



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

December 2008

## SOUP'S ON! Annual Social and Program Planning



**Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

**6:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall**

**2945 NW Circle Blvd.**

Join with your fellow League members to celebrate the past and help create the future!

- Delicious soups, breads and desserts will be provided by the LWV Corvallis Board
- **Please bring your own table service (bowl, plate, cup, and utensils).**

We want to make this event as waste-free as possible!

Following supper, we will review state LWV positions and discuss state issues that demand our attention, invite further study, or require action. Our local program planning will include a discussion of questions to consider when proposing a local study (see pages 4 and 5) and sharing of ideas for possible new local studies.

To prepare for the evening, please read the information in this bulletin and reflect about our community and issues that could benefit from League study or action.

We look forward to seeing you.

**January Meetings:** January 13, 20 and 21  
Election Methods (LWVOR Study)  
National Popular Vote (LWVUS Study)  
Consensus on both studies



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2008-09

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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.



75th State of Oregon's Legislative Session convenes on Monday, January 12, 2009.

Learn more about what is happening

by attending our Town Hall Meetings starting on Saturday, February 7th (first Saturday of the month as long as the Legislature is in session) at the Corvallis Benton County Public Library. Details will be in each month's bulletin.

## Membership

**Thank you, thank you** to all who have renewed their membership for 2008-2009. Re-



mindings have been mailed to all those who have not yet signed on for another year. Welcome also to new member Mike Wolf and to Barbara Boggs and June Hemmingson who were national members but have now joined us locally.

It is important to remember that most League members joined because they were asked.

Shelly Murphy, Membership Chair

## President's Column

It was an election season of a lifetime! Election 2008 was memorable on many fronts – not the least of which was the record turn-out by the American electorate. For many people, both young and old, it was their first experience voting. And the League was an important part of the process. I would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to all those hard-working League members who helped make our voter education programs and services possible, and to the wonderful voters of Benton County who understand so well that democracy is not a spectator sport.

With the election still fresh in our minds, League members were ready by mid-November to launch into our discussion of the LWVOR study on “Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals.” After giving us an overview of the study, Election Methods Committee Member Paula Krane introduced Dr. David Bernell,



## Annette Mills

Assistant Professor of Political Science at OSU, who provided insights and examples of several of the election methods described in the study. This program was a valuable prelude to the consensus meetings we'll be having in January.

Earlier in the month, our League hosted a fascinating program that focused on local businesses that are striving each day to become more sustainable. Many thanks to Bruce Hecht of Oregon Natural Step Network, John Huyck of Bombs Away Café, and Donna Kaiser of First Alternative Co-op for their informative and entertaining presentations.

December is program planning month, and I hope you all have Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> marked on your calendar. That's the date of our annual “soup social” and program planning event – a great time to visit with old and new friends, to enjoy true comfort food, and to share in the challenge of determining our future direction. I'll see you there!



## Sustainability Action Plan to Be Presented at December 15 Council Meeting

Culminating eight months of work and participation by hundreds of Corvallis area residents, the Community Sustainability Action Plan will be presented to the Corvallis City Council and to the community at large at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. At the heart of the plan will be the goals, strategies, and actions recommended by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's 12 work groups.

As part of their assignment, the 12 work groups brainstormed lists of organizations in our community that are already working on sustainability efforts related to 12 topic areas: Community Inclusion, Economic Vitality, Education, Energy, Food, Health & Human Services, Housing, Land Use, Natural Areas & Wildlife, Transportation, Waste & Recycling, and Water. The LWVC Board recently identified several strategies that the League is working on, so the League can be recognized as a “key organization” that will play a role in the implementation of the Action Plan.

## Open World Hosting



A committee is being formed to develop plans for hosting a delegation of visitors from Eastern Europe. This is part of the LWV of the US Open World Hosting Program, an ongoing effort to demonstrate to women from developing nations how democracy works at the local government level in the USA.

