



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lww.corvallis.or.us

January 2014

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Soup's On!

Annual Social & Program Planning

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall
2945 NW Circle Boulevard, Corvallis

We look forward to seeing YOU!

*Delicious
Soups,
Breads &
Desserts
provided by
LWW of
Corvallis
Board*

*Bring your
own Bowl,
Plate, Cup,
and Utensils
for a waste-
free supper!*

Get Ready . . . Create the future!

- Read the program planning guides on page 3 and the Everymember insert.
- Reflect on community issues that could benefit from our study or action.
 - What new national or local studies or directions might address them?
 - What practical considerations would be involved?

Introduce League – Bring a Friend!

Our Program Planning meeting and Soup Social is a great time to introduce a friend, neighbor, or family member to the League! Good food and the interesting discussions of national and local League activities, goals and committees can inspire them to become members of our great organization.

*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.



Climate Change Committee Kickoff

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 PM

3740 NW Jackson Avenue Corvallis

Information: Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair

Email ca.keith@comcast.net, or phone 541-752-0591



President's Corner – Ann Brodie

I hope that you had a happy holiday. With the snow, cold, and ice early in December it really was a white season this year! But it also resulted, unfortunately, in our having to postpone the December Update on Higher Education. The good news is that we are rescheduling the meeting for March 18. Many thanks to Paula Krane for making the change possible. Keep your Higher Ed questions handy until then.

The grapefruit sale and delivery required more than the average patience and snow tires this year. But we presold 354 boxes with several more available after delivery. Again, thank you to Louise Marquering for a fabulous job and to the Thoennes family for and storing the boxes.

The program planning meeting on January 14 will be a warm and friendly night with the soups, bread and dessert provided by the board members. Be sure to review our positions in the enclosure to this bulletin so you will have input for the discussion. For those of you who are new to the League or have never been to a planning meeting, I encourage you to come and learn how we decide what issues to pursue. Look forward to an evening with a pleasant dinner and active participation in planning!



Grapefruit in the Snow

More than seven inches of snow fell on Corvallis December 6. The fruit truck arrived the following day, with most of that snow still on the ground. So it was a special challenge to unload and deliver fruit this year for League's major fundraiser. But we were up to it!

Claudia Keith, Louise Marquering, Steve Ferrell unload

Fundraiser chair Louise Marquering was in the thick of it, aided by unloaders Steve Ferrell,

Claudia Keith, Alan Kirk, Dennis Marquering, Chris & Kate Mathews, Ann Schaubert, and the Thoenneses (whose garage we used) – Beth, Harvey, Mathew, and Philip.

Snowy deliveries to buyers were made by: Sheryl Bernard, Pat & Norm Bishop, Ann Brodie, Carolyn Brumley, Joan Canan, Marcia Cutler, Claudia Keith, Laura Lahm-Evenson, Carolyn Madsen, Louise & Dennis Marquering, Kate Mathews, Jo Overton, Ann Schaubert, Beth Thoennes, Doris & Dick Waring, Janet Wolf Eshe, and Mary & Russ Youmans.

Benton County Environmental Award Goes to David Eckert

In recognition of "their hard work, dedication and vision as stewards of our lands, waters and wildlife" the first-ever Benton County Environmental Award was presented to David Eckert and the Sustainability Coalition's Water Action Team. It was presented on October 10 by County Commission Chair Annabelle Jaramillo at the annual program of the county's Environmental Issues Advisory Committee.

LWV of Corvallis Special Funds contributed to one of the projects upon which this award was based. Our League is a member of the Sustainability Coalition. Thank you, David, for all you do for the Corvallis community and for the League.

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.

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.

Prepare for Program Planning

League 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 program process—

- *starts* with selection and adoption,
- *continues* with study and discussion, and
- *culminates* in action and change.



Come to our January 14th program planning meeting prepared to offer your ideas about studies and educational or advocacy projects that will make a difference in the community, make League a more vital organization, and engage your own heart and mind.

1. Review League positions online, at www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/stand.php, or in your *Handbook*. These positions, covering many areas, are used for action at the national, state, and local level. They were reached after careful study and discussion, and are the framework against which we measure all actions taken in the League's name.

2. Think about our community—“burning” issues and questions, needs of citizens, and gaps in service.

3. Consider what might be desirable in addressing the gaps or issues.

- What issues are most critical to our community?
- What issues will stir the imagination of our members?

