



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWW.corvallis.or.us

December 2014

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Charlaine Beschta, Annette Mills, Shelly Murphy, Tanya Shively, Mary Youmans (Chair)



Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

Tuesday, December 9
7:00 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Library

645 NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis



Do you know where to get information during a health emergency, a flood, an earthquake, a wildfire, a landslide, or a winter storm?

Do you know how to shut off utilities in an emergency?

Do you know what to do when there is a power outage, a shortage of clean water, or when the sewer system is broken?

Do you know about the Linn-Benton Emergency Alert Notification System?

Answers to these questions and MORE will be provided by:

Lt. Clay Stephens, Benton County Emergency Program Manager

Douglas Baily, Corvallis Fire Department Planning and Administration Division Chief

Chris Bentley, Benton County Community Development

Mary King, Benton County Sheriff's Search and Rescue

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Add Your Voice: City Manager Recruitment Surveys Available, Due Dec. 7

The city has posted a survey questionnaire at www.corvallisoregon.gov (click on "city manager recruitment" on the home page), seeking citizen input for recruitment of a new City Manager. The survey is available in English and Spanish; paper copies (in both languages) are available at City Hall, and the lobby of the Corvallis- Benton County Public Library.

Completed surveys can be returned to drop boxes at both locations or mailed to City Hall, P.O. Box 1083, Corvallis, OR 97339, Attn. Carrie Mullens. The survey will remain online through December 7, with completed questionnaires due on that date.

In addition, a town hall meeting will be held at 6:30 PM December 3 at the library. The format will feature participants being divided into small groups and led by facilitators.

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.



Co-President's Corner – Ann Brodie

Benton County outshone the nation and Oregon on voter turnout! All the votes are not counted so the numbers will increase, but now our turnout is **74.2%** vs. **52%** for Oregon and **36.4%** for the US average!

Many thanks to all who helped get out the vote, coordinating the candidate forums and also educating the voters about our initiatives.

The team of Paula Krane, Kate Mathews and Joanne Trow gave us an enthusiastic evaluation of the initiatives. The election forum committee of Annette Mills, Jan Ames, Joan Canan, and Cathy Frischmann, along with our moderators Ann Smart and Jacque Schreck did a wonderful job of informing us of the candidates' positions. Joan Canan was especially diligent at distributing Voter Guides. We can be proud of our efforts, undoubtedly it made an impact!

Housing Options: As its title indicated, our November 18 meeting presented many options for affordable housing. Karyle Butcher organized an awesome panel that touched on a myriad of ideas. Many thanks to Karyle and her committee!

Don't forget to put on your calendar our Community Planning Committee's Emergency Preparedness program on December 9. Details for that meeting are on the front page. The Oregon Coal to Clean Energy Forum has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 at the Corvallis Benton County library.

It is so wonderful to have our premium grapefruits and oranges for festive holiday dining. Many thanks to Louise Marquering for coordinating the sale, Beth Thoennes for storage, and the many people who work on unloading and delivering.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday!

Donate via PayPal on LWV Website

Now you can make donations to the League of Women Voters of Corvallis through PayPal. Just click the "Donate" button at the top of our page, lwv.corvallis.or.us.

The website will be refined to include the ability to pay dues online via PayPal and (next year) to buy grapefruit.

Like Us on Facebook!

Our Facebook page is [LWV Corvallis](https://www.facebook.com/LWVCorvallis). Take a look to see what's happening and "like" us! Check out our Events list. Judy Ball, who administers the page, welcomes input at BALLJK@aol.com.

Mark your calendar: Tuesday, January 8, 2015, 6PM Soup & Sociability State & Local League Program Planning

Think ahead to program planning: What would you like to see the state and local Leagues do in the near future? We'll enjoy a delicious soup supper, prepared by Board members, followed by consideration of programs for LWV of Corvallis 2015-2016 and LWV of Oregon 2015-2017. Look for details in your January bulletin.



LWV of Corvallis

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Facebook – LWVCorvallis

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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.



WELCOME!

