



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

Summer 2016

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Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, Marolyn Tarrant, Doris Waring, Mary Youmans (Chair)

## 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.



## Contemplate Corvallis 2040!

LWV of Corvallis asks you to refine the Vision of Corvallis

Monday, August 22, 6<sup>30</sup>-8<sup>30</sup> PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Meeting Room  
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

As space is limited, RSVP *now* to [charlyn.1.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:charlyn.1.ellis@gmail.com) for a place at the table.

Corvallis citizens worked together in 1996-97 to create Vision 2020. It's now time to imagine our community in 2040. Don't go unheard! Invite your friends and neighbors to participate in Corvallis' future. *We'll have food and beverages to keep you going!*

### Focus areas are:

**HOW WE ENGAGE & SUPPORT** Involvement, Equity, and Diversity

**HOW WE INNOVATE & PROSPER** Economy, Employment, and Innovation

**HOW WE LEARN & THRIVE** Education, Health & Human Services, and Personal Growth

**HOW WE CREATE & CELEBRATE** Arts, Culture, Creativity

**HOW WE PLAN & CHANGE** Livability, Development, and Housing

**HOW WE STEWARD & SUSTAIN** Environment, Sustainability, and Community Safety

On Dec. 21, 2015 the Corvallis City Council approved **Resolution 2015-36**, turning the Vision and Action Plan Task Force into a Steering Committee. This was done to reflect all segments of the community and to include active participation of organizations in implementing the Vision. Mayor Traber appointed representatives likely to take lead roles in the action plan, as well as at-large members to be conduits for a range of perspectives and breadth of community representation.

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

## LWVs of Oregon and Washington, Joint Council: June 3-5, 2016

*LWV of Corvallis Delegates:* Cathy Frischmann, Claudia Keith



League members from across Oregon and Washington met in Vancouver, Washington June 3-5. On Saturday there were a variety of workshops and sessions for the two state Leagues. While the LWVWA met for an update on their 2015 Convention, LWVOR met to adopt a budget and elect members to its state Board. A final session brought ideas for future joint efforts between the two state Leagues.

*Keynote speaker, attorney Mary Christina Wood*

Three climate change-related resolutions were passed by LWVOR and proposed to be addressed at the LWVUS Convention, June 16-19:

- 1) The LWVUS shall consider signing on to an Amicus Brief with the 21 youth plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust,
- 2) The LWVUS supports the ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris agreement, and *(cont. on page 6)*



## President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

**We had a great turnout** for our Annual Meeting and dinner at the end of May. Thanks to everyone who worked to make it such a successful evening. After a delicious dinner we got down to business, adopted the year's program and budget, and elected officers. Thanks, Anne Brodie and Marilyn Koenitzer for stepping up to share the Secretary position for one year, and also to Shelly Murphy and Judy Ball for continuing on the Board as appointed directors.

After dinner and the business portion, City Manager Mark Shepard spoke to us. He encouraged the LWV to get information out, as well as giving feedback to the City.

**Vision Corvallis 2040** is the document that will drive much of what happens in Corvallis for the next twenty years. We hope you can come to the Library on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for a communal effort on visioning, sponsored by League and the Library.

**New and old LWV Board members** recently had their annual retreat, an opportunity to focus on the bigger picture, establish goals, and plan for the upcoming year. I would like to thank everyone who attended and took a whole day for the LWV. Special thanks to Sara Ingle who provided the perfect venue! The Board's goals are: 1) to develop an orientation process for Board members, 2) to recruit members, and 3) to build visibility for the LWV. We worked on strategies to help us achieve these goals. We will also update our Board policies.

**The Republican and Democratic Conventions** have ended and now we are in the thick of the election season. I encourage every member to review the League's Nonpartisan Policy. It can be found on page 4, in your membership materials, or on our web site. The LWV, though a political organization, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, we do advocate and take action on public policy issues based on adopted positions.

**We will have several Voter Service meetings** in September and October to inform voters on issues and races. Join us and bring a friend or neighbor. If you would like to help, please contact Voter Service Chair Cathy Frischmann, [cathyberry13@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyberry13@hotmail.com).

