



LWV Corvallis

Serving Benton and Linn Counties

November 2004

The LWV Corvallis invites its members and the public to this forum:

Hunger in Oregon

A presentation by

Patty Whitney Wise

Director of the Hunger Relief Task Force

And

Ryan McCambridge and Susan James

Linn-Benton Food Share

On

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

645 NW Monroe

Sponsored by the Corvallis League of Women Voters
and the Corvallis/Benton County Library

*See page 3 for further information about this event.
If you need a ride, volunteer drivers may be available.
Contact a Board member for more information.*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Election Activities

This bulletin should get to you after the election when the outcome will be known by you but wasn't known to us when the bulletin was written. LWV Corvallis had 5 events in 5 weeks in addition to Ballot Measure presentations and distribution of the Voters Guides. All board members and other members pitched in to help with these activities and I feel very grateful for their assistance.

The Civil Liberties meeting on September 30 was well attended in spite of the earlier Presidential Debate. Our speaker, Garrett Epps, was entertaining as well as knowledgeable, and the audience responded to his questions and remarks. LWV Corvallis agreed to co-sponsor an ACLU event on October 28 on the topic of Civil Liberties and advertised this event to our members. LWVUS continues to advocate for Civil Liberties with Congressional members. A letter from Kay Maxwell, LWVUS President, to Congress is on the LWVUS web site.

The 8 Oregon Ballot Measures were a challenge to learn and present. Kathryn Conner took charge of the committee and organized early.

Presentations were made to at least a dozen organizations, including our own members on October 5. Thanks to Peggy Lynch, JoAnne Trow, Paula Krane, Diana Carsten, Patty McClintock and Kathryn Conner for their educational efforts. LWVOR advocated for a no vote on 36 and 37.

The Candidate Forums on Tuesday evenings on October 14 and 19 drew the usual audiences of candidate supporters and interested parties. Not all the candidates for State Representative in Districts 15, 16 and 23 or Benton County Commissioner accepted our invitation to participate. Both evenings drew very relevant questions and good discussions. Thanks to Pat Bishop for organizing the 2 evening forums and to Ann Brodie and Maryanne Nusrala for moderating these forums.

The City Council Candidate Forum on Saturday morning October 23 hosted 10 out of 13 council candidates and drew a small audience. However, we had a good opportunity to interact with council members and ask questions of interest to league members. Thanks to Marilyn Koenitzer for putting together the Saturday forum. Thanks also to Jean Nath, Mirium Miller, Paula Krane, Kate Matthews and others who helped facilitate these events.

LWV Corvallis board supported the 509J Local Option Levy, and the Letter to the Editor was printed in the Gazette Times. The LWVOR Mock Elections results were also printed in the Gazette Times. The local coordinator was Sandra Thixton – Thanks for her efforts – It was a great learning experience for our students.

What's next? The Ins and Outs of State Finance and Campaign Finance Reform are the next topics we will explore. Members are needed for study and presentations. Legislative Process Day has been scheduled for November 19; the agenda and registration form is on page 5. Come join us at the Capitol in Salem.

–Karen Nibler, President

LWV Corvallis

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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.

LWVOR

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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.



HUNGER IN OREGON

HUNGRY CHILDREN, HUNGRY MINDS

Patty Whitney Wise, the speaker, will bring a power-point presentation on the extent of the hunger problem in Oregon. She will focus on the impact of hunger on children and their school performance. Many of the hungry children are in working families with high rents and insufficient funds for necessities.

The Hunger Relief Task Force is responsible for maintaining information on the hunger problem in Oregon and coordinating services between state agencies involved in providing food and nutrition services. The office is located within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Agency. OHCS receives Community Services Block Grant funds from the US Dept. of Health and Human Services.

The Oregon Housing and Community Services Agency is responsible for administering the Emergency Food Assistance Program and has contracted with the Oregon Food Bank to deliver the Service. The Oregon Food Bank, a private non-profit agency, distributes commodities and donated food through 20 regional agencies. Linn Benton Food Share is one of those regional agencies. The Food Bank supplies many local social service agencies with food.

The Oregon Food Bank has published data in Profiles of Poverty and Hunger in Oregon 2004, on the web www.oregonfoodbank.org. According to the Census data, Oregon is still one of the hungriest states. Food stamps have not been sufficient and the stock of affordable housing is low. The Oregon Food Banks have had an 82% increase in demand for emergency food boxes since 1996, but more emergency food boxes are not the solution. Hear about recommended policy actions that would move toward eliminating the root causes of hunger.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy has recently published In the Shadows of the Recovery, the State of Working Oregon 2004, which is on the web at www.ocpp.org. This report cites fallen income for low and median wage workers, an increased income gap between the rich and average family, fewer jobs than before the recession, unaffordable rental costs, lack of health coverage, rapid increase in charity care at hospitals, and lack of access to credit. This report draws information from a broad base of state and federal agencies. This is an information resource.

SETTLE DOWN WITH A GOOD BOOK: LWVC BOOK CLUB

Challenge yourself – with a good book

The reading year begins with Azar Nafisi's, *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. Join us at Mary Jo Levenspiel's house for this discussion, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. Call Mary Jo (753-9248) for directions.

