



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

February 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.



General Meeting:

Progress on Climate Change: What's Up With the City and State?

Tuesday, February 9th
7:00 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

Join us to hear about progress in dealing with climate change locally and at the state level. Presenters will be:

- Zach Baker, Corvallis City Councilor & Chair of Climate Action Task Force
- Kristin Eberhard, Sightline Institute Senior Researcher & Energy Policy Analyst
- Brett Thomason, Renew Oregon - Oregon Climate Coalition Campaign

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and LWV of Corvallis



Mark these dates for
Legislative Town Halls

January 30 and March 5 – 10-11:30 AM
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Rally for a Healthy Climate and Clean Energy Jobs

February 3rd, Noon – Oregon Capitol steps

The LWV Oregon endorses the Healthy Climate bill, to be introduced in the 2016 Feb legislative session. The bill is a follow-up to the Climate Justice House Bill from the 2015 Legislative session, HB3470. This bill would enforce Oregon's carbon pollution reduction goals via a pricing mechanism, transition the state toward clean energy and invest in economically disadvantaged communities. *Car pool info:* ca.keith@comcast.net.

More information: www.reneworegon.org/healthy_climate_bill.



President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

The LWV has been working for almost 100 years to encourage informed and active participation in government. The LWV of Corvallis was formed in 1949 and has a long history of community activism.

January's planning meeting was held at the Unitarian Fellowship and allowed the membership to hone in on topics for emphasis on both local and national levels. Many thanks go to all the board members who provided a delicious array of soups, bread and desserts. After dinner, a lively discussion was held as we narrowed in on issues for emphasis.

Louise Marquering, Dick Waring, and Doris Waring set up the tables, made coffee, and decorated. Thank you to this efficient team! Corrine Gobeli and Annette Mills teamed up to move the group discussion through many topic items and put our opinions into clear statements. Another round of thanks to these two great facilitators! Cleanup was the quickest EVER due to many hands helping... THANK YOU!

What's next? I hope you don't miss the Legislative Town Halls on January 30th and March 5. This is a one-month legislative session and events will happen quickly. Check out the LWVOR website for updates and reports from the Action Team.

On February 9th our next general meeting will be led by our very active Climate Change Committee. We'll hear about what has been accomplished (or not) on both local and state levels. On March 8th we'll focus on Post-Secondary Education, and on April 12th we'll address Urban Renewal 101. Also in April are our Primary Election Voter Service activities (TBA). We then look forward to League's annual meeting and dinner on May 25th. Mark your calendars!

Remember that we have several very active committees working on the issues of Climate Change, Housing, Social Policy, Local Food, Community Planning, and Voter Services. I encourage you to find a committee that is addressing an issue or two that you are passionate about and join them. Contact the chair for information. Our website (www.lwv.corvallis.or.us) has contact information as well as all kinds of useful information.

Membership Matters



Thanks to all of you who have joined or renewed your membership in League for the 2015-2016 program year.

To learn more about the work of our nearly 96-year old grassroots organization, check out the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org, for detailed information on activities at the national level and reports from other states.

Currently, you'll find a short slide show highlighting League victories from 2015 as well as information on priority federal issues for 2016 and a preview of hot topics in state legislatures.

For complete information on LWVUS positions, check out the pdf copy of *Impact on Issues* lwv.org/content/impact-issues, available for download.

– Corrine Gobeli, Membership Chair



LWV of Corvallis

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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 City Council Tries Operational Changes

When the Gazette-Times ran an article about the City Council's discussion of doing away with its standing committees in favor of whole Council work sessions, a red flag went up in many League members' heads. "Work sessions," as we have known them did not allow public participation. Standing committees, each composed of three councilors – Human Services, Administrative Services, and Urban Services – have been meeting twice each month, along with two staff members. Citizens who want to have input early in the process on an issue have become accustomed to testifying before these committees. The standing committee would then make a recommendation to the Council, and the Council would often vote based on this recommendation without further discussion. If members of the public were not in agreement with the standing committee recommendation,

they could provide input at public participation when the matter came before the whole Council.

