



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County, Oregon

September 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.



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Fall Kickoff Meeting

Dr. Jane Lubchenco

“The Silly to the Sublime:

Stories about Science in D.C.”

Monday, September 16, 7 - 9 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Library Meeting Room
645 NW Monroe Avenue

Mark your calendar and join us for this informative presentation.

7:00 PM – Learn what exciting programs the League offers in 2013-14 and how you can become involved.

7:30 PM – Dr. Jane Lubchenco speaks on her experiences in the nation’s capital, encountering the ups and downs of life and work in the land of politics and policy-making. There will be plenty of time for audience questions.

Lubchenco is an OSU Distinguished Professor of Zoology. She recently returned to Corvallis after spending four years as administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In this position, she headed up the agency that oversees our nation’s weather forecasts and warnings, climate records and outlooks, and the health of our oceans.

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



Thinking about Membership

If you’re thinking about joining or re-joining the League of Women Voters, check out this year’s calendar. Timely and stimulating meetings range from Dr. Jane Lubchenco’s perspective on her experiences in Washington D.C., to Agriculture, to Housing, to Issues in Higher Education. In addition, we’ll engage the community with Legislative Town Halls and Voter Service presentations and activities. LWV is the place to gain first-hand information and experience through study and discussion of timely topics.

Your membership provides all levels of the League of Women Voters with political influence to be a voice for citizens and a force for change. Take a stand for grassroots participation in the political process!

For your convenience a membership form and envelope are enclosed in this bulletin. Complete the form, highlighting changes in your address, phone or email, and send it with your check as soon as possible. Thanks for joining us again! – Corrine Gobeli, Co-chair



President's Corner – Ann Brodie

I hope that you had a fabulous summer and are looking forward to a stimulating and productive year with League. We have some exciting plans for programs and studies, with more coming!

The board retreat and lunch potluck, hosted by Sara Ingle, introduced two new board members and set our program for next year. We'll cover issues from agriculture in the valley to special taxing districts. Stay tuned!

The year begins with personal reflections by Dr. Jane Lubchenco after spending four years as the director of NOAA. Don't miss her talk and the chance to ask her questions about life inside the beltway. We encourage you to bring a potential new member!

LWVUS Agriculture Study In addition to two state League studies—Public Post Secondary Education and Children at Risk—a third study is an update of our national LWV Agriculture position. We will have a public forum in October and consensus meetings in the spring. The scope of the study includes 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agricultural water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues—consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process. Contact Annette Mills at 541-230-1237 to help on this study.

The Community Planning Committee has testified twice on Creekside, a proposed development at the northwest corner of 53rd and Philomath Blvd., and a highly protected wetland. Corvallis is the only city in the state whose code allows encroachment into areas that have been designated for preservation through a mechanism called “Minimum Assured Development Area” (MADA). Our point of concern is that next to Dunawi Creek is an ash-forested wetland. This type of wetland formerly covered the valley, but now is rare and should be preserved. We appealed to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals), and hired a land use attorney to speak on our behalf. The project was remanded back to the City in April, and the City Council approved the development, with minor changes in the setbacks from the creek. In addition to Creekside, we wrote to the Parks Board asking it to formalize the process for park use, so that any consideration of a new use for park land will go through a public process.

I hope that our new programs will inspire you to join us to actively participate this year!



Board Notes – June 27 and August 30

June 27 Board members shared goals for the year—focus on membership and leadership, get younger people involved, publicize Legislative Town Halls aggressively, create dynamic programs, and become more visible. The Community Planning Committee gave an update on the Creekside remand. The League is drafting a letter opposing Campus Crest's application for a zone change, since voters approved the Witham Oaks annexation zoned for low density housing. Our League will be engaged in four studies this year: a national update of the Agriculture Policy position, updates of our state Children at Risk position and Public Post Secondary Education in Oregon, and locally a Local Taxing Districts study.

Much of the retreat was spent discussing this year's programs and setting the calendar.

August 30 We reviewed plans for the September 16 general meeting, then our October meeting, “The Future of Agriculture” and other studies coming up this year.

The membership committee will orient new members before the monthly meetings.

An archive committee WILL find local League records, and PUT them in one storage place.

We voted to co-sponsor an Interfaith Healthcare Network meeting on October 1 and National Food Day on October 24.

The Board also voted to put a letter of support for the local levy in the Voters Pamphlet.

LWV of Corvallis

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

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.



Community Planning Update

Corvallis residents should be aware that the **Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Master Plan** is being revised. This plan contains the **Trails Plan**, which has placed at least one proposed multi-use trail where it would damage a wetland designated "highly protected" in the City's Natural Features inventory. The League brought this to the attention of the Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board (PNARB) asking for more protection of valuable natural features.

