



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lww.corvallis.or.us

September 2014

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Kick Off a New Year in League!



Will We Have Enough Water in Corvallis? The Willamette Water 2100 Project

Speaker: Dr. John Bolte

Chair, OSU Dept. of Biological and Ecological Engineering
Tuesday, September 23, 7 - 9 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

First, enjoy an overview of League's programs for 2014-15. Learn what the League is working on and how *you* can become involved!

Next, Dr. John Bolte will speak to us. Dr. Bolte has been working with colleagues from Portland State University and the University of Oregon on the *Willamette Water 2100 Project*. This project evaluates how climate change, population growth, and economic growth will alter the availability and use of water in the Willamette River Basin in coming decades:

- **Where are climate change and human activity** most likely to create conditions of water scarcity?
- **Where is water scarcity most likely** to exert the greatest impact on ecosystems and communities?
- **What strategies allow communities** to prevent, mitigate, or adapt to scarcity most successfully?

Following Dr. Bolte's talk, there will be plenty of time for audience questions. Mark your calendar and plan to come to this timely and informative presentation. Invite friends and colleagues to come with you and introduce them to the League of Women Voters and to the Willamette Water 2100 Project.

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



Clear Your Calendar for LWW Election Forums

Tuesday, October 14

Candidates for Oregon House and Senate, and for Benton County Commission, 7 PM, Library

Wednesday, October 15

Candidates for Corvallis Mayor and City Council, 7 PM, Library

Thursday, October 23

Ballot Measures, 7 PM, Library

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.



Co-President's Corner – Ann Brodie

I hope that you had a relaxing, entertaining summer. But now I also hope you are ready to get involved in another exciting year with LWV! Our September 23 Kick-off Meeting will be a great time to hear League's plans for 2014-15 and to join a committee that particularly interests you. The highlight of the evening will be Dr. John Bolte informing us on the Willamette Water 2100 Project. (details on p. 1)

We need to expand participation in our League by recruiting more members and encouraging members to become more active. What do we provide our members?

- Voter services: candidate forums, ballot measure forums, and voter registrations
- Valuable educational meetings on local, state and national issues
- In-depth, balanced studies
- Opportunity to engage in discourse with informed citizens.

Let's all work on membership together. Here are my suggestions: send an email to friends about LWV and the first meeting. When you see a friend, ask if they would like to attend with you. Offer a ride to the meeting. (At the same time, tell your friends about our fall fruit sale fundraiser.) **Personal invitations are the most successful recruiting strategy.** Let's aim for more new faces this fall!

Do you enjoy interacting with social media? We'd like to connect our League with Facebook, Twitter, etc., but we need someone to establish the sites and monitor and post on them. If you are excited about spreading the word about the LWV, contact me about this interesting position.

I look forward to meeting you and your guest at the Kick-off Meeting September 23!



WELCOME!

New Member Holley Lantz



Apply for a Special Funds Grant by October 15

Is there a project our League should do that needs funding?

The Corvallis League has memorial funds for such uses, in honor of long-time League members Kay Dick and Grace Phinney. League members may apply for these grants from our Special Funds.

Special funds are for League projects, programs and services that are consistent with the League's primary missions of education and advocacy, are related to local issues, take

advantage of our League's unique capabilities, and strengthen it.

Submit grant applications to Ann Brodie or Laura Lahm Evenson, Co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis. They then will go to the Board and the Special Funds Review Committee, which must approve the grant applications.

Guidelines and application forms are available on request and can be downloaded from our website: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us.

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.

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.



Let's Grow Membership This Year!

Ask! Everyone is a prospective member. Carry membership brochures so that you are ready to provide information to colleagues at work, newcomers in your neighborhood, people in your book club, exercise class, civic organization, or church, and to newcomers to your neighborhood.

Dues Reminder: The LWV of Corvallis dues year begins in October. Dues are still \$60 for an individual, \$90 for a household, and \$30 for a student. For your convenience, a membership form and envelope are enclosed in this bulletin. Please complete the form, highlighting any changes in your address, phone or email and interests and mail it with your check as soon as possible. We especially would like to know *when* and *where* you joined LWV.

