



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

December 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.



Money in Politics: Informational Meeting

Monday, December 7th – 7:00–8:45 PM

Presenter: Norman Turrill, President, LWV of Oregon

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Avenue

At the 2014 League of Women Voters of the US convention, delegates voted to conduct a review and update of the League’s position on campaign finance reform. Through study and consensus, we are being asked to consider:

- 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
- How those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in our current position.

We are privileged to have LWVOR President Norman Turrill guide us in this process.

Norman has been actively working on campaign finance reform for many years, and his presentation will help inform our consensus discussion on December 8th (details below). There will be plenty of time for questions.

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



Money in Politics: Consensus Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th – 7:00 to 8:30 PM

3735 NW Van Buren Avenue – *Cathy Frischmann’s home*

“Consensus” is a time-honored, key part of League process. Consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but refers to the overall “sense of the group.” Member agreement emerges from the give and take of group interaction and the exchange of viewpoints. Listening to and participating in discussion shapes the recommendations.

The goal of consensus is to incorporate the interests of all participants in building meaningful agreement. It does not mean that everyone is equally supportive of the agreement, but it does mean that all participants believe they have been heard and that the agreement reflects their concerns. People can consent without agreeing.

The LWVUS study committee has compiled a vast array of material on Money in Politics to inform League members’ views on this important topic. Please read the insert in this bulletin to find 1) articles related to the study; and 2) the Money in Politics consensus questions. (Video links will be emailed to our members.)

Be sure to bring this insert with you on December 8th.

Your Fruit Order is on its way...





President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

The LWV of Corvallis continues to be actively engaged in the community and the state. Our League submitted testimony to both the City Council and the Planning Commission that was recommended by our Housing Committee to the Corvallis Housing Development Task Force and by our Community Planning Committee; our Climate Change Committee met with Rep. Dan Rayfield; four members attended the LWVOR Fall workshop; we co-

sponsored a Legislative Update on health care and a Health Care House Party ... and more.

Speaking of hard work... a special shout out of THANK YOU is due to the people who make our fruit sale so successful! Louise Marquering efficiently handles the nuts and bolts of taking orders, ordering the fruit, supervising the delivery and then organizing volunteers to deliver the fruit. Harvey and Beth Thoennes clear their garage to store the boxes of fruit when delivered. Our Treasurer, Sara Ingle, handles all the money and PayPal payments. And many of you deliver the fruit. This fund raiser supports all of our local activities throughout the year. Give these great volunteers a pat on the back next time you see them!

In December we have the pleasure of welcoming our State League President Norman Turrill to Corvallis. He will speak to us on *Money In Politics*. Norman has worked on this issue for years and will help us understand the nuances of the topic. The following night we have a consensus meeting at the home of Cathy Frischmann. Join us for these two evenings!

As we move into the Holiday Season and then right into election season I am reminded of what Dr. Seuss' character the Grinch said, "And then! Oh, the noise! Oh, the Noise! Noise! Noise! Noise!"

The League is an organization that encourages study and thoughtful reflection of issues. When the noise gets to be too much, check out the League's local, state and national websites. You will find plenty of thoughtful and accurate information there.



RENEW your League membership!

Think of all the reasons you're proud to be a member of the

League of Women Voters—

- The League supports fundamental principles for good representative democratic government and world peace.
- We listen to each other with respect, regardless of sex, age, or race, using teamwork and consensus to research and advocate on local, state, and national governmental issues.
- We serve voters, regardless of political affiliation, by providing easy access to voter registration and statewide election ballot information.
- We foster civic responsibility by monitoring our legislature, as well as producing our award-winning *Oregon Student Mock Election* program, with its free, state-approved middle and high school curriculum.