The draft plan was presented to the PNARB by the consultant at its August meeting. After hearing testimony from two people and some discussion of needed changes, the Board voted to forward the plan to the Council's Human Services Committee (HSC). It will be discussed by HSC at its September 17th meeting, at 2:00 PM in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Ave.

This is a major plan which will have great impact on community livability and deserves much public scrutiny. The Human Services Committee will be open for public testimony. To access the latest version of the Master Plan email karen.emery@corvallisoregon.gov, or call Parks and Recreation, 541-766-6918, and ask for a copy.

Community Planning Committee

As we kick-off the 2013-2014 League year, I would like to invite League members and prospective members to join the Community Planning Committee (CPC). According to our League position, the Committee's charge is to:

"Support comprehensive planning, effectively implemented; support adequate local transportation; support open space; support urbanization policies which foster complete, healthy, and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop, and play."

The CPC has been meeting in the late afternoon once or twice per month to learn about and discuss City and County development plans, comprehensive plan amendments and updates, transportation plans, and any other projects that fall under the position you see above. We then determine if some type of action is desirable, whether it be education or advocacy.

Future meeting times will be planned on days and times that suit committee members. I welcome your email at shellym@peak.org, if you have questions or want to be notified of upcoming meetings.

—*Shelly Murphy, Community Planning Chair*

Health Care for All Oregon *Can we afford it? How do we get it?*



Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 7 PM
First Methodist Church, Wesley Hall
1165 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis

Speaker: State Rep. Michael Dembrow, chief sponsor of legislation for universal health care for all Oregonians.

Sponsored by: Interfaith Health Care Network.

Co-sponsors include: LWV of Corvallis and Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates.



Fruit Fundraiser Begins October 1 You Can Help Now

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

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

—*Louise Marquering, Fruit Sale Chair*



Join Housing Committee On The Ground Floor

The League is forming a new committee to look at the current local housing situation for middle income families. If you are interested in working on this project or have suggestions on resources, please contact me at: Karyle.butcher@orst.edu.

Note: You do not have to be a League member to work on this interesting and complex issue.

—*Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee Chair*



Apply for a Special Funds Grant by October 15

Thanks to the generosity of long-time League members Kay Dick and Grace Phinney, the Corvallis League has unrestricted memorial funds that may be used by League members for League projects, pending review by the Special Funds Review Committee and approval by the Board. Applications are received twice a year, in February and October. *The application deadline is October 15 for project start-up in January.*

If you have an idea for a League project that would require funding, please consider applying! Guidelines and application forms are available on request and can be downloaded from our website: www.lwv.corvallis.or.us.

Applications should be submitted to Ann Brodie, President of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, who will forward them to the Board and the Review Committee.



Go Granny D!

On July 15th we were treated to an hour of education and inspiration from off-Broadway actress Barbara Bates Smith, portraying Doris Haddock—aka Granny D, with musician Jeff Sebens' accompaniment. Eighty-nine year old Haddock of New Hampshire walked across the country in 1999 to promote campaign finance reform after the defeat of the McCain-Feingold bill.

Senator McCain said “Doris Haddock is a true patriot and our nation has been blessed by her remarkable life.”

Smith and Sebens used Haddock's memoir, *Granny D: You're never too old to raise a little Hell!* and news articles to put together a program, then found groups like LWV to sponsor shows on a west coast tour. They are still performing around the country, so if you didn't see the Corvallis performance and find it scheduled elsewhere be sure to catch it.

A wide-ranging discussion followed the presentation. About 50 attended, and several community groups had tables with related information.

Find Granny D's story in the Corvallis-Benton County Library — *Granny D: you're never too old to raise a little bell*, *Granny D's American century* (books), and a downloadable video, “Run, Granny, Run.”

LWV Position on Campaign Finance

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office — presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

www.lwv.org/content/campaign-finance



Donna Allen – 50 years in League

Donna Allen joined the LWV of Corvallis in 1962 and has remained a member because of League's “involvement in keeping track of legislative procedures and issues such as juvenile justice.” Studies and discussions about issues that affect us all have kept her interest.

For many years Donna worked as a licensed tax consultant, experience she put to good use as LWV's treasurer. In addition to her League work, Donna served 13 years on the Benton County Foundation Board, the Linn-Benton Community College Budget Committee, and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Foundation Board. She's active currently in the Corvallis Weavers and Spinners Guild and Altrusa. Donna enjoys spending time in Arizona during the gray months of the year with her artist husband Tom.

Congratulations on fifty years of membership, Donna! Thanks for all you have contributed to our League and community.



