



League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Serving Benton County

www.LWV.corvallis.or.us

January 2021

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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.

TOWN HALL WEBINAR:

GUARANTEED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

ORS chapter 629 (SB 770) Universal Health Care Task Force, *Racial Justice, Covid-19*



Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Register to get zoom link: mvhca.org

Spanish interpretation will be available.

We invite you to attend a virtual town hall to learn what is being done in Oregon to solve the serious problems in our health care system and learn what more is needed. The panelists will answer

questions from participants.

Moderator: Jason J. Dorsette, President-Elect of NAACP Corvallis, OSU Doctoral student in educational policy and equity.

Panelists:

- **Ed Junkins**, MD, MPH, Vice Chair of Oregon’s Universal Health Care Task Force (UHCTF), Corvallis City Councilor, Assoc. Dean College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.
- **Deborah Riddick**, JD, RN, Member of the UHCTF, Director of Government Relations, Oregon Nurses Association
- **Marty Wilde**, Member of the UHCTF and Oregon State Representative, District 11
- **Dan Rayfield**, Co-Chair of Joint Ways and Means Committee, Oregon State Representative, District 16
- **Olivia Quiroz**, Executive Director of Oregon Latino Health Coalition

Nearly one in three Americans go without adequate health care and face financial hardship because of health care costs. Hardship has dramatically increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address these problems, the Oregon Legislature in 2019 created the Universal Health Care Task Force (ORS Chapter 629 [SB 770]). The Task Force is now in the process of designing a state-based universal health care system that will guarantee access to health care for all Oregonians. Learn about the Task Force and follow its work on the Oregon Health Authority Office of Health Policy website.

Sponsors:

Casa Latinos Unidos
 Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
 Health Care for All Oregon, Albany
 League of Women Voters of Corvallis
 League of Women Voters of Linn County

Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance
 Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates
 NAACP Corvallis/Albany
 Rural Organizing Project

*President's Corner***Reflections on our League Impact in 2020**

Well, that was a year! What began as a year ripe with possibility and celebrations surrounding the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote ended up being a year of reflection and growth like no other. Amidst a pandemic, political upheaval, protests for social justice, and an unprecedented election, we will not soon forget the lessons that 2020 has bestowed upon us.

As I reflect on the last year, I am filled with gratitude for all of the people who make the League function, and inspired by how our League has adapted to a year of virtual education and advocacy. Some of my favorite memories from the last year include:

Honoring the 19th Amendment: While our original plans for year-long celebrations evolved to adapt in a virtual world, this year we still gathered for:

- an inspiring Centennial Celebration with Leagues across the state in Salem,
- we held space to discuss the history of exclusion in the suffrage movement, and
- we learned about the history of suffrage in Oregon.

Transformation in the League: In response to the League's centennial, I am inspired by the conversations that our board has had about ways to transform, adapt, and grow - so that the League is a thriving organization in another 100 years.

Homelessness in Corvallis: This year the League spoke up, time and again, for the safety and health of those in our community without access to housing. I am proud of the League's leadership and voice in advocating for emergency solutions to warming, hygiene, and camping.

There are countless individuals whose contributions have powered the League over the last year - from committee chairs, to speakers, community partners, and volunteers overseeing the day-to-day operations. I would like to convey special gold stars to a few people whose contributions shone especially bright this year:

Camille Freitag: With a steady head, Camille pivoted during a busy election year, to bring all election forums and candidate interviews into a virtual setting. This is no small feat, and it is a testament to her work that you would never guess how much coordination goes on behind the scenes!

Angel Harris: Not only has Angel been a tremendous partner as the President of the NAACP Corvallis/Albany Branch, but she has also been a friend. From providing perspective at the committee level to championing co-sponsored programs with the League, Angel's leadership has been an asset to all in our community.

Louise Marquering: Do you know what it takes to manage an annual fundraiser? Louise does! As the coordinator of the League's fruit sale, Louise oversees every detail of your League's biggest fundraiser. And this year she somehow even managed to sell more fruit and raise more funds than ever before.

Paula Krane: As co-host of the state's Centennial Celebration, Paula worked every day for months to create a festive, fun, and inspiring program. And succeed she did! What a wonderful way to kick-start the year, alongside League members from across the state.

I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your League year. What stands out to you? What were some of your most memorable moments? Whose faces stand out to you? I look forward to the new lessons that 2021 will unveil (including vaccines!). Thank you for adapting and learning alongside us, League friend.

Happy New Year!

Jessica McDonald, President

LWV of Corvallis

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This is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Corvallis, which is produced nine to ten times a year.

Contact Ann Schaubert, annschauber@gmail.com, with suggestions, comments, submissions, 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. A membership form is on the last page.

Know Your City 2021



Do you ever wonder...

- *How our emergency management system is working?*
- *Who you call if you get food poisoning from eating at a restaurant?*
- *Where our water comes from and do we have enough?*
- *How you can reduce you water utility bill?*

The League of Women Voters of Corvallis and the City of Corvallis invite all community residents to two evening talks where these questions and more will be answered.

Thursdays in January from 7 – 8:30 PM

Virtual via Zoom

Jan. 21 - City Services/County Services:

Who do you call?

- Mark Shepard, Corvallis City Manager
- Joseph Kerby, Benton County Administrator

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85713541985>

Jan. 28 - Corvallis Water:

Operation and maintenance of the drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems.

- Tom Hubbard, Corvallis Water Utility Manager

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86589947882>

*Housing Committee 2020 Accomplishments***Committee Addresses Spectrum of Affordable Housing Needs**

There was no lull for the Housing Committee this year! With a work plan that included revisioning our position statement to address the spectrum of affordable housing needs, updating the League's Homelessness in Corvallis and Benton County report, and exploring the systemic racism of historical housing policies in the US, we did not let a pandemic stop us from the front-line need for housing for all.