Dues are *not* tax deductible. If you would like to support the Corvallis League with a tax deductible donation, you must write a separate check to the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Education Fund and enclose it with your dues check. We can use your Education Fund donation to meet up to 50% of the per member payment we owe to the national League. Donations may also be made to the LWV of Oregon Education Fund, but it allows us to replace only 25% of its per member payment.

The Corvallis League offers dues assistance to prospective members who need assistance. If you are interested, contact either of the Membership Chairs or any member of the League Board.

– Corrine Gobel, 541-745-7736, gobelc@comcast.net and Marilyn Walker, 541-752-0591, MB.Walker@comcast.net.



Community Planning Update

Residential Parking Districts Ordinance Referred to Corvallis Voters

A Corvallis City Council action to expand current parking districts in neighborhoods within five blocks of Oregon State University has been referred to voters and will appear on the November 4th ballot as **Measure 02-88** (see www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=1744).

This new Residential Parking Permit Districts Ordinance alters the existing residential parking permit district program, which regulates the amount of time that vehicles without permits may park on the street in a district, creates additional residential parking districts, regulates who is eligible to purchase permits, and creates other new regulations.

The new ordinance came about because residents asked the City and OSU to address parking concerns in their neighborhoods near the campus as increasing OSU enrollment has intensified parking demand. With students and staff parking all day on residential streets near the university, homeowners, renters and visitors in these areas regularly are unable to find parking spots within blocks of their homes. Also, in these older neighborhoods built before there was a need for off-street parking, many homes have either limited or no off-street parking.

This parking problem near campus was one of the main reasons that the City of Corvallis and the University began a project called Collaboration Corvallis nearly three years ago. This was a joint effort to help address a wide range of OSU-related community issues. OSU and the City shared the funding and staffing of collaborative, community-based efforts to find solutions to the parking and other interrelated problems.

A Parking and Traffic team of community volunteers from neighborhoods, OSU students and staff, and others worked with professional experts to gather, review and analyze data; study other university communities; take many hours of public testimony on all aspects of potential solutions; and recommend actions to both OSU and City government. *Forming parking districts is one of those actions.*

The new parking district ordinance was not easy to create. There was an extensive public process lasting over two years.

- The Collaboration Corvallis Parking and Traffic work group, composed of both neighborhood residents and OSU representatives, held 39 public meetings over two years, taking testimony almost weekly as they *(continued, page 4)*

Parking Districts Referral – *continued from page 3*

worked to recommend solutions for parking and other transportation issues facing OSU and Corvallis.

- The City Council's Urban Services Committee (USC) also took public comments as they worked to refine the recommendation. Starting in August 2013, they held at least a dozen meetings at which supporters and opponents commented with suggestions for improvements.
- The full City Council worked closely with the USC throughout the same time period, reviewing regular committee reports, offering suggestions or changes to every aspect of the program, taking public comments at multiple meetings, and moderating the original recommendation before unanimously approving the ordinance in June 2014.

Since the new parking district program is a major expansion of a City service, it requires operational funding. *Both residential parking permit fees and income from enforcement are needed to help meet the program's costs.*

In addition to the City's recommended action, OSU is investing more than \$460,000 annually in changing how parking is managed on campus, and funding campus and community transit service, carpooling, biking, and pedestrian access.

OSU has reconfigured their fees for on-campus parking, to encourage much higher use of the Reser Stadium lot and the parking structure. It has committed to spend \$140,000

annually in improvements for bicycle and other types of transportation to reduce single-occupant automobile use.

This action includes expansion of on-campus transit services to include four shuttle buses running from 7 AM to 7 PM daily.

In addition, they have increased their funding for Corvallis Transit Service from \$130,000 to \$160,000 for expanded service and system promotion in the community, and increased their annual funding share of the Linn-Benton Loop system by over \$30,000 to \$102,000 annually. OSU has also pledged to work with the City to evaluate satellite parking lots beginning in 2015.

