



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lww.corvallis.or.us

April 2014

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*The League of Women
Voters*, a nonpartisan
political organization
encourages the informed
and active participation of
citizens in government,
works to increase under-
standing of major public
policy issues and *influences*
public policy through
education and advocacy.



General Meeting

Putting People Before Profits
"THE HEALTHCARE MOVIE"

Tuesday, April 15, 7 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library
645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis

Facilitators, Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates Board Members—
Nadine Grzeskowiak, RN and Laurie Labbitt

This documentary provides the real story of how the health care systems in Canada and the United States evolved to be so completely different when at one point they were essentially the same.

Most people under the age of 50, in both countries, are not aware of the intensity of the political struggle that led to the universal medical care system in Canada. Nor are they aware of the public relations campaigns, still active today, that have been prevalent in the United States since the early 1900's to dissuade the public from supporting national health care.

Produced by Canadian-American couple Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, *The Healthcare Movie* reveals the personal and emotional impact on Canadians who now have access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand nearly 50 years ago. It also reveals the continuing struggle in the United States between the fear of government intervention and the right to quality health care for all people. See more at the website: thehealthcaremovie.net/home/articles/

Co-sponsored by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library



Save this date!

Wednesday, May 28, 6-9 PM

Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Speaker: Linda Modrell, Retiring Benton County Commissioner

Enjoy dinner and a chance to visit with other League members
Hear Commissioner Linda Modrell share her thoughts on 16 years in office
Attend to business at our annual business meeting



President's Corner – Ann Brodie

The March panel on Oregon's higher education did a stellar job of summarizing how the reorganization has been accomplished. Other topics discussed were distance education, the 40-40-20 goal, funding, role of the humanities, and measuring success in education. Currently Oregon employs fewer people than the U.S. average in full-time jobs in over half of the degree fields. Earning in nearly all fields for Oregon workers is less than the U.S. average. Our new educational model has the challenge of attaining greater success in the levels of high school graduation and the attainment of 2- and 4-year degrees.

Our Climate Change Committee has been very active in the last few months. They staffed a table at the Climate Change Summit in January, the Radical Reimagining Fair in February, and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Town Hall Meeting and Fair in March. At League's table there, each person was given 4 beans to vote for an issue of concern to them. The winning issue was Reforming Money in Politics. Thanks go to Claudia Keith and her committee for a great job!

The Health Care Movie, which we'll show on April 15, should elicit many questions from each of us. We will have facilitators from the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates to discuss and answer your questions. Plan to learn more about how health care could be improved.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on May 28!

LWV of Corvallis

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Membership Matters



Reminder: Initial dues are half-price for members joining the League after March 31. The League's full membership year begins in October.

Scholarships: The board is researching scholarships for membership dues. If you have experience or recommendations about scholarships from another League or organization, please send them to Corrine Gobel, 541-745-7736, gobelc@comcast.net.



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.



Martha Brookes 1932-2014

Longtime League member Martha Brookes passed away in late February. She was an editor for the U.S. Forest Service who brought her love of science and her love of language together and made a name for herself teaching scientists to write clearly. Even after retiring at age 70 she continued her work by teaching science writing at O.S.U. and freelancing.



Community Planning Update

Now is the Time to Speak Up

The City of Corvallis is currently in the process of considering amendments to its Land Development

Code (LDC). The LDC contains the detailed rules for implementation of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Many Corvallis residents received a notice of the March 19th Planning Commission hearing, as some of the code changes may affect a large number of residents. The League presented comments at this hearing. There will be another public hearing at the City Council after the Planning Commission makes its recommendations.

Eight of the proposed amendments came from the Corvallis/OSU Collaboration Neighborhood Planning Work Group and were supported by the Collaboration Steering Committee and the City Council.

Included are an exemption from the increased parking requirement for 4- and 5-bedroom “qualified affordable

housing” developments, and changing setback requirements and other rules for infill development in order to increase compatibility with existing neighborhoods.

Other proposed amendments deal with developing a process to facilitate changes in approved Planned Developments, as suggested by the Economic Development Commission; and streamlining some types of historic reviews. For details regarding the changes proposed go to the city’s Internet site: www.corvallisoregon.gov/codeamendments.

You are welcome to attend the League’s Community Planning Committee meetings and join in our spirited discussion. Please email Shelly at shellym@peak.org if you wish to receive notices and agendas.

