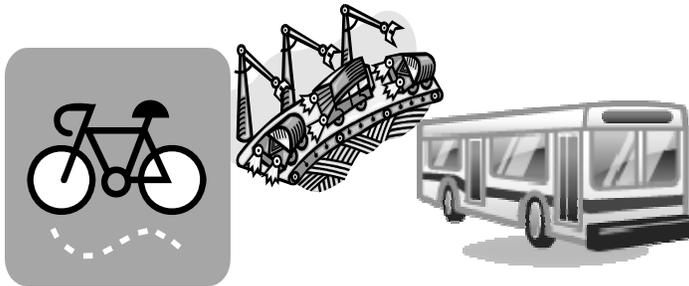




League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Linn and Benton Counties

September 2009



Fall Kick-Off Meeting

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION:

How Do We Get from Here to There?

Tuesday, September 15, 2009—7:00 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Meeting Room

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Panelists: **Charlie Tomlinson**, Mayor of Corvallis
Bob Lowry, Chair, Citizens Advisory Commission on Transit
Brad Upton, Chair, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Our kick-off meeting will begin at 7:00 pm with an overview of League programs for 2009-10. Come and learn how you can be involved with a variety of League issues.

At 7:30 pm, our focus will shift to local transportation. The League of Women Voters of Corvallis has a position on transportation that was adopted in 1974 – 35 years ago! A lot has happened since then, and transportation continues to play a central role in our daily lives and in the life of our community. Come and hear from our panelists:

- What public transportation opportunities does the City of Corvallis provide to help us travel in and around our community and our region? What are the current issues?
- How is the City meeting the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists in our community? What challenges remain?
- What are the environmental, social, and economic implications of our transportation choices? How can we move toward “sustainable mobility”?

Mark your calendar and plan to join us so you can learn more about this vital subject, have your questions answered, and find out how you can participate in transportation solutions.

Don't miss this important program!

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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.

LWV of Corvallis

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The bulletin is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and is produced 10 times a year. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Contact Louise Marquering. 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.

**President's Column****Annette Mills**

Two key words for the Corvallis League this coming year are VISIBILITY and ACTION. By being visible and taking action, we can better serve voters, help bring about needed changes in our community and society, and strengthen our League by attracting new members.

The Corvallis League was *very* visible at da Vinci Days in July.

With a focus on watershed education, our interactive booth in the "Green Town" section of the festival drew many participants of all ages.

Special thanks to Shelly Murphy, who was instrumental in organizing and overseeing the booth throughout the weekend; to the many League members who helped with set-up and staffing of the booth; and to Gwenn Kubeck, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Specialist for the City of Corvallis, who arranged for us to borrow the City's engaging Enviroscope watershed model.

Our kick-off meeting on September 15th is another great opportunity for us to demonstrate

what the League is all about. As directed by our members, several of this year's League programs will focus on our local positions. At this first one, we'll take a look at our Transportation position. Our panelists will address local transportation and how we get from one place to another – a hot topic during these times when climate change and peak oil are so much in the news.

Prior to hearing from our panelists, we will have brief presentations by chairs of our wide-ranging committees: Land Use, Local Food, Water Resources, Membership, Voters Service, and Fundraising. Please give some

thought to how you would like to be actively involved in League this year, as you will have a chance to sign up for these committees or other volunteer tasks.

The evening promises to be both fun and informative so please mark your calendar and invite friends, neighbors, and other prospective League members to attend. The best way for us to spread the word about League is to ASK others to join us!



Thanks to Carolyn Madsen, Karen Nibler and Yvonne Stevens for helping set-up May 2nd Legislative Town Hall and to Louise Marquering and Paula Krane for food for the event. Laura and Doris, Events Co-chairs

LWV of Corvallis TRANSPORTATION POSITION (Adopted 1974)

Transportation is one of the subheadings under *Community Planning*.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Support of Comprehensive Planning, effectively implemented; Support of Adequate Local Transportation; Support of Open Space. Support of urbanization policies which foster complete, healthy and diverse communities where people can live, work, shop and play.