Enjoy our beautiful state, Oregon, during this best part of the year!

## WELCOME New Members



Katie Golan & Kathleen Harris  
Barbara Sellers-Young  
Carl & Carolyn Wilhelm



### Indoor work for a summer day

*Step 1:* Look through your address book for friends and relatives who'd enjoy a box of luscious grapefruit or oranges in December.

*Step 2:* Send names and addresses to fruit fundraiser Chair Louise

Marquering at [LWVCLouise@AOL.com](mailto:LWVCLouise@AOL.com), and she'll do the rest. Easy and so helpful to our League!

### LWV of Corvallis

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Facebook – LWV Corvallis

### LWV of Oregon

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This is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis which is produced nine or ten 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.

## May 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Informative and Tasty

Business and pleasure mixed at the LWV of Corvallis' Annual Meeting, May 25<sup>th</sup>. After a delicious dinner (thanks, Valley Catering) President Laura Lahm Evenson efficiently led us through the League's annual business of budget, program, and election of officers. (See also President's column on page 2.)

*Left: Laura Lahm Evenson presides, with Paula Krane, Parliamentian – Right: Mark Shepard*



*Patricia Parcells, Peggy  
Marolyn Tarrant, Corrine*

*Lynch, Shelly Murphy,  
Gobeli*



## Cold-weather Shelter for Homeless Men

The LWV of Corvallis Housing Committee has been observing the potential fate of the Homeless Men's Cold Weather Shelter. At this time, there is no decision on where the shelter will be or who will administer it. Our concern is that no decision will be made in time to have a functional shelter in place by

November. If this were the case, eighty homeless men – many of them ill – will be on the streets during our wettest and coldest months.

The LWV Board approved sending the letter below to the City Council to keep this issue in front of the city.

*– Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair*

*To: Mayor Traber and Members of Corvallis City Council  
From: Laura Lahm Evenson, President, League of Women  
Voters of Corvallis*

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis "Housing" position includes the following statement: "Emergency shelter should be available year round in our community for both women and men. Volunteer organizations should be given support for their efforts to meet this need through city and county leadership and some allocation of dollars to help stabilize private programs."

The League has serious concerns about the fate of the men's homeless cold-weather shelter. We are aware that there are concerns about its current location and that there is a proposal to relocate the services. However, it is not clear to us that the negotiations and preparations will be completed in time to relocate the services. Moreover, if

services are not relocated, we are also concerned that public pressure will work against providing services at the current 4<sup>th</sup> Street location.

Corvallis consistently describes itself as a community that cares about all people. But without a men's cold-weather shelter our community will be pushing up to 80 individuals, many old and sick, out onto the street during the coldest, wettest months of the year. For some, shelter during the winter is literally the difference between life and death. Not only is this uncompassionate, it is expensive. This will increase the financial burden on the city with increased police and ambulance calls.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis urges the City Council to work with others in our community to ensure that when November arrives these men will have access to shelter. Thank you for your consideration of this request.



## EPA Information on Climate Change and Health

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released eight new climate change and health fact sheets that highlight the health impacts of climate change at different stages of life, for certain populations of concern, and for environmental justice as a whole. [www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/health/factsheets/](http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/health/factsheets/).

### How will climate change affect my health?

*Below are examples of how climate change can affect your health at different stages of your life.*

#### Life Stages—

**Pregnant Women** who experience extreme weather, like floods and heatwaves, can experience mental health effects, injuries, and other health risks that affect their pregnancies and their newborn infants.

**Infants and Toddlers** have developing immune systems that make them sensitive to heat, allergens, diseases carried by ticks and mosquitoes, and food and water-related illness.

**Children** are sensitive to heat, poor air quality, water and food related illnesses. They are often exposed to mosquitoes and ticks during outdoor play.

**Adolescents** can suffer heat-related illness, asthma or allergies while playing outdoors or competing in sports.

**Adults** who work in active or outdoor jobs have increased exposure to heat, allergens, poor air quality, and ticks or mosquitoes. They may have greater sensitivity to heat stress if taking certain medications.

