



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

March 2014

Board of Directors 2013-2014

President

Ann Brodie

First Vice President, Program, Food Policy

Annette Mills

Second Vice President, Co- chair Events & Membership

Laura Lahm-Evenson

Secretary

Lois Marie Zaerr

Treasurer

Sara Ingle

Directors

Carolyn Brumley

Public Relations

Karyle Butcher

Housing

Paula Krane

Governance, List Serve

Kate Mathews

Voter Service

Shelly Murphy

Community Planning

Beth Thoennes

Bulletin Co-editor

Off Board

Corrine Gobeli

Co-chair Membership

Dagmar Johnson

Dental Project

Claudia Keith

Climate Change

Louise Marquering

Taxing Districts, Fruit
Sale, Bulletin Co-editor

Karen Nibler

Social Policy

Doris Waring

Event Arrangements

Janet Wolf-Eshe

Bulletin Mailing

Charlaine Beschta, Kate

Mathews, Annette Mills,

Tanya Shively, Mary

Youmans (Chair)

Nominating Committee

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

The Changing Course of Higher Education in Oregon

Tuesday, March 18, 7 – 8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

Our December meeting, postponed due to snow, is rescheduled for this month. Prepare to learn about changes in Higher Education by reviewing December's Everymember material, which came with your bulletin and also is available at our website: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us. Tonight's program will help prepare us for the upcoming LWVOR study which will review our position on Public Postsecondary Education.

Presentations and discussion by panel members—

Jeff Davis – Director, Benton Center, Linn-Benton Community College

Larry Flick – Dean, College of Education, Oregon State University

Tim Nesbitt – Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Tony Van Vliet – Former member of the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Board of Higher Education

HB 3120, OS-351.715-738, SB270, SB242, and 40, 40, 20: What do these numbers mean for public universities, colleges, and community colleges, in Oregon?

How will distance learning affect these institutions?

How will we fund these 21st century institutions? From what sources?

How will post-secondary education look in the 21st century?

What are the challenges to offering a quality education to all?

Whose responsibility is it to make sure we succeed with 40-40-20?

How will reorganization of the boards of higher education affect our local community colleges and universities?

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Legislature 2014 Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, March 1, 10 AM - Corvallis-Benton County Library

Our area's Legislators have been invited to the 2014 Town Hall Meeting: Senator Betsy Close, Representative Sarah Gelser, Representative Andy Olson, and Representative Jim Thompson. Legislators first will present their individual priorities and hopes for the session. Then the meeting will be open to audience questions. Tony Van Vliet will moderate, and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library is our co-sponsor.

The 2014 Short Legislative Session runs from February 3 to March 9. (This session is held in even-numbered years.) For legislative information, see the Legislature's website: www.leg.state.or.us/.



President's Corner – Ann Brodie

This month we are so fortunate that we were able to reschedule the program on “The Changing Course of Higher Education in Oregon” that was canceled due to the winter weather. Now that spring has arrived with the March rains instead of snow, I don't expect to have to cancel again. Bring your questions for our elite panel.

The April meeting has been changed to a film about the national health care system, using Canada's system for a comparison. It is not just about delivery but how to pay for it. After the showing, there will be a question and answer session facilitated by a member of Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates.

Don't forget to go to the Sustainability Fair on March 10 to see our creative display. Thank you, Claudia Keith and your committee!

Many thanks to Annette Mills and her wonderful committee for their presentation of the agricultural issues for consensus. This is a huge topic and they did a wonderful job of condensing the important aspects.

It's time to enjoy the daffodils and start planning your garden!



WELCOME! New Members
Cathy Frischmann and Ruby Moon

LWV of Corvallis

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

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



Donations to Education Funds Help Our League

Your donations help the League of Women Voters of Corvallis to offset the per member payments (PMP) we pay to LWVUS and LWVOR. Contributions to both Education Funds are tax deductible. They should be sent to LWV of Corvallis, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

League of Women Voters Education Fund donations will offset up to 50% of our LWVUS dues. Make your check payable to LWV Education Fund and send it to treasurer, Sara Ingle. Our League will receive credit on our PMP.