As there are still many concerns about specific aspects of the parking district program, such as boundaries, fees, methodologies, and whether the parking problems will just move into nearby areas, the program will be reviewed after a year. This will allow changes to be made where necessary, and the addition of more neighborhoods to the districts if warranted.

You may wonder why the whole city has to vote on what is just a local neighborhood matter that affects only those who live or park close to OSU as the parking districts only extend five blocks from campus. The answer is: *because opponents of parking districts took the actions required to refer Council's decision to all voters in Corvallis.* — Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair



5th Annual Car Free Festival, September 21 and 22

Car Free Day includes a pre-event festival on September 21 that will help you gear up for biking, walking, or taking the bus on Monday, September 22. *Events are:*

Sunday, Sept. 21, 1 – 4 PM

Music, food, kids' activities, information booths, games at Riverfront Park, 1st Street between Monroe and Jackson

“CAR FREE” swag — a bandana, arm band, head band, or streamer to hang from your bike or back pack

Donate used athletic shoes through Five Star Sports.

Unusable shoes go to Nike for recycling; wearable shoes go to Africa for re-use.

A car-free themed story time by the Library, at the Central Park gazebo, 12:30 PM

Parade from Central Park to Riverfront Park

Monday, Sept. 22, all day

Join your neighbors and people all over the world for a day of biking, walking, or taking the bus. Display your “CAR FREE” swag throughout the day!

Stop at a neighborhood “check point” on your way to work or school.

Free food, drinks, prizes, transportation information, and bike safety check, 7 to 9 AM, at these sites:

- First Alternative Co-op South, 1007 SE 3rd
- Skate Park, SW 2nd and B, under the highway bypass
- Western View Center, SW 35th near Philomath Blvd.
- First Alternative Co-op North, 2855 NW Grant Ave.
- Corvallis High School, NW 11th and Buchanan.
- Northwest Hills Community Church, 3300 NW Walnut
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship, 2555 NW Highland
- Cheldelin Middle School, 987 NE Conifer Blvd.

The goal of Car Free Day is to create a positive experience for community members to consider transportation options on a regular basis. Plan your bicycle trip easily with Google Transit: www.google.com/transit. If you can't walk or bike you can participate by sharing a ride with a friend, hiring the local pedicab, or calling Dial-a-Bus.

Car Free Day is coordinated by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Transportation Action Team.



Goodbye to Jean Nath

Life member Corvallis League member Jean Nath died August 14, 2014 at 88 years, still active until her brief final illness.

As a young mother in Colorado, she joined and served in the League of Women Voters. Their sabbatical year in Corvallis in 1967-68 inspired the Naths to relocate to Corvallis in 1970 and make it their home for the next 44 years.

Jean was active in the LWV of Corvallis in many ways, including as League president from 1979-81 and 1993-95, vice president, and Land Use chair. Her focus was environmental conservation and land use planning.

She was on the Benton County Planning Commission in the 1970s and on many advisory groups—the Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Advisory Board, the Drinking Water Advisory Committee for Oregon Department of Human Services, and the Benton County Transportation Committee.

League members reflect on Jean's life

From Liz Frenkel: My memories of Jean Nath go way back to when she was a Benton County Planning Commissioner. Jean, in several situations, was the key to a change in the Commissioners' point of view. When I asked about this incredible ability to be heard, Jean said, "Well, I always know what I'm talking about and I always personally do a site visit." This was said quite simply. She assumed the Commissioners would recognize a rational point of view. An amazing individual, indeed, and a great friend.

From Marilyn Koenitzer: Jean Nath served the League with incisive knowledge, generosity of time, integrity, and excellence of leadership, and a great sense of humor. When asked how to formulate testimony on a thorny issue, she would think for about 20 seconds, then produce a rational, authoritative presentation of the issue that couldn't be questioned. The League always used her rationale for testimony. Jean is already sorely missed.

From Barbara Ross: I can't believe she is gone. She was always there, as a thoughtful, consistent League member and as a personal friend. In the early seventies we worked together on a city sign ordinance to limit advertising signs and prohibit the erection of new billboards within city limits. After I became County Commissioner, Jean, Lois

Kenagy and Liz Frenkel testified repeatedly during the development of Benton County's comprehensive plan under Senate Bill 100, which set standards for state-wide land use planning.

