



VOTER

LWVOR Convention 2013 Adopts Education Program

Karan Kuntz, Program Chair

Delegates to the League of Women Voters of Oregon Convention 2013, May 17-19, engaged in a lively discussion of program for the 2013- 2015 biennium. Attendees approved the motion to allow consideration of more than one study. The Restudy of Postsecondary Education, recommended by the LWVOR board, was adopted as a three-year study with the scope to be determined during the first year. The initial scope follows:

Scope: Review our Public Postsecondary Education position with the idea of changing or deleting points that are no longer valid or do not make sense in today's world. Examine the unique roles and interrelationships of community colleges, the four-year regional universities and the three comprehensive universities. Examine the governor's plan for a continuum of pre-K through graduate education and examine how the 2013 Legislature considered the role of postsecondary education in the continuum. Examine how all the postsecondary levels are funded. Develop comparison criteria and compare Oregon's higher education outcomes with other successful states.

Although a number of delegates expressed willingness to work on this study, additional members and a chair or co-chairs are needed.

(Continued on page 3.)



LWVOR Board of Directors

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VOTER Editor: Karan Kuntz

LWVOR Mission

The League of Women Voters® of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide. The state League's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

LWVOR Raffle 2013

Raffle winners were drawn at convention on Saturday night at about 7:45pm. The first drawing was for the iPad 3 and was won by Judi Umaki (Clackamas). The second drawing was for the iPad Mini and was won by Marty Bankhead, a non-member. Carol Ventgen (Coos) won the Barnes and Noble Nook HD+. Congratulations to all!

Top ticket sellers were Jay Medley (Clackamas) who sold 56 tickets and Janet Calvert (Lane) sold 54! Big thanks go to those phenomenal sales directors! Thank you to all members and local Leagues for your sales, which will benefit LWVOR directly and your Leagues.

Local Leagues who will receive raffle dividends are in alphabetical order Clackamas, Coos, Corvallis, Curry, East Multnomah, Marion/Polk, and Portland. Thank YOU for your participation in this very important fundraiser for LWVOR.

Unfortunately, LWVOR is more difficult fund because it is a 501(c)(4). This fact is stimulus to combine the state's 501(c)(3) with LWVOR's (c)(4) tax-exempt status, but for now we must do fundraising of some kind to help pay the bills and keep us moving forward. The Development Committee welcomes your financial and development ideas and suggestions and can be communicated to the office staff or Robin.

Visit the LWV Clearinghouse!

Share Your Study! Find a Study! Looking for inspiration for program planning? Don't want to reinvent the wheel for your study kit? Curious how other Leagues have approached a tough issue?

Visit <http://clearinghouse.lwv.org/> to see League studies from across the country.

Local Leagues have the opportunity to share their study materials with the rest of the nation by uploading links to their studies on the LWV Clearinghouse. You may contact Mary Sinclair (m.sinclair@lwvor.org) or Norman Turrill (lwvturrill@mac.com) for more information.

WE WILL MISS YOU!

Mike Taylor

Many of you Leaguers may not be aware that Rebecca Smith, Executive Administrator, is leaving our Salem office in August to pursue a master's degree at Portland State. In 1999, a sharp young lady with a 3-year old daughter was looking for a challenging part-time position so she could spend time with her daughter, Sierra. At the same time our Salem office needed someone to "take over" and get things done. It was, as they say, a "match made in heaven."

