



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

September 2015

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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.



Tuesday, September 29th, 7 PM League Treats and Opportunities & Forests Plans and Perspectives

Corvallis-Benton County Library, 645 NW Monroe Avenue

First, get acquainted with the League as committees around the room give out dessert treats and overviews of their work, and an opportunity to join them in the coming year.

Forest Plans A representative of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will tell us about its draft Forest Management Plan, with a special emphasis on how the plan will affect Marys Peak and our local mountains. Chuck Willer of the Coast Range Association will follow with his perspective on the plan (www.coastrange.org/).

There will be plenty of time for audience questions.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Coming Up: A Full Year in LWV of Corvallis

Our League year starts with a bang on **September 29th**, introducing League and its study and action issues, followed by speakers on managing our forests.

In **October** our Voter Service committee presents pros and cons on Benton County's proposed jail construction. **November** introduces us to the national League's study on amending the U.S. Constitution, on which we will seek consensus. (See page 5 for a preview.) In **December** we'll look at the national League study on Money in Politics, to update the LWV position on Campaign Finance Reform. In **January**, we combine a soup social with Program Planning – a discussion of issues that members want the League to address by study or action in 2016-2017.

February brings Climate Change to the fore as well as Legislative Town Halls covering the one-month Legislative session. In **March** we'll concern ourselves with City of Corvallis issues. In **April** we will seek member agreement on Post-Secondary Education in Oregon after discussing the state League study. The year culminates with our Annual Meeting in late **May**. *Note:* the 2015-2016 LWV calendar is enclosed in this Bulletin.

You can be sure that even more informative events will come through the year—stay tuned!



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

Sitting at my dining room table in August writing this column, I am aghast at the speed of time! I remember that as a child it seemed an eternity had passed between the end of school and September. Now, it seems as if it has only been an instant. September brings Corvallis from a sleepy, resting state back to the hustle and bustle of the school year. It also brings the LWV back to life.

During the summer, the Board met to set goals and programs for the coming year. We decided to focus attention on climate and community issues, voter information during election season, and informing the community on the one-month legislative session in 2016.

In the last few years we have tried to increase our membership, and this will continue to be a goal. Please consider a friend or neighbor who might be interested in the work of the League. Invite them to attend our kick-off meeting with you. There is a place for everyone in LWV!

Speaking of the kick-off meeting, come and enjoy desserts while exploring what exciting things different League committees are doing. The main feature of the evening will be an informative program on Mary's Peak and our local mountains, which should interest many in Benton County. It will provide some history as well as future BLM plans for our beloved landmark.



WELCOME!

New Members—

Gale Read, Loretta Rielly,
Karen Rockwell, and Jean
Townes

Liz & Bob Frenkel —

are moving to Portland this month and will be sorely missed in our League. They have made a huge difference in Corvallis since their arrival in 1965. If you'd like to be in touch, write them at: Courtyard at Mt. Tabor, Plaza Independent Living, 6221 SE Division St. #248, Portland, OR 97206. Phone: 971-339-2886
Email: lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com

LWV of Corvallis

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This bulletin is the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis* and is produced 10 times a year.

Contact Beth Thoennes or Louise Marquering with your suggestions, submissions, comments, or story ideas. We welcome your input.

Submissions are due no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. Membership in the League of Women Voters of Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages and includes membership in the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

In Memoriam

Anne Harding

LWV member Anne Harding passed away from lymphoma in June.

Anne and her husband, Bob Scott, came from Colorado to Corvallis in 2008. They became active on the League's Local Food Committee and helped to organize three local Food Day celebrations in Corvallis. Anne had a B.A. in social work and an M.A. in Geology and was an accomplished geologist whose work contributed to mapping in Colorado.

Bettie Muckleston

Bettie, born in 1932 in Chicago, died May 11 in Corvallis. She and her husband Keith moved to Corvallis in 1963 and were members of the League through 2013.

Bettie was known for her helpfulness, not only as a travel agent for many years, but to those in need and the disadvantaged.



Community Planning Update

Transportation System Goals

The Project Management Team for the Corvallis Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) Update that got underway early this year has drafted the following goals.

