Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., the Marion-Polk League of Women Voters will sponsor a panel discussion on the need for providing free, safe drinking water throughout the world. Speakers will address ways the U. S., working with the United Nations, can meet that need, reducing worldwide poverty and hunger and improving health conditions. The event will take place in Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library.

Legal experts and representatives of NGO's will address the need for an international policy on access to clean water. The U.N. had declared sustainable access to safe drinking water as a Millennium Goal. Member nations, including the U.S., have proclaimed 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action - Water for Life.

The public forum, called "The People Speak 2005: Building a Safer World through Defining the U.S.-U.N. Relationship", is funded by a grant from the League's national office. Community supporters include Salem Public Library, AAUW, Salem City Club, UNA, and other local organizations. For more information, call Sandra Gangle at 503-581-4440