In an effort to make more efficient use of Council and City staff time, and so that the whole Council will be privy to the community input on all issues, the Council has agreed to try a plan proposed by City Manager Mark Shepard that would eliminate the standing committees and, instead, hold two work sessions a month. *Community comments would be taken at these work sessions.* To address large issues such as the recently adopted Livability Code, a task force would be appointed.

Still to be decided at the end of the January 14th work session was when these work sessions would be held, and how they would be managed. Formal action will be taken at the February 1st Council Meeting. Stay tuned!

– Shelly Murphy, *Community Planning Chair*



Housing Committee Works on Aspects of Homelessness

The Housing Committee has increased its meetings to two a month. We are discovering there are many aspects to the issue of homelessness in Corvallis, with many sectors of our community affected.

Too often homelessness is seen as caused by some of the homeless having addictions and other problems. However, lack of housing affects a much broader segment of our community. There is a tendency by some to separate the issue of housing shelters from that of affordable housing and the need to increase housing stock. Extra meetings are giving our committee the time we need to study each of these issues.

Currently, we are monitoring a series of meetings including the City's Task

Force on Affordable Housing; the City County Oversight Committee on Housing as well as other meetings as we learn about them. This has been useful both in terms of learning more about which organizations are working on what but also in terms of raising awareness of the League's interest in this subject.

We continue to read reports, especially those by Oregon Housing and Community Services and on Housing First initiatives to learn how other cities and counties are working to increase housing stock in their jurisdictions.

Two committee members, Judy Ball and Karen Rockwell, are identifying data with the goals of identifying the number of homeless in Corvallis, where they are from, and what services are available to them.

Although various agencies and organizations keep data on the number of homeless they serve, some people are counted more than once. Moreover, the disparate sources of data are never brought together to gain a more in depth picture of homelessness in Corvallis. Our Committee hopes to make a substantive contribution by assembling this more in depth picture. While this work is in a preliminary stage, we are learning that, contrary to some beliefs, many of the homeless in Corvallis are Corvallis residents.

Kenny LaPoint from Oregon Housing and Community Services will be at our next meeting. He was instrumental in reducing the number of homeless in Bend.

– Karyle Butcher, *Housing Committee Chair*



Good Food, Bad Food: Agriculture, Ethics, and Personal Choice

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 6:30–8:00 PM – Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Oregon boasts a **multibillion-dollar agricultural economy** that includes both industrial agriculture and small-scale efforts such as community

supported agriculture memberships, farmers' markets, and community gardens. These smaller, community-based efforts are on the rise as means to nurture community and create local and autonomous food systems. Are these choices as consequential as consumers would like them to be? Does "voting with your dollars" significantly shape our agricultural systems? Oregon author Kristy Athens

presents and leads this discussion on how food choices impact our lives and our state.

Athens has an MS in food systems and society from Marylhurst University. She is the author of *Get Your Pitchfork On! The Real Dirt on Country Living*.

This event is co-sponsored by Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, and the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project.



Register Now for Sustainability Town Hall, Thursday, March 10

Sustainability Fair, 5–7 PM / Town Hall, 7–9 PM – CH2MHill Alumni Center, OSU

The 2016 Sustainability Town Hall will be held on Thursday, March 10, from 7–9 PM at the CH2MHill Alumni Center on the OSU campus. This event usually draws a standing-room-only crowd, so save your place by registering at www.sustainablecorvallis.org.

Participants will sit at 40 tables of eight for an interactive Town Hall program in three parts, with presentations from the main stage, then discussion and activity at the tables.

James Reismiller and Cassandra Robertson, local leaders in solar energy and energy efficiency, will present the keynote. They recently travelled to Germany, which they describe as far ahead of the curve in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. They'll share photos and stories to give a glimpse of how Corvallis might look 10 years from now.

Other highlights include the annual "Community Scrapbook" featuring sustainability accomplishments of local businesses and organizations during the past year, as well as a vote to determine the coming year's direction for sustainability efforts.

The Town Hall is organized by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and supported by a variety of business and organizational sponsors and individual donors, including the LWV of Corvallis as an "engaged partner."

The 5-7 PM Sustainability Fair features delicious local food, lively music, and more than 50 hands-on exhibits; it is just prior to the Town Hall. Registration is not required for attendance at the fair. For more information, visit www.sustainablecorvallis.org or call 541-230-1237.



