



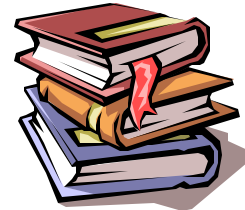
Which current state issues demand our attention?

Our Calendar Year was scheduled this summer and it has been full of Voter Service Forums plus three State Study Reports and consensus meetings. Our local study on the Judiciary morphed into a State Study, which is still in process. Our Homeless Youth study on the local and state level has been completed with a state position in process. Our State Redistricting Study materials are due for February meetings.

LWVOR Program Planning at our December soup dinner will involve a review of state level positions and a discussion of state issues that demand our attention, invite further study, or require action. One of the considerations is the commitment of members and willingness to work on any chosen topic. The State Convention will consider both recommended and non-recommended program proposals, but the available womanpower and finances will be important factors in the acceptance of any state program.

On the local level, two committees have been active. Growth Management (or Land Use) has been an ongoing committee with members who monitor local governmental meetings. Measure 37 has brought new development proposals throughout the counties that are of concern to our members. The Health committee has just started to gather member's input on their experiences with the local health system. The 2007 Legislative Session will be considering bills to expand health insurance coverage for children and to offer universal health insurance under different plans. Health Care will be a timely issue.

Come, visit with friends, and give your opinions on current issues. Corrine Gobeli will be available to lead our discussion on program planning again. If you are unable to attend, you may use the program planning form and mail in your opinions before the meeting.



Calling all readers –

Join us on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:15 PM (note change of time). Sessions are open to all LWV members.

December 11, at Roxana Bodine's, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidder

January 8, at Martha Brookes', *1776* by David McCullough

February 12, *The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom* by Slavomir Rawicz

From the Treasurer:

A special THANK YOU to the following people for their monetary gifts to the League.

Donna Allen
Ann Brodie
Sara Ingle
Lois Kenagy
Paula Krane
Jean Leach
Kate Mathews
Rochelle Murphy
Tanya Shively
Clara Shoemaker
Ann Smart
Jo Anne Trow
Lois Zaerr

Health Care Services in Benton

County – Are they improving? Where are the gaps? Let's evaluate health care and funding issues. Join us at unit meetings in January.

January units will be an open discussion of health issues as they affect us locally. We would like to outline a local study for next year. We will begin with a needs assessment, or survey of gaps in our positions and/or gaps in services in Benton County.

We have positions on health care on the books at all three levels.

The **LWVUS position** on health care reads: **LWVUS believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. Other US health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.** This is a comprehensive position that allows us to address national healthcare legislation on a wide variety of issues: basic care, funding, administration, accountability, quality, oversight, equity and allocation of resources.

The **LWVOR position** on health care defaults to the national position on physical health care as follows: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs. State LWV also has comprehensive positions on adult and child mental health services.

Our own **LWVC position** on health care dates from 1994 and earlier, but it doesn't address mental health, dental care, access to insurance, or specialty care.

HEALTH SERVICES IN BENTON COUNTY

Public Health

1. Support of Public Health Services in Benton County, including:
 - A. Dissemination of public health information,
 - B. Adequate personnel and facilities in the County Health Department, and
 - D. Family planning information and techniques. (Adopted 1967)
2. Recognition of drug abuse as a health problem in Benton County. (Adopted 1971)

Health Care of the Elderly

1. The LWV of Corvallis believes the government has a responsibility to provide for the health and welfare of its senior citizens. Individuals and families should share this responsibility and those who have the ability to pay for services should do so at whatever level possible.
2. The LWV of Corvallis believes that the government has a responsibility to ensure quality health care for the elderly.

United Way recently presented its Needs Assessment Report for Benton County. Information was gathered through mailed surveys, a phone survey of 500 county residents (including 213 low income households) and 11 community leaders, and a focus group. While trying to evaluate the factors that make up a healthy community, responders indicated that access to physical medical care, mental health care, and dental care is a problem for a significant number of members of our community. Focus group participants listed a number of obstacles to health care, including cost, rules and regulations, the absence of a safety net, lack of insurance, cuts in funding, transportation, language/cultural competency, and the quality and availability of services.

The obstacles listed in the needs assessment suggest that there are gaps in services and that people are still having difficulty getting the help they need to address health concerns in Benton County. How are health services publicized? Who owns the facilities in our area? What do medical professionals see as problems? We would like to discuss these and other ideas when we get together for unit meetings in January.