Goal 1: Economic Vitality. Provide an efficient transportation system that supports economic vitality by facilitating the local and regional movement of people and goods.

Goal 2: Health and Safety. Provide a transportation system that enhances the health and safety of residents.

Goal 3: Diversity and Accessibility. Provide a diversified and accessible transportation system that ensures mobility for all members of the community and provides viable alternatives to automobile travel.

Goal 4: Responsible Stewardship. Provide a sustainable transportation system through responsible stewardship of financial and environmental resources.

During July and August, public input on the draft goals was gathered using a survey developed by the City. The survey was available in Spanish as well as English, online and on paper. The project team hosted information booths at the Farmer's Market, Benton County Fair, and Corvallis Family Table Meal Night. 274 people completed the survey, generally accepting the goals, and providing comments on trouble spots, solution ideas, and suggestions for modification. Using this information, the goals will be revised and then sent to the Steering Committee, and then on to City Council for approval.

“Let’s Improve How We Get Around, Together” is the heading on a TSP flyer. If you missed the opportunity to complete the survey, your feedback is still welcome. Go to: corvallistsp.org/page/feedback

Note: The League’s Community Planning Committee welcomes new members. If you are interested in playing a role in how local government functions, please join us. Contact Shelly at shellym@peak.org or 541-760-9906 for more information or to get meeting announcements.

— Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair

Membership

It’s another year of action, advocacy, and education. All these activities need *members*, and everyone is a prospective member. Carry membership brochures so you’ll be ready to provide information to colleagues at work, newcomers in your neighborhood, and to people in your book club, exercise class, civic organization, or church.

The LWV Corvallis dues year begins in October. Dues are still \$60 for an individual, \$90 for a household, and \$30 for a student. For your convenience, a membership form and envelope are enclosed in this bulletin. Please complete the form—highlighting any changes in your address, phone or email and interests—and mail it with your check as soon as possible.



Dues are not tax deductible. If you would like to support the LWV of Corvallis with a tax deductible donation, please write a *separate* check to the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Education Fund (LWVEF) and enclose it with your dues check. Your Education Fund donation makes it possible for us to meet up to 50% of the per member payment owed to the national League. Donations may also be made to the LWV of Oregon Education Fund, but it allows us to replace only 25% of its per member payment.

The Corvallis League offers dues assistance to prospective members who need assistance. If you are interested, contact the Membership Chair or any member of the League Board.

—Corrine Gobeli, 541-745-7736, gobelic@comcast.net.



Voter Registration Planned

The LWV of Corvallis plans to register voters on OSU campus for National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22nd. If you would like to help, email Voter Service Chair Cathy Frischmann, cathyberry13@hotmail.com or call her at 208-406-4559.

Health Care House Party, October 21

Since 1993, League has had the goal that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. When will we achieve this goal, as other developed nations have? Come join the discussion. Save the date and come join the discussion. Place and time will be announced later.

League of Women Voters of Corvallis - 65th Annual Meeting, May 27th

Who says you can't mix business with pleasure? The annual meeting began with our usual delicious buffet dinner, accompanied by a brief, but scintillating concert by Corvallis High School's Spartacapella group. We then did League business: budget and program adoption, election of officers, and recognizing members' contributions in the past year. Following the business meeting Dr. Marisa Chappell and three of her students in OSU History 363, Women in American History, presented their oral history project, "The LWV of Corvallis Makes History: What Your Stories Can Teach the Next Generation." Hearing their experiences and seeing some of the oral history videos they made were a great treat.