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

5. How are Voter Service and citizen education integrated into the program?

On any issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibilities, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement, adequate financing, and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Current Local and National LWV Positions are on the enclosed sheets. You may 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.

Climate Change — Claudia Keith and Annette Mills attended a meeting of the Climate Action Plan Task Force on December 4. The Task Force decided to use the Portland and Eugene plans as models, with information specific to Corvallis and in line with the City's community greenhouse gas inventory. Two broad components of the plan will be government and community. The plan will showcase work that has been accomplished by local businesses (e.g., HP) and institutions (e.g., OSU). Task force members will work on these areas: Buildings &

Energy, Land Use & Transportation, Consumption & Waste, Urban Natural Resources, Food & Agriculture, Health & Social Services.

LWV of Corvallis has been invited to participate in two events: “Climate Summit,” spearheaded by 350 Corvallis on January 26, 2:30 to 5 PM at First United Methodist Church. We will explain what the League is doing related to climate change. At OSU Spring Creek Project's “Transformation without Apocalypse,” February 14-15, we will have a table, with an interactive/artistic display.

Agriculture Study Committee members are Camille Freitag, Anne Harding, Kate Mathews, Leslie Melnyk, Karen Nibler, Bob Scott, Marge Stevens, Mary Anne Nusrala, and Annette Mills (Chair).

They are planning the February 18 Consensus meeting when they will present information from their resource material. There will be a PowerPoint program from the LWVUS, then committee members will lead small groups in discussion and consensus. Our consensus then goes to National League.

Save These Dates!

February 8 and March 8 - *Legislative Town Halls*
Details will be in your February bulletin

February 10 *Day at the Legislature*
Watch for details from LWVOR.

February 18 *Agriculture Re-Study Consensus*
Consensus questions will be in February bulletin



LWVUS Agriculture Study: Fascinating Facts about U.S. Agriculture

Agriculture Update Consensus February 18

Important information from “Challenges and Opportunities in US Agriculture,” Chapter 8, *Economic Report of the President, 2013* (gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/ERP-2013/pdf/ERP-2013-chapter8.pdf)

- **In the 1920s**, farm households accounted for more than 25% of the U.S. workforce and generated about 8% of GDP. Today they account for only 1.6% of the work force and generate about 1% of GDP.
- **Farming is moving toward fewer**, but larger commercial operations producing the bulk of farm commodities, complemented by a growing number of smaller farms earning most of their income from off-farm sources. Small family farms make up 90% of U.S. farms and hold about 62% of all farm assets, including 49% of the land owned by farms. Commercial farms (the other 10%) account for 83% of the value of U.S. production.
- **In 1978, 16.4% of principal farm operators** were over age 65. By 2007, 30% were over 65. Starting a farm operation can be expensive. Startup requires access to land, capital equipment, and time. The U.S. Government recognizes the need to support/develop new farm operators.
- **Organic farming** is one of the fastest-growing sectors in agriculture; double-digit growth in sales of organic foods has provided market incentives for the U.S. agricultural sector across a broad range of products. From 2002 to 2008, acres under organic production grew by an average of 16.5% a year.
- **A growing “local” movement** has accompanied the increasing demand for organic foods.
- **Local goods are good for the economy.** A USDA study found that produce growers selling into local and regional markets generated 13 full-time operator jobs for every \$1 million in revenue earned, for a total of 61,000 jobs in 2008. Farmers that did not sell into these markets generated only three full-time operator jobs per \$1 million revenue.
- **The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** estimates that global agricultural production will need to increase by around 60% to meet the anticipated increase in demand in 2050, given an additional 2.3 billion people and current consumption patterns.
- **Continuing increases in the demand** for agricultural products, especially resource intensive foods such as meat, are expected to have a deleterious impact on agricultural land, soil, and water, and to create broader ecosystem-level pressures.

More insights from “The Healthy Farm: A Vision for U.S. Agriculture,” by the Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/The-Healthy-Farm-A-Vision-for-US-Agriculture.pdf)

Despite the demonstrated benefits of healthy farm practices and growing interest among new and younger farmers, these practices have yet to be embraced by mainstream U.S. agriculture. This is largely because production-focused commodity markets have created barriers that have sometimes been exacerbated by farm policy decisions of the past.

Barriers to a landscape approach. Today’s high crop prices and land values are incentivizing intense cultivation in areas where it makes little ecological sense. Though research demonstrates the benefits of leaving some of the farm landscape uncultivated, scientists and extension agents have not effectively communicated these benefits to farmers. And U.S. Department of Agriculture programs designed to encourage conservation practices that would have broader societal benefits are woefully underfunded.

