



# League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.lww.corvallis.or.us

August 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 understanding of major public policy issues and
- influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## 2014 LWWUS Convention

Spending five days in Dallas, Texas in June, with more than 600 voting delegates from 47 states and D.C. was an awesome but exhausting event.

**Caucuses and presentations on climate change** were an exciting highlight. The convention approved a motion to support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, yet be rapid enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.



Ann Brodie and Claudia Keith, our delegates

**Restoring Voting Rights:** The LWW of Clackamas County moved, and the convention passed the motion, to advocate restoring federal election voting rights to released felons. The convention also adopted a position on human trafficking.

**Elisabeth MacNamara**, the League's re-elected national president challenged delegates in her acceptance speech: Our communities are stronger because the Leagues are there. Let's not be afraid to get in the way and make a difference on big money and campaign finance reform, redistricting, climate change and voters' rights.

Houston mayor Annise Parker and NPR reporter Wade Goodwyn gave a celebrity feel to our time. Thanks to the LWW of Corvallis for sending us to the national LWW convention; we encourage others to go in future years.

— Ann Brodie and Claudia Keith

## LWW of Oregon Council: May 16-17, 2014

The 2014 LWWOR Council was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley, in beautiful Roseburg, Oregon.

**Five Corvallis members** attended the Council: our delegates Laura Lahm Evenson and Claudia Keith, plus three members who are on the State League's Action Team, Paula Krane, Peggy Lynch, and Karen Nibler.

**"When Generations Collide"** was the talk by Patty M. Scott, Southwestern Oregon Community College President, as she analyzed the differences between generations and communicating more effectively between them.

**"We're Closer Than We Think"** was the talk by Tom Bowerman, Project Director of the Policy Interactive Climate & Public Policy Research Project. He discussed results of the third Oregon Values and Beliefs Survey, which surprisingly showed that a majority of Oregon's population shares a common vision on major issues. (Read their talks on the LWWOR website, [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org).)

**Attending Council is a good way to learn** how our state League works, meet state officers, and connect with other Leagues around the state. Think about going to the LWWOR Convention next year... it's a great way to get your feet wet! — Laura Lahm Evenson



## Co-President's Corner – Laura Lahm Evenson

While temperatures soar and people head for the beach and rivers, the LWV works! Claudia Keith and I got into state League business at the May LWVOR Council in Roseburg; Ann Brodie and Claudia Keith headed to Dallas to attend the June LWVUS Convention. (Reports on page 1.)

**Standing committees** such as Community Planning and Climate Change meet and work throughout the summer. The Community Planning

Committee testified to the Corvallis Planning Commission and the City Council on the proposed sale of Washington Park and financing parking for a riverfront hotel (neither proposal went through). Climate Change, with Claudia Keith, Annette Mills, and Marilyn Walker, joined by Kathy Conner, represented our local League in the Corvallis 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade (*photo, p.4*). What a great opportunity to raise our visibility in the community!

**Sub-committees of the Board**, preparing for its July 9 planning meeting, met to work on next year's calendar, membership issues, and criteria for coalitions and sponsorships. The day-long planning meeting was hosted by Sara Ingle. Thank you, Sara! We worked to see that our League continues to produce quality events, promote voter education and remain an active partner in our community. The Board approved the appointment of Paula Krane as Second Vice President, since that position had been unfilled at the Annual Meeting.

**This coming year is an election year** and League will have a higher profile making this a good time to recruit new members. While you are gardening, swimming, and enjoying family and friends take a moment to ponder if you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in the League. We would like to challenge each member to bring someone new to our Kick-off meeting on September 23rd.

Check our website—[www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us)—and read the bulletin to keep abreast of all the things your local League is doing and join us!



## Dues Assistance

In addition to individual, household, and student memberships, the LWV of Corvallis welcomes members who need assistance to pay annual dues.

Any League member may bring to the attention of the Membership Chair individuals who may need such assistance, or they may self-nominate. Assistance may be all or part of annual dues, depending on the person's ability to pay, and isn't available after March 31, when dues are half-price (our membership year begins in October).

