



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

January 2016

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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.



Program Planning & Soup Social What Will League Do This Year?

Tuesday, January 12th, 6 – 9 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis



Delicious Soups, Breads & Desserts provided by your Board
Bring your bowl, plate, cup, and utensils for a waste-free supper

Get Ready to Create League's Future!

This is an important annual gathering for League members, since it's your opportunity to set the coming year's program, and program is League's basis for education and action in the coming year.

Prepare for the evening's planning—

Read the program planning information on page 4 and summaries of national and local positions in the enclosed insert.

Reflect on community issues that could benefit from our study or action

What new studies or directions at national and local levels might address these issues? What practical considerations might be involved?

Introduce League – Bring a Friend!



Our Program Planning meeting and Soup Social is a great time to introduce people to the League! Good food and discussions of next year's national and local League activities, goals and committees will attract them to join, and each new member strengthens League's voice!

We hope to see you at this meeting to add *your* voice to League's decision-making process!



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

What issues would you like the LWV of Corvallis to focus on next year?

The Program Planning meeting on January 12th is the time to let both the LWV of the US and LWV of Corvallis know what issues the *membership* wants to focus on. In addition to letting your voice be heard, a comforting dinner of soups, bread, and dessert will be provided by your Board members. We not only are able to enjoy each other's company but we can plan the League's important work for next year. Take a few minutes to review both our national and local positions which you can find on our user-friendly local website www.lwv.corvallis.or.us. Thank you, Shelly Murphy, for maintaining this important communication platform for members!

Your Board members continue to work hard on your behalf. They not only meet once a month but keep in frequent touch via e-mail. Testimony is written, edited, and proofed in a collaborative process. We plan, organize and evaluate League's monthly public meetings at the library so we can continue to provide valuable educational and topical programs. Board meetings are open to the membership—you are welcome to come and see how your local league board at work!

Lots of exciting events/programs are coming in 2016. Our Climate Change Committee is working on the February 9th program. The Legislature meets for one month from February 1st to March 5th. You can join LWVOR on February 22nd for a Day at the Legislature to find out how it all works. In March we will learn more about Special Taxing Districts and in April about Post-Secondary Education. At local, state, and national levels the LWV is working hard on many issues.

With the New Year's arrival we will also be deep into the election cycle. Voters look to the LWV for accurate and fair analysis of issues. There are lots of ways for *you* to contribute to this worthy organization!

LWV of Corvallis

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Celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt, born January 9, 1859



League of Women Voters' National Board of Directors, Chicago Convention, February 1920, Catt on lower right

Here are some inspiring facts about Carrie Catt's life and legacy:

Catt received a Bachelor of Science degree in general science in 1880. Originally interested in practicing medicine, she was the only woman in her class.

Catt served as a teacher, principal and school superintendent in Iowa.

Catt began her career as a political activist at the age of 27 when she joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association.

Catt became San Francisco's first female news reporter after her husband died in 1885.

Catt succeeded the 80-year-old activist Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), League's predecessor.

By her relentless campaigning she helped to win President Woodrow Wilson's support for passage of the 19th Amendment.

Catt was a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow League leader and women's rights pioneer.

Catt traveled across the country to make speeches and lead parades throughout the women's suffrage movement for decades. Even in her late 70s, she remained an effective and impassioned speaker.

lwv.org/blog/10-inspiring-facts-about-league%E2%80%99s-founder-carrie-chapman-catt-0

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

Kings Boulevard Extension into Timberhill

League testified during the Planning Commission's public hearing on November 18th in opposition to the proposed extension of Kings Boulevard because we deemed the application incomplete: it lacked a detailed development plan (DDP) for properties adjoining the road. The DDP is necessary to determine, among other things, what type of road is needed, storm-water run-off needs, and where linkages are required. The road extension proposal is based on our outdated 1996 transportation plan, and it encroaches on areas of critical concern identified in the 2006 Natural Features Inventory. Moreover, there is a "Stop Work Order" on the property issued by the City for activities performed on the site and in Natural Features areas without proper permitting. League believes a "stop work order" prohibits *all* development on the site. On December 2nd, the Planning Commission turned down the application. The applicant has appealed to the City Council and a hearing is scheduled for January 4th.

Saving Washington Park

In July 2014, League presented testimony to the Corvallis City Council opposing the sale of Washington Park to Linn Benton Community College for a parking lot. This opposition is based on City government documents and League positions that strongly support community planning and the important role parks play in the health, livability, and environmental quality of our community now and in the future.

