



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

February 2014

Board of Directors 2013-2014

President

Ann Brodie

*First Vice President,
Program, Food Policy*
Annette Mills

*Second Vice President, Co-
chair Events & Membership*
Laura Lahm-Evenson

Secretary

Lois Marie Zaerr

Treasurer

Sara Ingle

Directors

Carolyn Brumley
Public Relations

Karyle Butcher
Housing

Paula Krane

Governance, List Serve

Kate Mathews

Voter Service

Shelly Murphy

Community Planning

Beth Thoennes

Bulletin Co-editor

Off Board

Corrine Gobeli

Co-chair Membership

Dagmar Johnson

Dental Project

Claudia Keith

Climate Change

Louise Marquering

*Taxing Districts, Fruit
Sale, Bulletin Co-editor*

Karen Nibler

Social Policy

Doris Waring

Event Arrangements

Janet Wolf-Eshe

Bulletin Mailing

Charlaine Beschta, Kate

Mathews, Annette Mills,

Tanya Shively, Mary

Youmans (Chair)

Nominating Committee

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.



Agriculture Study Update

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 7 – 8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue

Consensus meeting

We have the opportunity this month to influence the Agriculture Policy position of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. This re-study will update a position, reached years ago, to reflect current times. The LWVUS will use this new position to lobby Congress on important issues related to agriculture. League members are invited to participate in this month's consensus meeting as our local Agriculture Study Committee guides us in the consensus process.

Consensus is mutual agreement of League members, arrived at through discussion.

Consensus questions created by a study committee—in this case the national LWV—and approved by the LWV Board will provide structure for the meeting. Members will discuss the pros and cons on each question to determine whether consensus has or has not been reached. Each League will send its responses to the national League, where a committee analyzes them, looks for areas of member understanding and agreement and, using this information, creates a new position statement.

Please review the resource material and consensus questions included as Everymember material with this bulletin so that you can participate in this important discussion.

A consensus meeting is a good time to introduce a friend, neighbor, or family member to the League. Observing League's study and consensus process provides a window on our organization. We look forward to seeing you!

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Legislature 2014 Town Hall Meetings

Saturdays, February 8 and March 8, 10 AM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Our area's Legislators have been invited to the 2014 Town Hall Meetings—Senator Betsy Close, Representative Sarah Gelser, Representative Andy Olson, and Representative Jim Thompson. Legislators first will present their individual priorities and hopes for the session. Then the meeting will be open to audience questions, followed by time to meet with legislators one-on-one. Ann Smart will moderate the Town Hall on February 8; Tony Van Vliet will moderate on March 8. Corvallis-Benton County Public Library is our co-sponsor. The 2014 Short Legislative session runs from February 3 to March 9. (The short session is held in even-numbered years.) For legislative information, see the Legislature's website: www.leg.state.or.us/.



President's Corner – Ann Brodie

Our soup and planning meeting was a gastronomic treat, with a stimulating discussion. After considering many issues for study at the national level the group voted using “sticky dots” and indicated most interest in income inequality and international taxing policies. At the local level the group was most interested in housing issues including low and middle income and senior housing. Also at the

local level, the consensus was to continue the taxing district study. The board will consider these recommendations at the next board meeting.

The Nominating Committee is formulating our new slate of officers for next year. If you would like to be more actively involved in LWV by being on the board or chairing a committee, please contact Mary Youmans at 541-752-0802. Our active committees on climate change, taxing districts, local food, community planning and housing always welcome new members. The chairs to contact are listed on page 1 of this bulletin.

OSU Thrift Shop Note Our consignment number has reached its limit for now. Hold on to your donations! We can consign up to 15 items on each of two different days in a calendar week. For more information call Kate Mathews, our Thrift Shop volunteer at 541-754-1172.

As a new “Engaged Partner” we support the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. We also are co-sponsoring the educational meeting March 7 on “The Pacific Northwest as Fossil Fuel Export Corridor”.