**Older Adults** are sensitive to heat because they are less able to regulate body temperatures. They are less able to respond to extreme weather due to normal aging processes that affect physical or mental ability.

#### Stressors—

**Rising Temperatures:** Increasing temperatures mean heat waves are more frequent, more intense, and last longer.

- Health risks: dehydration, heat stroke, worsened heart and lung disease, death.

**Reduced Air Quality:** Rising temperatures, changes in rain patterns, and increasing wildfires lead to more smog, plant allergens, and other air pollutants.

- Health risks: increased episodes of asthma and chronic lung disease, heart disease, death.

**Increasing Extreme Weather:** Hurricanes, severe storms, flooding, droughts, and wildfires are already increasing in frequency, intensity, or length.

- Health risks: water and food-related illnesses, respiratory illness, injuries, mental health problems.

**Spreading Diseases From Mosquitoes and Ticks:** Changes in temperatures and precipitation patterns affect when and where diseases carried by mosquitoes and ticks occur.

- Health risks: Lyme disease, West Nile virus.

**Expanding Water-Related Illness:** Increasing water and air temperatures, heavy rainfall, flooding, and sea level rise can expose people to contaminated waters.

- Health risks: diarrhea, skin and eye infections.

**Decreased Food Safety:** Increasing air and water temperatures and extreme weather lead to food contamination, spoilage, and disrupted food distribution.

- Health risks: food poisoning, diarrhea, reduced access to food.

Read more in the *Impacts Of Climate Change On Human Health In The United States: A Scientific Assessment* at [health2016.globalchange.gov](http://health2016.globalchange.gov).

— Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair

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## Non-Partisanship Policy of the League of Women Voters

*Article II Section 1 of the LWVUS Bylaws states:* “The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the United States is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.” Thus, the League advocates and takes action on public policy issues based on adopted positions.

*Article II Section 2 states:* “The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.” Though the League is a political organization, it is nonpartisan. League support

for any particular position does not constitute support for any candidate or partisan group.

As each League is responsible for carrying out the nonpartisan policy in its community, the LWV of Corvallis Board has developed specific guidelines to ensure its non-partisan stance, to protect the League from confusion or conflict arising over political activities of members, and to encourage the active involvement of League members in all aspects of the political process. More information at: [lww.org/content/nonpartisan](http://lww.org/content/nonpartisan)

## Doings in D.C. – Frischmann and Keith at LWV Convention June 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>

LWV of Corvallis delegates Cathy Frischmann and Claudia Keith were in Washington, D.C. for the League of Women Voters of the United States 52<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention.

On the first day they joined hundreds of League members lobbying Congress for the Voting Rights Advancement Act, (supported by our local Congress members).



Oregon Delegates *Marion McNamara, Cathy Frischmann, Frances Dyke, Sen. Jeff Merkley, Rhonda Livesay, Linda Lynch, Claudia Keith*

**Our next three days began at 7:15** with caucuses and workshops, went into plenary and business sessions until 5:30, and after-dinner information sessions and speakers until 9:30. All the while we met with the Convention Resolutions Committee to finalize wording of the third Climate Change Resolutions which we submitted, and worked to generate support. Cathy presented our caucus and Claudia was on a panel with Eleanor Revelle, LWVUS Climate Task Force Chair and Chad Tolman, retired chemist responsible for Price on Carbon Resolution (2014).

### Major actions were:

- Approval of a position supporting a redistricting process and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- Approval to include in the health care position access to affordable, quality in and out patient behavioral health care.
- Retained all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.
- Agreed on the two-year program, Campaign for Making Democracy Work®. The opportunities vary by state and local communities, but will include Voting Rights, Voter Protection, and Money in Politics.
- Passed an amendment to the Bylaws to allow individuals to become voting members at age 16.
- Maintained the same PMP for the coming biennium.

- *Resolutions:* 1) Support restoration of funding for gun violence research at the Center for Disease Control Research. 2) Make a legislative priority of statehood for the District of Columbia. 3) Support signing on to Our Children's Trust federal amicus brief. 4) Support the ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement. 5) Promote an update of the 2013 White House Climate Plan.