- We promote personal growth, intellectual stimulation, and optimism for the future as we build lasting friendships and strive to fulfill our League principles.
- Our multi-issue agenda includes a focus on public education, our Public Postsecondary Education study's completion, study update of Oregon Election Methods, and an introduction to a study on Hard Rock Mining. The national League focus is on the U.S. Constitution—amending it, and reviewing first amendment rights with regard to Money In Politics.
- The League's reputation with and respect from state government includes Oregon's *Voter's Pamphlet's* citation of the League's *Voters' Guide* and the many League members who serve on government task forces. League's membership year has started—**Renew NOW!**

LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679
Corvallis OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us
Facebook – LWV Corvallis

LWV of Oregon

1330 12th Street SE, Suite 200
Salem OR 97302
503-581-5722
E-mail: lwvor@lwvor.org
www.lwvor.org

LWV of the United States

1730 M Street NW,
Suite 1000
Washington DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965
FAX 202-429-0854
www.lwv.org



This 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.



Community Planning Update

Corvallis Livability Code Adopted

On November 16, after 3 ½ years and over 40 public meetings, the Corvallis City Council finally adopted a Livability Code for Corvallis. The Code will apply to the interior of rental occupied property and the exterior of all property. Work on the new Code began at the recommendation of the City/OSU Collaboration Project's Livability Work Group. This group learned of the need from testimony of community residents—renters, homeowners, students, nonstudents—describing substandard housing conditions and asking the City of Corvallis for help.

The Council's Administrative Services Committee directed the work beginning in 2014 and there was a Departmental Advisory Committee formed. The advisory group is made up of representatives from real estate, the property management industry, and neighborhood, tenant, and affordable housing interests. The code language was drawn from existing codes in other Oregon cities, and from public input given at public meetings. The new Livability Code replaces the Rental Housing Code in Section 9.02 of the Corvallis Municipal Code. It will go into effect in 180 days.

With the passage of this Code, it is believed that all neighborhoods will be made more livable because

- trash and waste are properly disposed of (no more piles of rubbish, old tires and lawn couches);
- properties are adequately maintained, not allowed to deteriorate to the point of demolition;
- renters (over 50% of the population) will be safer and more secure because they will have doors and windows that lock, adequate fire safety and lighting, safe plumbing and electrical systems, and sufficient heat and ventilation.

Enforcement of the Code will be complaint based. Both property owners and landlords' roles, and tenants' rights and responsibilities are clearly defined, and both are provided with opportunities for fair recourse. Education and outreach will take place to make sure that people know how this new ordinance works.

– Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



WELCOME!

New Members Abbe Montgomery, Shelley Ries, and Cheryl Stevenson



Mark your calendar

Soup & Sociability: National & Local League Program Planning
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 6PM

Think ahead to program planning: What would you like to see the national and local Leagues do in the near future? We'll enjoy a delicious soup supper, prepared by board members. We'll follow that by consideration of programs for LWV of Corvallis 2016-2017 and LWV of the U.S. 2016-2018. See next month's bulletin for details.

Can You Unload / Deliver Fruit the First Week of December?



We'll hear soon the exact arrival date of our truck with hundreds of boxes of oranges and grapefruit. What we need to hear now is WHO will unload them from the truck and deliver to those who ordered them!

To volunteer, contact Louise Marquering at 541-753-0012 or LWVCLouise@AOL.com.



Climate Change Matters

Climate Change committee members met with State Representative Rayfield in mid-November and discussed several topics, including a possible carbon cap and trade bill in the 2016 session. He encouraged us to participate in the legislative process. The Legislature's short session starts with Legislative Days January 13-15; the short session runs February 1 to March 5.

Here are some links to recent climate change events:

- LWV of Oregon and LWV of Portland presented testimony at the Portland City Council in November.

Two major resolutions were passed addressing oil trains and stopping any major infrastructure expansion of the fossil fuel industry in the Portland city limits and related waterways. More details—

www.opb.org/news/article/portland-approves-fossil-fuel-limits/ and www.wweek.com/2015/11/13/portland-city-hall-votes-to-block-fossil-fuel-companies-from-expanding-their-pipes-and-tanks/.

- Oregon Drought Update::

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015I1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/81437.

