



LWV Corvallis

Serving Benton and Linn Counties

March 2006



Openness in Government: Looking for Sunshine

LWV Corvallis and the OSU Valley Library co-sponsor

A video presentation at

OSU Owens Hall Room 106

Monday, March 13, 2006

10:00 to 11:30 am

SUNSHINE WEEK 2006: ARE WE SAFER IN THE DARK?

A panel hosted at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Geneva Overholser, Missouri School of Journalism

Thomas S. Blanton, National Security Archive Director

Thomas M. Susman, Ropes and Gray

For further details about Sunshine Week activities, see page 3

Ride the bus to campus or for parking information, please see page 4

DISCUSSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

Tuesday, March 21st at the

United Way Office

104 SW Second St. (next to Squirrel's)

11:30 to 1:00 pm (Bring your lunch)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – March – Looking for Sunshine

We are pleased to co-sponsor a satellite television program with OSU Valley Library. **Openness in Government: Looking for Sunshine** is a league project to broaden public awareness about transparency in government. As part of Sunshine Week, the national league has co-sponsored a Panel at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. along with the American Association of Law Libraries and American Library Association. We have League member and Library Director Karyle Butcher and her staff to thank for bringing this program to the OSU on March 13th.

Your local league has participated in **Leadership Corvallis** by organizing 'Governing and Civic Involvement Day' on Feb 9 at the Public Safety Meeting Room. Thanks to Ann Smart for planning the day with Leadership Corvallis Curriculum Committee and for facilitating the day program for the leadership class. Thanks to Peggy Lynch for participating in the Citizen Panel as an advocate with LCDC. Ann asked me to talk about the league at the end of the day, so we had the chance to invite volunteer participation in our organization, too.

Long time Corvallis members may already feel very connected to local organizations. However, newcomers may benefit from greater involvement in volunteer or league activities in order to become more acclimated to their new community. The community benefits from fresh eyes on our local processes and new models from other communities.

Recent retirees may want to become more connected to community groups. The league has benefited from the expertise of both newcomers and recent retirees. We would like to appeal to our newcomers and retirees to become more involved in your community. We would welcome those who might want to take on board responsibilities, too. Contact Corrine Gobeli, 745-7736, if you have more energy and talents to share.

In the past two months our programs have brought City and County staff to our meetings. I've been impressed with the quality of the staff and their efforts in spite of the budget cuts. City and County work together on transportation projects with each governmental unit providing a share of funds for the projects. County Sheriff's office uses volunteers as reserve deputies and search-and-rescue to cover services in the county. Health Department Managers write proposals and bring in grant moneys to provide wider health services in the county. We are fortunate to have dedicated city and county staff who work for the common good. It gives us some hope for the future.

Karen Nibler

Board of Directors '05-'06

President Karen Nibler
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Corrine Gobeli (Nominating Committee)
Jean Nath & Patty McClintock (Membership)
Leah Bolger (Publicity)

Mission

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.

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LWV Corvallis

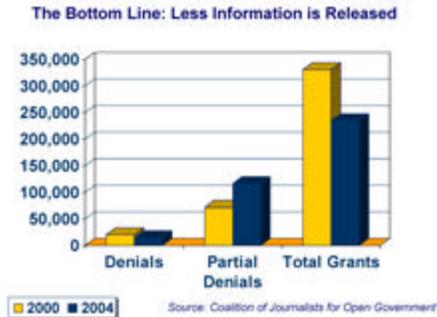
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The bulletin is the newsletter of the LWV Corvallis and is produced nine times a year. Members subscribe through their dues. Membership is open to anyone 18 years or older.



Secrecy on the March: Making the Case for Sunshine Week

Approaching its 40th birthday, the [Freedom of Information Act](#) is looking more than a little worn around the edges. In fact, what it needs is a week of good, solid sunshine, and Sunshine Week 2006, March 12-18, is just the ticket.



The current administration has been characterized by open government observers (both conservatives and liberals) as one of the

most secretive in recent history; a stance adopted even before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Sunshine Week is not about journalists, it's not about partisan politics, it's about the public and the importance of protecting and promoting open government. Sunshine Week is not about protecting journalists' rights, it's about the right of all citizens to know what their government is doing—and why.

Sunshine Week 2005 proved that developing a critical mass of discussion about the importance of open government can move the needle a little. Sunshine Week 2006 is off to a fantastic start, but the sunlight at the end of the tunnel remains a long way off.

[Read more about government secrecy and activities planned for Sunshine Week.](#)



-A national teleforum on Monday, March 13, that will examine the question, "[Are We Safer in the Dark?](#)" A panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, moderated by Geneva Overholser of the Missouri School of Journalism's Washington bureau, will be fed via satellite to host locations across the country. Following the national program, those sites will engage in discussions of openness issues particular to their states and communities.

-A national survey looking at public perception of open government issues, conducted by the [E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University](#).

