



LWV Corvallis

Serving Benton and Linn Counties

April 2004

The LWV Corvallis invites its members and the public to these two April forums:

Property Values and Land Use Planning: The Potential Impact of Measure 36

Mitch Rohse

President, Oregon Chapter of American Planning Association

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Corvallis–Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe

Sponsored by the Marys Peak Group – Sierra Club, 1000 Friends of Oregon,
and the Corvallis League of Women Voters

and

Effective Multilateralism at the UN

Bernadette A. Kilroy

U. S. State Department

&

David Bernell

OSU Political Science Department

Moderator: Walter Barkan, LWVC

Wednesday, April 27, 2004

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Corvallis Senior Center
2601 NW Tyler

*See page 3 for further information about both of these events.
If you need a ride, volunteer drivers may be available.
Contact a Board member for more information.*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: April Activities

The program focus for April will be on land use planning as a response to proposed Initiative 36 for which signatures are being gathered. The title of this proposed initiative is "Governments Must Pay Owners, or Forgo Enforcement, When Certain Land Use Restrictions Reduce Property Value." LWVOR has taken a position in opposition to Initiative 36 and supports a campaign not to sign petitions to put the initiative on the ballot. For a further explanation of LWVOR positions, refer to your State Voter bulletin, pages 5 and 6. LWV Corvallis is co-sponsoring this month's program with the Sierra Club and 1000 Friends of Oregon. Shelly Murphy has been our liaison member and will give the League's position at the meeting.

The second program this month will focus on international issues. The U. S. State Department has offered speakers to local Leagues from its staff. Dr. Bernadette Kilroy is an expert in European relations and she is scheduled to visit Corvallis on April 27 and 28. The Ashland and Eugene Leagues will host her prior to her arrival in Corvallis. On April 27, Dr. Kilroy will speak at an evening forum for League members and the public at the Senior Center. She will be joined by David Bernell, Assistant Professor of Political Science at OSU. The next day, April 28, Dr. Kilroy will visit the OSU Political Science and International Research and Development Departments.

April is the time to prepare for primary elections, so we scheduled a Candidates Forum for Tuesday, May 4 at the Corvallis/Benton County Library. Thirteen candidates have filed to run for State Representatives in Districts 15, 16 and 23. Since each of these positions has multiple candidates, it seemed appropriate to host a forum for the primary elections. See the May *Bulletin* for further details, but please save the date on your calendars.

The LWVC's annual meeting is scheduled for May 18. At least one month before this date, the Board is required to publish nominations for officers, the projected budget and the recommended local program in the *Bulletin*. The nomination report and treasurer's report are not finalized and will be in the next *Bulletin*. An article on the Board's recommendations for local programs is in this issue. If a member wishes to propose a new study or update for the LWVC's work program, this recommendation must be sent in writing to the Board prior to the meeting so that it may be included on the agenda. Look for the final agenda in the May *Bulletin*.

The LWVOR Council will meet at Salishan the weekend prior to our annual meeting. Attendees representing LWV Corvallis will be Kathy Connor, Liz Frenkel, Peggy Lynch and myself. We will report on LWVOR actions at the annual meeting.

If you can spend a few hours on League activities this month, please call Carolyn Madsen to cover the polls at the ASOSU elections on April 14, 15, 21 and/or 22. Also, I hope you can join us for one of the evening programs.

-- Karen Nibler

LWV Corvallis

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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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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.



INITIATIVE 36 – OR "SON OF 7"

The League of Women Voters of Oregon opposes Initiative 36 which is currently circulating for signatures. The League is supporting a campaign not to sign the initiative and will oppose the measure if it reaches the November ballot.

As part of this effort, LWV Corvallis is collaborating this month with the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club and 1,000 Friends of Oregon to bring you Mitch Rohse, president of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association. Mr. Rohse will speak on the potential impact of Measure 36 -- Initiative 36 will become Measure 36 if it makes it to the ballot -- on Oregon's nationally-acclaimed land use planning program and on environmental protection. Come to the Corvallis-Benton County Library at 7 PM on Wednesday, April 14, to find out how Measure 36 could reduce property values and leave property owners with no say about what is built in their neighborhood. The League will give a short introduction.

-- Shelly Murphy

"EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM AT THE UN" TALK ON APRIL 27

Later this month, the LWVC will sponsor a presentation by U.S. State Department representative Dr. Bernadette A. Kilroy entitled "Effective Multilateralism at the UN." Dr. Kilroy will touch on a wide range of issues, including the global war on terrorism, curtailing weapons of mass destruction, resolving regional conflicts, solving global health and environmental problems, and principles for reforming the U.N. OSU Political Science professor David Bernell will join Dr. Kilroy for what shapes up to be a spirited discussion.

Dr. Bernadette A. Kilroy has been a member of State Department since May 2003. Her primary responsibilities are international organization affairs, foreign assistance and public diplomacy. Prior to joining the State Department, Dr. Kilroy was Senior International Affairs Analyst at the Senate Budget Committee and served as Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman's representative to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She also has taught at UCLA and George Washington University.

