



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

February 2008

THE LEAGUE'S 88th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Followed by

CHILDREN AT RISK – CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

Sandra Chase, Interim District Manager for Children, Adults and Families,

Joe Pickens, Child Welfare Program Manager for Benton & Lincoln Counties

Rhonda Shult, Interim Child Welfare Supervisor in Benton County for The Oregon Department of Human Services

February 12, 2008

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Corvallis—Benton County Public Library

Co-sponsored by Benton County Commission on Children and Families
And the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

BYOM

(BACKGROUND MATERIAL PAGE 3)

TOWN HALL

On

STATE OF OREGON LEGISLATIVE
SPECIAL SESSION

Saturday, March 1, 2008

10:00 AM—Noon

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Co-sponsored Corvallis-Benton County
Public Library



BYOM

(Details on page 5)

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2007—2008

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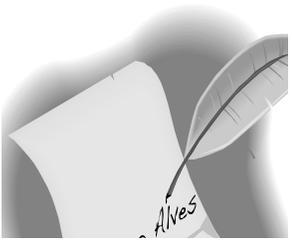
Events

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.

President's Corner

Barbara Ross



As usual the Corvallis League is busy busy busy! The Committee has finished up the immigration consensus answers and sent them off to national with a lot of grumbling about the way they were structured. We are never ones to keep quiet if we don't like something. This time we spoke out loud and clear that we did not like the way they were doing things. I was, however, very

proud of the immigration committee's presentations at our January forum. I learned a great deal and I think our visitors and members did too.

There is a lot going on this spring. On March First we will be having a Town Hall meeting to look back on the short legislative session.

There are two more tours of water related sites that should be very interesting. Be sure to sign up since slots are limited, and reservations are required.

In March we will be going door to door registering voters. This is something we have not done before, so we are anxious to see how it will work out. As always, we will need more volunteers so don't be surprised if you get a call from me.

In May we will be hosting the State LWV Council meeting. It is an honor to have it here in Corvallis. Dagmar Johnson is going to be taking a leading role in organizing our parts of this event. We are still looking for a co-chair to help her.

The LWV of Corvallis is a member of our local sustainability coalition. Part of their activity in March will be to get as many folks as possible to request a free energy audit for their home. We hope that League members will be setting a good example in participating in this interesting initiative.

Paula Krane has recently given two presentations to other community groups on behalf of the LWV: one to PEO on civic responsibility and one to Zonta of Corvallis on effective advocacy. Both were very well received. We can be very proud of Paula for representing us.

So there is lot's to do. If you are feeling left out, give me a call and I will put you to work. Have a fun spring.

LWV of Corvallis

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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 or Louise Marquering. Submissions must be received no later than the Monday after the board meeting. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older.



WATER TOUR

Wednesday, February 20th

10:30AM

Corvallis Wastewater Treatment Plant
(NE 3rd Street)

(Details on Page 4)



BACKGROUND MATERIAL—February General Meeting CHILDREN AT RISK: HIGH PROFILE CASES DEMAND RESPONSE

The Oregon State Legislature responded to criticisms and abuse reports of children in state custody by contracting for a consultant evaluation of the child welfare system. A Safety Intervention Model was adopted which requires 24 hour response to an abuse complaint or a 5 day response if the child is out of danger. The development of a procedure manual and mandatory training for child welfare workers seeks to provide consistency and best practice across the state.

The Holder consultant's report presented during the 2005 session recommended the assignment of paralegals or attorneys for legal paperwork. Oregon is the only state where caseworkers appear in court to represent the child welfare department. The e-board in October 2005 appropriated funds to assign 20 paralegals for child welfare work. Department of Justice hired 5 attorneys and a supervisor to assist caseworkers.

Caseload staffing was an issue also identified last session by the Holder report, which called for smaller numbers of children for each caseworker. Additional caseworker positions were provided in 2007 according to numbers of cases in regions. Benton County has a low number of cases and did not get additional staff, but Linn County has a high number of child abuse cases and received 10 extra positions.

Statistics: During the 2007 Legislative session, the Department of Human Services (DHS) – Children, Adult and Families administrators, Ramona Foley and Una Swanson quoted statistics for founded abuse of 12,043 children for a 10 year high in abuse and neglect cases within the state. Out of those cases, 5,331 children were removed from the home and 6,712 children remained in their homes if it was safe. Foley said that parents' alcohol and drug abuse was one of the largest budget drivers. Alcohol and substance abuse addiction treatment was funded as part of the Addictions and Mental Health Budget to meet the need for parents of children in the child welfare

system.