**New Member
Jen Akeroyd**



Help Wanted to Unload and/or Deliver Fruit December 6-8

Soon we will hear the exact arrival date for hundreds of boxes of oranges and grapefruit. Now we need to hear WHO will unload them from the truck and deliver to those who ordered them.

The fruit truck's arrival in Corvallis will be sometime between December 6th and 8th. To volunteer, contact Louise Marquering at 541-753-0012 or LWVCLouise@AOL.com.



Coal to Clean Energy Forum Rescheduled: December 17th, 6:30 PM

Come to the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Wednesday, December 17, for this important forum. Learn your role in Oregon's transition from coal to clean energy.

See more at: www.climatesolutions.org/article/1415664061-coal-clean-energy-forums-corvallis-and-portland#sthash.SWnoQ4RW.dpuf.

Membership Matters



Dues and PMP—Per Member Payments

Each year our local league is assessed a specific amount for each member by state and national Leagues to fund their operations. For 2014-2015, these assessments, or per member payments (PMPs) for LWV of Oregon are \$27.50 for each individual member, with \$13.75 for each additional household or student member. For the LWV of the U.S there is a \$31.00 PMP. This leaves \$1.50 per member for local League operations. Our PMP assessments will be based on the number of members of record on January 31, 2015.

However, each League can defray up to 20% of its state PMPs and up to 50% of its national PMPs with tax

deductible donations to the respective Education Funds (LWVOR EF or LWVUS EF), paid with separate checks and sent to our local treasurer, Sara Ingle. These donations not only help us meet our PMP obligations but they also fund the critical educational mission and activities of the League. We appreciate your Education Fund donations, which defray the PMP assessments, leaving more dues available for local League operations.

Thanks to all who have joined League or renewed your memberships. Our apologies for forgetting to put red dots on the bulletins of those who haven't yet paid—we'll try again this month. — *Corrine Gobel, Membership Chair*



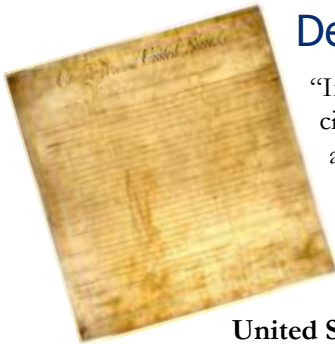
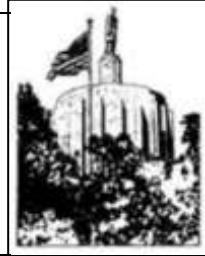
Betty Griffiths Sept. 23, 1940 — Nov. 18, 2014

League member Betty Griffiths, 74, of Corvallis recently passed away of pancreatic cancer. Betty and her husband Bob (also an LWV member) moved to Corvallis in 1968. She was a City Council member for Ward 8 from 1993-2006, helped to found the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and was active in environmental issues, especially the Greenbelt Land Trust.

Betty actively participated in our League's Community Planning Committee, and provided a wealth of background from her civic activities. The League and our community are richer for Betty's presence and poorer for her absence. We extend our condolences to her husband and family.

Save the Date: Legislative Process Day, Tuesday, January 13

Legislative Process Day is now being planned by LWVOR's action team. It will be held on January 13th at the Capitol in Salem, Hearing Room 50. Registration will be sent to members and will also be on www.LWVOR.org around December 18.



December 15 is Bill of Rights Day: Read and Reflect on It

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects whatever was and never will be. It is our duty as citizens of a democracy to become informed citizens. And understanding the foundations of our legal and political system is a necessary step in that process.” – *Thomas Jefferson to Charles Yancey, January 6, 1816*

First Amendment to the United States Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Second Amendment to the United States Constitution

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Third Amendment to the United States Constitution

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness

against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



November 18: Full House for Corvallis Housing Options

Speakers gave varied, well-prepared views to a full room at League's November housing program.

Ken Gibb began the program with a discussion of the work the city is doing with the firm ECONorthwest. The firm is working with a city council committee—Hal Brauner, Dan Brown and Mike Beilstein (who was at the program) to determine what factors cause employees who work in Corvallis to live outside of the city limits. Ken distributed a fact sheet outlining phase one and phase two of the project. Review the report at www.corvallisoregon.gov.