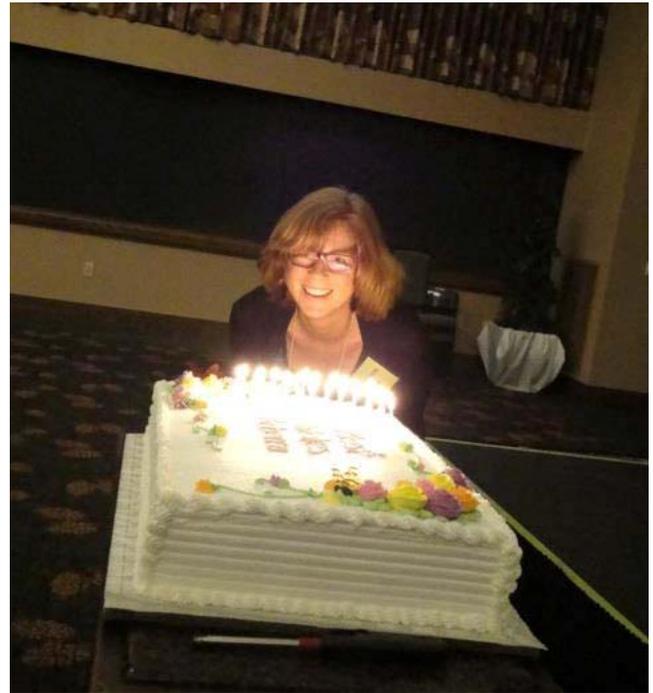
Rebecca was hired and trained by President Paula Krane, and then supported and oriented the four following League presidents, fourteen Boards, and literally hundreds of League volunteers, all the while with a smile and a persistence for excellence. The League opportunity gave her the ability to participate in Sierra's school functions from pre-school right up to but not including her prom.

Sierra's prom was last Saturday, the night the State Convention was honoring Rebecca in North Bend. Hopefully she has lots of pictures!

The League presented Rebecca with cake, cards and a weekend trip for her and her husband Christopher in Seattle. With Sierra soon at Willamette University, Rebecca can join Christopher in Portland as she earns a master's degree in Communications.

Thank you, Rebecca, from your fellow Leaguers, and we wish you the success you deserve.

~From the Board of Directors 2011-2013



Convention 2013 honors Rebecca Smith

Help Rename the Members' Site!

LWVUS is rebuilding the Members' Site -- it will be full of tools, resources and materials you have come to expect from LWVUS, plus it will have the added component of a collaborative community with which to share your ideas by being connected to the Forums. **And this new and improved site – it deserves a good name!** Unlike Shakespeare, we don't think this particular rose will smell as sweet with just any name. Got a good idea for a new name? Share it with LWV in the "What's in a Name?" game → <http://www.lwv.org/content/whats-name-suggest-name-members-site>.

President's Column / **Robin Wisdom**

Hello League Leaders and Activists,

Thank you for re-electing me at Convention as LWVOR president for another two years. It is such an honor to serve in this capacity, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I also have a great board to work with. Welcome to new board members Fran Mazzara (Clackamas), Janet Calvert (Lane) and Anne Emmons (West Umatilla County MAL). Also thank you to continuing board members, Alice Bartelt, Becky Gladstone, Mike Taylor, and Karan Kuntz. 2013-2014 is going to be a super year!



Board members who are retiring from the board are Rose Lewis (Marion/Polk), Betsy Pratt (Portland) and Mary Sinclair (Rogue Valley). All will be missed but will also still be engaged in numerous ways. Mary will continue to work with Heather Drake (Clackamas) on Vote411 and the new national League project called '*Who Represents You?*' We will report on their progress periodically.

The state board retreat is in Sunriver this year at Karan Kuntz's home from June 11 to 13. LWVUS Council is from June 14 to 17 in Washington, D.C. and will be attended by Becky Gladstone and myself.

The board will take some time off this summer, but keep the embers glowing. While we take a little R & R here and there, we will also be minding League business.

I wish you all a very restful and interesting summer. Many thanks for all the insightful and inspiring work you do for the League and the world.

Yours,

Robin Wisdom

"You all sure make it fun to be a volunteer! You are organized; you approve and edit and recommend quickly and efficiently; you share appreciation often and sincerely; you have understandable and reasonable processes. And you provide GREAT mentors to those of us who are shadowing/learning. Wow!"

~ Theresa Gibney, New Action Volunteer

Convention Program (continued)

The LWVOR recommended that the Children at Risk study, approved at the previous convention, be cancelled because of failure to find a chair and committee. However, a possible chair came forward at convention and a number of League members expressed interest in participating in this study. After considerable discussion, the delegates voted to readopt this two-year study. The scope follows:

Scope: A two year study to research all governmental agency programs and services for at risk children, ages zero to third grade. The legislature is currently changing the Oregon Commission on Children and Families and establishing a new state prevention services for children agency, under the education umbrella. Services could include childcare, preschool education, health care, mental health, child welfare, and family preservation.

