



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

*Serving Benton County*

April 2011

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(541-230-1237)

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### *Nominating Committee*

## **The League of Women Voters**

is a nonpartisan political organization that—

- \* 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 State of Our Schools

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent  
Corvallis School District 509J

Tuesday, April 12, 2011  
7:00 to 8:30 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Dawn Tarzian first joined Corvallis School District 509-J in 2001. She has served as superintendent since July 2005 and will retire from her post this June. We wanted to provide an opportunity for community members to hear Dawn's perspective and to learn from her experience prior to her retirement. We have asked Dawn to talk about:

- Highlights of her tenure with 509J and key accomplishments
- Current and future challenges for the school district
- What she envisions as the federal role in education (This is the topic of a national League study during the next two years.)

You are invited to hear from one of our community's leading educators and to ask any questions you may have related to academics, operations, budget, or other areas of concern.

Mark your calendar for an informative and thought-provoking evening. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor!

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

## **School Board Candidates' Forum**

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 7 to 9 pm

Linus Pauling Middle School Auditorium

1111 NW Cleveland Avenue



League's Voter Service Committee has invited all seven candidates for the Corvallis 509J School Board to speak at this public forum. Mark your calendar now. Come and hear what the candidates have to say, and bring your own questions.



## President's Corner — Annette Mills

One of the things I love most about the League of Women Voters is our commitment to action across such a broad spectrum of topics – from the global to the local. Consider some of our recent programs and projects:

**Global Climate Change** – Our general meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> featured Catherine Thomasson, MD, and Charlie Fautin, RN, MPH, discussing

health-related impacts of climate change. As part of their presentation, they encouraged individuals to take action to minimize their carbon output. To point us toward local opportunities, a summary of Corvallis area energy efficiency programs is reprinted on page 6.

Members of our Climate Change Committee, Kate Mathews and Janet Wolf-Eshe, staffed the League booth at the annual Sustainability Fair at the Alumni Center on March 9<sup>th</sup>, helping fair attendees make the connection between their daily food choices and climate change.

**State Legislation** – While the state legislature is in session, our League will continue to sponsor monthly Legislative Town Hall Meetings. In March, Senator Frank Morse and Representative Sara Gelser addressed community members on health care and other topics of interest. The focus for the April Town Hall will be tax reform. In addition, our LWVOR Action Team has been hard at work in Salem, lobbying our elected officials on numerous issues of concern to the League. Three members of the Action Team are LWVOR members: Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, and Karen Nibler.

**City Levy** – The LWV of Corvallis actively supports the upcoming city levy, and we encourage our members to become informed about what is at risk if the levy fails. Basically, without a levy, the public library will be closed on Mondays, as well as Sundays; the Osborn Aquatic Center and Senior Center will be closed completely; and social services funding will be cut by \$250,000. Even if the levy passes, significant budget cuts will have to be made. The levy simply ensures that some of our community's most valuable assets will be preserved.

These are just a few of the many topics with which we're involved. This issue of the bulletin provides updates on other action items of concern and interest, including the Creekside appeal and a newly-adopted initiative to promote dental care for homeless individuals in our community. I am so proud to be part of an organization that does so much in so many issue areas!

In addition to taking action, our League continues to provide programs to inform and educate. Please join us for this month's program focus, our schools. On April 12, we will hear from 509J Superintendent Dawn Tarzian on "The State of Our Schools," and on April 26 we will host a school board Candidates' Forum. I hope to see you at both of these events.

## LWV of Corvallis

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

We welcome your input. If you have suggestions, story ideas, comments, or submissions for the Bulletin, contact Louise Marquering – lwvcLouise@AOL.com.

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

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



# WELCOME

**New members Marcia F. Cutler and Sandra & John Potter!**

We look forward to working with each of you on important issues for our local area, our state, and our nation. A strong voice from the League of Women Voters will always be needed.

—Janet Wolf-Eshe, Membership Co-chair



## Legislature 2011 Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 10 AM – NOON  
Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Senator Frank Morse & Representative Sara Gelser      Chris Mathews, Moderator

*Co-sponsors – LWV of Corvallis and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library*

Come and hear your legislators address Tax Reform and other important issues. The next Town Hall Meetings will be on Saturdays, May 7 and June 4.

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed refreshments to the February Town Hall at the library meeting room. Please feel free to bring them to any Town Hall meeting you attend.

