



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

October 2011

Board of Directors 2011-2012

President

Kate Mathews
(541) 754-1172

First Vice President, Program, Food Policy

Annette Mills

Second Vice President, Membership Co-chair

Katherine Merriam

Secretary

Lois Marie Zaerr

Treasurer

Sara Ingle

Directors

Ann Brodie, Kathy Conner
Voter Service

Shelly Murphy
Community Planning

Paula Krane
Governance, List Serve

Nancy Schary
Public Relations

Beth Thoennes
Bulletin Co-editor

Janet Wolf-Eshe
Membership Co-chair

Off Board

Laura Evenson & Doris
Waring Events

Liz Frenkel
Water Resources

Louise Marquering
Bulletin Co-editor,
Fruit fundraiser

Brigid Meints Housing

Karen Nibler Social Policy

Pat Bishop, Patty McClintock,
Ann Smart
Nominating Committee

The League of Women Voters

a nonpartisan political
organization –

- * Encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government,
- * Works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and
- * Influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Climate Change and Wildlife

Confronting the
Challenge on the
Oregon Landscape



Presented by: **Dr. Audrey Hatch**

*Project Leader for the Western Governor's Association Initiative on Wildlife
Corridors and Crucial Wildlife Habitat*

Wildlife and their habitat are what many Oregonians love most about our state, whether they are wildlife watchers, fishermen, or hunters.

Many Oregon communities also rely on these activities to generate revenues and support their local economies.

But our climate is changing – and so are the West's wildlife corridors and habitats.

- How is climate change impacting our wildlife?
- What steps are being taken to address this challenge?

Dr. Audrey Hatch received her PhD at OSU. She's a 14-year Corvallis resident who telecommutes for her work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hatch is project leader for an initiative that addresses these questions, emphasizing regional coordination and working closely with Oregon and other Western states.

Please join us for this informative and eye-opening presentation!

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

General Meeting
Thursday, October 20
7:00 to 8:45 PM
Corvallis-Benton County
Public Library Meeting Room



President's Corner – Kate Mathews

September is over and we've had a full slate of activities already! At our kick-off meeting we introduced our board, then heard from Dr. Erin Prince, Corvallis School District's new superintendent, about her vision for 509J. We cosponsored a Health Care Legislation Forum and participated in Car Free Day. We also spent a weekend

registering voters at the Corvallis Fall Festival.

October's general meeting concerns Climate Change, an important League issue. Our speaker, Audrey Hatch, will tell us how climate change impacts Oregon wildlife and what we can do about it.

The LWVOR Fall Workshop on Saturday, October 22 is open to all and is a good way to learn what is going on in the state League. Fill out the registration form on page 6. Many of the board will attend, so contact one of them for carpooling opportunities.

Consensus on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education is in November. We have included summaries of various parts of the question in these last three bulletins. There will be a general meeting November 8 to give a topic overview and the consensus meeting will be November 16. Please mark your calendar. Participating in consensus is an important part of belonging to the League.

Speaking of studies, we have two more coming up in the spring. The LWVUS Privatization consensus is due May 1. We'll have a general meeting on the subject in March or April and take consensus shortly after. We need a committee to start working on this. If this issue interests you, please call me.

The second study is the LWVOR Coastal Study. Consensus will be due at the end of May. Again we need to set up a committee to plan a general meeting and the consensus meeting. I hope you will consider joining one or both of these committees.

Our Dental and Housing Committees are meeting currently and will have more to report shortly.

October 15 Deadline for Special Funds Grant Applications



Do you have an idea for a League project that requires funding? Apply for a Special Funds Grant from League!

Guidelines and application forms are available upon request and can be downloaded from the League's website (www.lwv.corvallis.or.us). Applications are reviewed by the Special Funds Review Committee and approved by the Board.

Submit your application to Kate Mathews, LWVC President, who will forward them to the Board and the Review Committee. Applications are received twice a year, in February and October. *The application deadline is October 15 for project start-up in January.*

LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679
Corvallis OR 97339-1679
541-757-2276
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

LWV of Oregon

1330 12th Street SE, Suite 200
Salem OR 97302
503-581-5722
E-mail: lwvor@lwvor.org
www.lwvor.org

LWV of the United States

1730 M Street NW,
Suite 1000
Washington DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965
FAX 202-429-0854
www.lwv.org



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 Louise Marquering or Beth Thoennes. 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.