Come to the Senior Center (2601 NW Tyler) on April 27, 7-9 PM, for a thought-provoking presentation. Dr. Kilroy also will be presenting to the Ashland/Medford, Eugene and Salem Leagues.

SETTLE DOWN WITH A GOOD BOOK: LWVC BOOK CLUB

On April 12th at 7:30 PM, join other LWVC readers at Corrine Gobeli's to talk about *The Power of One*, Bryce Courtenay's tale of growing up in South Africa. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* called this book, "unabashedly uplifting...asserts forcefully what all of us would like to believe: that the individual, armed with the spirit of independence--the power of one--can prevail." Call or e-mail Corrine if you plan to attend. Also plan on joining us on May 10 for the last book of this reading year, *The Inextinguishable Symphony* by Martin Goldsmith.

BOARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Help is needed in filling the slate of the LWV Corvallis Board. The nominating committee has made phone calls and has some blanks in the recommended officers for the coming year. Board members are needed to make decisions on actions and the work program and to guide the direction of the local League. The Board positions require attendance at a monthly Board meeting for two to three hours and a monthly general meeting for two hours. Each Board member is responsible for certain duties, such as membership or publicity. The time commitment is not overwhelming, although sometimes the issues are contentious.

We would be happy to have new members join the Board to learn about the League. We would be just as happy to have long time members who have developed an interest in a certain field or who might have found time available in their schedules. If you have some time, give JoAnne Trow a call and ask about vacant positions. We need you!

BULLETIN MAILER NEEDED – AN EASY WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE LEAGUE!

Mel Walter is retiring. She has been doing the monthly *Bulletin* mailing for many years. If you have a couple of hours near the end of the months from August through May to pick up 200 copies of the newsletter from the copy shop, fold it, put on address labels, package it for bulk mailing, and take it to the post office let Shelly Murphy or Mel know. (Mel and Shelly's phone numbers and e-mail addresses are in your LWV Membership List.) Mel will train a new volunteer for the job at the end of April. If you would prefer to do the mailing with other LWV members, you could make some coffee and invite in some help.

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING TO BE DECIDED AT MAY ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting on May 18, LWV Corvallis members will decide on the local League's program priorities for next year. At its last annual meeting, LWV Corvallis voted to retain all its current positions and added one study to its work program: the "Judicial System in Benton County," in concurrence with the LWVUS Judicial Independence Project. The Board also voted to continue work on the study of the "Reorganization of the Department of Human Services" which had been adopted the prior year. Studies of "Affordable Housing in the Corvallis Urban Area" and "Funding Options for Local Government Services" were continued. "The Know Your County Booklet" was to be completed.

The Board recommends to LWVC members that no new programs be adopted for the coming year. The Board further recommends that previously-adopted studies and projects be completed in the coming year. Shelly Murphy reports that the "Funding Options for Local Government Services" committee completed its work but did not publish a report. "Affordable Housing in the Corvallis Urban Area" has been evaluated by some members but no one volunteered to chair this project, so it is no longer a viable effort. The "Know Your County Booklet" was worked on by the Benton Charter Committee but not published. The "Department of Human Services" project was delayed but could be completed this summer or fall. The Judicial System Study will be in its second year in 2004-05.

At the annual meeting, members are given the option of proposing new studies, updates, or action items to the Board. In order to propose a new study or update, the member shall put the proposal in writing and submit this to the Board one month before the annual meeting. The proposal will be included on the agenda and presented to the members for a vote. Please note that members proposing a study should be willing to work on that study. Members may give the Board direction on program emphases and action items. This part of the meeting usually generates the most discussion. Please give us your opinions on future directions for the local League by attending the annual meeting and/or sending us recommended proposals ahead of time. Check the May bulletin for further details.

NONPARTISAN OBSERVERS NEEDED FOR ASOSU ELECTION

The OSU Associated Students organization is requesting help with its primary and general elections for student leaders on April 14-15 and April 21-22. Three voting booths will be open from 9 AM to 5 PM each day and six observers are needed throughout the election. If you can spare two or four hours during any of those days, please phone or e-mail **Carolyn Madsen, 754-1528, cmadsen@proaxis.com**. Please state the dates and hours (9 - 11AM, 11 AM to 1 PM, 1 - 3 PM and/or 3 - 5 PM) that you are available and how many hours you are willing to volunteer. Since each booth requires two observers, why not find a partner and volunteer together? You will receive instructions on where to meet, etc., by e-mail or phone when the schedule is developed by the election committee. Contact Carolyn ASAP as the election is approaching!

HUMAN SERVICES STUDY UPDATE

The LWVC's March program on "State Funded Human Services" drew an audience of about 50 people. The representatives of human service agencies have given us a start on a study. Now we need to decide where we want to go next. The League can monitor the budget reductions to determine what services will be available for the remainder of the biennium. Some changes will occur in May and others in August.