If you are interested in helping to plan this program, please contact Shelly Murphy at 754-1184 or shellym@peak.org.



## Recycling Tip

With the economic downturn, the market for recycled materials has dropped. Bales of commingled recycling are piling up. What can you do? Bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store. Put that at the top of your shopping list. Leave one or two reusable bags in each car you drive. Think about each purchase you make, asking, "Do I really need this," and, "How will I dispose of the packaging." Avoid buying single serve items.

## Food Study Update

Over the past three years our community has been working to support local farms. Ten Rivers Food Web and the Ecumenical Ministries have helped promote CSAs, farmers markets, That's my Farmer coupon books, a buying club and much more. Many of these farmers have stands at the local farmers markets. The farms vary in size, but the biggest, Denison Farm, has 50 acres, followed closely by Gathering Together Farm.

But what many people don't know is that we have a major local farm, Stahlbush Farms, just across the river from Corvallis. They farm approximately 5,000 acres, 1,500 of these being certified organic. The rest are sustainably farmed according to Food



Alliance guidelines. (Anyone interested should go the Food Alliance website if, like me, you are unsure what the term 'sustainable' means.)

Stahlbush grows winter squash, sweet corn, spinach, broccoli, marionberries, strawberries, blueberries and more. They have a large processing plant requiring continuous feed, so they contract with other valley farmers for produce to freeze, allowing these farmers to rotate vegetables with grass seed.

So in the off season locovores have the option to purchase quality local frozen vegetables as well as produce from the farmers market and the co-op.

Diana Carsten, Food Study Chair

## Curl Up With A Good Book

This month, December 8<sup>th</sup> (2:30 p.m. at Ruth Gallagher's) we'll talk about a book that has been described as "mesmerizing," "engrossing," and that was chosen by the University Bookstore in Seattle as their 2004 Book of the Year - *Fourth Uncle in the Mountain* by Marjorie Pivar and Quang Van Nguyen. This tale of two remarkable men, during the chaotic time of French and American wars, provides insight into Vietnamese history, culture and healing. Join us to discuss the book and to make recommendations for what we will read from March to June. Call Ruth to let her know if you will be attending.

Upcoming books and dates:

December 8

January 12: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, Barbara Kingsolver

February 9: *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*, Oliver Sachs

March – June – open.  
Bring suggestions to December meeting.



## Program Planning – Be Prepared!

**League Program** is the League’s “reason for being” – the basis for both education and action. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change.

The **Program Planning Process** begins when we meet to talk about and debate where we want to direct our energy and efforts for the future. Every year, we make suggestions for local program. National and state program planning is done on alternate years. This year, we will discuss state program.

By **Preparing for Program Planning**, you can help create a lively, stimulating meeting!

1. Review League positions (on-line or in your Handbook), and think about our community, the “burning” issues and questions, the needs of citizens, and any gaps in service.
2. 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?
3. 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?
  4. How are voters service and citizen education integrated into program?

Come to the program planning meeting prepared to offer your ideas. Now is the time to be creative, to dream about the studies or educational/advocacy projects that will make League a more vital organization, make a difference in the community, and engage your heart and mind.

## Do You Know Our State Positions?

League of Women Voters positions on issues of concern are reached after careful study and discussion. These positions are the framework against which members measure all actions taken in the name of LWV at all levels. The LWV of Oregon has developed positions in many areas, to be used for action at the state and local level. Please take a look at LWVOR’s website ([www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions](http://www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions)) to review positions in the following areas:

### Governance

Constitutional Provisions – Economic Development Revenue Bonds – Election Laws – Emergency Board – Fiscal Policy – Initiative and Referendum –

Oregon State Courts – Redistricting



### Natural Resources

Air Quality – Coastal Management (and Offshore) – Energy: Conservation and Nuclear – Land Use – Parks – Seismic – Water: Policy and Planning, Quality and Resources – Columbia Basin

### Social Policy

Adult Corrections – Child Care – Children at Risk – Education—Postsecondary – Farmworker Issues – Health Policy: Adult Mental Health, Mental Health Services for Children and Youth – Homeless Youth –Juvenile Justice.

