



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

November 2008

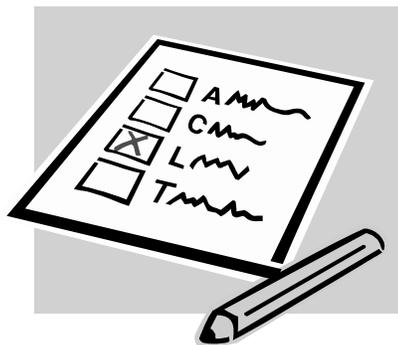
GOOD STEWARDS OF THE PLANET: Local Businesses Moving toward Sustainability



Thursday, November 6, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
Corvallis Benton County Public Library

Guest panelists:
Maureen Beezhold,
Oregon Natural Step Network
John Huyck, Bombs Away Café
Donna Kaiser, First Alternative Co-op

Details on page 3



League of Women Voters of Oregon State Study *Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals*

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
7:00—9:00 PM
Corvallis Benton County Public Library

David Bernell, Assistant Professor of Political Science at OSU
And the Election Methods Committee
Will Introduce the Concepts from the Everymember material
Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals

Details on page 5

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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.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SUPPORTS, OPPOSES TEN BALLOT MEASURES

The League of Women Voters of Oregon announces its recommendations on ten statewide ballot measures. The League, a respected nonpartisan political organization, does not support or oppose candidates, but it does take stands on selected issues, including ballot measures. These stands are based on our positions that have been developed through in-depth study and member agreement.

"The League has a careful process for evaluating ballot measures, and we believe it is important for the public to know where we stand. The passage or defeat of ballot measures can significantly impact civil liberties, the public welfare, public safety and taxes.

The League supports a "Yes" vote on the following ballot measures: Measures 54, 55, 56, 57.

The League supports a "No" vote on the following ballot measures: Measures 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, and 64.

A more detailed explanation of the League's ballot measure recommendations can be found at www.lwvor.org.



President's Column

Annette Mills

October was an especially busy – and important – month for League. In addition to sponsoring three (3!) Voters Service Forums, we distributed thousands of Voters Guides, educated many groups through our Speakers Bureau, and helped support the Mock Elections at middle and high schools in our area.

Many thanks to all of the candidates who participated in the forums, as well as to audience members for their thoughtful questions. Peggy Lynch, Linda Modrell, and Paula Krane each did a superb job as our moderators. I am very grateful to Pat Bishop, Kate Mathews, and Paula Krane, who served as the lead organizers for our Voters Service Forums, as well as to Past President Barbara Ross, who helped oversee these events. Thanks to the efforts of Public Relations Chair Leah Bolger, we had good advanced publicity, and our Membership Chair Shelly Murphy saw to it that membership materials were available at all three events. And, as always, our Events Coordinators, Doris Waring and Laura Evenson, took care of the "nuts and bolts" that made everything come together.

With election season nearly behind us, we look ahead to two special programs in November. On November 6, our League will host a

panel discussion featuring representatives from the business community who are leading the way to a sustainable future. We will hear about the work of the Oregon Natural Step Network that led to their selection as the first "Good Steward of the Planet" award at last January's "Celebrate Corvallis" ceremony. As runners-up for this important recognition, Bombs Away Café and First Alternative Co-op will also be featured. Come and learn more about the day-to-day practices that are transforming these local businesses.

Then, on November 18, be sure to join us for an important program on Election Methods. What do you know about instant runoff voting, fusion voting, and the National Popular Vote? These are just a few of the topics covered in the LWVOR study, "Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals," that you should have received via mail in October. David Bernell, Assistant Professor of Political Science at OSU, will help us navigate the intriguing landscape of Election Methods. This is especially critical information since we will be grappling with consensus questions in January.

Please put both of these meetings on your calendar, and plan to bring someone you know who may be interested in joining the League. You just need to ask!



Election Ballots are Due November 4th

Ballots must be received at an official drop-off site by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4th

Voter's Guide available <http://www.vote411.org/> and www.VoteSource.org

Dues

Look at your bulletin label. An orange dot means you have not yet paid your 2008-09 membership dues. Your membership is important to the League. Dues are \$52 for an individual membership, and \$78 for a household. You may use the envelope you received with your September bulletin or clip out the membership coupon on the last page of this issue.



Thank you in advance for helping keep the LWV Corvallis strong.

*Shelly Murphy,
Membership Director*



The League sends heartfelt sympathy to League member Katherine Merriam on the death of her husband, a longtime League supporter and member, Larry Merriam last month

Evanite Testimony

Land Use—Annette Mills presented testimony for the League to the Planning Commission on the two Evanite hearings upon recommendation of the Land Use Committee. League testimony argued against the Land Development Code Text amendment changes requested by Evanite in return for offering an easement for the trail. Annette handed in testimony against the proposed Evanite trail alignment prior to the extended deadline. The complicated issues at both hearings were decided in favor of League's testimony. Both hearings are appealed and will go before the City Council on November 3 at 7:30 p.m.