Recipients should: 1) have an interest in the nonpartisan work of the League and uphold League principles; 2) attend an orientation meeting, if scheduled; 3) attend at least three general meetings during the year and participate in a study group or join in other League volunteer opportunities.

– Corrine Gobeli, Membership Chair

## Annual Meeting Workbooks Available

A few colorful, informative workbooks are still available. If you'd like one, please email me at [bakerbt@comcast.net](mailto:bakerbt@comcast.net) or call me at 541-752-7201.

If you *did* get a workbook, here's a correction: Kathy Merriam's photo on the back page was identified in error as Clara Shoemaker. – Beth Thoennes

## LWV of Corvallis

PO Box 1679  
Corvallis OR 97339-1679  
541-754-1172  
[www.lwv.corvallis.or.us](http://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](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org)  
[www.lwvor.org](http://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](http://www.lwv.org)



## Indoor work for summer days—

*Step 1:* Look through your address book for friends and relatives who'd enjoy a box of luscious grapefruit in December.

*Step 2:* Send their names and addresses to Louise Marquering our Fruit Fundraiser Chair, at [LWVCLouise@AOL.com](mailto:LWVCLouise@AOL.com), and she'll do the rest. Easy!

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

Contact Beth Thoennes or Louise Marquering with your suggestions, submissions, comments, or story ideas. We welcome your input.

Submissions are due no later than the 15th of the month.

Members subscribe through their dues. Membership in the League of Women Voters of Corvallis is open to men and women of all ages and includes membership in the League of Women Voters of Oregon and the League of Women Voters of the United States.



## Community Planning Update

### Public Input Has Helped Maintain Corvallis' Quality of Life

**Recently, the Community Planning Committee was astonished by two proposals**—1) selling City bonds for a

parking garage to be leased back to a riverfront hotel and 2) the sale of Washington Park for 300 Benton Center parking spaces—*because they were generated in executive session and slated for a vote without the input of appropriate commissions and boards or the public.* The League urged the Council to delay its vote until the citizenry had the opportunity to weigh in. After several public meetings, and many letters from community members warning of inadequate information concerning the financial risk, Council voted against selling bonds for the parking garage.

**And in a memo to the City Council**, the League expressed its opposition to the sale of Washington Park because we believe that Comprehensive Plan policies should be implemented. Corvallis Comprehensive Plan Policy 5.6.4 states, “Land that has been acquired for park purposes *shall* not be used for any other purposes unless the use is strictly temporary in nature and is compatible with park use.

Moreover, City Resolution 94-13 states, “Land dedicated for parks will have a restriction as follows: It cannot be sold.” The resolution contains a list of City parks to which this statement refers; the list includes Washington Park. Over 50 citizens attended a meeting at the Benton Center on July 15, and most expressed opposition to the sale. As a result LBCC officials withdrew their request to buy the park.

Though we opposed the sale of a park, League supports the expansion of the Benton Center, and proposed the following in our memo:

**“League strongly suggests that what is needed is a full and open public process, using a professional facilitator, that includes all stakeholders.**

“What has been missing in the discussion up to now is any public or citizen involvement in the matter. This is an issue of such essential community interest for Corvallis that the focus must now necessarily turn to **public participation and serious, meaningful, involvement of the community** before decisions can be finalized.

“At a minimum, a group to initiate the discussion should include the following:

- A representative of the Corvallis Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board
- Representative(s) of the surrounding neighborhood
- Representative(s) of LBCC
- Representative of Good Samaritan Health
- City representative—Parks Director Karen Emery, a city councilor, and/or City Manager Jim Patterson
- Representative of the League of Women Voters.”

**The next Community Planning Committee meeting** will be on **Tuesday, August 12 at 3 PM.** All are welcome. Email [shellym@peak.org](mailto:shellym@peak.org) if you would like to receive an agenda.