Local Taxing District Study

The City has discussed the possibility of special district formation as a way to balance budgets in the future. For League to take a position on any special district proposal a study must be done and consensus must be reached. This study will help us learn:

- the types of local taxing districts allowed under state law that are available to local governments to fund local services,
- how taxing districts are used in other communities, and
- the impacts of those districts on the communities involved.

Join a Study Committee!

Scope: What are they? There are many different types of districts, defined by legislation. Where are they currently in use—e.g. water, road, parks, library districts? What impacts do districts have on the funding for other city services? What are the major issues? We will begin with a study to educate and inform members. This may lead to a position, depending upon outcome of the study.

Outcome: The outcome of this study may lead to consensus resulting in a position on the formation of local special districts.

If you are interested in working on this study contact Louise Marquering at LWVCLouise@aol.com.

Public Post Secondary Education Study Update

The LWV of Oregon voted in this year's convention to adopt a study on public post secondary education.

Proposed Scope: Review our Public Post Secondary Education position with the idea of changing or deleting points that are no longer valid or do not make sense in today's world. Examine the unique roles and interrelationships of community colleges, the four-year regional universities and the three comprehensive universities. Examine the governor's plan for a continuum of pre-K through graduate education and examine how the 2013 Legislature considered the role of post secondary education in the continuum.

Examine how all the post secondary levels are funded. Develop comparison criteria and compare Oregon's higher education outcomes with other successful states.

Outlook for Work: A committee will review our current position with an eye for what is relevant today, and research issues that are being discussed or might be in the future. Background materials will be prepared discussing the roles of each institution, the new education plan and how post secondary education is integrated financially and programmatically in the education continuum.

If you are interested in joining a study committee, contact the LWV of Oregon: voteoregon.org/issues/about-study-reports/current-studies/.



Children At Risk Update

The 2011-2013 study was postponed by the state League, but it was re-adopted at the LWVOR convention for 2013-2015. *Note:* The Corvallis League has a leg up on this study, since our committee researched local early childhood services and presented a program with local experts last March.

Scope: A two-year study to research all state governmental agency programs and services for at risk children, ages

zero to third grade in these areas: child care, early learning and preschool education, health care, mental health, child welfare, and family preservation.

Work Outlook: Local Leagues need to appoint one person to participate by receiving and reviewing the minutes from working group meetings in preparation for unit meetings in 2014. It is NOT necessary to attend meetings in Salem.



Agriculture Study Update

The League of Women Voters of the US adopted a position on Agricultural Policy more than a decade ago. Our October general meeting on Agriculture will prepare us for our Agriculture update and consensus meetings, scheduled for February.

The Agriculture Update focuses are: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agricultural water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in

livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Get an overview with references and links for three background documents at: www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-reading.

For more information or to work on the committee, contact Annette Mills, 541-230-1237.

Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013

The League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund will start the year by holding two public events to launch our two studies, Children at Risk and Post Secondary Education: "Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013." These workshops will focus on League studies, inform League members and the public, and help with fund- and member-raising. We hope to bring public awareness to the League's highly regarded study process through these workshops.

Registration and schedule will be in our October Bulletin.

Saturday, October 12th – The first Fall Workshop will be at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg.

Saturday, November 2nd – The same workshop will be at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

Natural resources issues go on all year long, not just during the legislative session. Agency boards and commissions meet, publish reports, and provide a plethora of information on a wide variety of environmental issues. The Willamette Basin Reservoir Study is one.

From Cottage Grove and Oakridge all the way to Portland, the Willamette flows, with many rivers adding to its volume. In the late 1930s, thirteen federal reservoirs in the middle and upper Willamette Basin were authorized for construction. The dams were built from 1941 to 1969, with Fern Ridge Dam near Eugene being rebuilt in 2005. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is authorized to issue stored water contracts for irrigation, but less than 5% of the total storage is currently under contract. Of course, recreational use of the reservoirs is significant.

In 1996, the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study began. In 2008, the Willamette Biological Opinion (BiOp) was released that addresses in stream needs for fish, wildlife and water quality. Dams on the North Santiam, Middle Fork Willamette and McKenzie Rivers block more than 400 miles of streams. Basin-wide, wild spring Chinook runs, estimated at 300,000 before the dams were

built, are down to 10,000 today. Also, because the dams are so high, water temperature varies from the top to bottom and fish ladders are almost impossible to construct. One solution has been the construction of temperature control towers. But challenges continue.

A Small-Scale Reallocation Study has begun to consider reallocation of up to 499 acre-feet of storage for municipal and industrial uses. This would add these uses to the

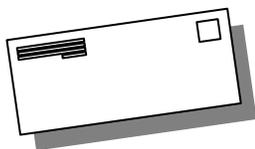
agricultural irrigation use now allowed. It would take Congressional action. Any reallocation would also have to consider the BiOp.