Central to the Committee's concerns this year have been support for those without housing, by advocating for multi-pronged solutions to homelessness, including managed camping, warming centers, shelters and transitional housing. The pandemic has exposed the gaping needs for shelter and basic health services, as shelters reduced capacity limits at night to comply with COVID regulations and facilities like the library closed to the public, reducing access to warmth during the day.

Recent advocacy has centered around the critical need for managed camping, to provide safe places for those outdoors to relocate out of sensitive floodplains and riparian areas. This temporary, sanctioned camping site provides elevated platforms for tents, ready access to hygiene services and day-warming facilities. While managed camping is not a silver bullet solution, the Committee sees this as a direct opportunity to provide services to some of those most vulnerable in our community.

We saw a win with the City Council's approval in December to allow a managed camping and winter warming site in Corvallis, and will continue to advocate for solutions that focus on the health, shelter, and safety of all.

If this work sounds like something you are interested in, reach out - the Housing Committee could use your voice!

Jessica McDonald, Housing Committee Member

**Quoting Louise: "Best Fruit Sale Ever!"**

We sold **551** boxes compared to 500 last year. Donations to LWV were \$1,145 compared to the previous high of \$911. Forty-one boxes were purchased for donation to the various food banks compared to 29 last year.

Thank you to League of Women Voters from the community
Many people thanked the League for the work that LWV of Corvallis does all year long. There were also many thanks expressed for selling grapefruit and oranges.

Thanks to the team that makes this a success.

- The group that folds, stuffs envelopes and stamps them for mailing, Jan Ames, Elinor Griffiths and Marge Stevens.
- Beth and Harvey Thoennes for allowing us to invade their garage for a few of days when the fruit is delivered to Corvallis.
- The team of young men who unload the fruit from the truck Philip Thoennes, Michael Thoennes, Matt Thoennes, Steve Farrell, Patrick Nwafor, and Aidan, Dominic and Simeon Arthur.
- The deliverers and their partners who brought joy to homes all over Corvallis: Arthur Family, Charlaine Beschta, Ann and Doug Brodie, Joan Canan, Marcia Cutler, Charlyn Ellis and Mark Boyd, Laura and Dave Evenson, Steve Farrell and his mother, Louise, Sara Ingle, Dagmar Johnson, Paula Krane, Kate Mathews, DeAnn McClusky, Suzanne Ortiz, Jo Overton, Suzy Pelican, Alice Rampton, Mary and Russ Youmans. Special deliveries were made by Patricia Parcels, Ann Schaubert, Marge Stevens and Mike Beilstein.
- Big thanks to Dennis Marquering who hauled over a ton of fruit boxes from the Thoennes house to the Marquering house and puts up with phone calls and doorbell rings.

Louise Marquering

We Vote on New Programs in May

Add Your Voice to Add New Local and State Programs

Wednesday, January 27, noon

Zoom: <http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us/events>

Our annual program-planning meeting gives our members an opportunity to propose new work for our State and our local league. Areas of consideration include:

- Recommending issues for study to create a position.
- Expanding our local positions.
- Update and restudy a current position.
- Create an emphasis on a current position
- Consider recommending issues for state study

Welcome New and Returning Members

We are delighted to share that our local league has grown by 24 households this year! Welcome to our newest members: Elisabeth Anderson, Ann Van Zee, Kali Odell, Allison Liesse, Michael DeLollis, Carolyn Ottow, Alan & Jane Helfen, Esther Schiedel, Roberta Smith and Nancy Russo. Welcome back to Nancy Demchak and Patricia Parcells!

Dues Now Overdue!

An email has been sent to anyone who has not paid their dues. Our roster has to be updated with LWVUS in January so we appreciate your prompt payment. Dues can be sent to our post office box (LWV of Corvallis P.O. Box 1679, Corvallis 97339) or you can pay using PayPal on our website (www.lwv.corvallis.or.us).

Housing Committee Puts Together and Distributes Gift Bags to Homeless



In November members of the Housing Committee gathered donations of items for some of the folks living on our streets. The items included things that would provide some protection from the cold such as socks, knit caps, scarves and gloves. Each bag also had hygiene items and some snacks. This is the second year in a row the committee has done this work - again in partnership with Housing First. The bags are distributed through the local outreach program that tries to connect the individuals with needed services.

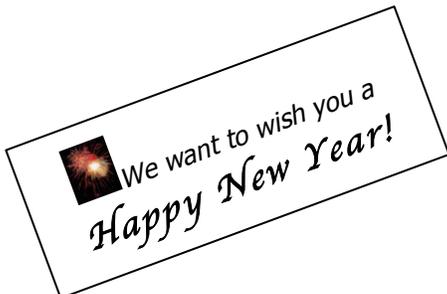




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LWVCorvallis



LWV Calendar

All Meetings are on Zoom

January

- Wed 6 Board Meeting, 4 pm
- Wed 6 Guaranteed Access to Health Care, 7pm (pg 1)
- Thu 21 Know Your City, City/County Services, 7 pm (pg 3)
- Wed 27 Annual Program Planning Meeting, noon, (pg 5)
- Thu 28 Know Your City, Everything about Water, 7 pm (pg 3)

Join the League of Women Voters

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip+4digits _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ \$60 Individual Membership _____ \$90 Household

_____ \$15 Student _____ Renewal _____ Contribution*

_____ Dues assistance information to help you join the League of Women Voters

I would like to be considered:

Active _____ Inactive Member / Supporter _____

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

What special skills/talents/interests can you share with League?

LWV's membership year begins **October 1**.

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 BUT contributions to LWVOR or the LWVUS Education Fund, paid with a separate check, are deductible.