



LWV Corvallis

Serving Benton and Linn Counties

March 2005

Affordable Housing in Corvallis

A Panel Discussion

Moderated by Barbara Ross

Kent Weiss, City of Corvallis
Jim Moorefield, Corvallis Neighborhood Housing
Rich Donovan, Community Outreach Inc.
Brad Smith, Habitat for Humanity

Thursday, March 10, 2005

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Corvallis/Benton County Public Library, 5th & Monroe
Co-sponsored by LWV Corvallis & Corvallis/Benton County Library

LWVOR Day at the Legislature

This is your chance to get involved. A powerful experience.

Wednesday, March 16

See page 4 for details

And don't forget....

Legislature 2005

Town Hall Meeting

Judiciary bills and their impact on the Correctional system

Senator Frank Morse, Representative Andy Olson and
Representative Kelly Wirth

Saturday morning, March 5

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Corvallis/Benton County Library

Co-sponsored by LWV Corvallis & Corvallis/Benton County Library

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Track the Oregon State Legislature

The first Legislative Town Hall on the Oregon State budget was attended by 60 people. We thought it was a wonderful turnout of league members and community members. Peggy Lynch, one of the writers of the Financing Oregon Study, was the first moderator. Senator Frank Morse and Rep. Kelley Wirth commented on and responded to budget questions.

Representative Brian Boquist arrived later, introducing himself and his role on legislative committees. Participation was lively and we look forward to continuing the discussion on the first Saturday of each month through June.

Citizen Access to the legislative process has been a concern for LWVOR, and Paula Krane headed a state league committee to approach legislators on this issue. Early in the session the Citizen Access members met with rule makers and the outcome was a 48-hour notice rule for committee meeting agendas. The legislators also decided to adopt a citizen access opportunity to take committee hearings on the road. There is a schedule of hearing times and appearances that has been sent out on LWVOR e-mail alerts. Local members should be receiving e-mails about legislative hearings near our area. **Action Alerts** should be hitting your e-mail box, too. Liz Frenkel has been attending Land Use hearings in the capitol and recently sent out an alert on SB 348 which has passed the Senate and is headed for the House Committee. The LWVOR opposes SB 348 because it would exempt a few property owners from Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning law; would open the Legislature to micromanaging local governments' regulatory role; and would be unfair to other property owners. Thanks to Liz, Paula, and Peggy for their work on the state league issues.

Legislative Reports from LWVOR are available on line or in print. LWVOR has sent the first issue to members electronically with the option of continuing to receive them by e-mail or snail mail. If you would like to receive a copy, contact LWVOR at lwvor@lwvor.org or by phone at 503-581-9403. In order to see the Legislature in action, come to the LWVOR Day at the Legislature on March 16.

The next Legislative Town Hall Meeting will be on March 5 on Judiciary bills and related impacts on Human Services and Corrections. LWV Corvallis' March Program will be on Affordable Housing, March 10th, 7:00-9:00 pm, Thursday evening at the Corvallis Public Library – look for details on page 3. LWVOR will host **Day at the Legislature** on March 16 – see page 5 to register. We would love to have you join us.

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.



–Karen Nibler, President

Affordable Housing?

In Benton County? Surely you jest! You've heard it from insiders and outsiders and it really isn't clear what the situation is. **Barbara Ross** has organized and will moderate a panel discussion with folks who deal with housing issues to help us find out what the needs are and what is available.

At the **Library on March 10th, from 7:00–9:00pm**, Leaguers and members of the public will hear from four related agencies. A representative of the **City Housing division of the Community Development Department** will explain Corvallis' role in designing and delivering financial assistance programs to help lower-income residents rehabilitate or purchase a home, or to help rental property owners rehabilitate structures that house lower-income tenants.



Corvallis Neighborhood Housing Services, a non-profit housing assistance agency, also works with finance programs and financial counseling for low income families.



Community Outreach, Inc. has provided shelter and health and family services for the homeless in Corvallis since 1972, beginning with Sunflower House on 9th street. Rich Donovan will bring us up to date with their work and we'll learn that there is ever more work to do.



And we will be able to ask about the home-building projects being quietly carried out by volunteers of **Habitat for Humanity**.

You won't want to miss this meeting!

Busy Spring for Local League

The League has strong positions on land use, safety, and urban development and its members watch local planning activities closely. Liz Frenkel and her committee are keeping a sharp eye on a proposed 'Seventh Street Station' development in Corvallis which will soon be on the agenda at the city planning commission. As it stands now, the proposal raises concerns that the League could address. Stay tuned and contact Liz if you would like to participate on the Growth Management Committee.