Sue Long, President of the Willamette Association of Realtors was the next panelist. She pointed out that improving the stock of housing for low income and working families was about choices. There is land available for housing but it is currently zoned commercial or industrial. This could be changed. She noted that city policies and processes can make development a cumbersome procedure: her example was needing citizen approval of annexation and how this process creates uncertainty for a builder. She ended by saying the land development code is perhaps overly proscriptive and needs to be updated to be more in synch with today's housing needs.

John Miller, director of Oregon Opportunity Network, described a number of programs in place in the Portland area that enable a great variety and stock of housing for low income and working families. Reduced parking permits, system development/fee waivers, community land trust and limited tax exemption were examples of how Portland supports development. John distributed an *Affordable Housing Toolkit*, which detailed these and other programs. (Google Oregon Opportunity Network for this and other information.)

Jim Moorefield, Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services, described some of the programs his organization has in place to increase housing for low and working families. He noted that the population of Corvallis is growing both in size and ethnicity. He also commented on the concern of many that OSU students are flooding the housing market. Jim noted that the large student housing developments may not be popular but they do keep people from turning family homes into student housing. He also noted that while many would like OSU students to live on campus, doing so removes property tax funds from the city while using city services.

A lively question and answer period followed, moderated by Karyle Butcher, LWV's Housing Committee Chair.

— Karyle Butcher



Carbon Tax Forum Educates and Motivates

Panel members as listed below, right to left; and Annette Mills, LWV First Vice President, at podium.

November 20th, about 150 came to OSU's Linus Pauling Science Center for the League's forum, "Combating Climate Change: Will a carbon tax fly in Oregon?"

Three different perspectives on carbon pricing were explored by our panelists: *Legal* - Nancy Shurtz, University of Oregon Law School professor, *Economics* - Jeff Renfro, senior economist and Jenny Liu, assistant director of the Northwest Economic Research Center), and *Public Policy* - Kirstin Eberhard, senior researcher at Sightline Institute.

Two of the primary questions addressed were:

- 1) Where has a carbon tax been implemented and how is it working?
- 2) How should the revenues from a carbon tax be spent?

Following the panelists' informative presentations, the audience asked a wide range of questions, which were ably and articulately addressed by the panelists. The only question our panel wasn't able to answer was the last one: "What are the chances of a carbon tax bill being passed in the 2015 Oregon legislature?" That question was a good lead-in to the final part of the program, in which audience members were asked to turn to their neighbors to share their responses to what they had learned and to share what action they plan to take as a result.

League member Louise Ferrell said, "I took away two points.

1) The carbon tax has not damaged the economy of British Columbia, and 2) a carbon tax by itself will not take Oregon to the CO2 goal which Oregon has adopted . . . necessary but not sufficient."

Our major co-sponsor for the program was OSU's School of History, Religion, & Philosophy. We would like to thank Dr. Mina Carson for making the room arrangements and for having the program videotaped. A link to the video of the program will be posted to the LWV of Corvallis website and LWV Corvallis Facebook pages soon – check there to see it.



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Emergency Preparation

Are You Ready?

Tuesday, December 9, 7 PM, Library



League Calendar

December

- Wed 3** Town Hall: City Manager, 6:30 PM, Library
- Tue 9** General Meeting: Emergency Preparedness, 7 PM, Library
- Thu 11** Board Meeting, 2-4PM
- Mon 15** Bill of Rights Day
- Wed 17** Coal-Clean Energy Forum, 6:30 PM, Library

January

- Fri 9** Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday
- Mon 12** Legislative Assembly opens
- Tue 13** Soup Dinner/Program Planning, 6 PM, Unitarian Fellowship
- Tue 13** Legislative Process Day, Salem
- Thu 15** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM

February

- Mon 2** Legislative session begins
- Sat 7** Legislative Town Hall, 10 AM
- Thu 12** Board Meeting, 2-4 PM

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

We rely on our members to keep LWV vital. May we call you when we need volunteers? _____ Yes

How would you like to be involved with the League this year?

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 LWVOR Education Fund, paid by a separate check, are tax-deductible.