**Important Note:** There will be an Oregon Legislative hearing on redistricting in Corvallis on Saturday, April 16. The place is yet to be announced, time is tentatively 3:30 PM. The best place for all the latest information from the Legislature on the process is: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/redistricting/>

Don't forget! Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 25, 6-9 PM



**Thank you to all who have donated to the Creekside Appeal fund.** We are nearing our

goal! Your contributions are still welcome and needed. Make checks out to *LWV of Corvallis*, with "Creekside" on the memo line. Send them to LWV of Corvallis, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

The case is proceeding. The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) received the supplemental record of the decision from the City on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and the League is satisfied that the record is complete. (The record consists of materials submitted to, and not rejected by, the Planning Commission and City Council in the course of local proceedings.)

Now our attorney Corinne Sherton will file the Petition for Review (PFR) which will describe the reasons why the land use decision, or a portion thereof, should be reversed or remanded. This is due April 4 (21 days after the record was accepted). Then a hearing will be scheduled. As a general rule, LUBA holds only one hearing for legal argument based on the briefs filed by the City and the League. The only evidence that LUBA can consider is what is already in the record.

## Community Planning

If you are wondering how long it will be before we get a decision, it varies. The general rule is that a final decision should be issued by LUBA within 77 days after the record of decision is accepted. That would, in our case, be at the beginning of June.

**Other current community planning issues** in our area include:

- the adoption of the new flood plain maps required by FEMA and the comprehensive plan amendments required for development in flood prone areas;
- the adoption of a Planning Division work plan for 2011;
- the agreement by our Coffin Butte Landfill to take incinerator ash from Marion County;
- and many transportation issues in the planning stages.

The Community Planning Committee especially needs members to follow the solid waste issue and local transportation planning. Please email Shelly at [shellym@peak.org](mailto:shellym@peak.org) if you are interested in one of these areas.



## Special LWVC Funds Awarded to Develop Dental Assistance Program for Low Income Residents

At its March meeting, the LWVC board approved the recommendation of the Special Funds Review Committee (Louise Ferrell, Marilyn Koenitzer, Nancy Schary, and Marolyn Tarrant) to award \$2500 from the League's Special Memorial Funds. It will go to the LWVC Dental Health Committee, which was formed as a result of the need identified by the League's Housing Policy Committee. The funds are from an unrestricted account in honor of long-time members Kay Dick and Grace Phinney. This is the second grant that has been awarded under the new criteria, guidelines, and application process that were established in 2008-09.

In the grant application, committee chair Dagmar Johnson explained, "There are at least 500 very low income adults in our community in critical need of dental care." This project and the funds that have been awarded will provide for hiring an OSU Public Health student intern. The intern will assist Benton County's Oral Health Coalition in researching and reporting on current local sources of low-income dental care and similar programs in other communities. In addition, the intern will report on a survey of local dentists' delivery and volunteer preferences in providing services to this population.

Members of the LWVC Dental Health Committee will work with the Oral Health Coalition of Benton County, which includes Benton County, Community Outreach, Inc., LBCC, the Assistance League, Good Samaritan Hospital, and private dentists. In their recommendation to the board, Grants Committee members commented that this project will bring visibility to the League, as well as expertise to help an underserved population.

To date, ten people have volunteered to serve on the project committee. If you would like to join them, please contact Dagmar Johnson at 541-752-4415 or dagmar.johnson7@gmail.com.



## League Book Club

*Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English*, by Natasha Solomons

The April book club selection provides a respite from dark and gloomy reading and rainy weather. This book, rated at 4.5 stars by Amazon reviewers, has been termed, "sweet and charming," "delightful," "heartwarming."

**Join us Monday, April 11, 2:30 PM, at the Old World Deli, 341 SW 2nd (note location change).** Questions? Contact Corrine: gobelic@comcast.net , 541-745-7736.

### Upcoming books:

- May 9 *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul*, Tony Hendra
- June 13 Select books for 2011-2012. Start thinking of possibilities – perhaps a classic, non-fiction, history, science, or contemporary fiction.



## LWVOR Raffle: \$3000 Vacation Dollars

Raffle tickets are \$10, and only 2,000 tickets are printed for this statewide raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday night at the LWVOR convention (you need not be present to win). The Raffle will raise about \$15,000 for LWVOR—important budget revenue.

**The raffle also raises funds for local Leagues.** If we sell as many tickets as our total number of members, our League

receives \$1 back for each ticket sold. Tickets sold *over* the membership number earn \$2 per additional ticket sold.

Please help LWVOR and our League by buying tickets for yourself and selling some to friends and family.

Raffle 2011 tickets are available now through our Raffle Representative, Marolyn Tarrant, 541-753-8145.



## Coming Up in May: Convention 2011 Mark your calendars for May 13 to 15

This is the year to gather for the biennial LWVOR convention. The League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties is convention host. Convention center is the Renaissance Inn and Conference Center in Keizer. *Room reservation deadline, April 15.*

We'll elect state League officers, set a budget, select programs for action for the coming two years, discuss League policies and issues, and attend stimulating workshops.