LWV of Oregon Education Fund donations will offset up to 7.5% of our LWVOR per member payments. Those checks should also be sent to our treasurer, Sara Ingle, payable to LWVOR Education Fund.

Since April 1, 2013, these members have contributed to the education funds:

LWV Education Fund (U.S.)

Donna Allen
Ann Brodie
Kate and Chris Mathews
Nancy Schary
Ann and Bill Smart
Yvonne Stevens
Mike Wolfe
Mary and Russ Youmans
Lois Marie Zaerr

LWVOR Education Fund

Nancy and Craig Leman
Jo Anne and Cliff Trow
Shelly Murphy

Please contact Sara Ingle if we missed your name. Many thanks for these generous donations!



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

If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact Beth Thoennes or Louise Marquering. We welcome your input.

Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to men and women of all ages.



Community Planning Update

Plans For A New Benton County Jail

Joint City Council/Board of Commissioners Meeting, November 7, 2013 *Excerpt from Minutes (p. 561-562)*

Commissioner Jaramillo said the County is reviewing facility plans, touring facilities, considering potential sites, and developing an education program so voters understand the concept and cost. The plan is to develop a facility that will increase the number of beds while maintaining current operating costs.

Commissioner Dixon added that the State Legislature provided each County with funds on the promise that the counties would reduce the number of prisoners sent to the State. The State's goal is to use the savings to better support community corrections and provide education funds. Benton County is charged with sending six fewer people to prison, annually. Additionally, sentencing laws were amended to reduce prison occupancy rates.

Commissioner Jaramillo said a new jail facility will support programs to reduce recidivism, such as work release,

training, and other opportunities. She noted that currently, the County rents jail beds from other facilities.

By the end of the calendar year, the siting committee will make a recommendation and facility plan refinements will be completed. Since Linn-Benton Community College intends to request a bond for the November 2014 election, the County will most likely request a jail bond for the May 2015 election.

Commissioner Modrell added that keeping the same operational costs means renewing the current levy that expires in 2017. Challenges include the need for holding cells for the courts and utilizing current technology, such as video arraignment.

The bond measure is anticipated to be between \$15 and \$20 million. Tax compression is not related to bonds. The siting committee is weighing options and challenges of location, including finding a nine-to-ten acre property, distance to schools, neighborhoods, and other factors.

Police Chief Jon Sassaman agreed that video technology should be used more often. He added that sending detainees to other communities is a hardship to the detainee and their families.

The Pacific Northwest as Fossil Fuel Export Corridor

Friday, March 7, 7:00 PM

Corvallis Benton County Public Library

Dan Serres, Conservation Director of Columbia Riverkeeper, and Laura Stevens of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign will speak on the more than 15 plans proposed and in the permitting process. These projects plan to develop port and storage infrastructure to enable the transshipment of a huge volume of coal, oil and natural gas by train and pipeline through Oregon and Washington to markets in Asia.

Dan Serres, born and raised in Oregon, has worked on campaigns to halt fossil fuel projects along the Columbia River since 2005. Currently, the Columbia River faces an unprecedented onslaught of oil, gas, and LNG export proposals—all of which would degrade salmon habitat, harm local communities, and contribute to climate-changing pollution.

Laura Stevens, Associate Organizing Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, works in Oregon and Southwest Washington to fight coal export proposals



and move the region away from coal and on to clean energy. Laura will speak about the campaign to prevent coal export infrastructure from being built in the Pacific Northwest, including what the risks are and how you can help.

Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Mary's Peak Group of the Sierra Club, 350Corvallis, Act on Climate, Sierra Club Salem Beyond Coal Task Force, Climate Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, Natural Step Ministry Team of First United Methodist Church.



Housing Committee Builds Information Stock

We have a new member on the LWV Housing Committee, Clairmonde Harris, who has interest and experience in this area.