Fast, Fruitful Fundraiser

Everything worked to make our fruit sale fundraiser very efficient this year—great weather, unloaders were speedy and delivery people all did their jobs within a few days. Extra cases were sold within a day.

Claudia Keith, Steve McLanglin, Louise Marquering, Philip Thoennes unload truck

However, sales and profit were down: In 2014 we sold 420 boxes, but in 2015 only 371. In 2014 our profit was \$4,151.75, but in 2015 it was \$3,407.49. We only had 26 new buyers, the lowest number in several years. We

received \$535 in donations, and 9 cases were donated to Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Linn-Benton Food Share, Community Outreach and Mary's River Gleaners. Many people bought our extra cases because they forgot to order earlier.

Next year we need to work harder to ask friends and neighbors to order. The fruit makes great December gifts and funds the local work of our League. As you think of potential buyers let me know at lwvclouise@aol.com or 541-753-0012, and I'll send them an order form next fall.

– Louise Marquering, Fruit Sale Chair

February 14th – Celebrate 96 Years of LWV's Education and Action

“The League was founded ... because leaders like our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, understood that more than 20 million new women voters were going to need reliable information in order to carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

“What those new women voters needed in 1920, every voter needs in every election, and for all of our progress, we still have so much work to do. If voters don't have reliable information... If the process of voting is



shrouded in mystery... If there are road blocks and voter suppression and technology problems... If people stay home because they're intimidated by the process, or don't register because they don't think they can make a difference, our democracy isn't working.

“But that's why we're here. All of us in this room—the League and our partners—are the answer. Every day and every election, we're Making Democracy Work®.”

– LWV of the US President Elisabeth MacNamara



Car Pool to Day at the Legislature, Monday, February 22nd

LWV of Oregon's Day at the Legislature is an education forum that features speakers on topics affecting the 2016 Legislative Session. Besides hearing our speakers, participants can meet legislators, sit in on hearings occurring during the day, and schedule meetings with their representatives and senators. To car pool contact Paula Krane, (541) 757-2276 or kranep@peak.org.



League Plans Year's National & Local Programs

On January 12th thirty-two Corvallis LWV members met for our annual soup supper and program planning meeting. We evaluated local and national League positions and considered possible studies and issues for advocacy. It was a rich, lively discussion.

On LWVUS program, the group wholeheartedly agreed that advocacy priorities should be campaign finance reform, redistricting, and voter rights, under the umbrella of “Key Structures of Democracy,” recommended by the LWVUS board. There was also strong support to continue to advocate on health care and climate change.

For the local League, there was general agreement that we should retain all current positions, update our Housing position, and conclude our study on local taxing districts.

Our board will evaluate the outcome of the program planning meeting and make recommendations to the LWVUS and to the local membership at our annual meeting in May.

– Annette Mills, 1st Vice President

League Looks at Post-Secondary Education on March 8th



Mark your calendar for League's March meeting to learn about the biggest issues and changes in post-secondary education today. What changes are happening in post-secondary education? Are the new independent boards working, and how does that affect Oregon State? This meeting previews consensus issues to be addressed in fall's LWVOR Post-Secondary Education study.

– Paula Krane, Governance Chair



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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Climate Change Progress
Tuesday, February 9th, 7 PM - Library



Join us on Facebook –
LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

February

- Mon 1** Oregon Legislative Session begins
- Wed 3** Climate Bill rally Noon, State Capitol
- Tue 9** *General Meeting:* Climate Change 7 PM, Library
- Tue 16** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Sun 14** *Birthdays!* LWV's 96th, Oregon's 157th
- Wed 17** Good Food, Bad Food 6:30 PM, Library
- Tue 22** LWVOR Day at the Legislature, Salem

March

- Mon 1** International Women's Day
- Sat 5** Legislative Town Hall 10 -11:30 AM, Library
Oregon Legislative Session ends
- Tue 8** *General meeting:* Post-Secondary Education
7 PM, Library
- Tue 15** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon

April

- Tue 12** *General Meeting:* Urban Renewal 101 7 PM,
Library
- Tue 19** Board meeting 10 AM-12 Noon
- Fri 22** Earth Day
- TBA** Voter Service: May Primary Election

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 deductible.