The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

The League of Women Voters of the United States currently has NO position on education.

Thus, at its 2010 national convention, delegates voted to:

STUDY the role of the Federal Government in ensuring an excellent education for all children in every state, focusing on:

- the basic goals for public education
- the relationship between national, state, and local levels
- the movement toward common core standards.

DEVELOP national league positions that will enable us to evaluate and act on federal legislation and regulatory proposals, and to join in coalition with other national organizations that speak out on issues of public education.

WHY NOW? The federal government is already heavily involved in funding and has expanded policy initiatives affecting all school districts receiving federal dollars. Federal involvement in educational policy-making is increasing due to concerns about the unequal distribution of resources among states and districts, high drop-out rates, and a shortage of well-educated workers.

WHY THE LEAGUE? We in the League have a long-standing

commitment to children and families, access, equal opportunity and good government.

We are uniquely positioned to advocate from a nonpartisan perspective in the best interests of students.

WITHOUT A POSITION on public education, the LWVUS can take no part in ongoing deliberations about the increasing federal role in education.

Read the study reports in this bulletin, as well as in the August and September bulletins. Discussion and consensus meetings will be held November 8 & 16.

Local Food Committee Plans for National Food Day, October 24

In line with the LWVC's Local Food position, our new and very active Local Food Committee is busy planning an event for the first national Food Day on Monday, October 24th. Food Day seeks to bring together Americans from all walks of life to advocate for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way. (See www.foodday.org)

As this bulletin goes to press, the Local Food Committee is working on two initiatives to help educate our community about food issues:

- **Farmers' Market**, Oct. 22 – We are posting flyers throughout the market that encourage community members to “Eat real” by buying our food from local farmers and food producers. We will also collaborate with

the Food Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to distribute Local 6 “passports” for Local Eats Week, October 24–30. (See www.sustainablecorvallis.org)

- **Film Showing**, Oct. 24 – We plan to offer a film showing and discussion about what's needed to create a healthy food system both here in Corvallis and throughout the United States. Stay tuned for details!

Members of the Local Food Committee include Annette Mills, Mary Anne Nusrala, Victoria Martinez, Leslie Melnyk, Camille Freitag, Marilyn Koenitzer, Marie Long, Karen Nibler, Anne Harding, Bob Scott, and Nancy Demchak. Additional members are welcome!

— *Annette Mills, Local Food Committee Chair*



League's Dental Project

The county-wide dental care needs assessment has been completed. Jill Hill, the student intern funded by the League, did most of the legwork on that project. She is preparing a final report of the data that will be presented to the Oral Health Coalition at their September 29th meeting.

The coalition will really get rolling after the data has been shared and decisions are made for moving forward. The staff of the Health Dept. is VERY appreciative of the help the League provided in the data collection through the intern. They were very happy with Jill's work.

— *Dagmar Johnson*



Nonpartisan Policy of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis

(Each year, the LWVC Board reviews all of its policies. Of particular interest and concern, especially as we move into an election year, is the League's Non-partisan Policy. The following excerpt is taken

from the Board Policies of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis.)

II. Political Activity and Non-partisan Policy (adopted 1982; revised 1995, 1998, 2008)

Background:

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 LWVC Board has developed the following 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.

Policies

A. LWV of Corvallis

1. **Voter Service:** the LWVC shall make every effort to ensure that voter service activities (especially candidate events) are fair, nonpartisan, and impartial.
2. **Action/advocacy:** The President or the Action Chair or their delegates are the only persons authorized to speak for the LWVC. The President shall sign all letters pertaining to League positions and principles. Other co-signers may be designated by the President or by the Board.
 - a. A majority of the board must approve LWVC action.
 - b. Actual testimony must be approved by the President and two additional members of the LWVC board. Copies of testimony shall be kept in local League files and forwarded to state and national as required.
3. **League meetings:** Members in leadership roles at unit and other public meetings shall ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment. Only Board-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings.

4. **Boards and commissions:** The LWVC encourages members to serve on boards and commissions. Board members asked to serve on boards or commissions as official LWVC representatives may do so after Board discussion. The Board is not bound to support any subsequent recommendations of such boards or commissions.

