



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

January 2009

ELECTIONS



National Popular Vote (LWVUS Study)

The League strongly believes that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely "reformed."

Electoral College? Other Ways? Yes or No?

Discussion and Consensus

Tuesday, January 13

7:00—8:45PM
Corvallis Benton County
Public Library

Election Methods (LWVOR STUDY)

Consensus Units

Tuesday, January 20

10:30 am to Noon
Ann Brodie
3145 NW Seneca Place

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ruth Gallagher
124 NW 7th Street

Apt. 412
Co-host
Jane Woodward
Use library parking lot

(details on page 3)

TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR THE 75TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Saturdays (First Saturday of each month
starting February 7th)

10:00 AM—Noon

Corvallis Benton County Public Library

(details on page 5)

Board of Directors
2008-09

President Annette Mills
First Vice President Kate Mathews
Second Vice President vacant
Secretary Pat Bishop
Treasurer Sara Ingle

Directors
Leah Bolger *Public Relations*
Marilyn Koenitzer *Land Use*
Louise Marquering *At-Large*
Shelly Murphy *Membership*
Karen Nibler *Social policy*
Tanya Shively *Election Methods*

Off Board
Diana Carsten *Local Food Study*
Laura Evenson *Events*
Liz Frenkel *Land Use*
Corrine Gobeli *Water*
Paula Krane *Bulletin Editor*
Doris Waring *Events*
Ann Brodie
Bettie Muckleston
Barbara Ross *Nominating Committee*

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.

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. 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.

**President's Column****Annette Mills**

As the holidays come to a close, it's time to look ahead to 2009.

This new League year promises to be full of stimulating discussion and fresh opportunities for education and action. We hope you'll be part of the fun of learning and working together!

Those who enjoy exploring new ways of doing things will love our January meetings. On January 13, LWV of Corvallis will host a general meeting at the library on the National Popular Vote Compact. As you will read in this Bulletin, delegates at the 2008 LWVUS Convention voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President". This is our chance to learn about and weigh in on this important topic.

Closely related is our state study on "Election Methods," which will be the focus of two January unit meetings. If you haven't already done so, please set aside some time to read the comprehensive and detailed study material that was mailed to all League members this fall. It is packed with interesting alternatives for us to explore. Then mark your calendar for either Tuesday morning, January 20th at the home of Ann Brodie or Wednesday evening, January 21st at the home of Ruth Gallagher to participate in the consensus meetings that may ultimately result in a new

LWVOR position on Election Methods.

In February, we'll turn our attention to a local issue: the proposed downtown Urban Renewal District. Members of our League's Land Use Committee are putting together a program to help the community learn more about this issue, which is scheduled to be put to the voters in May. Then, in March, our Water

Resources Committee will present an engaging program with a local slant on this important multi-year state study. April will find us focused on Food, as our newest study committee presents a program to inform League members and the community at large about the many facets and issues involved in the local food movement.

League action begins with member education and the formulation of strong positions. So plan to be a part of all these important discussions.

Thank you – Kate, Louise, and All Their Helpers!

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Our League relies heavily on fundraising in order to provide the financial support for our many programs. We owe a big "thank you" to Kate Mathews and Louise Marquering for heading up this year's grapefruit fundraiser, and to all who helped unload boxes, make phone calls, and deliver grapefruit to our expectant and happy customers. We really appreciate all the time and effort you contributed to the success of this important and popular fundraising activity.



The League and Climate Change

Global Climate Change was made a priority for advocacy by the LWVUS in 2007 and a Climate Change Task Force (CCFT) was created. While the LWVUS supports efforts to mitigate climate change, many of the issues within this broad category need discussion and explanation. The purpose of the CCTF is to use the expertise of the League's membership to provide information and assistance to the LWVUS Board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change.

The CCTF is charged with researching and writing substantive supporting materials (background papers) for the LWVUS position on climate change. The task force currently includes eight members, each of whom provided credentials and references and demonstrated research and writing skills prior to their selection. They have

worked diligently to produce a series of Climate Change Background Papers to be shared with League members in communities across America. As space permits, we will include all or parts of these Climate Change Background Papers in upcoming issues of the LWVC Bulletin.

In the future, the task force will continue to provide research and respond to specific issues, including questions arising with federal climate change legislation. Occasionally, other papers and articles will be written as the issues present themselves. Leagues may also convene local authorities to discuss the myriad of issues of global climate change. The issues are many and building the bank of knowledge is an on-going activity. See the LWVUS website for more information: <http://www.lwv.org/AM/>.



Is Urban Renewal Right for Corvallis?

Will the creation of an Urban Renewal District help sustain a vital Corvallis downtown? How might it affect other key funding priorities such as public education? How have neighboring cities in the Willamette Valley fared with their Urban Renewal Districts?

These and other questions relating to the

pending Urban Renewal proposal for Corvallis (scheduled for consideration by the City Council by March 2009) will be discussed by panelists with a variety of perspectives in the Corvallis-Benton County Library Meeting Room at 7 PM. on February 10. The League's Land Use Committee invites all of you to attend and bring a friend.



Didn't We Just Vote? Are Changes to Our Election Methods Needed?

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by the National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982 and Updated June 2004:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.



It seems we just had an election but before the next one, what changes in the methods used to elect some one to public office would you like to see occur? We will be continuing the discussion from the November general membership on January 13th. First will be a general membership meeting to talk about the method of electing the President of the United States. Is the National Popular Vote Compact the answer to the electoral college conflict? Included with this bulletin are background material and the consensus questions. The following week (January 20 and 21) we will continue with the discussion of election methods used in Oregon and what alternatives might we have. These will be units, and you can pick the one most convenient for you. The consensus questions included with this bulletin are covered by the publication mailed to every member in September.