Barriers to longer crop rotations. The domination of U.S. agriculture by a few crops has been self-perpetuating, with the food and biofuel industries finding new uses for corn and soybeans rather than creating markets for a wider variety of crops. In addition, publicly supported research has been severely skewed toward increasing the performance of these few crops. Conversely, too little research has been focused on improving longer crop rotations (for productivity, resilience, quality, and efficiency), and on demonstrating their feasibility and benefits.

Barriers to crop and livestock integration. A lack of emphasis on improving forage and pasture crops for mid-western rotations has hampered integration there, as has the domination of meat processing and marketing by a few large corporations. More local processing options are needed, along with additional research to improve the efficiency of integrated and pasture-based farming.

Barriers to cover cropping. Many farmers are reluctant to grow cover crops because of the up-front investment in seed and labor, and the potential challenge involved in fitting cover crops into the narrow windows between cash crop harvests and the onset of winter. Publicly funded research, incentives, and regionally appropriate demonstration projects could overcome this reluctance.



“Issues in Higher Ed” Rescheduled

Because our December 10 meeting was cancelled due to snow, the Higher Ed meeting has been rescheduled for March 18. Most of the same panel members will be available to discuss Issues in Higher Education with us. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.



League’s Housing Committee at Work

The current LWV Housing Committee is Shelley Ries, Bob Stebbins and Karyle Butcher. We continue to gather information

to determine what is being done in terms of low- and medium-income housing and what group is responsible.

Bob Stebbins and I met with Bob Loewen, Housing Program Specialist in the city’s Community Development department, to learn more about his area’s responsibilities. According to its website, it is charged with facilitating the creation and maintenance of affordable and habitable housing opportunities for lower-income and/or housing disadvantaged Corvallis residents.

The department works to coordinate applications for federal grant funding, in collaboration with other organizations responsible for housing, such as Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services. As Loewen noted, his

department brokers deals for others to provide the actual housing. Loewen had several concerns: federal funding continues to be reduced, there is not a solid inventory of available housing or available buildable land, and his department does not have the capacity to do these inventories.

It was clear from the conversation that Corvallis builders focus on high priced housing and student housing. The League should be concerned with this for many reasons, but certainly the absence of low and middle-income housing affects the vitality and diversity of our community.

I am currently working to set up a meeting with Jim Moorefield of Willamette Neighborhood Housing to learn more about his office. I also have contacted Dan Brown, Hal Bruner and Mike Beilstein for an update on work their committee is doing. – *Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee chair*



Celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt

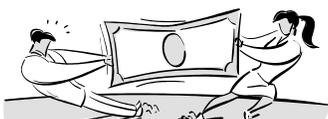
January 9, 1859 – March 9, 1947

“Roll up your sleeves, set your mind to making history, and wage such a fight for liberty that the whole world will respect our sex.”

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S.

Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote, after a 72-year struggle.

When Carrie was 13 years old, she asked why her mother was not getting dressed up to go to town to vote like her father and his hired man. Her sincere question was met with laughter and the reason that voting was too important a civic duty to leave to women. That day was a turning point for Carrie and laid the groundwork for her life work. The rest is history—League’s history.



Taxing District Study – Did you know?

*There are twelve Park and Recreation Taxing Districts in the state?
That Corvallis is considering the possibility of creating one more?*

We are studying what a taxing district is and the implications for our community. The Taxing District Study Committee will meet next at 10 AM on Wednesday, January 15. If you are interested in helping with this study contact me at LWVCLouise@aol.com. – *Louise Marquering, Taxing District Study Committee Chair*



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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Coming up on January 14 –
Program Planning Soup Supper

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

January

- Tue 7** Climate Change Kickoff meeting, 7 PM
- Thu 9** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
Carrie Chapman Catt's birthday
- Tue 14** Soup Dinner & Program Planning, 6 PM
- Tue 21** Community Planning Committee, 3 PM
- Sun 26** 350 Climate Change Summit, 2:30-5 PM

February

- Mon 3** Legislative Session begins
- Sat 8** Legislative Town Hall
- Mon 10** LWVOR Day at the Legislature
- Thu 13** Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Fri 14** LWV's 94th, Oregon's 155th birthdays
- Tue 18** Agriculture Study Consensus

March

Women's History Month

- Sat 8** Legislative Town Hall
- Thu 13** Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 18** *General meeting: Issues in Higher Ed*, 7PM