At Saturday evening's banquet, financial theorist and historian William J. Bernstein will speak on "The Coming Demographic Tidal Wave."

If you're interested in being a delegate and in getting involved with the nuts and bolts of League, contact Annette Mills if you are—541-230-1237, amills@virginiavillageproductions.com. Or you may attend as an observer.

**LWVOR Reads!** Convention attendees are challenged to read the same book: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: the Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* by Kirstin Downey. There will be a book discussion meeting on Saturday.

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## League's Oral History Project



LWVOR asks local Leagues interview as many of our members as possible by January 2012 to put together League's history in Oregon. Corvallis League is starting with its 50-year members. You could be a part of this project —

- Interview one or more Corvallis League members. If you enjoy chatting with League friends and value all they have done in our League, please call or email Louise Marquering soon (lwvc@aol.com, 541-753-0012).
- Say yes to an interview. We may record your interview and take a photo. Jog your memory by thinking about your League life—when and where you joined and what you have done in League over the years—committees, events, conventions, and League studies.

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## Redistricting in Oregon

**Thursday, April 7, 7:00–8:30 PM**  
**Albany Public Library, 2450 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE**  
*(south of Heritage Mall)*

The Linn County League of Women Voters Members-at-Large Unit and the Albany chapter of the American Association of University Women will co-host a panel discussion on redistricting in Oregon. For more information, contact Diane White at 541-928-7802 or dianeowhite@msn.com.

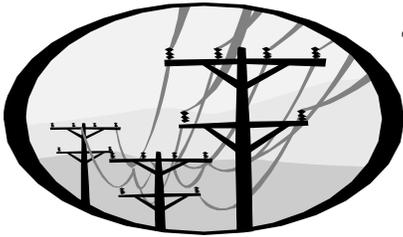
*The panel includes:*

**Kappy Eaton**, author of the League's study on redistricting;  
**Phil Keisling**, former Secretary of State of Oregon;  
**Senator Frank Morse**, Oregon Senate District 8; and

**Erin Seiler**, administrator for the Oregon Legislature, who will demonstrate the current software used to draw district boundaries.



## Corvallis Area Energy Efficiency Programs: What's Available to Me?



These programs are sponsored by the Corvallis Environmental Center, City of Corvallis, Energize Corvallis, Energy Trust of Oregon, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and the Community Services Consortium.

Use this information to combat global climate change by lightening your carbon footprint.

### Corvallis Weatherization Incentive Program (CWIP)

- For a limited time, get up to \$500 to insulate or seal your home.
- This incentive is in addition to Energy Trust's cash-back incentives and state and federal tax credits. Visit [www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org).

### Residential Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

- Get a low-interest loan from the City of Corvallis and make energy efficiency improvements now.
- Five-year loans are available from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to cover the costs of weatherization, space and water heating, and appliances.
- Contact Energize Corvallis at 541-758-NRGY (6749) or visit [www.energizecorallis.org](http://www.energizecorallis.org).

### Home Energy Review from Energy Trust of Oregon

- At no charge, find out from an expert how to make your home efficient, improve comfort and safety,

and reduce energy bills. Plus, learn about additional cash-back incentives.

- You must receive a Home Energy Review to be eligible for the CWIP, RLF, and Energy Advocate programs.
- To sign up, call 1-866-368-7878 or visit [www.energytrust.org/residential](http://www.energytrust.org/residential).

### FREE Assistance from an Energy Advocate

- After your Home Energy Review, sign up to work with an Energy Advocate volunteer who will help you implement energy efficiency improvements.
- An Energy Advocate can help you find a contractor, understand available tax credits and incentives, or just find out where to begin.
- You must work with an Energy Advocate to be eligible for the RLF program.
- To sign up or for more information, contact Energize Corvallis at 541-758-NRGY (6749) or visit [www.energizecorallis.org](http://www.energizecorallis.org).

*The following programs are available for low-income households:*

### Community Services Consortium Weatherization Program

Free home weatherization is available for low-income households, including insulation, air and duct sealing, space and water heating, and safety checks.

Contact Community Services Consortium, Bernadette Feyerherm, at 541-758-2616 or visit their website: [www.communityhousingservices.us](http://www.communityhousingservices.us).

### City of Corvallis Housing Rehabilitation Loans

For home improvements, including energy efficiency upgrades, low- and very low-income households located in Corvallis can receive a zero-interest deferred loan through the city's Essential Repair Program, or a low-interest loan through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Projects can include window and other weatherization upgrades, in addition to other necessary home repairs/replacements and upgrades, in order to maintain the integrity of a home.

Contact City of Corvallis Housing Division at 541-766-6944 or visit [www.ci.corvallis.or.us](http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us).