New requirements for Reports: The DHS Director must convene a sensitive review committee to review the actions of the department as in a case of death or serious abuse of a child while in care. DHS is required to notify the child's attorney, Court Appointed Special Advocate, parents and parent's attorney within 3 days of a child abuse report while the child is in substitute care.

DHS reports data on the number of children in foster care, along with the number of placements for each child and schools the child attended. DHS must attempt to preserve the family relationships, record relative placements, the face-to-face contacts by the caseworker and visits with the parents or siblings. DHS has funds to provide payments for foster care in a relative home.

If the child is 14 or older, DHS will record progress toward graduation or efforts made to assist child toward graduation. This requirement is tied to preparation of older children for independence upon leaving foster care at 18 or older. Teens may voluntarily receive services after 18 if they have been in care since they were 14. DHS has been criticized in the past for not assisting teens in acquiring skills necessary for emotional and financial independence.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is the financial assistance program for parents and children now within the Self Sufficiency program. Statistics have cited 30% of child welfare cases come from the TANF caseload. Additional caseworkers were added to this program to provide services for these families. The legislature provided some improvements to provide for emphasis on parenting classes and education, assessment, referral for disability certification, transition child care and medical care for newly employed parents, retention of part of child support payments, and changes in lifetime limits. The changes will be phased in over two years.

LWVUS CHILDREN AT RISK POSITION LWVUS has a national position adopted in 1994 which is very broad. LWVUS believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children. These include: child abuse/neglect prevention; teen pregnancy prevention; quality health care, including nutrition and prenatal care; early childhood education; developmental services, emphasizing children ages 0-3; family support services; and violence prevention.

RECYCLING TIPS

Shredded Paper — what to do with it in the new recycle carts? Put shredded paper into a paper bag and then put it into the recycle cart. **DO NOT** put shredded paper loose into the cart or into a plastic bag.

BYOM — we are instituting a new mantra. **Bring Your Own Mug** to LWV events. We will be serving coffee and tea and would like to model a sustainable way of doing that. So, from now on, when refreshments are served, **BYOM**. Of course, we will still provide cups, but we would like to show the alternative.

Recycling Questions? Call Louise Marquering, 753-0012 or e-mail corvallismatters@aol.com



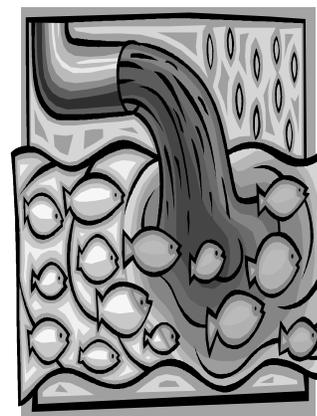
WATER

Water Resources Meetings

The water resources study committee will meet twice in February: the 7th, 12 noon to 2 PM and 19th from 10 AM to 12 noon. Both meetings will be at Shelly Murphy's home. Focus of the meetings will be to plan for the March 4th general membership meeting. All meetings of the Water Resources study committee are open to all LWV members. Call Corrine Gobeli, 745-7736 (cgobeli@aol.com) for questions or more information.

Water Saving Tips

If one of your New Year's resolution is to reduce your water footprint, check out www.wateruseitwisely.com. This website, sponsored by a wide variety of public and private entities in Arizona, offers a month by month planner to help you achieve this goal. To begin your quest, take their family water audit and assess your current level of wise water use.



Want to help create community energy?

Join your neighbors in planning for a bright future...

Community Sustainability

TOWN HALL MEETING

Monday, March 31, 2008

6:00 to 9:00 pm

CH2MHill Alumni Center

725 SW 26th St – OSU Campus

...and while you're there,

sign up for a FREE home energy review

www.sustainablecorvallis.org

Sponsored by Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

in partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon



WATER TOURS – ONLY A FEW SPACES LEFT

Sign Up Now for February and April Tours

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to find out where your water comes from and where it goes!

Our League's Water Study Committee has arranged some exciting water tours at local water facilities. Check out the schedule below, mark your calendar, and make your reservation today. *Space is limited!*

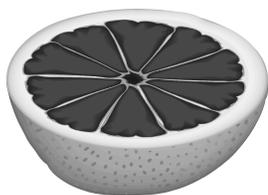
- Wednesday, February 20, 10:30 am – Wastewater Reclamation Facility
- Wednesday, April 9, 10:00 am – Rock Creek Water Treatment Plant and Corvallis Forest (city watershed property by Marys Peak)

The February tour will take approximately 1–1.5 hours. The April tour will take at least 3 hours.

Plan to carpool to the Wastewater Reclamation Facility on NE Third Street. We are making arrangements with the city for transportation to the Rock Creek facility.