- Corvallis Comprehensive Plan Policy 5.6.4 states, "*Land that has been acquired for park purposes shall not be*

used for any other purposes unless the use is strictly temporary in nature and is compatible with park use..."

- City Resolution 94-13 states, "*Land dedicated for parks will have a restriction as follows: It cannot be sold.*" The resolution contains a list of City parks to which this statement refers; the list includes Washington Park.

After receiving considerable opposition to paving over the park, LBCC President Greg Hamann told voters that Washington Park was off the table for parking, and the College would find other alternatives. In November, though the bond measure for LBCC expansion came up short of votes in Linn County, it passed on the strength of Benton County voters.

This fall, however, LBCC was back before the Council with a plan to use a portion of the park as a parking lot. League repeated its opposition to a LBCC parking lot in Washington Park during Council's public participation on December 2nd. In addition, we reminded Council that in a recent update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a survey of Corvallis residents gave top priority to "maintaining what we have." We also urged Council to implement a recommendation in the new Master Plan to create definitions and guidelines for the use of parks and natural areas and incorporate them in the Land Development Code.

As Corvallis continues to grow, existing park land in the urban center will become more and more valuable, especially as outdoor open space for the increasing number of apartment dwellers. It is also important to remember that Washington Park, once a wetland, will be needed as we see a changing climate with more rain—often coming down in heavy spurts—requiring more places throughout the City to handle this increase in water volume.

– *Shelby Murphy, Community Planning Chair*



Opportunities!

Bulletin Mailing Parties –Once a month we need 3-4 people to join our congenial company in folding newsletters and applying address labels and stickers. Four or five members can make quick work of preparing the Bulletin for mailing. It's usually in the last week of each month. Contact Beth Thoennes to get on the party list: bakerbt@comcast.net, 541-752-7201.

The Membership Committee *still needs* a co-chair for member interface –greeting people at meetings, making name tags, and contacting new and prospective members. Contact Laura Lahm Evenson, evensonlahm@gmail.com.



Prepare for Program Planning

Program is the League's basis for both education and action. It consists of governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. The process starts with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change.

How can you be a part of the planning?

Review League positions. These are used for action at all governmental levels, and are the framework against which we base all actions taken in the League's name. (*Online at: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/stand.php*)

What are the burning issues and questions in our community – the needs of citizens, and gaps in service?

What is desirable in addressing the gaps or issues?

- What would give League visibility and credibility?
- What studies or projects would help the League link with diverse individuals and organizations?

What is feasible, given League resources and expertise?

- How could LWV help achieve appropriate public policy or action on these issues?
- What League positions currently exist?
- Is the issue timely?
- Who in League will chair the study committee?
- Who in League will join the committee?
- Could League form partnerships with other public or non-profit/private organizations?

How are voter service and citizen education integrated into the program?

Current Local and National LWV Positions are on the enclosed sheets. You can find local positions on our website: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/stand.php. National League positions are at: www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition



A Fruitful Time Was Had By All

League's fruit sale fundraiser was a success, thanks to the many volunteers—unloaders, delivery folks, and especially Louise Marquering,

organizer extraordinaire. And special thanks go to all our purchasers!

Unloading: Cathy Frischmann; Claudia Keith; Steve McLaughlin; Matt, Bonnie, Philip and Harvey Thoennes; and Marilyn Walker made short work of unloading the semi-truck full of fruit and stacking the hundreds of boxes in the Thoennes garage.

Delivering: Within the next few days the fruit was taken to purchasers by delivery people Jan Ames, Ann Brodie, Carolyn Brumley, Joan Canan, Marcia Cutler, Cathy Frischmann, Carolyn Gardner, Jen Gervais, Dagmar Johnson, Claudia Keith, Marilyn Koenitzer, Paula Krane, Laura Lahm Evenson, Kate Mathews, Steve McLaughlin, Jo Overton, Patricia Parcels, Alice Rampton, and Doris Waring. What a team!

2016 Sustainability Coalition Events

The LWV of Corvallis is a member of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition – a network of more than 300 organizations in Corvallis and Benton County working to create a more sustainable community. The Coalition includes non-profits, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations. League members are invited and encouraged to participate in the following upcoming events:

Friday, January 8 - Sustainability Coalition Annual Meeting (12 noon – 1:30 pm at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library) - The annual meeting includes an overview of the past year's accomplishments and plans for 2016. The Coalition's action teams have many exciting projects under way and committees that are hard at work to support them, so this will be a good time to find out what's happening and to give your input. This event is open to the public.