The next few months are going to be very busy. I hope you can attend our informative, interesting meetings. We have two Saturday Legislature Town Halls in February and March, a consensus meeting this month on the agriculture update, a March higher education panel, a make-up evening for December's weather-postponed program, and an educational meeting on housing in April. Depending on the number of initiatives on the ballot and the primary election, there will be either one or two voter service forums in May, as well as League's annual meeting. Come join the fun!

LWV of Corvallis

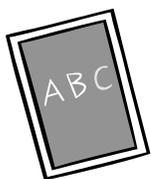
PO Box 1679
Corvallis OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

LWV of Oregon

1330 12th Street SE, Suite 200
Salem OR 97302
503-581-5722
E-mail: lwvor@lwvor.org
www.lwvor.org

LWV of the United States

1730 M Street NW,
Suite 1000
Washington DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965
FAX 202-429-0854
www.lwv.org



League 101 Continues Prior to General Meetings

Consensus, Concurrence, Positions and History

There are just two more opportunities this year to learn more about the ins and outs of League. Join us at 6:30 PM, before general meetings in the Main

Meeting Room of the Corvallis-Benton County Library to learn about the League of Women Voters. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and meet others. Everyone is welcome.

February 18: *The Study Process – Consensus, Concurrence, Positions, Action.* Paula Krane, past LWVOR president, LWVOR action pro

March 18: Honor Women's History Month with *A Brief History of League*, Jo Ann Trow, Life Member



This bulletin is the newsletter of the *League of Women Voters of Corvallis* and is produced 10 times a year.

If you have suggestions, comments, submissions, or story ideas for the Bulletin, contact Beth Thoennes or Louise Marquering. We welcome your input.

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.

Mark your calendar!

The Changing Course of Higher Education in Oregon

Tuesday, March 18th, 7-8:45 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave.

Our December general meeting, postponed due to snow, has been rescheduled.

Prepare to learn about changes by reviewing December's Bulletin and Everymember.



Community Planning Update

One More Chance for Public Input?

As you may have read in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, on January 6 the Corvallis City Council did not concur with its Planning Commission's recommendation to deny, but instead approved the Comprehensive Plan and zoning change request for the Campus Crest student housing development. They did, however, send the application back to the Planning Commission for advice on the conditions required for building. The following, from a memo from Community Development Director Ken Gibb, describes the next step:

Planning Commission Review of Campus Crest Planned Development And Subdivision Applications:

As directed by the City Council, the Planning Commission will review and discuss potential conditions of approval (in addition to the 44 staff recommended conditions) on January 29, 2014. Consistent with the Council decision, this review will be based on the existing record for the case and will not include additional public testimony.

The Planning Commission recommendation related to conditions of approval will be provided to the Council with the requirement that any new recommended conditions be subject to a re-opened public hearing at the City Council level. This public hearing and related testimony will be limited in scope to conditions necessary for the Council to find that the applications comply with the applicable review criteria for Planned Development Conceptual and Detailed Development Plan and Subdivision applications.

The tentative schedule includes the City Council public hearing on February 18, 2014.

Staff recommends that findings supporting the Council's January 6, 2014 tentative decision on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and corresponding Zone District Change applications be considered by the Council at the same time as findings regarding the PD Detailed Development Plan and Subdivision applications, i.e. in one package of findings. This is anticipated to occur at either the March 3 or March 17, 2014 City Council meeting subject to having adequate time to prepare formal findings.



Your Climate Change Committee

Let me introduce myself. I am Claudia Keith, a new League member since January 2013, and the new chair of a very new committee—the Climate Change Committee. With Annette Mills I represent the LWV on the Corvallis Climate Action Plan Task Force.

In 1976 I transferred from HP in Cupertino, California to Corvallis as one of a handful of finance professional staff members and about twenty professional women among the 200-300 HP folks transferring to the Corvallis area from 1975-1977. In 2002 I ended my 33-year HP career as a senior financial analyst.