B. Non-Board Members

1. **Partisan Activity:** Non-board members are encouraged to participate fully in the party of their choice, run for office, stimulate public discussion of candidates and their views, urge citizen commitment to political goals, and in general, take an active part in partisan activities of their choice.
2. **Action/Advocacy:** Once League (local, state or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as League members in publicly expressing an opinion in opposition to a League position.

C. Board Members

The Board has the responsibility to maintain the fact of the nonpartisanship of the organization. All nominees to the Board will be informed by the nominating committee of the nonpartisanship policy.

1. **Sensitive Board Positions:** Certain Board positions (President, Action, and Voter Service Chairs) should be particularly careful about activities which appear to be political.
2. **Elective Office:** Board members may not run for any partisan elective office.
3. If a board member plans to engage in political activity that member must seek Board decision as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship. In general, a Board Member may:
 - a. Attend political meetings as a spectator, taking an active part (e.g., asking questions) if it is clear that s/he is acting as a private citizen.
 - b. Attend, but not host a gathering for the purpose of meeting candidates for office.
 - c. Sign, but not circulate a petition for the nomination of a candidate.
 - d. Circulate petitions seeking to accomplish political goals that are consistent with League positions.
 - e. Host meetings for Voter Service activities and for League supported ballot measures.
4. **Spouse/Partner/Relative:** The political and partisan activities of a spouse, partner or relative of a board member shall be considered separate and distinct from the activities of the board member.
5. **Special Situations:** No Board can foresee all cases which may arise. The Board has the authority to interpret these policies in individual situations.

Support League of Women Voters of Corvallis — Buy Fruit!



A box of fruit is an excellent gift for yourself or for someone special. This year we are selling Texas grapefruit, California oranges, Oregon pears, Washington apples, and a Festival of Fruit box with each type of fruit. The fruit arrive the first week of December and are delivered to you at your home. The fruit will last a long time if stored at the appropriate

temperature in a place with good air circulation. Each box of fruit will arrive with the suggested temperature.

Your fruit order will aid us in our local endeavors. These local activities are made possible by citizens who believe that what our local League does is important. You can support our efforts by purchasing fruit or making a donation.

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is a nonpartisan political organization which:

- 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.

Please consider a donation to the League if you do not wish to order fruit. Remember, gifts to LWV Corvallis are *not* tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Louise Marquering at lvwclouise@aol.com

Date ordered _____ Check Number _____

Boxes I ordered: _____ apples _____ grapefruit _____ oranges _____ pears _____ Festival of Fruit

Cut on the dotted line and keep this top section for your records.

Fruit Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

_____boxes - 20 pound box containing 20 to 24 Ruby Red Texas grapefruit for \$20.00

_____boxes - 20 pound box containing 44 to 56 California navel oranges for \$20.00

_____boxes - 20 pound box containing 50 to 56 Washington Fuji apples for \$25.00

_____boxes - 20 pound box containing 45 to 50 Oregon D’Anjou Pears for \$25.00

_____boxes - 22 pound box containing 36 pieces of fruit for \$25.00

_____Total Dollar Amount for Fruit _____Donation Amount

Send in this form by November 15 with your check, made out to League of Women Voters of Corvallis,

Mail to LWV c/o Louise Marquering, 1640 NW Woodland Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330-1742

Health Care Reform Alive in Oregon

On September 19 the Corvallis League co-sponsored a forum on the Oregon legislature's recent health care action.

Here's a brief history and update from LWVOR's Legislative Reports:

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2009 which started the ball rolling on Health Care Reform in the State.

As a result, we now have The Oregon Health Authority which has a long list of goals to accomplish. Among them is the establishment of a Health Insurance Exchange to help provide seamless access to information, financial assistance and enrollment for healthcare consumers.

Health Insurance Exchanges are also a requirement of the federal Affordable Health Care Act, and, as a result, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selected Oregon as one of seven "Early Innovator" states to



receive a \$48 million grant to design and implement an exchange.

Thus, the 2011 Legislature passed SB 99A requiring the Oregon Health Authority to establish the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange as a public corporation to be governed by a board of directors.

This bill generated much controversy as citizen advocates tried, but failed, to get a public insurance plan into the Exchange. The Department of Consumer and Business Services Insurance Division is to report back to the 2012 session with a business plan for the Exchange.