**Chris Carson of Burbank, California was elected** unanimously to serve a two-year term, as the national League's 19<sup>th</sup> president. She led the League's redistricting reform task forces and has been the League's national advocacy chair since 2014. Carson emphasized the importance of collaboration at all levels of the League.

**Convention participants heard from many speakers** including:

- *Give Us the Ballot* author and journalist Ari Berman,
- NPR's Peter Overby on money in politics,
- Joe Goldman on "Our Democracy - Complex Systems and Major Forces at Play in 2016,"
- Jennifer Lawless of American University's Women & Politics Institute,
- Amanda Taub of *Vox* & the *New York Times* on "Understanding American Authoritarianism," and
- Celinda Lake on what resonates with voters in 2016.

On Saturday we heard a panel of experts on protecting and expanding the electorate, which included Christine Chen, APIAVote; Kristen Clark, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; and Arturo Vargas, NALEO. They commended the League and urged us to go forward using our community-based power on critical issues of the day.

**We were introduced to Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris, new**



LWVUS CEO, who shared that she and the national leadership team are in the process of strategic planning. The key words in their work are "change" and "engagement." As League approaches its centennial, she identified challenges for the League and proposed that if we are willing the challenges ahead be turned into opportunity!

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/remarks-lwvus-ceo-dr-wylecia-wiggs-harris-convention-2016>

– *Cathy Frischmann*

LWVOR and LWVWA Joint Council, (*cont. from page 1-3*) That the LWVUS continue to work for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan, especially at the state level, as a first step, and should call on the White House to implement an updated science-based Climate Action Plan that stabilizes global warming.

Saturday's lunch with the theme "Meet at the Columbia River," featured a panel on the Columbia River Treaty.

**League participants heard a powerful presentation** by keynote speaker and attorney Mary Christina Wood. She spoke on *The Children's Climate Crusade: Atmospheric Trust Litigation in the Courts*. Wood originated the climate change litigation approach spearheaded by Our Children's Trust. She provided a somber update on climate change science and why youth are suing the federal and state governments to get action. Wood's speech kept many League members up that night, considering the urgency of our environmental state.

Wood's premise is that, "Like the salmon, we are but one living generation in a continuous strand of life. But our generation occupies a pivotal moment in history. This moment belongs to no one else, and no other generation." She stated, "climate is not my issue . . . . In fact it's no one's issue. It is everyone's emergency." She urged the League of Women Voters and others to use the courts to protect the fundamental rights of citizens against tyranny from the other branches. She described what we have

today as "a situation rapidly approaching ecological tyranny. The public trust is that ancient right that calls for government to protect vital natural resources for the people, not deliver them to corporations for singular profit."

Wood discussed how statutes passed after the first Earth Day have been the foundation of environmental law. She noted that "if you took a snapshot of environmental law in its first decade, you might conclude that the law worked for a time. Rivers stopped catching fire. Lead was taken out of gasoline. DDT was banned. But despite these successes, the most devastating onslaught to Earth has occurred since these major statutes were passed. . . . Across nearly all fronts, environmental law has failed in its basic purpose to safeguard natural resources. . . . The problem is certainly not a lack of law. The problem is that these laws gave discretion to the agencies to permit the very pollution or land destruction that the statutes were designed to prevent. Of course, the permit systems were never intended to subvert the goals of these statutes. But agencies have used their discretion to enshrine a permit system that inevitably sinks the statutory goals. With few exceptions, most agencies are simply not saying no." The result is that soon we will need to reduce our fossil fuel consumption by 15% per year to survive.

— from LWV of Washington news

## "Simply Seasonal" Recipes Available

It's possible to eat local year-round and it doesn't have to cost more! The Sustainability Coalition's Food Action Team introduces *Simply Seasonal*, with recipes that are local, affordable, easy, and delicious. Look for the little red recipe baskets at the Farmers' Market produce stands on Wednesday or Saturday, from 9 AM to 1 PM. The free recipes include fresh ingredients, many available at the market and all easy to make.