I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis and I volunteer and am Secretary of the Board of the South Corvallis Food Bank. I'm an active member of Interfaith Health Care Network and 350 Corvallis.

For many years my partner Marilyn and I have respected the LWV as a bipartisan group focused on informing and educating the public and citizenship responsibilities.

It was when we read this December 7, 2012 message from LWVUS president Elizabeth McNamara that we immediately decided to join the League:

We Are Losing the Planet. I'm going to be blunt: People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it. It is time for President Obama to lead us through the greatest environmental challenge of our generation.

“Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They're a threat to our children's future. And we can do something about it.”

These are the words of President Obama, and we couldn't agree more. Now we need your help to ask him to use his existing authority under the Clean Air Act to set tough standards to control carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. . . . With climate change, we face deadly heat waves, droughts and killer storms like Hurricane Sandy. The health of our kids and seniors is threatened by lung damaging and asthma-attack inducing smog made worse by a warming planet. The world has known about climate change for decades, yet little has been done to address the issue. . . . If the United States doesn't lead, the rest of the world cannot follow.

We will introduce other members in future articles. We invite League members to join the Climate Change Committee. If you are interested, email Claudia Keith, ca.keith@comcast.net.



Housing Committee Update

The Housing Committee continues to create a list of people and organizations concerned with the issue of low and medium income housing in Corvallis. In this process, I checked to see if there was a comprehensive list but so far there appears not to be one.

Committee members Stebbins and Butcher met with Jim Moorefield, Executive Director of Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services, which works with people classified as low income. In Corvallis that is 80% or less of \$69,000 annually.

Issues from that conversation: 1) No recent update on buildable lands inventory makes it difficult to determine if part of the housing shortage is lack of land; 2) Building in Corvallis is economically risky; 3) Corvallis is one of a few cities that requires voters to approve annexations—this may be a good thing but it requires an investor to spend large sums of money prior to having approval to build; 4) It is possible—or should be possible—for the city to require high standards in development but remove some of the risk factors.

— Karyle Butcher, Housing Committee chair



On February 14, Celebrate LWV and the State of Oregon

First, League — On February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the national League of Women Voters was formally organized in Chicago. League's legislative goals were not exclusively on women's issues; citizen education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. The first League convention voted 69 statements of principle and legislative recommendations. Among them were protection for women and children, rights for working women, food supply and demand, social hygiene, the legal status of women, and American citizenship.

The League's first major national legislative success was passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs. In the 1930's, the League worked to enact the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts. At least in part due to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service.

During the post-war period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization; it still maintains official observer status today. Reviewing League's current programs and position shows how the League

continues work today on a multitude of issues that affect our world. That's worth celebrating!



Why Celebrate Oregon?

Oregon legislative politics has an interesting, often tumultuous, history. Great achievements and vast reforms

intertwine with fraud, bigamy and payoffs. Democrats, Know Nothings, Republicans, Progressives, Whigs, and the Ku Klux Klan are all part of our state's legislative heritage.

Oregon legislators grappled with issues such as election of U.S. senators, salmon, bicycle paths, exclusionary and anti-alien laws, the initiative and referendum, tax reform, the beach, and nuclear power.

Oregon and its legislative representatives can pride themselves in leading the nation by enacting laws in land use planning, bottle recycling, and preserving beaches for public use. Some years ago the bipartisan women's legislative caucus secured legislation on women's health issues, as well as laws prohibiting gender discrimination and guaranteeing gender equality.