*Spartacapella, C.H.S. provided
tuneful dinner entertainment*



*Guest Speaker Dr. Marisa Chappell
(far left), and students*



LWV of Corvallis Board of Directors, 2015-16 (l-r):

Sara Ingle, Paula Krane, Karyl Butcher, Janet Throop, Laura Lahm-Evenson, Annette Mills, Beth Thoennes, Cathy Frischmann, Shelly Murphy, Claudia Keith *(Not shown: Judy Ball, Carolyn Brumley)*

LWVOR Convention Stimulates Delegates



Delegates Karen Nibler, Paula Krane, Annette Mills, Claudia Keith, Peggy Lynch, Laura Lahm Evenson

The convention theme was "Connect the Dots: How much is your vote worth?" **Congressman Peter DeFazio**, the Saturday morning speaker, addressed money, media, and redistricting. He said some pretty depressing things, about his faith in the survival of democracy, because of some of present realities in Washington, D.C. He described how

media has become deregulated and companies are concentrated. Redistricting has become a scientific practice, and money has greater potential to undo our system. He went on to describe what the Supreme Court has done, expanding the scope of cases before them, even answering questions that were not before them. The congressman quoted Trevor Potter on how a random billionaire might change the course of a nation: One hundred people gave 67% of campaign donations in 2014. DeFazio noted that if the "Top Two" initiative passed he would have to run two campaigns, one for the primary and another for the general election. Regarding the proposed League mining study, DeFazio brought up the Formosa mine in Douglas County that threatens Riddle's drinking water supply and is a superfund site. DeFazio said he has introduced a mining bill, and that

Continued, page 7

LWVUS November Study: U.S. Constitutional Amendment

Constitutional Background In 1787, delegates from twelve of the thirteen states then in existence met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. Instead, they drafted a totally new document, what we know as the U.S. Constitution. It was unanimously ratified by the states. How the 1787 Convention was convened and conducted are cited in the current debate about calling a Convention under Article V. Here's what Article V of the U.S. Constitution says about amending the Constitution:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; . . .

So Article V provides two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter: 1) Congress may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification OR 2) two-thirds of the states' legislatures (34 now) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution; this would be an Article V Convention, never yet successfully invoked. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states (now 38).



The first method has been used by Congress to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Of these, 27 were approved; 26 are currently in effect. The 18th Amendment (Prohibition)—was ultimately repealed by another amendment, the 21st—the only amendment ratified by conventions in the states, rather than by state legislatures.

League Background It goes without saying that the League of Women Voters believes it is right and permissible to

amend the Constitution of the United States when circumstances demand. The League was born from the successful, decades-long effort to pass the 19th Amendment. The question for us today is: what are the shared values and beliefs within the League—what consensus do we have—regarding the circumstances that might allow or compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V Convention?

This study of amending the U.S. Constitution is in three parts. Part I regards guidelines to evaluate amendment proposals. Part II asks

about aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a Convention. Part III relates to how the League might put these guidelines into practice and asks two overall balancing questions between process and positions.

To help prepare for the November consensus meeting, contact Paula Krane, Governance Chair, at kranep@peak.org or 541-752-2361.



Money in Politics Update

The Money in Politics Committee, now forming, will present an update in December of the national League's position on campaign finance. Its purpose is to address

the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment.

The League's campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the

rights of individuals and organizations under the First Amendment to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights if any should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

To help the committee prepare for the December consensus meeting, contact Paula Krane, Governance Chair, at kranep@peak.org or 541-752-2361.



Pedalpalooza and Commuter Appreciation at September 20, 22 Car Free Festival

Pedalpalooza – a Car Free Festival
Sunday, September 20, 12 NOON to 3 PM
 Riverfront Park, Monroe–Jackson Block

Get ready to bike, stroll, or roll! A variety of pedal-powered gizmos will be on hand, along with plenty of music, food, games, and exhibits. The event kicks off with the lively sounds of *Gumbo*. At the same time, a special Car Free Storytime will be down the street at Howland Plaza, at 1st and Madison. Kids will have a chance to decorate bikes and to be part of a bike parade along the Riverfront bike path, led by the Sicktown Derby Dames.

A solar and pedal-powered ice cream cart, pedal-powered spin art, and crazy kinetic sculptures add to the fun. Team Dirt will be back with their special obstacle course, and the “Slow Race” challenges bicyclists young and old to be the last to the finish line. Dancers and hands-on exhibits by more than 25 community groups make for an enjoyable day. You can buy food from McWeenie’s and Ploughman’s Lunch.