The Committee met with Community Development Director Ken Gibbs and Housing Division Manager, Kent Weiss. Again, our focus is on low and medium income housing and in this case what if any options the city might have to improve housing stock.

Ken reminded us that there have been steps in this direction – e.g., all large housing subdivisions must have mixed housing. The voters have approved annexations recently, and the city may have a way to provide incentives through urban renewal. Theoretically, urban renewal could provide incentives to encourage more medium priced homes. Ken also indicated that as a college town Corvallis tends to have both more students, fewer families with children and often-higher salaries – all of which encourage more student housing and more high-end housing.

Currently, the city has issued an RFP (Request For Proposal) in an attempt to gather more data about the housing situation, such as why people live outside the city of Corvallis. Is this an affordability issue, a preference for a more rural setting or a combination? The goal is to have the final report and analysis completed in the summer of 2014. Because of this, League's Housing program is postponed until the fall of 2014, to make it richer and more informed.

I have also been in contact with the local real estate association to discuss what they see as the reasons for a dearth of low and medium income family housing. The conversation has not yet taken place.

There is a City Council committee also looking at housing issues; much of their work informed the RFP. This committee, which has not yet met, has been expanded and I have asked to serve on it. – *Karyle Butcher, Housing Chair*



CONNECT! at the Sixth Annual Sustainability Fair & Town Hall

Monday, March 10, 5-9 PM
CH2MHill Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th

Vicki Robin, Keynote

The Sustainability Fair will be from 5–7 PM.
The Town Hall Meeting follows at 7–9 PM.

Both encourage connecting people, community, and planet.

The Fair will have more than 50 hands-on exhibits, highlighting the sustainability efforts of local businesses, organizations, and Sustainability Coalition action teams. Music will be provided by local musicians, and refreshments will feature delicious Local 6 food.

Following the Fair, attendees gather in the Alumni Center ballroom for a highly interactive Town Hall Meeting. The keynote speaker is Vicki Robin, best-selling author of *Your Money or Your Life*, who will share from her new book, *Blessing the Hands That Feed Us: What Eating Closer to Home Can Teach Us about Food, Community and Our Place on Earth*. Bill McKibben has said of *Blessings*, which was just released in January, "Vicki Robin has helped millions of Americans reshape their lives in sound and beautiful ways, but this may be her most important project yet—and a crucial one for our tired planet too!"

The Town Hall will include an on-screen "2013 Community Scrapbook" of photos from Coalition partner organizations celebrating their sustainability achievements, with a segment on climate change highlighting local efforts and initiatives.

Walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus Once again this year, the Fair and Town Hall will be a model sustainable event, featuring zero waste, low energy and water use, and local food. Attendees are encouraged to help out by using energy-efficient transportation to get to the event: walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus.

Both events are organized by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, a network of more than 275 partner organizations and hundreds of individual volunteers working together to create a sustainable community that values environmental quality, social equity, and economic vitality. Primary sponsors of the Town Hall are the OSU Sustainability Office, Corvallis Odd Fellows, First Alternative Co-op, Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, and the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce. Additional financial support is provided by dozens of Coalition partner organizations and individual "Town Hall Heroes".

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is an "Engaged Partner" of the Coalition and will be recognized during the Town Hall. The League's Climate Change Committee will have a booth at the Fair, and LWV of Corvallis will be featured in the "Community Scrapbook."

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome, but space at the Town Hall meeting is limited. *Register no later than March 5th* at www.sustainablecorvallis.org.

League 101 Observes Women’s History Month

March 18: “A Brief History of League”

Presentation by Jo Ann Trow, Life Member
6:30–7 PM, Library Meeting Room

This is the last “League 101” this year, and it’s a great opportunity to learn more about the League. There will be plenty of time for questions and for meeting others.

A Page from Women’s History: Ernestine Rose, 1810-1891

Ernestine Susmond Potowski, a Polish rabbi’s daughter was an intellectually precocious young woman, more given to questioning than accepting received wisdom.