Through the years, she was there whenever issues related to protection of natural areas, farm and forest lands were being considered. She was an expert on rural zoning issues. Because of her dedication and the League's commitment we were able to develop a good county-wide plan that has stood the test of time.

She loved nature and particularly birds. When we visited the Finley Wildlife Reserve she knew the name of every flying creature. She loved the view from the house on the hill that she and Jack built.

The last several years were hard for Jean, with Jack fading, her own health uncertain, and having to give up driving. She remained philosophical and continued to participate in activities she loved and keep in touch with her friends. She was an amazing person and a role model for all of us. It is hard to say goodbye to her.

From Marilyn Tarrant: My husband and I met Jean and Jack when they moved next door to us for a year's sabbatical leave in Corvallis. They wanted to see as much as they could of Oregon in that year, so they planned weekend excursions and invited us along. We were able to see Oregon through their eyes and it was wonderful. We were sorry to see them leave but happy when they returned in 1970.

Jean got me involved in the League by asking me to take some minor job, which put me on the board, which somehow led me to become president! In 1994 Jean and I attended the national convention in Washington, D.C. and it was wonderful experience. We had a rally on the Capitol steps on a very hot day carrying a sign, GIVE THEM HEALTH, HILLARY.

From Beth Thoennes: Jean and I were Corvallis delegates to the 1980 national League convention in Washington, D.C. There she introduced me to bagels and to the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Jean was friendly and down-to-earth, with a dollop of humor. I don't like to think of League without Jean.

From Lois Marie Zaerr: I am very sorry to hear of Jean's death. Decades ago she was my walking buddy. She was the one who introduced me to League.

Obituary in Corvallis Gazette-Times, August 28, 2014.



Climate Change

EPA Administrator Speaks to LWV

League members across the country joined in a conference call with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Gina McCarthy. Administrator McCarthy discussed what's being done to fight climate change at the national level, including the EPA's Clean Power Plan, which limits carbon emissions from power plants.

Forty percent of the United States' carbon pollution comes from power plants, making them the single largest source of carbon pollution in the country. The Administrator reiterated that it is our moral obligation to fight climate change by cutting carbon pollution. We must take steps to address this public health crisis, which disproportionately affects our children, seniors and minority populations. In the United States alone, one in ten children need an inhaler to deal with respiratory issues and asthma, with

minorities and communities of color being particularly hard hit by pollution.

McCarthy called upon League members to continue to dialogue within their communities and states about the necessity of this regulation. League members can elevate the dialogue on this issue and build support for regulation to cut carbon pollution.

To give EPA feedback on this proposal, [submit your comment to the EPA and then ask your friends and neighbors do the same](#). LWVUS staff: Jessica

Jones www.lwv.org/blog/epa-administrator-gina-mccarthy-speaks-league-members

At home: Mark your calendars, tentatively, for the League's November 6 Carbon Pricing program at OSU in the LaSells Stewart Center's Construction and Engineering Hall.

Please consider joining our local Climate Change Committee. Contact me at ca.keith@comcast.net.

– *Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair*



Nonpartisanship, Consensus, and the League of Women Voters

Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS *Excerpt from her LWVUS convention address, June 7, 2014*

What is working for the League? You might be surprised by my list.

Nonpartisanship is working for us. We do not support or oppose candidates or parties. I believe we can make our case to the public that this statement does not preclude us from our watchdog role or from our advocacy role. We make that case not by shying away from controversy but by being visible doing what we do—finding power in knowledge and participation.

Our consensus process is working for us. That faith that knowledge is power and that every eligible voter should have the opportunity to get informed and participate has served us well for over 90 years. Yes, we are slow, but we are steady and our processes have evolved over the years to give every member an opportunity to learn about issues and contribute to forming the League's position on those issues. Do our members have challenges finding the time or the inclination to engage in those processes? Absolutely, and I have been the poster child for those challenges over my League career and having considered other ways of approaching our program process, I would still assert that the process is sound.