### Do You Know Our Local Positions?

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis has developed positions in many areas, to be used for action at the local level. Please take a look at our website ([www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us)) to review positions in the following areas:

- Community Planning
  - Comprehensive Planning
  - Urbanization
  - Open Space
  - Transportation
- Corrections
  - Background and Philosophy

- Adult Corrections
- Juvenile Corrections
- Health Services in Benton County
- Public Health Services
- Health Care of the Elderly
- Know Your Schools
- Financing the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
- Benton County Charter
- Child Care in Benton County
- At Risk Youth
- Primary Prevention of Violence in Linn & Benton Counties
- Housing.

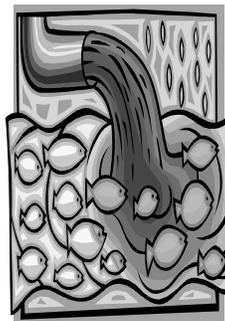
### Water Committee Continues to Meet

The water study committee will meet December 16, 11 a.m. at Shelly Murphy's to brainstorm ideas for the March general meeting on the State Water Study. This fall, members attended water-related meetings, continued their research, reviewed Sus-

tainability Coalition strategies and goals, and compiled responses to the questions posed by the State League. Two local committee members, Liz Frenkel and Peggy Lynch, also serve on the State League Study Committee.

### Water Tips

"Water footprint...the sum of direct and indirect freshwater use by the consumer..." (Wikipedia). Consumers in the United States have the largest water footprint per person in the world, according to a UNESCO Report. Do you know your water footprint? Go to [www.wateruseitwisely.com/familywater/index.shtml](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/familywater/index.shtml) for an easy to use survey and estimate of your water footprint. This user-friendly website also provides many resources and water



saving tips for both inside and outside the house use. Take the tour of the virtual house to see water saving ideas, room by room.

For a more technical resource, search out [www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org), the website of an international network of organizations such as the University of Twente and UNESCO. Check out the product gallery for information about the amount of water needed to produce commonly used products.

### Wells and Well-Being – Symposium

A one-day symposium on groundwater, wells, well water quality and safety will take place December 11, 2008 at the Northwest Viticulture Center, outside of Salem. The cost is \$40 (until 12/5), then \$50. For more information and to register, go to <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/wells2008/>.

**LWV of Corvallis**  
 PO Box 1679  
 Corvallis OR 97339-1679  
 541-757-2276  
[www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us)

**LWV Of Oregon**  
 1330 12th Street SE,  
 Suite 200  
 Salem OR 97302  
 503-581-5722  
 E-mail:[lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org)  
[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

**LWV of the United States**  
 1730 M Street NW,  
 Suite 1000  
 Washington DC  
 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965  
 FAX 202-429-0854  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Paula Krane. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.





LWV Corvallis  
 P.O. Box 1679  
 Corvallis, Oregon 97339-1679  
 541-757-2276  
 www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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**Dates  
 To  
 Remember**

- Week of December 1—Delivery of Grapefruit
- December 8—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- December 9—Dinner and Program Planning
- December 12—Board Meeting
- December 16—Water Study Committee
- 2009**
- January 12—Oregon Legislature Convenes
- January 12—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- January 13—General Meeting  
 National Popular Vote (LWVUS)
- January 16—Board Meeting
- January 20 and 21—units
- February 7—Town Hall

**Join The League**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, Zip+ 4 digits \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$52 individual membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$78 household membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$26 student membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution\*
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm a new member! Please call.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm renewing my membership.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I want to join but dues are prohibitive. Contact us  
 about a scholarship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

\* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVOR or LWVUS\* Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.

\*Preferred