



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

www.lww.corvallis.or.us

April 2013

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*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.

*LWW of Corvallis and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library present*



## Living with Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest

Tuesday, April 9, 7 PM

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

**Richard Waring**

Professor Emeritus, OSU College of Forestry

There's no question about it: climate change is not only happening, it's accelerating.

- How has the climate changed in the US and the Pacific Northwest in the past few decades?
- What impacts are we seeing as a result?
- What strategies should we pursue to adapt to these changes – and to slow down their pace?

Our speaker is Dr. Richard Waring, Distinguished OSU Professor of Forest Ecology, whose work has appeared in more than 100 journal articles, 20 book chapters, and three editions of *Forest Ecosystems: Analysis at Multiple Scales*. Working with experts in a variety of fields, Dr. Waring has developed models to recognize forests under stress and how they might respond to climate change.

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



## Legislature 2013 Town Hall Meetings

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Saturdays April 6, May 4, June 1 – 10 AM to Noon

**Come to League's Town Hall Meetings!** Invited to participate in the Town Hall Meetings are: Senator Betsy Close, Representative Sarah Gelsler, Representative Andy Olson, and Representative Jim Thompson.

Legislators will present the current legislation they are working on, then the meeting will be open to audience questions. At 11:30 there will be 30 minutes to meet with legislators one-on-one. For more information see the League web site: [www.lwvor.org/current-issues-2/legislative-report/](http://www.lwvor.org/current-issues-2/legislative-report/). Legislative information also is available on the Legislature's website: [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us).



## President's Corner – Kate Mathews

By the time you receive this bulletin Spring Break will be over. Now we look forward to a busy month of April.

**A big thank you** goes to Representative Sara Gelser and Senator Betsy Close for participating in our second Legislative Town Hall on

March 2. Again about 50 people attended and there was a lively discussion.

**I hope you are keeping abreast** of events in Salem and Washington. Both National and State Leagues are testifying in support of gun control legislation. Our local League sent a letter to the editor on the subject; it appeared in the *Gazette-Times* on March 19. National and state Leagues are still testifying on voter registration, and the state League has testified on redistricting. They are watching bills about university boards, the “Kicker,” the budget, housing, early childhood, public safety, parks, and more. LWVOR Legislative Reports are an excellent way to keep up on issues. They come by email and are online at [www.lwvor.org/current-issues/legislative-report/](http://www.lwvor.org/current-issues/legislative-report/).

**Our March meeting** on Early Childhood Readiness was most interesting, though it had a disappointingly low attendance. A group from the Corvallis League had a wonderful visit to the Benton County Courthouse. Our tour leader was retired elections supervisor Jill Van Buren, who will be our speaker at the Annual Meeting in May. Don't miss it!

**April, too, has many activities.** There will be another Legislative Town Hall on April 6. Then on April 9 we will hear from Dick Waring about Climate Change. April 10 is the LWVOR Day at the Legislature—you will need to sign up, as it is limited to 100 people, is statewide, and does fill up. (*Registration on p. 5*) Read the rest of this bulletin for more information on all these things.

**Be sure to mark your calendars for May 17-19** for the LWVOR Convention in Coos Bay. We have a large League so we will have seven delegates. Our local League pays the registration and lodging for delegates. In addition to voting delegates, as many as want can attend—it's a wonderful way to get to know League. There'll be more details coming.

**Last, but not least,** plan to attend our Annual Meeting on May 28.



## March 6 Board Meeting Notes

**We heard reports** on upcoming general meetings: *March 12* – Victoria Martinez, on Early Childhood & Children at Risk, and *April 9* – Annette Mills, on Climate Change.

**For Sunshine Week**, Ann Brodie arranged a March 13 courthouse tour, for up to twenty people.

**“Day at the Legislature,”** April 10 – Paula Krane will send signup information on the list serve.

**State Convention** is May 17-19 in Coos Bay. Winning LWVOR raffle tickets will be drawn there. Beth Thoennes has the tickets.