For more information, go to Marilyn's new website: corvalliswatch.org. The website is devoted almost entirely to Evanite. To get to it you must type <http://www.corvalliswatch.org> into the address line. Google doesn't see the website yet. The website features land use issues in Corvallis.

The third item of the Blog page of

the website lists conditions of Planning Commission approval of the new trail alignment with an 82-foot right of way instead of 32 feet, and a slope of no more than 6% along with two pages of other modifications. Also listed are the findings for denial of the Land Development Code Text Amendment requests. These were for the 32-foot building setback and the removal of the Willamette River Greenway Conditional Use Hearing area beyond 200 feet of the ordinary low water line. The findings for these denials are three pages long.

Other [corvalliswatch](http://corvalliswatch.org) pages show information about the DEQ permits,

DEQ letters, how to give testimony, and the pros and cons of the trail alignment and Evanite's requests.

The Land Use committee is currently working on changes to the Land Development Code that will come before the Planning Commission and City Council before the end of the year.

Marilyn Koenitzer -754-0656
Land Use Director

GOOD STEWARDS OF THE PLANET

November 6

Each year, the Corvallis Benton Chamber Coalition sponsors "Celebrate Corvallis" to recognize citizens and businesses for their outstanding achievement in business and in the community. A new award – "Good Steward of the Planet" – was established last year to honor a local business that has made a significant contribution to

improving the environmental health of Benton County.

On Thursday evening, November 6, the League will host a special program featuring the winner and runners-up of this new

award. Come and find out how Corvallis area businesses are moving in new,

more sustainable directions – meeting existing

needs without compromising the ability of

future generations to meet their own needs.



Legislative Process Day



**Thursday, November 20
9:15 AM to 2:30 PM
Oregon State Library, Salem, Rms. 102-103**

What is Oregon's legislative process?
What will be the important issues legislators face in the
2009 legislative session?
How can we have an impact?
Join us to learn about these important issues!

We will:

*Attend a Joint Ways and Means Committee hearing
Hear from Legislative Revenue Officer Paul Warner (invited) about
Oregon's budget situation
Meet Oregon's new Secretary of State (invited)
And More!*

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

An agenda, map, parking information, and directions will be available on the www.lwvor.org Members' site
(user name "lwvor" and password "carriecatt"). Click on [Events](#).

Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return by Friday, **Nov. 14, 2008**

Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!

Name: _____

League/Branch: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Workshop with lunch: \$18.00 pp. Please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian option.
 Workshop only: \$11.00 pp.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **Nov. 14, 2008**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Good Reading



League members passed unanimously a local food study at last spring's annual meeting. This month's book, Michael

Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, is a good read for those interested in the topic – whether you are a locovore, slow food aficionado or just a lover of good food. Pollan explores three very different ways of producing food in the US: factory farms, sustainable farms and foraging. (He followed this book with another: *In Defense of Food*, in which he provides more practical recommendations for a more sustainable, healthy food future.) Join us Monday, November 10th at 2:30 PM at Ruth Gallagher's apartment building, right across the street from the public library for the discussion. For complete directions, contact Ruth, 754-3112 ruthg@cmug.com. As always, discussions are open to all League members.

Upcoming books and dates:

December 8: *Fourth Uncle in the Mountain*, Marjorie Pivar and Quang Van Nguyen

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

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



Food Study Update

So far the Local Food Policy study has studied the many initiatives being pursued within the City of Corvallis. Linn-Benton Foodshare, Mary's River Gleaners, South Corvallis Food Bank and other groups are doing very impressive and efficient work feeding the less affluent in our community. These groups are happy to access fresh local food as available. The number of community gardens is increasing and the Hispanic community in particular would appreciate more sites, well located.

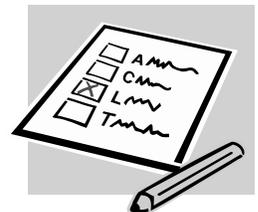


In 2007 USDA mandated Wellness Committees in each school district and our Wellness Committee is improving diet in a number of ways. All cafeterias now have salad bars and they are nearest to the entry point. SYSCO provides the school food but the food service director has a local 'vegetable of the month'.

Eleen Baumann has provided us with some thought-provoking information on food purchasing habits. As of 2005 51% of food dollars were spent at home, 49% away from home, one suspects much of this routinely at fast food outlets. While sales of organic food have been growing, in 2005 they were only 2.5% of the total. And only 7% of these sales were at Farmers' markets.