Although the Willamette Basin represents only 14% of the land area in the state, it is the heart of the state's economy and home to more than 70% of Oregon residents. Since this project may affect many League members, local Leagues might want to contact the Oregon Water Resources Department or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ask for a program on this important study.

— *Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator, State Action Team*

www.lwvor.org/lwvimages/LWVOR-Summer-2013-Voter.pdf





2013-2014 Dues Are Due

The League year begins October first. Dues are the same as last year:

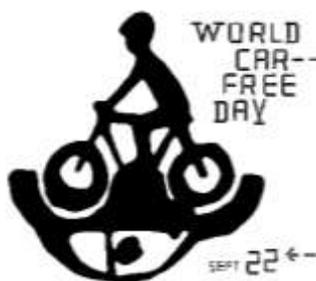
\$60 for single members, \$90 for two or more members in one household and half price for students.

You can reduce our per member payment to the LWVUS or LWVOR by making a tax-deductible contributions to the

LWVUS Education Fund. To ensure that we get credit for your contributions mail your checks to the LWV of Corvallis.

Mail your dues and your membership form to LWV of Corvallis, PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339, in the envelope enclosed with this bulletin. Thank you for your financial support of the League.

— Sara Ingle, Treasurer



Fourth Annual Car Free Day on September 22nd

Car Free Day in Corvallis aims to create a positive experience for our community to explore transportation options. How will *you* travel on September 22nd?

12:30 PM to 1 PM – Group Bike Rides from Neighborhood Gathering Points Lincoln School, Starker Arts Park, Benton County Fairgrounds, Chintimini Park/Senior Center, Osborn Aquatic Center, Cheldelin Middle School, or Hoover Elementary School. Bike safety checks will be offered prior to the ride and leaders will take

the group on a designated route leading to the Car Free Day Festival at Riverfront Park.

1 PM to 4 PM – Car Free Day Festival: Riverfront Park will feature food, music, games, exhibits, and a bike parade. Donate, consign, and purchase bikes at a **Bike Swap Meet**.

If you haven't bicycled recently, get a bike tune-up at one of Corvallis's many bicycle shops. To plan a bike trip with ease use Google Transit, at www.google.com/transit. If you can't walk or bike, share a ride with a friend, hire the local pedicab, or call Dial-a-Bus.

Take the Car Free Day pledge and learn more about the day at www.sustainablecorvallis.org or call 541-230-1237.

2013 LWVOR Convention

The League of Women Voters of Oregon convention was held from May 17 to 19 at the Mill Casino in North Bend. Delegates from Corvallis were Ann Brodie, Theresa Gibney, Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, Kate Mathews, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, and Karen Nibler.

We arrived to two beautiful sunny days on the coast and left in the rain. There was the usual business of debating the budget, picking our program (studies) for the coming two years, and election of officers. Bonuses were talks on the Oregon coast and Oregon's health plan, the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange. We discussed membership—keeping our current members happy and building membership with new members.

We chose two state studies for 2013-15: The restudy of Post Secondary Education and Children at Risk. Both of these studies need interested members for both the state committee and our local committee.



Corvallis delegates Peggy Lynch, Theresa Gibney, et al., at convention

More information is on the state website and on page 5 of this Bulletin. If you are intrigued by a study, contact Ann Brodie and she will connect you to the right person.

Finally, we honored Rebecca Smith, who has served for the past 14 years as the Executive Administrator of the LWVOR. We took special pride in this since Rebecca grew up in Corvallis and has family here. She is leaving to pursue a graduate degree in communications at Portland State University. — Paula Krane, Delegate



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

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F A L L C A L E N D A R	September	Thu 12	Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
		Mon 16	Fall Kick-off meeting, 7 PM
		Tue-Mon 17-23 Constitution Week	
	October	Tue 1	Forum: Health Care for All Oregon, 7 PM
		1	Fruit Fundraiser Begins
		Thu 10	Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
		Sat 12	LWVOR Fall Workshop, Roseburg
		Tue 15	<i>General Meeting</i> , Agricultural Issues, 7 PM
		Fri-Tue 18-22 Ballots mailed to voters	
		Wed 23	<i>Voter Service</i> : Local Levy election, 7 PM
		Thu 24	Food Day
	November	Sat 2	LWVOR Fall Workshop, Oregon City
		Thu 5	Election Day
		Thu 14	Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
		Tue 19	<i>General Meeting</i> Children's Health, 7 PM
		Sat 30	Fruit Fundraiser Ends