**Bylaws amendment** – Paula Krane will draft one about electronic voting between board meetings for Annual Meeting

**Suffrage Booklet** – LWV of Corvallis will publish a booklet about early suffrage leaders, compiled by Beth Thoennes.

**Elected officials list** – Ann Brodie will update a flyer with elected officials' names and contacts.

**Gun control letter** – We approved a letter drafted by Kate Mathews, to the *Gazette Times*.

**April Board Meeting** – April 3, home of Ann Brodie – 3145 NW Seneca Place.

## LWV of Corvallis

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Corvallis OR 97339-1679  
541-754-1172  
[www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us)

## LWV of Oregon

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## LWV of the United States

1730 M Street NW,  
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This bulletin is the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis* and is produced 10 times a year.

If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact 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.



## LWVOR Raffle Tickets are here!

- Buy tickets for yourself and for gifts
- Pick up tickets to sell to others
- To get tickets, contact Beth Thoennes, bakerbt@comcast.net / 541-752-7201

Each of the three “Tech Chic” prizes is the best of its type: **First and second prizes include WIFI and cellular capacity**— **iPad3** with Retina display (value \$729), and **iPad Mini** (value \$559). The **Nook HD+** (value \$299), our third prize, received *Consumer Reports*’ highest rating for e-readers of its type, for speed in powering up and page turning.

Tickets are \$10 each. Buy *lots* of them to support our state and local Leagues! Our League gets \$1 per ticket sold, equaling the number of members on our League’s

roster on January 31, and we get \$2 per ticket sold *over* that number.

This raffle is important to the LWV of Oregon, as it defrays council and convention costs and will aid the state's advocacy efforts. Sales end in May. Just 2000 tickets will be sold. Winners will be drawn at the LWVOR convention in May.

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## Kudos to League at Sustainability Town Hall

At the March 14 Sustainability Town Hall big cheers came when League’s “Community Scrapbook” page appeared, with our celebration of the centennial of Oregon women’s suffrage. League’s activities were read at the podium:

1) The League of Women Voters of Corvallis sponsored the second National Food Day celebration, and made recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council that resulted in code changes to increase access to

local food. 2) They also celebrated the centennial of women’s suffrage in Oregon, collaborating with several other groups to sponsor an amazing program at the Majestic Theatre. The League also sponsored legislative town hall meetings to connect community members with our state representatives.

Thanks to all of you for keeping the LWV of Corvallis alive and well. I am so proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters! — *Annette Mills*

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## Courthouse Tour Highlights Sunshine Week

On March 13, during Sunshine Week, a dozen League members had a tour of the Benton County Courthouse, organized by Voter Service chair Ann Brodie. Retired elections supervisor Jill Van Buren was our engaging guide.

The Benton County Courthouse is the oldest courthouse in Oregon that is currently used for its original purpose. It replaced the first county courthouse, which was built in 1854. We learned that the 1889 courthouse, a registered historic site, was built of stone quarried from Witham Hill and bricks from a local kiln. Originally the building was only one floor and a basement, but a redesign brought a second floor. The addition mirrors the original craftsmanship and the entire building is beautifully maintained. The courthouse was extensively renovated in 1976 to restore and preserve its historic character.

Van Buren showed us through the elections machinery and records, a courtroom, clerks’ offices, and the courthouse vaults and explained much of the courthouse procedure.



*On courthouse stairs:* Jill Van Buren, David Eckert, Beth Thoennes, Doug Brodie, Joan Canan, Harvey Thoennes, Paula Krane. *Lower left:* Kate Mathews

Van Buren told us that the Lady Justice statue on the front of our courthouse is without a blindfold because a judge at the time noted, “Our Justice sees what is happening in the courts.”

*Save the date!*

League of Women Voters of Corvallis

## Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 28, 6-9 pm

**Speaker:** Jill Van Buren, Retired Benton County Supervisor of Elections

Enjoy a delicious dinner and a chance to enjoy fellow Leaguers, then attend to League business – Election of 2013-14 officers, Budget approval, and Bylaws changes



### Privatization of City Services

The City of Corvallis, upon the recommendation of the city manager (see below), is considering privatization of some city services—especially Parks and Recreation. The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is waiting to see what the city staff recommends and how the budget committee and the council discussion proceed. We have a national position on privatization to use to make a decision on whether or not to support a recommendation, if one comes forth. **Read the position excerpted below, use it to form your own opinions, then let our appointed and elected officials know your views.**

#### League's Privatization Position

*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.*

*The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.*

While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

*The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery.*

Specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions. The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable.