Local Members on LWVOR Action Team



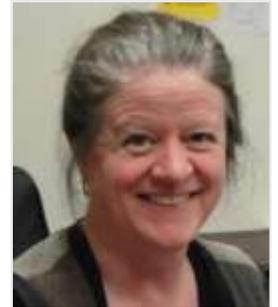
Paula Krane



Peggy Lynch



Karen Nibler



Theresa Gibney

Your League membership is not only in the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, but in the national League and the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR). Several members of our local League participate actively in LWVOR on its Action Coordinating Committee. They were hard at work in the 2014 Legislative session.

Paula Krane, Public Access, worked to maintain citizen access, adherence to rules and law, and fairness in the political process. Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator, followed about 50 of the almost three hundred bills filed this legislative session. Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator, followed bills relating to education, health care, human services, corrections, juvenile justice, and the judiciary. Theresa Gibney has been a Natural Resources Volunteer for the state League for the past four years. Due to her hard work, the League had a voice in a number of important energy bills. She also worked to assure that the public interest is protected as Oregon participates in the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange.



March 18 Higher Education Panel

Pictured, L-R: **Larry Flick**, Dean of OSU College of Education; **Jeff Davis**, LBCC Benton Center Director; **Tony Van Vliet**, former legislator and member of the State Board of Higher Education; and **Tim Nesbitt**, Higher Education Coordinating Commission Chair

What does 40-40-20 mean? It is the 2011 Legislature's affirmation in SB 253 of the educational goal that by 2025: 40% of adult Oregonians will hold a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree, 40% will

have an associate's degree or a meaningful postsecondary certificate, and *all* Oregonians will hold a high school diploma or equivalent (20).

Governor John Kitzhaber states, "I have called the 40-40-20 our North Star: a compass, a heading that we can be guided by. I don't underestimate the difficulty of achieving that. But together, I am confident that we can translate that aspirational vision into some tangible actions that will benefit Oregon and our children for years and years to come.

"To succeed in that, we must be investing in an educational system that is actually designed for the 21st century and one that is drawn to integrating our system from early childhood through primary and secondary education, through postsecondary education and training."

For more specific information, see the Oregon University System's site: www.ous.edu/partner/404020.



Sustainability Town Hall Attendees Vote "Eat Local"

A highlight of Sustainability Town Hall 2014 was voting for the Sustainability Coalition's next community-wide challenge. Facilitator

Annette Mills invited Town Hall attendees to select a food-related challenge. She presented three possibilities and asked participants to vote on their top priority:

1. **"Meatless Mondays"** campaign. The United Nations estimates that the meat industry generates nearly one-fifth of the human-made greenhouse gas emissions worldwide – far more than transportation. In addition, the water needs of livestock are tremendous, far above those of vegetables or grains. "Meatless Mondays" is now an international campaign in 24 countries. A "Meatless Mondays" campaign in Corvallis would also encourage meat-eaters to eat grass-fed, hormone-free, locally-raised meat and sustainable seafood on the other days of the week.

2. **"Eat 40% Local,"** food grown, made, or processed in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, or Polk counties. Fifty years ago, people in our community ate at least 40% of their food from this area. With the growth of our industrial food system, most people eat food that comes from all over the country and around the world. Corvallis' Community Sustainability Action Framework has a food goal of "40% local by 2020"— an ambitious goal, since only an estimated 7% of food consumed in our community comes from local

farmers and producers. Considering how much food is produced in our area throughout the year, it's entirely doable to eat 40% local, and is primarily a matter of learning what's available and changing habits.

3. **"Know Your Farmer or Producer,"** challenges community members to get to know at least one local farmer or food producer in 2014. By getting to know the farmers and food producers in our community, we can understand what they must deal with in terms of weather, labor, regulations, and the economic inequities in our industrialized food system. Seeing food production from the perspective of the local farmer or food producer, it's no mystery why local food can cost more than food at the supermarket that comes from far away.

Attendees then voted: 98 votes for Meatless Mondays, 154 for Eat 40% Local, and 42 for Know Your Farmer/Producer.