Transportation

1. Support adequate public transit systems. League members agree that:

A. Adequate funding of transit systems is necessary, either by public ownership or public financial support.

B. It is most important that equitable access should be provided to places of employment; equitable access should also be provided to educational, shopping, medical, and social services, and recreational and cultural facilities. Members recommended that Sunday and evening service should be provided.

C. Special services should be provided where necessary to overcome inequities of access for particular groups. This might include special equipment (e. g. , for handling wheelchairs) or special financial help (e. g. , low-cost tokens).



D. Local government should ensure adequate operational standards, particularly with regard to qualifications of drivers, public safety, and frequency of service.

E. Local government should provide for coordination of all local public transit systems, and should work toward coordination with regional systems.

2. Provide for traffic flow (vehicular and pedestrian) including necessary street and parking facilities, but put emphasis on providing an adequate public transportation system. Members agreed that government should no longer cater to the private car.

3. Encourage car-pooling where mass transit is impractical. Members felt that buses are more dependable and safer than carpools.

4. Develop safe, adequate bikeways for transportation as well as recreation; enforce traffic regulations for bicycles.

5. Provide for the safety of pedestrians, especially at crosswalks.

6. Plan and manage transportation systems to promote good land use, conserve natural resources (including non-renewable energy resources) and to maintain environmental quality.

This is from the League of Women Voters of Corvallis's local positions. All our positions are available at <http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/stand.php>.

Are you wondering what to do with all that clothing and other items you no longer use? Why not donate them for sale at the OSU Thrift Shop. Two of our League members who work there will consign items under a League consignment number. The League gets 75% of the asking price and the other 25% goes to grants and scholarships in our community. The Thrift Shop accepts clean, seasonal functioning items. Check what they do not take at <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/osufolk/tsnotake.htm>. Call our League volunteers at the Thrift Shop, Miriam Miller (753-7261) or Kate Mathews (754-1172), to make arrangements.



LWV Watershed Exhibit a Big Draw at da Vinci Days

At Corvallis da Vinci Days the weekend of July 17th, nineteen Leaguers volunteered to help with our "Green Town" booth. Using an EnviroScape™ watershed model borrowed from the City, children (and adults as well) were invited to help with the demonstration. They placed top soil (cocoa), litter (bird seed), pesticides and herbicides (jello powders), and oil (cocoa and water mixture) on the landscape. Then using spray bottles to make it rain, the runoff containing the top soil, chemicals, and oil is visually apparent over the landscape as it is carried through the watershed into the river.



We didn't count the participants but our booth always seemed to have a crowd around it. While waiting for a turn at the watershed, visitors could

locate their home on the watershed map or take the "Test Your Water Sense" quiz.

A gigantic thank you to Pat and Norm Bishop, Carolyn Brumley, Claire Bunch, Dave Eckert, Camille Freitag, Sara Ingle, Kate and Chris Mathews, Kathie Merriam, Annette Mills, Betty and Keith Muckleston, Denise Nervik, Jean Nath, Marilyn Tarrant, and Doris and Dick Waring for helping to make this educational activity a success. It was FUN!



Shelly Murphy

DUES ARE DUE

Dear Members,

As you know, when you join the League of Women Voters of Corvallis you automatically become a member of the LWV of Oregon and LWV of the United States. The state and national Leagues have considerably higher expenses than the Corvallis League because they maintain an office and paid staff.

For each member, the Corvallis League pays a per member payment (PMP) to the state and national Leagues. These payments have gone up. We now pay a PMP of \$29.20 to LWVUS and \$27.50 to LWVOR for a total of \$56.70. To accommodate this increase, Corvallis members voted at the Annual Meeting to increase dues by \$3 to \$55 for individuals, \$82.50 for households and \$27.50 for

students. For the \$1.70 balance owed per member and to meet our local operating expenses, we count on our fundraising – the grapefruit sale, proceeds from member donations to the OSU Thrift Shop as well as member and nonmember contributions.

Our dues year begins in October so for your convenience a *remit envelope* is enclosed in this bulletin. Please fill in the information requested including the survey on bulletin preference and mail it with your check as soon as possible. Your much appreciated tax deductible donation to LWVEF may also be enclosed.