— Cliff and Jo Anne Trow

(Partly from *Legislative Perspectives: A 150 Year History of the Oregon Legislatures from 1843 to 1993*, by Douglas Heider and David Dietz)

Coming March 10! Sustainability Fair & Town Hall

- Hands-on Exhibits by Local Businesses, Organizations, and Coalition Action Teams
 - Local Food, Local Music
- Town Hall Meeting — Vicki Robin keynotes, with insights from *Blessing the Hands That Feed Us*
 - “2013 Community Scrapbook” (includes LWV)
- Free, Register by March 5 at www.sustainablecorvallis.org. Information? 541-230-1237

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis is an “Engaged Partner” of the Sustainability Coalition.



Monday, February 10

Oregon State Library (across street from Capitol)

Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Oregon

Registration 9:30 AM – Workshop: 10 AM – 3 PM (lunch at noon)

Topics: Early Learning, Higher Education, Gun Safety, Background Checks, and Regional Solutions

Reports from LWVOR Action Coordinators

Registration – Must be received by February 3, 2014

Name _____ League (if member) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Workshop and lunch \$21.00. Box lunch: sandwich, salad, chips, and dessert. Choose: Turkey Roast Beef Vegetarian

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302

Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org. Register online and get map, parking info, and agenda at www.lwvor.org/day-at-the-legislature/.



Grant Applications Are Due February 15 for League Projects in May

Do you have a project for League that would address an unmet need? If it fits the guidelines and criteria, we encourage you to apply for a grant from our unrestricted memorial funds honoring long-time local members Kay Dick and Grace Phinney. Applications are received twice a year, in February and October.

Applications are due February 15 for project start-up in May and should be submitted to League President, Ann Brodie, who will forward them to the Review Committee. (Exceptions to the deadline can be made by the Review Committee.)

Proposals must answer all the questions on the Special Fund Grant Application form (online at www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/funds.php) and meet the approved expenditure guidelines and criteria below. Maximum grant is \$2500.

Expenditure Guidelines: LWVC special funds will be expended on projects, programs and services that: are consistent with the League's primary missions of education and advocacy, are related to local issues, take advantage of LWVC's unique capabilities, and strengthen LWVC.

Specific criteria and policies for spending funds on special programs, project and services are:

- **Funds will *only* be expended for LWVC.** Although other groups will not be funded, LWVC encourages partnerships with other entities in implementing projects. Such partner organizations generally should be non-profits, based in Benton County with a project mission related to League programs and/or positions.
- **Activities must be consistent** with League's mission of education and advocacy.
- **Consideration** by the Review Committee should be given to balancing funds between education and advocacy.
- **Activities should motivate** current members and encourage new members to participate.
- **Activities should strengthen** LWVC, including developing leadership capability.
- **Every proposal must have a committed project leader** and committee, a work plan and a budget. The identified Project Chair must be a LWVC member.
- **Projects should not duplicate or replicate** existing efforts, but should address unmet needs.
- **Activities should support** LWVC, local, state or national positions.



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

P.O. Box 1679
Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172
www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Corvallis OR
Permit #145



Register by Feb. 3 – LWVOR'S
February 10 Day at the Legislature

Join the League

Name _____

Address *City, Zip+4 digits* _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$60 individual membership _____ \$90 household

_____ \$30 student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

I would like to be considered:

Active _____ **Inactive Member / Supporter** _____

I first joined the League in _____ (year) _____ (place).

What special skills/talents/interests would you like to share with the League?

LWV's membership year begins in October.

Make checks payable to the LWV of Corvallis and mail to:

LWV of 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.



League Calendar

February

- Mon 3** Legislative Session begins
- Sat 8** Legislative Town Hall
- Mon 10** LWVOR Day at the Legislature
- Thu 13** Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Fri 14** LWV's 94th, Oregon's 155th birthdays
- Tue 18** Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting, 7PM

March

Women's History Month

- Sat 8** Legislative Town Hall
International Women's Day
- Mon 10** Sustainability Fair and Town Hall
- Mon 16- Sun 22** Sunshine Week
- Thu 13** Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 18** *General meeting*: Issues in Higher Ed, 7PM

April

- Thu 10** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 15** *General meeting*: Housing
- Tue 22** Earth Day