World Car Free Day, Tuesday, September 22, 7 to 9 AM

Celebrate this day with people around the globe! Leave your car and walk, bike, or ride the bus to these sites:

- Skate Park, SW 1st and B, under the Bypass

- Downtown Transit Center, Monroe Ave., 5th to 6th
 - OSU - Weatherford Hall, 26th & Jefferson Way
 - First Alternative Co-op, North store at 29th & Grant
- Each site offers a free breakfast, bike safety check, and an opportunity to win special prizes.

The goal of Car Free Day in Corvallis is bringing community members to explore transportation options on a regular basis. Event organizers encourage you to get ready for the day by deciding how *you’ll* travel on September 22nd.

Sponsors of Pedalpalooza and Car Free Day in Corvallis include the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Transportation Action Team, City of Corvallis Transportation Options Program, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis Parks & Recreation, Corvallis Bicycle Collective, Corvallis Clinic, Corvallis Cyclery, Corvallis Farmers’ Market, Corvallis Spring Roll, First Alternative Natural Foods Co-op, First United Methodist Church Natural Step Ministry, Footwise, Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Mid-Valley Bicycle Club, Oregon State University, Peak Sports, Play It Again Sports, Safe Routes to School, Soft Star Shoes, and SoupCycle.

Take the Car Free Day pledge! Learn about plans for the day, at www.sustainablecorvallis.org, or call 541-230-1237.



Why and How to “Take Charge”

Save money, reduce your carbon footprint, help the whole community move toward a sustainable future. Check out all the energy-saving opportunities.

“Every action counts!” is the message of *Take Charge Corvallis*, the local initiative to compete for the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Corvallis is one of 50 semi-finalist cities in the U.S. striving to become #1 by reducing use of electricity and natural gas in homes and municipal buildings. The community that saves the most energy in 2015 and 2016 will win \$5 million to invest in community energy projects.

The Corvallis initiative is led by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition’s Energy Action Team and Energize Corvallis, a project of the Corvallis Environmental Center. The community has until Dec. 31, 2016 to make the most of this great opportunity.

Take Charge Corvallis supports renters *and* homeowners alike. Choose one or more of these resources for freebies, rebates, tax credits, and help to install solar.

- **Communities Take Charge** “Shop” on this website for energy-saving actions to do in your home. When you register you enter a \$10,000 drawing: energizecorvallis.org/takecharge
- **Direct Install** Pacific Power customers in single family homes can get up to 16 free LED lightbulbs, plus water-saving faucet and shower aerators. Their \$220 value can save you up to \$175 annually: energizecorvallis.org/freelightbulbs
- **Energy Trust of Oregon** Pacific Power and NW Natural give financial incentives for weatherization, lighting, appliances, heating, water heating, and solar: energytrust.org
- **Clean Energy Works** People who want a whole home retrofit, and who live in a detached single-family home built before 1993 can request a free home energy evaluation. Receive additional cash rebates and “no money down” financing when you make energy efficiency improvements. cewo.org - local code LGBEN.
- **Seeds for the Sol** If you own a home that’s suitable for solar you can receive a zero interest loan to install solar panels. Or become a Sun Buddy—give a \$9,000 interest-free loan which will be paid back within 4-5 years. seedsforthesol.org

Every energy-saving action allows you to save money while also reducing your carbon footprint. Take Charge, Corvallis!

LWVOR Convention, *continued from page 4* –

Americans would love to see reform. He said, “No other country gives away its natural resources.

Luncheon speaker Michael Capps, who was on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from 2001-2011, spoke to a central position of the national League, keeping an open and free Internet. The FCC voted in February to enforce net neutrality rules that prevent Internet providers, including cellular carriers, from blocking or throttling traffic or giving priority to Web services in exchange for payment. The decision came after a year of intense public interest, with the FCC receiving four million public comments from companies, trade associations, advocacy groups, and individuals. The vote was 3-2, and although it was a win, we must remain vigilant as the fight will continue.

At the Saturday evening banquet, Garrett Epps spoke about the U.S. Supreme Court. Epps is a former University of Oregon law professor and is currently a law professor at the University of Baltimore. Convention delegates were enthralled by his knowledge of the Court and his anecdotes.