For reservations and carpool arrangements, contact Dave Eckert at 571-451-5867 (that's 571, not 541) or deckert@willamettewatershed.com.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH UNLOADING THE TRUCK AND DELIVERY FOR 2007 GRAPEFRUIT



UNLOADING THE TRUCK

Walter Barkan

Jack Nath

Jan Bottjer

Louise Marquering

Marilyn Koenitzer

DELIVERING

Laney Bardeen

Pat and Norm Bishop

Carolyn Brumley

Diana Carsten

Kathy Conner

Marcia Cutler

Louise Ferrell

Liz and Bob Frenkel

Cyrel Gable

Ruth and Tom Gallagher

Dagmar Johnson

Marilyn Koenitzer

Paula Krane

Carolyn Madsen

Sue Mariner

Louise Marquering

Steve McLaughlin

Kathy and Larry Merriam

Betti Muckleston

Karen and Joe Nibler

Jean and Jack Nath

Jo Overton

Barbara Ross

Rod Terry

Jo Anne and Cliff Trow

Marolyn Tarrant

Kathy Vohland

Suzanne Woodard

Bill York

Russ Youmans

Lois and Joe Zaerr

Jan Bottjer who delivered the 50 boxes to Ken Johnson

Again a thank you to Ken Johnson for his large order. Kudos should go again also to the Merriams who take fund raising seriously and sold 46 boxes!

And special thanks to Louise Marquering who took charge of the delivery and Marilyn Koenitzer who made the delivery lists while I was playing in Argentina.

Kate Mathews

LWV Book Club

"Fascinating characters, evocative descriptions of a relatively unknown area, and a first-rate plot make this an outstanding debut. This is a definitely a series to watch." So says the review from the American Library Association.

Death Pans Out, by Ashna Graves - known to those of us in Corvallis as Wendy Madar is the book for February's LWV book club. We will have two opportunities this month to talk about the book. First, we'll meet again



at Ruth Gallagher's, February 11th, 2:30 PM, to talk about our impressions of this mystery, set in Eastern Oregon. Then on February 21st, at 7 PM, we'll have a chance to listen to Wendy Madar herself at an author talk at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, sponsored by Friends of the Library. Join us for both or either one of these events. Call Corrine Gobeli, 745-7736 (cgobeli@aol.com) for more information.

The **Oregon Legislature** will convene on Feb 4th and work for about a month. Some of the issues they will take up include annual sessions, Big-look, child welfare caseload adjustments, driver's licenses for undocumented workers, full day kindergarten, greater access to Oregon Health Plan for children and families, reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities, state troopers 24/7, and toxic toy legislation. Read LWVOR's weekly *Legislative Report* to follow the session (**sign up at www.lwvor.org**), contact your legislator about issues important to you. Come to the League sponsored **TOWN HALL** meeting on March 1st at the public library at 10:00 AM to hear what they did and did not do in this special session. Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

BOTTOM LINE—WE SOLD OVER 450 BOXES AND INCLUDING DONATIONS AND AFTER EXPENSES WE NETTED \$3795. THANKS TO ALL THE HELPERS AND BUYERS.

LWVUS CONVENTION

"We are really excited; we think it's just great; You'll be coming to Portland in two thousand eight!"

With those words we invited national Leaguers to convention in Portland, June 13 – 17, 2008. The same sentiment goes to all state Leaguers. Come as delegates – or come as volunteers – a similar experience at a great price!

If members from Corvallis want to carpool, we will schedule your volunteers for the same day. Just make a note by the date selection on your volunteer form.

Be part of the excitement of "Reaching New Heights Together." "Come where the League blooms, and roses await. We look forward to welcoming you in O-eight."



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER
LWVUS National Convention, Portland OR
June 13-17, 2008
Hilton Hotel

Please Volunteer to Work at the 2008 LWVUS Convention, June 13 - 17
Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR

Volunteers are needed:

Every day (June 13 - 17) Registration, Credentials, Information, Tours, Personnel

Friday through Sunday (June 13 - 15) Hospitality and Dine Around

Saturday - Tuesday (June 14 - 17) Door Keepers, Ushers, Timekeepers, Teller/Elections, Microphone Monitors

Questions? Contact: Carol Cushman, 503-702-9490 (cell) or chcrail@aol.com
Debbie Kaye, 503-223-4660 or djek53@aol.com
Portland LWV office, 503-228-1675 or lwpx@aracnet.com

Return before the end of March 2008 to:

Debbie Kaye, 2235 NW Aspen Avenue, Portland, OR 97210-1218

or download from www.lwvpx.org or www.lwvor.org and email to djek53@aol.com

Volunteers will be notified of their assignments in early May.