For the complete LWVUS position statement which contains a list of criteria that must be met when government services are privatized see: [www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position](http://www.lwv.org/content/privatization-position). – Paula Krane

#### *City Manager Jim Patterson's March 2013 Message:*

“We’ve reached that time in the year where conversations have started and suggestions are being made on how to balance the City’s budget for 2013-14. The issues are complex, the depth of the financial crisis facing Corvallis is real, and we must face the change which we may fear head on. Life experiences teach me that when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved, even in the most difficult of times. With unity there is strength.

“Earlier this month, I released a Memorandum to our City Council, Budget Commission and employees that began a conversation about development of the 2013-14 budget. I commented that if all services continue at their current levels, expenditures will once again exceed revenues and the City Council’s goal of a sustainable budget will not be met. That is fact, which is the reality decision makers face. To that end, four service areas were identified to look at and consider privatizing.

“Not for one minute did I think that opening up the conversation about privatization of services would be universally accepted as a viable option by the community or our employees. But, by starting the conversation about privatization, I hope to create a dialogue in the community that may yield solutions, both short term and long term, instead of proposing a balanced budget in awkward silence. Reinvention of government needs to be a basic thought process and a conversation we are willing to have and Corvallis is not the only city having these conversations.”

*For the full March 2013 message see: [www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=413](http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=413).*



Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Oregon State Capitol & Willamette University's Montag Den
Baxter/Montag Center

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Oregon, Oregon NOW, and AAUW of Oregon

Highlights: Legislative hearings hosted by LWV and AAUW volunteer lobbyists at 8 AM, 1 PM and/or 3 PM
10 AM – 1 PM workshop & lunch with speakers on Election Reforms, Public Safety, Scenic Rivers, and more.

Day at the Legislature Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form by Wed., April 3, 2013

Space is limited! Register now!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization affiliation (if member of sponsoring org): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop with lunch:

- \$21.00 member of sponsoring organization
\$26.00 guest

Workshop only:

- \$12.00 member
\$17.00 guest

Lunch Choice:

Box lunch features sandwich, fruit, chips, water, and cookie. Choose: Turkey Beef Vegetarian

Parking Pass:

Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for \$15.50 (\$15.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee and I have included my mailing address. (Note: parking fees have doubled in cost as of February. Meters are \$1.50/hr.) To carpool to Salem contact Paula Krane- kranep@peak.org /541-752-2361.

Hearings:

You will get the opportunity to sign up with a host for 8 AM, 1 PM, and/or 3 PM hearings. Please ensure that your email address is legible so we can send you the sign-up form and instructions on Monday, April 8. Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to: LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by April 3, 2013. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org. You may register online and get a map, parking info, and agenda at www.lwvor.org.



Highlight of the Biennium!

League of Women Voters of Oregon Convention
May 17-19, 2013 – Coos Bay, Oregon

Drive through the Rhododendron forest of the South Coast with fellow Leaguers!
Participate in League's program, budget, and bylaws considerations!

If you're interested in being a Corvallis League delegate, or in attending
contact President Kate Mathews: kate.mathews@comcast.net, 541-754-1172



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

www.LWVCorvallis.or.us  
P.O. Box 1679  
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679  
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**Day at the Legislature**  
**Wednesday, April 10**  
*Registration on page 5*



## LWV Calendar

### April

- Wed 3** Board Meeting, 10AM
- Sat 6** Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library
- Tue 9** General Meeting *Climate Change*,  
Library, 7PM

### May

- Wed 1** Board Meeting, 10AM
- Sat 4** Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library
- Fri 17- Sun 19** LWVOR Convention, Coos Bay
- Tue 21** Election Day – Special Districts
- Tue 28** LWV of Corvallis Annual Meeting

### June

- Sat 1** Legislative Town Hall, 10AM, Library

## Join the League!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$60 individual membership    \_\_\_\_ \$90 household  
\_\_\_\_ \$30 student    \_\_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_\_ Contribution\*

*I would like to be considered:*

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

*What special skills/talents/interests can you share with the League?*

LWV's membership year begins in October. Those joining after March 31<sup>st</sup> pay *half-year dues*.

*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 *LWV/US Education Fund*, paid with a separate check, *are* deductible.