— *Claudia Keith, Climate Change Committee Chair*



December 15 is Bill of Rights Day: Read and Reflect on It

Amendment I: Freedom of religion, speech, and the press; rights of assembly and petition.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II: Right to bear arms. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III: Housing of soldiers. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV: Search and arrest warrants. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V: Rights in criminal cases. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be

compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Amendment VI: Rights to a fair trial. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII: Rights in civil cases. In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII: Bails, fines, and punishments. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX: Rights retained by the people. The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X: Powers retained by the states and the people. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



League Meeting on Amending the U.S. Constitution

The consensus meeting on amending the US Constitution was held on Tuesday, November 10th at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. Twenty-six League members were present to hear our guest presenter and to consider consensus. The evening started with Christopher Stout, Assistant Professor of Political Science at OSU, who gave an informative talk on the amending process, including its history and background.

Christopher Stout

Following Professor Stout's introduction, the League study committee—Joan Canan, Paula Krane and Mary Anne Nusrala—led a lively discussion of the consensus questions. (JoAnne Trow, also a member of the committee and involved in committee meetings, was unable to attend the group discussion.) The committee is formulating our League's answers to the consensus questions and will forward them to the LWVUS to be included in formulating the national position.

– Paula Krane, Governance Chair

League Celebrates 5th Annual



Food Day was celebrated on October 24th by hundreds of community members at the Corvallis Farmers' Market. About 150 children received free Farmers' Market tokens to purchase fruits or vegetables. Market attendees joined millions around the country in a huge "Apple Crunch" to raise awareness on better diets for health and the environment, access and affordability of fruits and vegetables, and supporting local farmers.

The Food Day table featured samples of smoothies and information about local food opportunities and initiatives.

– Annette Mills, Local Food Committee

Corvallis Food Day sponsors: *Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Food Action Team, Corvallis Farmers' Market, First Alternative Co-op, Slow Food Corvallis, Corvallis Environmental Center's Edible Corvallis Initiative, League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Linus Pauling Institute's Healthy Youth Program, OSU Food in Culture and Social Justice Program, Ten Rivers Food Web, and Timberhill Athletic Club Health Promotion Program.*



Health Care for All House Party Well-Attended

The evening of October 23rd, twenty-three folks gathered in Ann and Doug Brodie's living room to discuss what was good and bad about health care in the United States. A short video provided a glimpse into how the health care system works in Sweden and how much it costs in other developed countries around the world. Retired physicians Mike Huntington and Bruce Thomson facilitated the evening. Guests were invited to join Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates (MVHCA) if they were interested in helping to work for a change in the way the system works in our state.

If you would like to host a discussion of health care issues with your friends and/or neighbors, you're invited to contact MVHCA's House Party Coordinator, Maxine Eckes—m.eckes21@gmail.com or 541-754-1511, and she'll arrange for the facilitators.

– Shelly Murphy



Can you help? The Membership Committee is in *great* need of a co-chair to do member interface – making name tags, greeting people at meetings, and to contact new and potential members. Contact League president Laura Lahm Evenson, evensonlahm@gmail.com.

A handicapped League member needs a ride to LWV meetings. Contact Laura Lahm Evenson, evensonlahm@gmail.com.

Post-Secondary Education Study in April needs committee members to prepare. Contact Paula Krane, kranep@peak.org.



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P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-753-6036
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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Money in Politics

Monday, December 7th, 7 PM

Consensus – Tuesday, December 8th, 7 PM



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

December

- Mon 7** *Informational Meeting*, Money in Politics 7 PM, Library
- Tue 8** *Consensus Meeting*, Money in Politics 7 PM, 3735 NW Van Buren Avenue
- Tue 15** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Tue 15** Bill of Rights Day

January

- Sat 9** Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday
- Tue 12** Soup & Program Planning 6 PM, Unitarian Fellowship
- Tue 19** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

February

- Mon 1** Legislative Session begins
- Tue 16** Board meeting, 10 AM-12 Noon
- Sun 14** Birthdays—LWV's 96th, Oregon's 157th
- Tue 23** LWVOR Day at the Legislature Salem

Join the League

Name _____

Address City, Zip+4 digits _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$60 individual membership ____ \$90 household

____ \$30 student ____ Renewal ____ Contribution*

____ Dues assistance information to help you join LWV

I would like to be considered:

Active ____ Inactive Member / Supporter ____

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

What special skills/talents/interests can you share with 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 *BUT* contributions to *LWVOR* or the *LWVUS Education Fund*, paid with a separate check, are