Please print:

Name _____ **Phone** _____ **E-mail** _____

Address _____ **League** _____

Do you prefer e-mail? _____ US mail? _____

Area(s) of Interest: (mark in order of preference 1, 2, 3, etc)

Convention floor during Plenary sessions:				Other:			
___	Door Keeper			___	Registration	___	Dine Around
___	Usher			___	Information	___	Tours
___	Timekeeper			___	Personnel	___	Dine Around Host
___	Teller/Election			___	Credentials	___	Fundraiser
___	Microphone.Monitor			___	Hospitality	___	Wherever needed

Dates: Please choose time(s) and day(s) you are available to work and indicate AM, PM or all day. The number of hours you will be asked to work will depend on the number of volunteers and areas of interest.

Friday, June 13 (PM and/or Eve) _____ Saturday, June 14 _____ Sunday, June 15 _____

Monday, June 16 _____ Tuesday, June 17 (AM only) _____

Note: *Volunteers should note that the AM shift for most volunteers begins at 7:30.*

I am interested in B&B accommodations (limited number available): _____

Will you be a delegate to the Convention? ___Yes or ___No

Note: *Delegates will have to pay the registration fee. You may volunteer to work at the Convention and will be assigned a job that does not interfere with your duties as a delegate. Most delegates who volunteer will be assigned Friday or Saturday AM for Information or Hospitality, or Sunday as a Dine Around dinner host.*

Think Before You Ink!

Consider those petitions before you sign

By Norman Turrill, League of Women Voters of Oregon

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is encouraging its members and the public to be alert during the circulation of initiative petitions.

You will be asked to sign a variety of initiative petitions "just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it." **Your signature is valuable**, more valuable than your vote, considering that far fewer signatures are required to qualify a petition for the ballot than votes to pass it on the ballot. Only sign an initiative petition that you believe belongs on the ballot.

Here are six questions to help you make up your mind about an initiative petition:

- **Is it complex?** Some issues can be decided by a simple yes or no vote. Complex issues may need to be thoroughly examined in a legislative arena.
- **Is it confusing?** Some initiatives are not well written or contain conflicts that may require court resolution or interpretation.
- **Does it belong in the Constitution?** If an initiative amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs there. Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change? Correcting a constitutional amendment later would also require amending the Constitution, is cumbersome and costly,



and requires another vote of the people.

- **How will it be funded?** Is it an "unfunded mandate" that would require the Legislature to take funds from other essential programs? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of a government budget with already limited revenue. An initiative should generally create its own revenue source, and not earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of the General Fund revenues.

- **Who is behind it?** You can find out who are the real sponsors and opponents of a petition. Contribution and expenditure reports are available through the Election Division at 503-986-1518 and are also online in ORESTAR at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/>.
- **Before you sign, ask to see identification of a signature gatherer.** Paid signature gatherers are now required to carry a picture ID issued by the Secretary of State. Although a new law does not require a paid petitioner to wear or show the ID when a voter asks, if they do not, then a voter can reasonably refuse to sign a petition. Numerous instances of fraud have occurred that could have been avoided by insisting on seeing identification. And if a case of fraud is found, you will have information that could assist authorities.

Think before you ink! And spread the word!

Immigration

The Immigration Study has come to a close here at the local level. Thanks to all League members who participated at the forums and the unit consensus meetings. We had about 20 people at each of the unit meetings, and conversation was lively.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the members of the Immigration Study Committee: Marge Chilcote, Kathy Conner, Sara Ingle, Paula Krane, Mary Mayfield, Patty McClintock, Annette Mills, and Mary Anne Nusrala. They worked hard to help provide local League members the information needed for consensus. And thank you also goes to



JoAnne Trow for trying to keep us on track at the forum. Not an easy task at all.

Our League's response to the consensus questions has been sent to the National League. While we do not know when LWV-US will complete their task of compiling data from around the nation, nor do we have any idea what the final consensus will look like, I'm sure we are all very interested in the final product.

Thank you again for your participation in this very important study.

Tanya Shively, Immigration Study Committee Chair



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Dates to Remember

- February 4 — Oregon Special Legislative Session Starts
- February 7—Water Committee
- February 11 — Book Group
- February 12 —General Meeting – Birthday Party
- February 15—Board Meeting
- February 19—Water Committee
- February 20—Water Tour
- March—Voter Registration
- March 1—Legislative Town Hall
- March 4—General Meeting—Water
- March 13 - Book Group

Join LWV Corvallis

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'm interested in working with LWV this year.
Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to all citizens 18 years and over.

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.