*Summer 2016 recipes include:* Zucchini "Meatballs" – Cabbage and Potato Gratin – Tabouli Salad – Corn and Barley Risotto – Tofu Creole – Garbanzo and Hazelnut Salad – Soyssage – Potato Turnip Mash – Rhubarb Custard Pie – Roasted Tomato Basil Soup.

Post a photo of your Simply Seasonal meal on the Eat 40% Local-Corvallis Facebook page for a chance to win a \$20 gift card to the First Alternative Co-op. Every post increases your chance to win, and drawings are held monthly.

*Sustainable Corvallis.org E-Update, July 25, 2016*





## LWV of Corvallis Establishes Criteria – Special Taxing Districts & Urban Renewal Districts

*Adopted May 2016*

The League believes the formation of Special Taxing Districts and Urban Renewal Districts may be desirable in certain situations. The formation of any such district must be considered only after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications to all government provided services.

League shall consider the following criteria to determine whether or not to support a proposal to form a Special Taxing District or an Urban Renewal District.

1. The new district has clearly defined goals.
2. The new district will provide more or new benefits not currently available.
3. The new district will meet needs not currently being addressed.
4. Other options to meet the needs have been explored.
5. Establishment of a new district will lead to long-term stability.
6. All statutory requirements have been addressed.
7. Administrative costs will not unduly impact services.

8. The new district will not create undue competition with other entities.
9. The new district does not duplicate services otherwise available.
10. The impact of the new district on the funding of other services has been evaluated.
11. There has been adequate public process in establishing the new district.
12. The cost to reach the goals has been properly analyzed
13. Revenue streams are identified (bonding, grants, private dollars, etc.).
14. Affected parties have been engaged in discussions regarding the proposed district.

**For Urban Renewal Districts an additional criterion will be considered:**

15. Urban Renewal Districts must have a plan for termination from the outset.

There is no intent that a taxing or urban renewal district must meet every criterion in order to gain League support. Instead, the idea is that, for any new district, each criterion will be evaluated and the League position will be arrived at by balancing the pros and cons, illuminated by the criteria.

## Annual Meeting Workbooks Are Still Available (Add Social Policy Report)

If you'd like a Workbook, please call me at 541-752-7201 or email [bakerbt@comcast.net](mailto:bakerbt@comcast.net) or. If you want to know what our League has done this year, read your Workbook. Please add the following Social Policy committee report, which I omitted from the Workbook in error. – *Beth Thoennes*

### ***Social Policy Action Committee***

Our members are concerned about the failure of the jail levy and the need for jail space and diversion programs in Benton County. The County emphasized the poor condition of the current jail, and many local residents objected to building a facility without provision of services. Subsequently, a study of the courthouse revealed that it could be heavily damaged in an earthquake, so both a courthouse and jail with services may be needed.

Public discussion of options would be beneficial in order for citizens to come to some consensus before the next levy attempt. A small committee has started to interview county officials and anticipates more action in the next program year.

More members are welcome. Please send an e-mail to Karen Nibler at [niblerk@comcast.net](mailto:niblerk@comcast.net) if you would like to join us. *Committee:* Phoebe Lansing-Lee, Mary Anne Nusrala, Loretta Reilly. – *Karen Nibler, Social Policy Action Chair*



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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## LWV Calendar

### August

**Tue 16** Board Meeting, 12:30-2:30 PM

### September

**Wed 17** Constitution Day

**Tue 20** Board Meeting, 12:30-2:30 PM

**Wed 21** Kick-Off Meeting, 7 PM, Library

**Thu 22** Ballot Measure Forum w/City Club, 7 PM, Old World Deli

**Sat 24** Fall Festival – LWV voter registration

**Tu 27** National Voter Registration Day

### October

**Thu 18** Board Meeting, 12:30-2:30 PM

**Fri 19** Candidate Forum, State Representatives  
7 PM, Library

**Sat 20** Candidate Forum, City Council, 7 PM,  
Library

**Thu 27** Ballot Measure Forum, 7 PM, Library

## 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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

LWV's membership year begins in October. *NEW members are charged half-year dues from April through September - \$30/\$45/\$15*

*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.