If you have any questions, contact me at 541-754-1184 or shellym@peak.org.

Shelly Murphy, Membership Director



Help our local league through your charitable giving to LWVEF

The LWV of Corvallis can reduce its per member payments (dues) to LWVUS by contributions our members make to the US League of Women Voters Education Fund. These contributions should be made payable to LWVEF and sent in with your dues or directed to our treasurer, Sara Ingle. She will forward them to the LWVEF so that the LWV of Corvallis gets credit. Up to one-half of our obligation to LWVUS can be met this way. Contributions to the LWVOR EF are still deductible, but no longer reduce our per member payment to the state. Contributions to the US LWVEF are more critical than ever. Please help.

DECLINE TO SIGN – CURRENT CIRCULATING PETITIONS

The 2009 State Legislature passed two tax increase bills, HB 2649 (Personal Tax Increase) and HB 3405 (Corporate Tax Increase), both of which were signed by the Governor. The League of Women Voters of Oregon publicly lobbied FOR the passage of both tax measures because the revenue is needed to balance the State's budget. Balancing the State budget is a Constitutional requirement.

However, two statewide petition drives are now underway that seek to repeal these two tax increase laws. If the petition drive is successful and the ballot measures to repeal the taxes pass, the \$733 million in lost revenue will severely impact the State's basic services such as public education, social services, and public safety.

Both petitions being circulated require 55,179 valid signatures by September 25th, 2009 to qualify for the ballot. If they qualify, they will be on a January 26, 2010, Special Election ballot.



The petitions say: *To the Secretary of State of Oregon,*

- *I request this measure to be submitted to the people of Oregon for their approval or rejection at the election to be held on January 26, 2010.*
- *A full and correct copy of the measure was made available for review and I have not previously signed a petition sheet for this measure."*

"Text is available upon request from Chief Petitioners".

The League of Women Voters requests that you "DECLINE TO SIGN" these two petitions. We do not want these two proposed measures repealing needed legislation to qualify for the ballot.

Text of HB 2649 and HB 3405 available at:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2600.dir/hb2649.en.pdf>

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb3400.dir/hb3405.en.pdf>

Another Year of Good Books



The LWV Book Club plans another year of stimulating reading. Selections this year focus on other cultures, other times, and include books both current and classic. Dates, times and location will be announced in October. As always, discussions are open to all League members.

The books for the year are as follows: October: *The Eaves of Heaven: A Life in Three Wars*, Andrew X. Pham; November: *Lavinia*, Ursula LeGuin; December: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows; January: *People of the Book*, Geraldine Brooks; February: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, Muriel Barbery (translated by Alison Anderson); March: *Revolutionary Road*, Richard Yates; and April: *The Cunning Man*, Robertson Davies.

Volunteers: Needed for Fall Festival Table

We plan to have a booth at Fall Festival (Sept. 26 & 27) to register voters and provide information about League. If you can help staff the table for a couple of hours, either Saturday or Sunday, please call Nancy Roberts, 754-9108.





LWV Corvallis
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**Dates
 To
 Remember**

- September 1—LWVC Board Meeting
- September 3—Health Care Forum—Library
- September 15—Fall Kick-off Meeting
- September 26-27—Voter Registration
 —Fall Festival
- October—Grapefruit Fundraiser Begins
- October 6—LWVC Board Meeting
- October 13—General Meeting on
 Climate Change
- October 17—LWVOR Workshop – Eugene

The League maintains a list serve for meeting announcements and action alerts. If you are not receiving these and wish to receive these emails please send your email address to kranep@peak.org.



Join The League

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip+ 4 digits _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- ___ \$55 individual membership
- ___ \$82.50 household membership
- ___ \$27.50 student membership
- ___ Contribution*
- ___ I'm a new member! Please call.
- ___ I'm renewing my membership.
- ___ I'm interested in working with LWVC this year.
 Please call.

Membership in LWV Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages.

The membership year begins in October. Please make checks payable to the LWV Corvallis and mail to: LWV Corvallis, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679.

* Regular dues are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible. (See page 4)