Along those lines, Liz Frenkel is also preparing to present an outstanding April League meeting. Watch your next LWV bulletin for details about **Land Use and the Public Good: An Oregon Dilemma**. This will be a very timely presentation from OSU Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History William G. Robbins. Given recent changes in land use expectations that seem to be occurring, you won't want to miss the April 14th meeting.

Legislative Town Hall Meetings

The March Town Hall will address judiciary bills and their impact on the Correctional system in Oregon. Representatives Andy Olson and Kelley Wirth and Senator Frank Morse will be on hand to discuss their work on bills covering alcohol and drug offenses, mental health needs of prisoners, and the budget for the expanding prison population. Related issues that impact the Correctional system are the treatment available in mental health and addiction services, community corrections programs and jail bed access, juvenile secure custody beds, and prevention services in the juvenile system. Join us on Saturday morning, March 5th, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Corvallis/Benton County Library.

And put these dates on your calendar:

April 2 May 7 June 4

UPCOMING MEETINGS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Health Care for ALL–Oregon and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will sponsor Seeking Justice in Health Care Workshop, Saturday, April 9th in Portland. More details will be available later.

Is Our Elections Process in Chaos?



"The elections process in Oregon is in chaos!" These were the words of the chair of the House Elections and Rules Committee, Rep. Derrick Kitts, when the committee met on February 3 to discuss a series of community meetings on Oregon election laws. The League does not agree that the elections process is in chaos. We believe that it is basically a good system and simply needs some discussion for minor changes. Read the LWVOR website for further information.



www.lwv.corvallis.or.us is all you have to remember...

Our Corvallis LWV Website is linked to the

- City
- 509J Schools
- County
- State
- LWV OR
- LWV US

And remember, if you would like to receive LWV information electronically, send your e–mail address to Paula Krane at kranep@peak.org

LWVC BOOK CLUB

Challenge yourself with a good book!

Join us at Marilyn Koenitzer's, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. to talk about *Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, by Barack Obama, the spellbinding speaker at the Democratic National Convention. Call Marilyn (754–0656)

for directions to her home and to let her know you'll be attending.

Also note the change in books for April; we decided we needed a change from hardback to paperback, from serious to more whimsical.

Upcoming selections include:

April 11: *Maise Dodds*, Jaqueline Winspear (Corrine Gobeli's house)

May 9: *The Master*, Colin Toibin

For more information about the LWVC Book Club, call Corrine Gobeli, 745–7736, cgobeli@aol.com

DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE is coming!

- Learn about legislative priorities
- Lobby your legislator
- Network with others interested in improving our state and communities

Day at the Legislature, sponsored by LWV and AAUW, will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Oregon State Library in Salem.

Attendance is open to all, but seating is limited, so register early!

See page 5 for registration form. Contact Karen Nibler if you're interested in attending and consider carpooling. This should be an exciting day.

Day at the Legislature

Wednesday, March 16th
Oregon State Library in Salem

Sponsored by LWV of Oregon and AAUW of Oregon State University

All Members Welcome and Encouraged to Attend

Learn about our legislative priorities

Lobby your legislator

Network with other League and AAUW members

Bring a guest!

- 9:30 AM Registration, networking, coffee and pastries
- 10:00 AM Introductions
- 10:10 AM Guest Speaker: John Lindback, Director of Elections
- 10:30 AM Legislative Priorities
- Briefings by LWV Action Committee Coordinators
- 11:30 AM Guest Speaker: Treasurer Randall Edwards (invited)
- 12:00 PM Lunch (optional)
- Continue discussions with Action Coordinators; network with members
- 1:00–3:00 PM Meet with Legislators and attend hearings

Please remember to make appointments with legislators ahead of time. Lunch at the workshop is optional so that you may choose to meet with your legislator then, if need be.

Day at the Legislature

Registration Deadline: **March 9, 2005**

Name: _____ Circle one: LWV member / AAUW member / Guest
 Email address: _____ League or Branch: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Registration Fees: **Check appropriate box and include check made out to LWVOR.**

Member registration, including lunch—\$16.00

Member registration, no lunch—\$8.00

Guest registration, including lunch—\$20.00

Guest registration, no lunch—\$12.00

Return by March 9, 2005, including payment, to LWVOR, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Suite260, Salem, OR 97302 Questions? 503-581-5722; lwvor@lwvor.org