– Shelly Murphy, *Community Planning Chair*

**Craig Leman, 1923-2014.** Longtime Corvallis League member Craig B. Leman, MD died July 13 in Corvallis. After graduating from medical school, Leman, his wife Nancy, and their family moved to Corvallis in 1957. Dr. Leman was active in our community and one of the drivers behind the local ban on public smoking. He was involved in local organizations and causes from cultural, environmental, health, and musical to political. For details, search “Leman” at [www.gazettetimes.com](http://www.gazettetimes.com).

**Roxana D. Bodine, 1920-2014.** Roxana Bodine, a longtime member and leader in the LWV of Corvallis, died on May 18. She served as 2nd Vice President from 1988-1990, and Treasurer from 1990-1996. She also led unit meetings, worked on study committees and voter registration, and was a charter member of League’s book club. Using the mimeograph, she printed the bulletin for many years and later did its mailing. Roxana serves us still as an example of a dedicated League member.

# WELCOME!

New Members

Judy Ball, Mercedes Engle, Leonard Higgins, Aaron Kratzer, Yaney MacIver, and Mina McDaniel



## Climate Change at LWWUS Convention

Three caucuses, a round table discussion, and a workshop addressed climate change at the LWWUS convention. They culminated in passage of a resolution promoting an economic approach to change fossil fuel dependency:

**“The LWWUS should support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system.”**

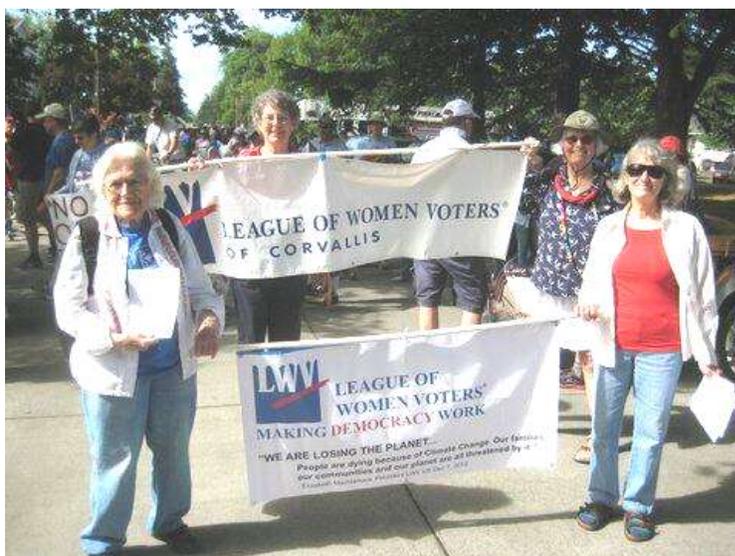
**We were urged to work on climate change**, using League’s Climate Change Toolkit,\* with action plans and resources for League members to:

- Help people in our community learn what they can do at the individual and household levels to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint
- Work with the community to set emissions-reduction goals, then develop and implement a plan to achieve them,
- Build grassroots support for strong action on climate change at the state and federal levels, including eventual ratification of an effective international climate agreement.

\*[www.participate.lww.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content\\_item\\_KEY=3766](http://www.participate.lww.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3766)

Keep up-to-date **with** LWWUS work on global climate change at [www.lww.org/issues/global-climate-change](http://www.lww.org/issues/global-climate-change).

– Claudia Keith, Climate Change Chair



Kathy Conner, Marilyn Walker, Claudia Keith, and Annette Mills with League banners in the *Fabulous, Fantastic, Anyone Can Join Fourth of July Parade* that ran through downtown Corvallis



## 10 Ways the League of Women Voters Makes Democracy Work

*Elisabeth MacNamara, President, League of Women Voters of the United States*

In 1920, suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters (LWWUS) to democratize the vote. Here are ten ways that League has worked to strengthen democracy in the past year:

1. **Successfully fought to** preserve the “Motor Voter” landmark voting registration legislation.
2. **Helped lead the fight** to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965.
3. **Fought voter suppression efforts** across the states by publishing op-eds, participating in protests and rallies and holding community meetings.
4. **Pushed for gun control legislation** at state and federal levels, because curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety and public health.