Other Health Care bills were passed in 2011 including pilot projects for medical homes, telemedicine consultation, and Coordinated Care Organizations.

To read more, go to LWVOR's Legislative Reports online at: www.lwvor.org/legislativereports.htm.



LWVOR Fall Workshop

Saturday, October 22 – Phoenix Inn, Eugene

GATHER NEW INFORMATION

Action Committee Hot Topics

Oregon's 10-Year Budget Plan: Sarah Miller, Strategic Initiatives Manager and Michael Jordan, Oregon's Chief Operating Officer

Study Updates: Children at Risk, Privatization, and Education

Special guest, LWVUS Liaison Susan Wilson

EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY

Vote411 Voter Service tool

LWVOR's new web sites

Oral history video how-to

LWVOR Fall Workshop registration - *Advance registration required, due October 13, 2011*

Name: _____

LWV Member? Yes No If yes, indicate League: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop + lunch: \$24.00 member; \$29.00 guest Workshop only: \$16.00 member; \$21.00 guest
(Vegetarian option available)

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by October 13, 2011. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.



Community Planning Update

Water Is A Resource That Needs Protection

This summer you may have read in the *Gazette-Times* (7/19) about some County residents' reaction to

Benton County's proposed Stream and Riparian Corridor Protection (SRP) Program.

Since 2009, the County has had an advisory group meeting monthly to develop this program, required to meet Goal 5 of State Land Use Law and DEQ water quality rules.

Opportunities for input from land owners and the general public have been numerous throughout this period but, nevertheless, responses to the draft code have been mostly negative with private property rights trumping the public interest.

The League has a strong water policy position that supports statutes and policies that manage the resource "for the benefit of the public and as sustainable habitat for all life forms." We support the County's efforts to

establish a stream and riparian corridor protection overlay zone. **But a letter from the League is not enough.** The County needs to hear from individuals and the opportunity to provide input continues throughout the fall. Public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission in November and by the Board of Commissioners in December.

Write your letter now. The draft code and background information can be found at www.co.benton.or.us/cd/riparian/index.php. The LWV OR Water Position is at www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions.htm#quality.

Send your input to greg.verret@co.benton.or.us or mail to: Community Development Dept., 360 SW Avery Ave. Corvallis, OR 97333-1139

— *Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair*
(shellym@peak.org or 541-754-1184)

Learn a Lot – Join a League Committee!

Two new committees are being formed and need members

“Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector”— a new LWVUS study with consensus. The study will focus on the impact of privatizing government services on local communities. Materials for the study should be out soon.

A new LWVOR Coastal Study with consensus, which will encompass a broad range of issues relating to the Oregon coast. Materials for this study will be out at the first of the year.

You are *always* invited to join one of our ongoing committees: Community Planning, Housing or Food. Contact President Kate Mathews to get plugged in and turned on: Kate.mathews@comcast.net / 541-754-1172.



Pay Your Dues!

League's year begins October 1. If you haven't paid your 2011-12 dues, now is the time to do so. Dues remain unchanged

from last year— \$55 for single members, \$82.50 for two or more members in one household and half price— \$27.50—for students.

You can reduce the Corvallis League's per member payment to LWVUS by making a tax-deductible

contribution to the LWVUS Education Fund. Mail your Ed Fund check to LWV of Corvallis along with your dues check so that we get credit for it. Up to half of our per member payment to national League can be paid through your gifts to the LWVUS Education Fund.

Send your check/s and the membership form from the back of this bulletin to LWV of Corvallis, PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339.

— *Sara Ingle, Treasurer*



WELCOME!

New Members—Brigid Meints and Dan Rayfield



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-757-2276

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

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 as an:

Active Member _____ **Inactive Member/Supporter** _____

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

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



Fall In With League

October

- Sat 1 *Fruit Fundraiser Begins*
- Wed 5 Board Meeting 10 AM
- Sat 15 Grant applications deadline
- Thu 20 General Meeting, Library 7 PM
- Sat 22 LWVOR Fall Workshop
- Mon 24 National Food Day film

November

- Wed 5 Board Meeting 10 AM
- Tue 8 General Meeting: Education Study, Library 7 PM
- Wed 16 Education Consensus

Fruit Fundraiser Ends