On March 11, Town Hall keynoter Vicki Robin led a workshop on "Transforming Our Local Food System," where many ideas emerged related to the Eat 40% Local Challenge. The Coalition's Food Action Team will collaborate with groups represented at the workshop to develop details of this newest challenge. The League's Local Food Committee was one of the co-sponsors of this workshop. (*Note:* Ours was the first League in the country to adopt a Local Food position.)

For more information about the *Eat 40% Local Challenge*, contact Annette Mills at 541-230-1237.



Climate Change Committee Seeks Links

The Climate Change Committee invites members to share, via this bulletin and by email, news relating to climate change, especially what Leagues across the country are doing. Here are some examples:

A League-supported ruling: Pennsylvania Supreme Court “In the Public Trust”

www.timesobserver.com/page/blogs.detail/display/470/Pa--court-strikes-down-zoning-limits-on-drilling.html. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared unconstitutional portions of the state’s oil and gas law that superseded local zoning, saying:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

“Forward on Climate” Rally www.lwv.org/blog/join-league-largest-climate-change-rally-history. LWVUS reports:

The League is thrilled that climate change is finally getting the attention it deserves. We have taken a number of steps in past months to address the issue. The work of League members and environmental advocates across the country resulted in nearly 3,000

grassroots letters sent to the White House in support of action to combat climate change. The League also launched a successful print ad campaign in the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* to encourage the President to take action. The League firmly believes that it’s time for the U.S. to take the lead on climate change.

See also:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=%20forwardonclimate&src=LeagueofWomenVoters>.

LWV Massachusetts Carbon Tax position

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts’ testified:

The relatively low cost of carbon based fuels encourages their use and stymies conservation and investment in clean, renewable energy development. H.2532 focuses on the demand side of the carbon equation by pricing carbon to reflect its true social cost, a cost that has been borne by, but hidden from the public.

Enacting a carbon tax would provide incentives to reduce use of carbon-based fuels, generate revenues for public transportation and clean-energy initiatives, and begin to address climate change issues, according to the testimony. The bill contains provisions to offset the impact of the carbon tax on lower-income households.

Complete statement at: <http://lwvma.org/league-of-women-voters-supports-carbon-tax-proposal/>

– *Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair, ca.keith@comcast.net*



A Few Ways to Observe Earth Day, April 22nd

Don’t use unnecessary plastic products. Try reusable bags, bottles, silverware, dishes, cleaning tools, and other alternatives to plastic.

Buy Local Produce—Save Nutrients and CO2. Three days after being picked most produce has lost a third of its original nutritional value. The average piece of produce sits for seven days in transit from farm to store and loses half its nutrients.

Reduce your Footprint. Consume less. For the past couple of decades human beings have consumed more resources annually than the Earth can replenish. Today we consume the equivalent of 1.5 planets’ worth of resources every year. Unless something changes, we are expected to consume 2 planets’ worth of resources by 2050!

End Junk Mail. *More than 100 million trees* are chopped down yearly to make the paper for junk mail. In the U.S. alone, nearly 4 million tons of junk mail are produced each year. Other adverse effects:

Creating and shipping junk mail produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 9 million cars each year. *About 28 billion gallons of water* are wasted to produce and recycle junk mail each year. *The pulp and paper industry* is the single largest consumer of water that is used in industrial activities in developed countries, and—after the chemical and steel industries—the third-largest industrial greenhouse gas emitter. *Landfills:* The average adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail each year and 44% of that mail goes directly to the landfill unopened. *Sign up with an organization* such as www.dmachoice.org or www.catalogchoice.org to remove your name from consumer mailing lists.



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Coming Soon!

"The Health Care Movie"

Tuesday, April 15, 7 PM
Corvallis-Benton County Library



LWV Calendar

April

- Thu 10** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM
- Tue 15** *General meeting: "The Health Care Movie," 7 PM*
- Tue 22** Earth Day

May

- Fri-Tue 2-6** Ballots mailed to voters
- Wed 7** Voter Service: Primary Election
- Thu 8** Board meeting, 2-4 PM
- Fri-Sat 16-17** LWVOR Council, Roseburg
- Tue 20** Primary Election Day
- Wed 28** LWV of Corvallis *Annual Meeting*, 6 PM

June

- Fri-Tue 6-10** LWVUS Convention, Dallas, Texas

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 _____ (*place*) _____ (*year*).

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

LWV's membership year begins in October. *New members joining after March 31 pay initial half-year dues.*

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.