## League of Women Voters of Corvallis Supports City Levy— Vote “YES” on #02-74 in May 17 Election

At its February 2011 meeting, the LWVC board voted to support the upcoming City levy, based on our

**Community Planning and Library finance positions.**

The levy will go before the electorate May 17.

For years now, our City’s leaders and staff have worked hard to maintain services in the face of declining revenues. They have eliminated jobs, scaled back programs, spent down reserves, and made substantial cuts — \$2.2 million this year alone. It’s still not enough. To balance the budget for next year, another \$3.1 million must be cut by June 30.

Without the levy, **our Library will be closed on Mondays as well as Sundays.** The budget for books and materials will be slashed. Our library will fall below “threshold,” the lowest level on the scale, according to the Oregon Library Association Library Standards.

Without the levy, **Osborn Aquatic Center will be shut down completely.** It gets 45,475 youth visits a year! Where will those kids go? What will they do? No more lessons. No more swim teams or sports. No more family fun at Otter Beach. No more therapy pool.

Without the levy, **the Senior Center will be shut down completely.** Over 8,000 residents will no longer have access to needed services. Meals on Wheels, Senior Tax Aide, and three disease support groups will lose their only Corvallis site.

Without the levy, **Social Services funding will be severely cut,** hurting our city’s most vulnerable, the homeless and those in transition. It’s a helping hand up, not a handout.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How much money will the levy raise? How long will it last?** \$1,790,000 for fiscal year 2011-2012; \$1,850,870 in fiscal year 2011-2013 and \$1,924,900 in fiscal year 2013-2014. This is a 3-year levy.

**2. How much will it cost me?** For the owner of a home assessed at \$180,000, it adds \$81 a year, or less than \$7 per month.

**3. What cuts has the City already made? Shouldn’t the City tighten its belt?** The City has made \$2.2 million in cuts this year alone. All exempt employees and one of the City’s unions have agreed to forgo cost of living increases.

For more detail, reference the document titled “Service Reduction Packages” at [www.friendsofcorvallis.org](http://www.friendsofcorvallis.org). This document includes a wide range of options the Budget Commission (and ultimately the City Council) are looking at to cut \$3.1 more from the FY11-12 budget. The Budget Commission and the City Council have already identified \$1.8 million in cuts that will be made, unless the citizens choose to protect and preserve those services, which are the ones included in the levy.

**4. Why didn’t the City see this coming and cut earlier?** City government exists to provide services that its citizens need and have indicated they want. The City has eliminated jobs, scaled back programs, spent down reserves, and made significant cuts. The Budgeted FY10-11 column total is \$2,161,235 (or rounded, \$2.2 million), which represents the \$2.2 million in cuts that have already been made. See “Budget Reductions/ Savings Matrix” at [www.friendsofcorvallis.org](http://www.friendsofcorvallis.org).

**5. Why can’t the City simply add/increase fees so those using services such as the Library and Osborn Aquatic Center pay the costs?** State law requires public libraries be available to all citizens without charge. When fees at Osborn have been raised, declines in participation resulted in little revenue gain. Further, the communitywide benefits from services such as this make it unreasonable to expect users to bear 100% of the burden.

**6. What am I being asked to do?** Vote “yes” for the local option levy on May 17. This is not a major election, with lots of attention and interest. That means your vote is especially important!

**7. Who is leading this effort?** *Friends of Corvallis* is a citizen-led political action committee organized to inform voters about the need for funding to protect and preserve these valued services and to encourage support of the local option levy.



**LWV of Corvallis**  
 P.O. Box 1679  
 Corvallis, OR 97339-1679  
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 www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

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### Join the League!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 individual membership\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$82.50 household\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$27.50 student\* \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution\*\*

*I would like to be considered:*

Active \_\_\_\_\_ Inactive Member / Supporter \_\_\_\_\_

I first joined League in (year) \_\_\_\_\_ (place) \_\_\_\_\_

*What special skills/talents/interests can you 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

\* New members joining in April - July pay half dues.

\*\* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.



### League Calendar

#### April

- Sat 7 Legislative Town Hall 10 AM
- Fri 8 Board Meeting 10 AM
- Mon 11 League Book Club 2:30 PM
- Tue 12 *General Meeting: The State of Our Schools* 7 PM
- Sat 16 Legislative Redistricting hearing, Watch for time and place
- Tue 26 Candidates' Forum 7 PM

#### May

- Sat 7 Legislative Town Hall 10 AM
- Fri 6 Board Meeting 10 AM
- Mon 11 League Book Club 2:30 PM
- Fri-Sun 13-15 LWVOR Convention, Keizer
- Wed 25 LWVC Annual Meeting 6-9 PM