Full text at: [www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/10-ways-the-league-of-wom\\_b\\_4434665.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/10-ways-the-league-of-wom_b_4434665.html).

5. **Encouraged the administration** to take the lead in reducing carbon pollution from power plants, the single largest source of carbon pollution in our country.

6. **Pushed Congress** for comprehensive immigration reform.

7. **Helped register 58,000** voters in 2013.

8. **The League continues to hold the President** to his 2012 promise to address voting system problems.

9. **The League is dedicated** to reforming the nation’s campaign finance system.

10. **Educated voters and equipped them with** our nationwide online voter education resource, VOTE411.org.

**Carrie Chapman Catt said**, “Service to a just cause rewards the worker with more real happiness and satisfaction than any other venture of life.” We’re doing everything we can to advance one of the most just causes—strengthening our nation, our electoral process, and making democracy work.



## New! LWWUS Position on Federal Agriculture Policies

The most recent LWWUS study updated our agriculture position to supplement the existing position adopted in 1988. On May 15, 2014, the LWWUS Board approved the new [Position on Federal Agriculture Policies](#), based on responses from 243 state and local Leagues.

The study committee produced excellent materials and local Leagues demonstrated amazing creativity in the process. We had widespread participation and a clear consensus on a complex issue. Leagues embraced it and used it not just to expand member understanding of the issue, but to explore modern agriculture in their own communities. In Corvallis, the League had both an October panel on the future of agriculture and a February consensus meeting.

### *LWWUS Statement of Position*

**The League believes that government** should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

**Subsidized crop yield insurance** should be linked to implementation of best management practices with the subsidy denied for marginal or environmentally sensitive land. The premium subsidy for crop insurance should be available for a wide range of crops, such as fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Government should limit the amount of the premium subsidy received by larger farms.

**The League supports policies that increase** competition in agricultural markets. Antitrust laws should be enforced to ensure competitive agricultural markets. Alternative marketing systems such as regional hub markets, farmers' markets and farmer cooperatives should be promoted.

**Clean air and water regulations** should apply to all animal and aquaculture production and processing facilities, and not just to the very large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Such regulations should be designed in a manner that takes into account environmentally sound technologies and the scale of the operation being regulated. Small size operations should not be granted automatic exemption from regulation.

The League believes that government regulatory agencies dealing with animal and aquaculture production should have adequate authority and funding to 1) enforce regulations, and 2) gather information that supports monitoring the impacts of all animal feeding and aquaculture operations on human and animal health and the environment.

**Government should fund basic research** related to agriculture. Government funded research should also address the impact of new technologies on human health and the environment prior to widespread adoption of products developed with such technologies. Assessment of products

developed with new technologies should be conducted as transparently as possible, while respecting intellectual property rights. Research should be funded to support the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems, such as seed banking and promoting and preserving genetic diversity.

**To provide adequate safety** of our food supply, government should:

- Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market;
- Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- Require post-market monitoring of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquaculture production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;
- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

**The League supports government developing** and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists.

**The League supports consumer education** about labeling of foods developed using any new technology.

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**Elections  
 Ahead!  
 Stop, Look,  
 and Listen!**



**LWV Calendar**

August

*Happy Summer!*

September

- Thu 11** Board Meeting, 2-4PM
- Wed 17** Constitution Day
- Tue 23** Kick-Off Meeting, 7 PM, Library  
 National Voter Registration Day

October

- Thu 9** Board Meeting, 2-4PM
- Tue, Wed, Thu 14, 15, 23** Candidate and Ballot  
 Measure Forums, 7 PM, Library

**Join the League**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** *City, Zip+4 digits* \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$60 individual membership    \_\_\_\_ \$90 household

\_\_\_\_ \$30 student    \_\_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_\_ Contribution\*

\_\_\_\_ *I need dues assistance to join the League, please contact me.*

*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. *Those joining after March 31<sup>st</sup> pay 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.