Even though the LWVOR Board did not recommend any new studies, an enthusiastic Convention adopted two new studies: one on Hard Rock Mining, a two-year study, and the other an Election Methods update. A donation of

\$1000 was contributed at Convention to support a second study.

Election Methods update. In the November 2014 election an initiative for a type of open primary was placed on the ballot, but we were not able to support or oppose the measure because we lacked an appropriate position. In the update we will look at methods used by other cities, states, or countries, and also at academic studies to see effects on voter participation in primary and general elections, quality of candidates, and competitiveness of races. The election methods study is anticipated for Fall 2016.

A study of Public Postsecondary Education was adopted at the 2013 convention, and the committee hopes to have it ready for consensus by late winter or early spring of 2016.

Committees for the two new studies are forming and looking for new members. To participate in these studies contact: Election Methods Update—Peggy Bengry pbengry@spiritone.com, 503-662-4372; Hard Rock Mining—Alyssa Babin or Lucie La Bonte lyssa.kate@gmail.com, labontelucie2@gmail.com; Public Postsecondary Education—Karan Kuntz or Marnie Lonsdale kjkpiano@me.com, lonsdale9066@comcast.net



Recent LWV Board Action

Approvals and Action

The Board approved co-sponsoring a lecture on “Health Care in America,” with Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates and Physicians for a National Health Plan.

League sent comments to the City’s task force on the review of Comprehensive Plan policies related to OSU; we support more on-campus housing for OSU students.

The Board endorsed an application for grant funds by the OSU School of Public Policy for community activities related to elections.

Meeting times for the year: *General meetings* will be on 2nd Tuesdays of the month at 7 PM (immediate exception: the September meeting is on Wednesday, the 29th.) *Board meetings* will be on 3rd Tuesdays, from 10 AM – NOON.

Appointments Judy Ball was appointed by the board to a one-year position as director, with portfolio of our League’s social media. Annette Mills and Shelly Murphy were appointed to serve from the Board as members of the coming year’s Nominating Committee.

Off-Board Positions Corrinne Gobeli, Louise Marquering, Karen Nibler, and Doris Waring continue to serve in off-board positions. Membership Chair Corrinne Gobeli needs a co-chair for hospitality and outreach; President Laura Lahm Evenson will look for a volunteer.

Guidelines for Special Funds amended: Proposals requesting special funds now are due *60 days prior* to an event or release of funds. Formerly, requests were to be made only in October and February. A Special Funds committee is to be appointed at the beginning of each program year.

LWV™ League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Fall in with League!
September 29, 7 PM

 Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar September

- Thu 10** Climate Change Committee mtg., NOON
Tue 15 Board meeting, 10-12
Su 20 Pedalpalooza Festival
Tue 22 World Car-Free Day
National Voter Registration Day

Sa-Su 26-27 Corvallis Fall Festival

Tue 29 *Kick-off Meeting:* Forest Plans and Perspectives, 7 PM, Library

October

Tue 13 Registration deadline, Nov. 3 election
General Meeting: Voter Service, 7 PM, Library

Wed 14 Special Election ballots mailed

Tue 20 Board meeting, 10-12

Sa 24 National Food Day

Su-Sa 25-31 Local Eats Week

Sat 31 LWVOR Fall Workshop, Eugene

November

Tue 3 Special Election: Benton County Jail

Tue 10 *General Meeting:* Constitution, 7 PM, Library

Tue 17 Board meeting, 10-12

Join the League

Name _____

Address City, Zip+4 digits _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$60 individual membership ____ \$90 household

____ \$30 student ____ Renewal ____ Contribution*

____ Dues assistance to help you join the League

I would like to be considered:

Active ____ Inactive Member / Supporter ____

I first joined the League in ____ (year) _____ (place).

What special skills/talents/interests would you like to share with the League?

Our membership year begins in October.

Make checks payable to the LWV of Corvallis and mail to:

LWV of Corvallis, Attn: Membership

P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679

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