Thursday, March 10 - Sustainability Fair & Town Hall Meeting (5–9 pm, CH2MHill Alumni Center, OSU Campus) On-line pre-registration for the Town Hall opens on January 8th at www.sustainablecorvallis.org. The Alumni Center Ballroom holds just 350 people, so everyone is encouraged to sign up early. — Annette Mills, Sustainability Coordinator



Money in Politics Consensus

Our League offered two opportunities for members to participate in the national LWV study on Money in Politics last month. On December 7th, LWVOR President Norman Turrill presented the issues in Money in Politics and responded to League members' questions.

The following evening, 16 League members met at Cathy Frischmann's home for the consensus discussion, led by study committee members Kate Mathews, Louise Ferrell, and Annette Mills. The committee is formulating our League's responses to the consensus questions and, following board review and approval, will forward them to the LWVUS to be included in formulating the national position. – *Annette Mills, Chair, Money in Politics Committee*

Look Ahead – Mark Your Calendar

- January 13-15** – Legislative Days, hearings on topics that may lead to legislation, and subjects affecting Oregonians
- January 30** – Legislative Town Hall, 10 AM-12 Noon, Library
- February 1** – The Oregon Legislature's short session opens and runs through March 5
- February 9** – General meeting, Climate Change, 7 PM, Library
- February 17** – Good Food, Bad Food: Agriculture, Ethics, and Personal Choice, 6:30 PM Library
- February 22** – LWVOR's Day at the Legislature, State Capitol, Salem
- March 5** – Legislative Town Hall, 10 AM-12 Noon, Library

League Urges City and County to Oppose Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Expansion

The Board approved a letter to Mayor Biff Traber and the Benton County Commissioners asking them to sign a petition with recent LWV of Oregon and LWV of Portland testimonies to the Portland City Council opposing fossil fuel infrastructure expansion (*text below*).

No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Resolution

Based on the strong Natural Resources and Climate Change positions of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis joins the LWV of Oregon and the LWV of Portland to support recent



Portland City Council resolutions that oppose expansion of the fossil fuel industry. Given our support of these League testimonies, we urge you to sign the "No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure" resolution.

Climate Change chair Claudia Keith and Louise Ferrell bring League's letter to County Commissioners

The resolution calls for expanding to the entire West Coast a resolution recently passed by the City of Portland 'calling for the end of construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure in our cities, our coastal ports, and communities

and beginning the just transition to the new clean economy now' (City of Portland's resolution No. 37168— www.nonewffi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/37168-Fossil-Fuel-Resolution.pdf).

Many West Coast mayors are meeting in Portland on December 10 and 11, 2015, and the most urgent issue to be discussed is no new fossil fuel industry expansion. A number of West Coast mayors, councilmen and county commissioners have already signed the resolution.

As you know, climate change is upon us, driven by the extraction and burning of fossil fuels and the currently increasing release of previously frozen methane from tundra and ocean floor methane ice. The West Coast is threatened by unprecedented projects to export or transport additional coal, oil, and gas through our regions. These reserves of fossil fuels must be kept in the ground to prevent a catastrophic situation that will prevent our children and grandchildren from having a future on a livable planet. "No New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure" is imperative at this time. If you agree with this proposal, please sign it here: www.nonewffi.org/elected-official-sign-on/.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully, Laura Lahm Evenson, President
League of Women Voters of Corvallis



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Program Planning—Soup Social

Tuesday, January 12th, 6-9 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd.



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

January

- Sat 9 Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday
- Tue 12 Soup & Program Planning, 6 PM, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Tue 19 Board meeting, 10 AM-12 Noon
- Sat 30 Legislative Town Hall, 10 AM-12 Noon, Library

February

- Mon 1 Legislative Session begins
- Tue 9 *General Meeting:* Climate Change, 7 PM, Library
- Sun 14 *Birthdays!* LWV's 96th, Oregon's 157th
- Tue 16 Board meeting, 10 AM-12 Noon
- Mon 22 LWVOR Day at the Legislature, 9:30-3, Salem

March

- Tue 1 International Women's Day
- Sat 5 Legislative Town Hall, 10 AM-12 Noon, Library
Legislative Session ends
- Tue 8 *General Meeting:* Special Taxing Districts, 7 PM, Library
- Tue 22 Board meeting, 10 AM-12 Noon

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