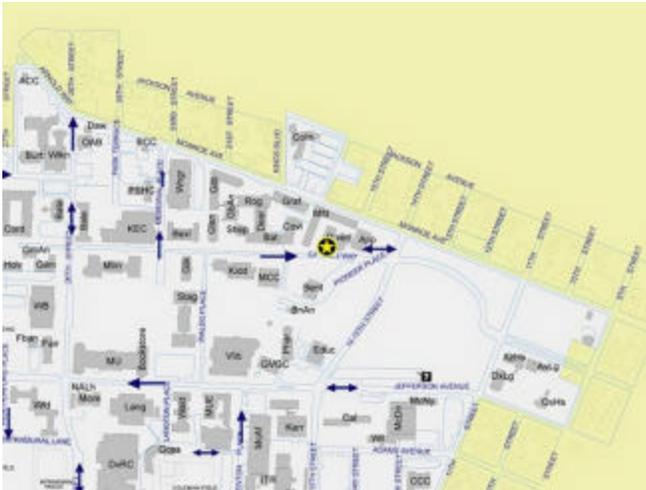
-In addition to building on the strong print, broadcast and online coverage, public events and programs produced in 2005, there are several new initiatives on tap for 2006. Among them:

Publication of the 72-page "[Bright Ideas](#)" book, featuring examples of some of the different ways Sunshine Week was observed in 2005. Sections include news and features, editorials and commentary, graphics and presentation, broadcast reports, online presentation, and ideas for 2006.

-On March 17, the [PBS weekly newsmagazine NOW](#) will air a one-hour special about government secrecy as part of Sunshine Week. In "The Sunshine Gang," NOW will focus on the erosion of open government in America through the stories of whistleblowers.

-An expanded role for Sunshine Week as a co-sponsor of National Freedom of Information Day, March 16, the [First Amendment Center's](#) annual confab of FOI experts and interested parties.

-Television and radio open government public service ads developed in conjunction with the [Radio-Television News Directors Foundation](#).



Parking information for the Sunshine Week Teleforum March 13th at OSU, Owen Hall. 10:00am

Owen Hall is located between Campus Way and Monroe Street near 14th street. It was the home of the ECE department for many years. Since school will be in session, parking near here can be a problem. If you can't ride a bike or take the bus, we recommend using the remote parking lots and taking the free campus shuttle East. Allow a half hour for this.

The free lot is the gravel area around Reser Stadium and the shuttle east runs to 14th Street. A pay-and display machine parking lot is located on 13th and Washington, where the students park behind the dorms. Campus Way and Jefferson St. Info lot may be another parking possibility with a displayed visitor pass. See map above or visit the OSU website at <http://oregonstate.edu> and click on the maps button located in the upper right-hand corner.

LWVC Recommendation –

We encourage members to attend this health care forum: The LWVOR has not reviewed or taken a position on the Health Care Initiatives being circulated now. There is a July deadline for certification for the ballot. After that deadline, LWVOR will review and decide whether to take a position. But in order to become informed, we recommend this meeting.

March 21 – Mid Valley Health Care Advocates will host Dr. Evan Saulino, the petitioner for Measure 111 at the Corvallis Public Library, 7:00 pm.

www.healthyoregon.net.

Evan Saulino was born in Wisconsin and attended University of California San Diego and at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. Dr. Saulino earned a Ph.D. in Microbiology, working on disease prevention and vaccine development, and spent nearly 3 years at Harvard Medical School working in a lab that researched anthrax. He met and married his wife Brenda, also a family doctor, in St. Louis. Dr. Saulino began residency in Family Medicine at Oregon Health Science University in 2001. At OHSU, working with architects and administrators of the Oregon Health Plan, he began to focus on health care policy. He now works at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Hillsboro, OR, a clinic that sees about 50% uninsured and 50% Oregon Health Plan patients. He lives with his wife and twin 4 year-old girls in Portland. "My girls are the reason I stopped just complaining about the problems of our health care system and started working on solutions," he says. "As a physician and a father, I have to work to change the legacy of the health care system I leave for my children and grandchildren."

And for further events covering important health care issues for Oregonians:

Wednesday night, March 15th at 7:00pm. **Medicare and Medicaid Health Care issues Town Hall Meeting** with Cindy Becker, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Human Services, State Representative Sara Gelsler, and others involved in helping low income Oregonians to get medical services. This will be at the Corvallis Public Library, 7th and Monroe.

Saturday afternoon, April 8th, Brown Bag Seminar at the Corvallis Senior Center. You are invited to bring your medications (in a brown bag!) at 1:00pm to consult with pharmacists and senior OSU pharmacy students about possible interactions between medications &/or herbal supplements that you are taking. Janice Gregg will

present an excellent short discussion of 'Using Medicines Wisely.' And Benton County SHIBA volunteers will present an overview of Medicare Services, Parts A, B, and D. Call the Sr. Center 766-6959 to pre-register.



Join Other LWV Readers

March 13th, 7:30 pm is the next meeting of the LWV Book Club where we will talk about Chris Bohjalian's *The Buffalo Soldier*. Bohjalian, the author of *Midwives*, *The Law of Similars*, *Water Witches* and more, is known for his strong characters who face daunting moral challenges as they try to do the right thing. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch). We'll meet again at Roxana Bodine's – call for directions 753-5612.

Ballot Measure Summit

Leagues in Oregon are partners in this project. This is a notice from its director.

We are very excited by the high level of interest in the Ballot Measure Summit and we want to be sure that we are providing the best and most complete information possible on what the 2006 initiative cycle may include. Some of the initiatives are still waiting to get final ballot title language and some chief petitioners are still in the process of making decisions on whether or not to move forward with their initiatives. Therefore we have decided to delay the Summit for a couple of weeks.

NEW DATE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Same Time – 10 am – 2 pm

Same Location – 1125 SE Madison Street, Portland

We apologize for the change, but we think that it will make for a better program at the Summit. Go to the web for your registration form – we look forward to seeing you on the 22nd.

Chris Coughlin
Executive Director

Our Oregon
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