Discussions are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Watch the bulletin for locations. Upcoming books include:

December: *The View from Pompey's Head (Voices of the South)*, Hamilton Basso

January: *The 9-11 Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States* (recently nominated for a National Book Award)

February: *Henry and Clara*, Thomas Mallon

March: *Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, Barack Obama

April: *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* (The American empire Project, Chalmers Johnson)

May: *The Master*, Colin Toibin

(Note the last two books are currently available only in hardback– alternates may be determined).

Thanks to the LWVC members who gathered at Mary Thomas's home in September. We now have a new slate of books to read and discuss for the upcoming year. As you will note, Leaguers like to contemplate big issues (no fluff here)!

Other books recommended but not chosen through our democratic voting process included *The Great Unraveling, A Dance to the Music of Time, Naked in Baghdad, Total Insecurity, World on Fire, Unless, The Little Friend, Wilderness and Razor Wire, Cronos Don't Whine, and Ten Little Indians*.

VOTERS GUIDES

The LWWOR Voters Guides on State Candidates and Ballot Measures were delivered to Corvallis prior to the first October meeting and were available at all Voter Service meetings in October. The 6000 copies were distributed to public libraries in Benton and Linn Counties, to public high schools in Benton and Linn Counties, to County Elections Offices, to Albany and Corvallis City offices, Linn and Benton County offices, to Corvallis and Philomath school district offices, to LBCC Benton Center and Albany campus, to OSU ASOSU, OSU Library, OSU Social Sciences, OSU Foundation, HP and CH2MH. In addition they were placed in Senior Centers, Assisted Living facilities, health clinics, churches, exercise clubs, businesses, civic organizations and anywhere that board members frequented.

Easy Reader and Spanish Editions were published and found to be in demand. The Easy Reader version was used by disabled adults and by Middle School students in the Mock Elections. The Spanish version was in demand by churches, health clinics and schools. A larger number of the special editions will be printed for the next general election.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Fall Membership renewal has gotten off to a great start! At this time 63 individuals and 14 household memberships have been renewed. New household members are Kathleen and Edward Heath, Chris and Kate Mathews and Jan and Bud Ames. New national members are Sheila Nelson and Catherine White. Charlene Beschta is a new local member and Carolyn Brumley is a local returning member. A warm welcome to our new members. We hope they will find the League a rewarding experience. And we hope others will renew their membership as soon as possible. We will have more in-depth information on our new members in the next bulletin.

Marolyn Tarrant
Membership Chair

LAST REMINDER TO ORDER GRAPEFRUIT!

This is our opportunity to get juicy red grapefruit for ourselves and friends and support LWVC at the same time. The deadline for orders is November 15. Last chance is the Nov. 16 meeting.

ORDER FORM

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____

Quantity Ordered		Subtotal
_____ 20 lb. box (17-20 grapefruit) @ \$15		_____
_____ 10 lb. box @ \$7.50		_____
	TOTAL	_____

Make checks payable to LWV Corvallis.

Send form and payment to:
 Lois Marie Zaerr
 5945 NW Rosewood Dr.
 Corvallis, OR 97330
 Phone: 745-5695

Thank you for your contributions to League.

- Donna Allen
- Jan & Bud Ames
- Paula Krane
- Nancy Roberts
- Clara Shoemaker
- Ann & Bill Smart
- Jo Anne & Cliff Trow
- Doris Waring

Your generosity is most appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY
November 19, 2004
Oregon State Capitol Building

Sponsored by:
American Association of University Women of Oregon
League of Women Voters of Oregon
YWCA of Salem

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:30	Registration, Coffee, Networking		Capitol Galleria, 1 st flr
10:00	Welcome, Announcements		Hearing Room C, 1 st flr
10:10	The Budget Process	Paul Warner, Director; Legislative Revenue Office	
10:40	The Legislative Process	Bill Bradbury (Invited); Secretary of State	
11:10	The Hearing Process	Mock Hearing on Public Policy and Human Services	
12:30	Lunch		Hearing Rm 50, Ground flr
1:15	Media Panel	The Role of the Media in Shaping Public Opinion on Issues	
2:30	Adjournment and Evaluation	Optional Capitol Tours	

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY
REGISTRATION FORM – Due November 12

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Check all that apply:

Member of LWV AAUW YWCA Guest

I have enclosed a check made out to LWVOR for:

\$15 LWV, AAUW, YWCA member registration

\$20 guest registration

I prefer a vegetarian lunch.

Please mail your registration form and check, **by Nov. 12**, to:
LWVOR • 2659 Commercial St. SE, Suite 260 • Salem, OR 97302
Questions? 503-581-5722 OR lwvor@lwvor.org

Upcoming Events: November 2004

- November 2** Election Day
- November 8** Book Club: 7:30 PM, at Mary Jo Levenspiel's home, call for directions
- November 16** Hunger in Oregon, 7:00–8:30 PM, Corvallis/Benton County Library
645 NW Monroe
- November 18** LWV Corvallis Board Meeting
Pat Bishop's Home
- November 19** LWVOR Legislative Process Day
Oregon State Capitol Bldg.
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Mark Your Calendar

Thrift Shop Consignment Day

Thurs. 12:30 – 3:00 PM

Call ahead to make
arrangements
Miriam Miller 753–7261

*Thrift Shop consignment
number: 1073*