When her father arranged a marriage without her consent 16-year old Ernestine refused the match and fought in court to retain her inheritance from her mother and against her suitor’s claim for damages. At 17 she left home for Berlin where regulations limited Jewish settlement. Her goal became intellectual freedom.

Arriving in England in 1830, she honed her public speaking skills and her English so that she was quite fluent by the time she left for America.

Ernestine’s marriage to Englishman William Ella Rose was based on love and shared commitments. He provided moral and financial support for Ernestine to travel and speak on behalf of reforms they both cared about deeply.

No sooner did Ernestine Rose arrive in New York in May of 1836, than she was out knocking on doors with a petition for married women’s property rights. Rose was one of the first to speak publicly in America on women’s rights, and the first to petition for women’s rights. After 12 years of activism, in



1848 New York State passed the first married women’s property law in the United States.

The New York campaign led to lifelong

connections between Ernestine Rose, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Paulina Wright Davis, who worked to build a women’s rights movement in America. Susan B. Anthony acknowledged Rose’s pioneering role and kept her photograph on her study wall.

For the next 30 years, Ernestine Rose was an active campaigner on the lecture circuit, attending every National Women’s Rights Convention between 1850 and 1869 and many state and local conventions as well. She was hailed as the best female orator of mid-19th century America. She traveled to over 23 states by railroad car and stagecoach, speaking in churches, barns and state legislatures. She is remembered as the person who brought the women’s movement to the State of Michigan. She was the only one who addressed new immigrants in languages such as German and French.

Though Rose’s early and continuing contribution to the advance of women’s rights is unquestionable, her social status may have contributed to the lack of recognition from historians. She was an immigrant in a period of rising nativist sentiment, a Jew in largely Protestant reform movements, a freethinker and atheist in movements that often turned to the Bible for authority.

Rose may also have been forgotten because she had no descendants to champion her legacy and because she and her husband left America in 1869 for retirement in England. Why Ernestine Rose left the country she loved after 30 years of vigorous activism, and after becoming a U.S. citizen just prior to departure, is one of the enduring mysteries of Rose’s legacy.

In England, the Roses continued their commitment to the women’s movement and the freethinker movement, but on a less active scale. William Rose died in London in January of 1882.

In 1883 Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton visited Ernestine Rose in London and tried unsuccessfully to persuade her to return to America. She died in Brighton, England on Aug. 4, 1892 and was buried next to her beloved William at Highgate Cemetery in London.



Katherine Wagner Merriam Dec. 26, 1923 – Jan. 19, 2014

Katherine (Kathie) was born on Dec. 26, 1923, in Los Angeles, Calif. and died on Jan. 19, 2014, in Portland. A longtime League of Women Voters member and leader, she served most recently as our second vice president and membership co-chair from 2009 to 2012. We are grateful for her long contributions to our League.

As she joined the ranks of 50-year League Life Members in 2010 Kathie explained to us, “I needed some I stimulation as I was home with five children, so I joined the League in Missoula, Montana. A most memorable moment was when I was serving as President of a League in a small suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. I was a delegate to a national convention and got to hear the President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, give the keynote address.”



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Corvallis OR
Permit #145



Legislative Town Hall

March 1, 10 AM

Corvallis-Benton County Library

Join the League

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$60 individual membership _____ \$90 household

_____ \$30 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

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?

LWV's 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.



League Calendar

March

Women's History Month

- Sat 1 Legislature 2014 Town Hall, 10 AM
International Women's Day
- Mon 10 Sustainability Fair & Town Hall, 5-9 PM
- Mon 16- Sun 22 Sunshine Week
- Thu 13 Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 18 *General meeting:* Issues in Higher Ed, 7 PM

April

- Thu 10 Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 15 *General meeting:* "The Health Care Movie," 7 PM
- Tue 22 Earth Day

May

- Fri 2-Tue 6 Ballots mailed to voters
- Wed 7 Voter Service: Primary Election
- Thu 8 Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Sat 17-Sun 18 LWVOR Council
- Tue 20 Primary Election Day
- Wed 28 LWV of Corvallis Annual Meeting, 6 PM