Stay Warm With a Good Book

It's a good time to stay inside with a hot cup of tea and one of the upcoming books for the book club. On January 12th we'll again meet at Ruth Gallagher's at 2:30 p.m. to talk about Barbara Kingsolver's (and Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver) *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, the story of her family's year-long quest to eat truly locally - only food they raised themselves or bought or bartered from their neighbors.

It's a tale of hard work, good food (recipes included), thoughts and research about the state of food production and choices.

In response to a request for more fiction, here are the books for the remainder of the reading year:
 February 9, *The Last Girls*, Lee Smith
 March 9, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving
 April 13, *The Fencing Master*, Arturo Perez-Reverte
 May 11, *The Emperor of Ocean Park*, Stephen L. Carter



Styrofoam Recycling

Save styrofoam until after the holidays. At least one church is planning to do a collection in January. A group of friends or neighbors could collect it together and have one person to haul it to the Co-op if the church collection doesn't work out. I will send out an e-mail notice as soon as I know something.

Louise Marquering
753-0012

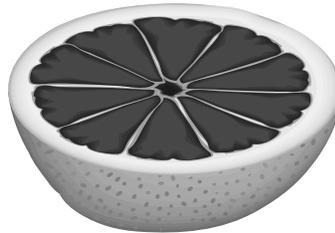


The League maintains a list serve for meeting announcements and action alerts. If you are not receiving these and wish to receive these emails please send your email address to kranep@peak.org.



Grapefruit Fundraiser Report—December 2008

The Grapefruit Sale, the major League fundraiser, met its goal netting \$3800. We ordered 410 boxes making \$9 per box, sold the extra boxes provided in case of spoilage, and received donations in lieu of grapefruit purchase of \$110. Expenses were \$10,197 for the grapefruit and \$138.54 for supplies, printing and postage.



Ann and Doug Brodie
 Carolyn Brumley
 Diana Carsten
 Marcia Cutler
 Liz and Bob Frenkel
 Ruth and Tom Gallagher
 Dagmar Johnson
 Marilyn Koenitzer
 Paula Krane

A big thank you to those who unloaded the truck which came 3 days early:

Paula Minear
 Jan Bottjer
 Louise Marquering
 Walter Barkan
 Chris Mathews
 Charlie Tomlinson
 The crew from Newport

Our dedicated delivery people this year were:
 Pat and Norm Bishop
 Leah Bolger

Craig and Nancy Leman
 Carolyn Madsen
 Louise Marquering
 Shelly Murphy
 Joe Nibler
 Jean and Jack Nath
 Jo Overton
 Rod Terry
 Jo Anne and Cliff Trow
 Suzanne Woodaard
 Russ and Mary Youmans
 Lois and Joe Zaerr
 Kathy Merriam
 Jan Bottjer who delivered the 45 boxes to Ken Johnson

Some Local Food Policy Committee Findings

While the latest Farm Bill continues subsidies for bulk grains, the US Department of Agriculture has many programs which can help our local citizens. Oregon changed its eligibility rules for its food stamp program to allow more families access to food stamps. This increased the Oregon food stamp participation rate by 80%. More than 230,000 Oregon children are eligible for a free or reduced price school lunch, roughly 42% of all students. The School Breakfast Program serves more than 135,000. There is also new statutory language clearly stating that preference can be given to local purchasing of agriculture products for schools serving meals that receive federal assistance.



The WIC program serves more than 110,000 Oregonians, the Child and Adult Care Food Programs serve more than 53,000. The Summer Food Service Program serves more than 44,000 Oregon children on an average day. Child nutrition programs represent a \$128.6 million annual federal investment in Oregon's youth.

In 2009 Congress will reauthorize various federal child nutrition programs. One will be the FMNP, the

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, established by Congress in 1992 to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants.

The FMNP provides cash grants to State agencies which must submit a State plan. The new Farm Bill added a section to expand the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable School program in the National School Lunch Act to enable 3 million low income children across the country to have access to healthier food options. This is a cost reimbursement program.

Another program is the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program which provides \$75 million over four years for competitive grants to groups providing technical assistance and other services to beginning farmers and ranchers.

While these programs are needed, the bureaucratic time involved in getting program money from the Feds is intimidating. Also a decreasing amount of commodities come from USDA to food banks, down 50% over three years. And the number of Oregonians struggling to feed their families is increasing.

Last Chance

If you have a red star on your bulletin label, this is your *last* bulletin.

We will sadly be deleting you from the League of Women Voters Membership Roster unless you send in your 2008-09 dues by January 15. There is a membership coupon on the last page of this bulletin. If you have decided *not* to renew, we would be interested in the reason

(shellym@peak.org or 754-1184). Your membership is important to the League

whether or not you plan to be active.

Please disregard this notice if you have recently sent in your check.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

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 and continuing March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd and June 6th (first Saturday of each month as long as the Legislature is in session) at the Corvallis Benton County Public Library. Details will be in each month's bulletin.



Muffins, fruit breads are needed for the February, March, April, May and June Town Halls on Saturdays. If you can't serve on a committee this year, maybe helping LWV in this way is a possibility for you. Please call Doris Waring, 752-4635 or Laura Lahm Evenson 753-6036 if you can help at any of the Town Halls.





LWV Corvallis
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**Dates
 To
 Remember**

- 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
(LWVOR Election Methods Study)
- February 7—Town Hall
- February 9—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- February 10—Urban Renewal
- February 14—Happy Birthday
State of Oregon and LWV
- February 20—Board Meeting
- March 7—Town Hall
- March 17—LWVOR Day at the Legislature
- May 15 –17 LWVOR Convention—Medford

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