The committee working on this study can write a brief paper to explain each agency's services and the gaps in services after the budget cuts. A glossary of acronyms was requested by one board member because initials were used by speakers in this field. The local League has a position on health but not on "meeting basic human needs," so the local social policy position could be expanded to include this item.

Action can be initiated at the state or local level. LWVOR can be encouraged to take a position or testify on the restoration of services. Since Benton County provides local funds for human services, the local funding process can be monitored and input provided. If the County puts a levy to fund human services on the ballot, the League can take a position and action. If you would like to participate in a discussion of the next steps, the Human Services Study committee will meet on Thursday, April 15 at 2:30 PM at the New Morning Bakery.

--- Karen Nibler

NEWS FROM THE LWVUS...

CHECK THE BOX FOR DEMOCRACY

Statement by Kay J. Maxwell, LWVUS President:

It's tax season again and Americans are agonizing over pages and pages of complicated federal tax forms. Anxious to get to the bottom line, millions of taxpayers skip over the first question, the one that asks whether you want to check the box to designate three dollars to the Presidential Election Fund.

This election year, we ask you to take that question seriously. Checking the box is important for our democracy. It funds the public financing system that allows Americans to own the presidency, rather than special interests.

It is important that taxpayers know upfront just how the Fund works. Checking the box will not increase the taxes they're paying or reduce their refund. It simply takes three dollars of the tax they've already paid and places it into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of the Fund depends entirely on the number of people who choose to check the box.

The Fund was started in 1976 as a response to the special interest funding of presidential campaigns that brought the Watergate scandal. It sought to create a political system that was open and responsive to all citizens – equally. As the costs of campaigning have gone up, driven by the skyrocketing cost of buying television advertising, the system has eroded. In 2000, candidates from both major political parties raised enormous amounts of money outside the system and sought other ways to circumvent the limits. Last year, Congress and the Supreme Court acted to close these loopholes.

"Both the candidates and voters benefit from the public financing system. Candidates receive money to help cover their campaign costs and voters are assured that fundraising rules and spending limits are followed. Last fall, the League of Women Voters joined with other national reform organizations in the Presidential Public Financing Reform Project (PPFRP) to promote improvements to the system. Some fine tuning is needed to improve the presidential election system, but the check off remains the single best way to preserve the public interest. Our political system belongs in the hands of its rightful owners – the American voters.

Please do your part, check the box to protect democracy.

MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES IN WASHINGTON, DC

The League of Women Voters of the United States is a cosponsoring organization for the March for Women's Lives to take place in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 25, 2004. For twenty years, LWVUS has worked to preserve the right to privacy in reproductive choice. The League of Women Voters is joining with the Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, the National Organization for Women, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and over 500 other organizations for the march.

In order to assist Leagues who are interested in recruiting people to participate in the March, LWVUS has created a March for Women's Lives Toolkit. Additional information is available from the LWVUS web site (<http://interactive.lwv.org/Issues>. see "Hot Issues") and www.marchforwomen.org.

EXCERPTS FROM MARCH 24 URGENT LOBBY REQUEST

Don't Let the Senate Undermine Reproductive Choice!

As soon as this afternoon or Thursday of this week the Senate is expected to vote on a bill that would strike at the very core of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion safe and legal in the United States. Disguised as an attempt to address the serious problem of violence against pregnant women, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (S. 1019) is actually a backdoor attempt to undermine *Roe* by conveying legal status to a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus. The bill has already passed the House of Representatives. It is critical that we stop this bill in the Senate!

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act (UVVA) would amend the federal criminal code and Uniform Code of Military Justice to create a separate offense for harm done to a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus during the commission of certain federal crimes. Unfortunately, UVVA does nothing to address the problem of violence against pregnant women. In fact, bill sponsors have publicly stated that UVVA threatens reproductive choice. Senator Orrin Hatch (R UT) in a May 7, 2003, CNN news article was quoted as saying "they say it undermines abortion rights. It does."

Instead of eroding reproductive choice, Congress should attempt to address the significant issue of domestic violence by fully funding violence prevention programs and other efforts to support victims. Contact your Senators today and urge them to oppose the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

Upcoming Events: April & Early May 2004

- Apr 12** Book Club, 7:30 PM, Corrine Gobeli's home.
- Apr 14** "Property Values and Land Use Planning,"
7–9 PM, Corvallis/Benton County Library Main Meeting Room, 645 NW Monroe.
- Apr 15** Human Services Study committee meeting, 2:30 PM, New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd.
- Apr 20** LWVC Board meeting, 4–7 PM, Karen Nibler's home.
- Apr 27** "Effective Multilateralism at the UN," 7–9 PM, Senior Center, 2601 NW Tyler.
- May 4** Candidates Forum, Corvallis/Benton County Library Main Meeting Room, 645 NW Monroe.
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**Mark Your Calendar
Thrift Shop Consignment
Days
April 8 & 22, May 13, 2:30 – 3:30 PM**

**Call ahead to make arrangements
Miriam Miller 753-7261**

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