Election Methods November 18

"Oregon's elections are widely considered to be effectively managed with a voter turnout that is typically among the highest in the nation. In recent years, however, proposals for changes in Oregon's election methods have been made ... For example, Oregon voters will see on the November 2008 ballot an open/top two primary proposal that changes how general election candidates are selected... Obviously Oregon voters will decide on this primary reform question, but that it is being raised is an indication that a thoughtful discussion of election method alternatives would benefit League members." From *LWVOR's Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals...* The November 18th general meeting will begin this discussion. David Bernell, Assistant Professor of the OSU Political Science Department will talk about some of the alternative election methods – help us all understand what the changes are and how they might effect how we vote. In January there will be consensus meeting on two related topics - the LWVOR Election Methods study and the LWVUS National Popular Vote Study. The LWVOR everymember material was mailed to all League members in September and if you have not received your copy, please contact Paula



Welcome New Members

So far this fall, we are happy to welcome fifteen new members, one transfer, and two returning members to the LWV Corvallis. Our brand new members are Eleanor Bissell, Lisa and Dan Brown, Lisa Egan, Camille and Michael Freitag, Sylvia Harvey, Annabelle Jaramillo, Donna Joiner, Marilyn Kirsch, Sarah Marshall, Jeanne Raymond, Shelly Spiller, Wendy Tegan, and Rory VanGarde. Jean Kliewer and Susan Watson have rejoined, and Barbara Regan comes to



us from the Medford League.

We appreciate your membership and hope you will find belonging to the League rewarding. New member packets are being distributed by the Membership Committee. If

you are a new member and haven't yet received your packet, please contact Membership Director Shelly at 754-1184.

Any member who would like an electronic copy of an updated membership list can request one by emailing shellym@peak.org.

Recycling Tip

What **NOT** to put in the recycling cart. Now that we have the huge recycling cart, more non-recyclable material is landing in the cart and causing problems.



Do **NOT** put in plastic bags. They clog the machines. Save them and take them to your grocery store to recycle.

Clear plastic "clam-shells" containing take home salads, cakes, cookies, or other foods are **NOT** recyclable except at the Co-op.

Questions? Contact Louise Marquering—753-0012

LWVUS 2009 Open World Hosting Program

The Corvallis League is considering participation in the national League's Civic Hosting Program funded by the Open World Leadership Center.

The LWVUS is applying to host visitors from former Soviet Republics. The themes of the visit are either accountable governance or civic rule of law. Each delegation of 6 people (5 participants and 1 facilitator fluent in English) will spend eight days in the United States.

Local Leagues interested in hosting are asked to submit an application outlining a program for the visitors that will address the following goals:

- Exchange views with influential representatives of state and local government, civic organizations, and the business community.
- Participate in events that may lead to understanding of community organizations' interaction with the government
- Gain an understanding of the relationships among (1) the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government; (2) business and civic

communities and government; and (3) individual citizens and government.

They will also provide home-stays for the visitors.

Leagues that have participated in this program in the past have reported that it has heightened their profile in the community. For more information go to www.lwvor.org and select "Projects," then "Global Democracy," then "International Programs."



LWV Corvallis has identified a facilitator for this project. However, since carrying out an eight-day hosting program for six people requires great effort and extraordinary commitment not only

by the facilitator but by local League members, we need to know if there is an interest among you in pursuing this project. Please contact Shelly Murphy either by phone -754-1184 – or email – shellym@peak.org if you think you might be interested in either organizing or hosting. If there is enough response, LWV Corvallis will proceed with its application.

Community Sustainability Initiative Update

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis was well-represented at the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall Meeting on October 7. Our League was one of 45 Sustainability Coalition partner organizations featured at the lively and well-attended fair, which took place at the CH2MHill Alumni Center. Following the fair, over 400 citizens filled the ballroom, using keypad polling (electronic voting) to register their opinions regarding which of 36 long-range sustainability goals should be worked on first by our community. Many League members participated in the prioritizing process.

asked to fill out a "Passport to Sustainability" on which they listed actions they will take to help move Corvallis toward sustainability. They were also invited to join Action Teams, which will be launched this fall to begin work on the 300 actions that have been proposed for inclusion in the Community Sustainability Action Plan. The final plan will be presented to the community in December.

To read the proposed goals, strategies, and actions, go to www.sustainablecorvallis.org/workgroupproposals.

Town Hall participants were also

Support your local league

IT'S GRAPEFRUIT TIME AGAIN!



Our annual grapefruit fundraiser will be from October 1 to November 15. Funds raised are used to support our local programs. Our dues cover only national and state League assessments.

PRICES THIS YEAR:

\$20 WHOLE BOX* and \$10 HALF BOX

Order early (and often!) with the form below. The fruit will be delivered in early December. If you do not order

grapefruit, please consider a donation. We make about 40% of the cost of a box. *Rio Queen has raised the price again.

ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

No. of boxes	Amount
_____ Full Box(es) @\$20 each	\$ _____
_____ Half Box @\$10 each	\$ _____
Total _____	

Send to: Kate Mathews
3336 SW Willamette
Corvallis 97333

Make checks payable to:
LWV Corvallis
Questions: Kate at 754-1172

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202-429-1965
FAX 202-429-0854
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
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**Dates
 To
 Remember**

- November 4—Election Day
- November 6—Good Stewards of the Planet
- November 10—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- November 14—Board Meeting
- November 15—Last Day to Order Grapefruits
- November 18—Election Methods
 General Meeting
- November 20—LWVOR Legislative Process
 Workshop (Salem)
- Week of December 1—Delivery of Grapefruits
- December 8—LWV Corvallis Book Club
- December 9—Dinner and Program Planning
- December 12—Board Meeting

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