I still remember the first time I participated in consensus meetings. There was a diversity of views in the room and everyone left the meeting with a deeper understanding of the issues and the consensus of the group was different in some regard from the individual opinions with which the participants had entered the room.

I believe we can make this thoughtful exercise in democracy work in the 21st century if we can discipline ourselves not to take on every issue (which, by the way, every League president at every level of League has been saying at every convention since 1920); if we can always bear in mind that if knowledge is power, the process itself, especially if we engage not just our members but the public in the process, makes a difference to the issue.

But because of our process, we have withstood many attacks on our organizational integrity and nonpartisanship. Unlike so many other organizations, we didn't wake up yesterday and decide that voter suppression was a bad thing; we have been saying so for over 90 years.

Full text at: www.lwv.org/search/content/nonpartisanship.



League of Women Voters of Oregon's Positions on Ballot Measures

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports the following measures in the 2014 General Election:

Measure 86 - Student Opportunity Fund. Amends Constitution: Requires creation of a fund for Oregonians pursuing postsecondary education, authorizes state indebtedness to finance fund.

This is a constitutional amendment, because debt incurred by the State to create this dedicated permanent fund must be added to the list of approved bonding in order to allow the Legislature to issue bonds for these student grants. Implementation of the measure will be in statute.

"The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes the primary goal of Oregon's public postsecondary education should be to provide a broad spectrum of higher education for professional, vocational, and personal enrichment to all qualified and motivated individuals."

Measure 88 - Drivers' Cards. Provides Oregon resident a "driver card" without requiring proof of legal presence in the United States.

The LWVOR Farmworker Issues position says, "...the state has a role in supporting the sound and fair relationship between farmers and the agricultural workforce, with the goal of economic and social justice for both parties". In addition, there is also support in the League of

Women Voters of the United States' positions in regard to Equality of Opportunity, Immigration, and Meeting Basic Human Needs.

Measure 89 - State Equal Rights Amendment.

Amends Constitution: State/political subdivision shall not deny or abridge equality of rights on account of sex.

LWVOR supports "equal rights for all regardless of sex." Although LWVOR worked for many years to pass a national amendment, the League believes that governments at all levels share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon does not take a position on any of the other ballot measures. Visit www.lwvor.org for more detailed information.

Contact: Robin Wisdom, LWVOR President. 503-581-5722.
Email: r.wisdom@lwvor.org

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide. LWVOR's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



Do you enjoy interacting with social media?

The Corvallis League would love to be on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media, but we need someone to establish the sites and monitor and post on them.

If you'd like to help our League advance, contact Ann Brodie to discuss helping in this way: annbrodie143@comcast.net



League's Fruit Fundraiser Begins October 1 – You Can Help Now

Two-thirds of League's fruit sales are to non-members. To get support from more non-members we need names of your friends and neighbors who might purchase boxes of grapefruit and/or oranges.

Please email names and addresses of potential purchasers to me at LWVCLouise@AOL.com by September 20. You don't have to ask them—we will send them a letter. If they don't choose to purchase we won't ask them again. Thanks!

– Louise Marquering, Fruit Sale Chair



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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BEGINS FOR LEAGUE
Tuesday, September 23
Invite a friend!



LWV Calendar

September

- Thu 11** Board Meeting, 2-4PM
- Wed 17** Constitution Day
- Mon-Fri 15-21** Local Eats Week
- Sun-Mon 21-22** Car-Free Festival, Car-Free Day
- Tue 23** Kick-Off Meeting, 7 PM, Library
National Voter Registration Day

October

- Thu 9** Board Meeting, 2-4PM
- Sat 11** LWVOR Fall Workshop
- Tue, Wed, Thu 14, 15, 23** Candidate and Ballot Measure Forums, 7 PM, Library
- Thu 16** Ballots mailed to voters

November

- Tue 4** *Vote!* Ballots due by 8 PM
- Thu 13** Board Meeting
- Tue 18** **General Meeting: Housing**, 7 PM, Library

Join the League

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$60 individual membership ____ \$90 household
____ \$30 student ____ Renewal ____ Contribution*
____ *I need dues assistance to join the League, please contact me.*

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.