Participation on a study committee can be one of the most rewarding of League experiences. One works with members from around the state, learns new material, and meets with experts in the field. Often, studies provide the opportunity for fascinating field trips. I have been fortunate to participate in two state studies. As a member of the Judiciary study, I had the great experience of traveling around eastern Oregon with committee chair Barbara Fredericks, interviewing chief justices and court administrators. During the coastal management study, the whole committee spent 3 days on the Oregon coast to interview important people in that field. I count these experiences as some of my best memories. Please consider participating on one of our new studies. Current technology such as computer based GoToMeeting and

conference calls allows for long distance participation, thus enabling participation from anywhere in the state. Anyone interested in participating in one of these studies please contact Karan Kuntz, k.kuntz@lwvor.org or the LWVOR office, lwvor@lwvor.org.

Local Leagues can anticipate online material from the national League's Agricultural update in September. LWVUS projects that consensus results will be due in April 2014. The LWV website states "The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process." The study is chaired by Norman Turrill, a Portland League member and member of the national board. Committee member Marnie Lonsdale, also a Portland League member, suggests that local Leagues might investigate agricultural issues in Oregon since some practices in our state differ significantly from other areas of the country.

LWV Forums

Visit

<http://forum.lwv.org/user?destination=node/264> to find out more about the LWV Forums. This new system replaces the older version that was a group of listservs. Check it out. You may like it. And it will keep you informed of some of the issues facing the League nationwide.

Breakfast at North Bend

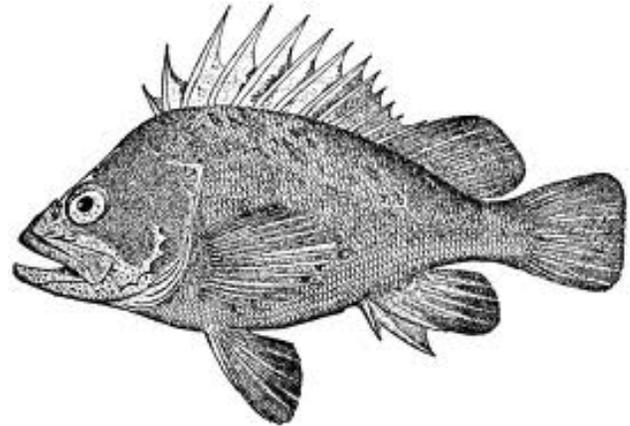
Janet Calvert

Big old fat fertile females (fish) are just what marine scientists are looking for in the five Oregon marine reserves established in 2012. BOFFF rockfish produce more and healthier young than smaller females and are just one indicator that the health of the ocean within the Marine Reserves is improving.

Convention delegates heard about the science, the laws, the compromises and the "on the boat" experiences from a few of the key people who helped craft the Marine Reserve and Preserve legislation. Robin Hartmann, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, emphasized the importance of the broad coalition that spearheaded the struggle to find common ground among all ocean users. Dr. Alan Shanks of the U of O's Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, gave a very understandable explanation of the of basic data essential to understand, for example, why in one year there are lots of baby fish and in another, almost none. The cost of collecting the data is high. A NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, fish counting survey costs \$20,000- \$30,000 per day.

Jeff Miles, a Port Orford fisherman, who at first doubted the usefulness of Marine Reserves, related that after studying the science presented, and experiencing smaller catches of smaller fish, concluded that Marine Reserves were needed to keep the fishing industry and his community viable. His experiences in advocating and negotiating for the reserves with many in the fishing industry sounded much like the early conflicts over enactment of Oregon's land uses laws. Although his fishing catch has improved, he has taken 10 percent reduction in his income, but remains a strong supporter of the Marine Reserve concept.

Susan Allen of Our Ocean discussed "Oregon's Legacy of Ocean Stewardship" detailing the development of Marine Reserves and explaining how a healthier ocean improves and sustains marine life, birds and mammals, including humans.



Greysmith Elevated to a New Position

Robin Wisdom

Kathy Greysmith, formerly our Administrative Services Manager, has been elevated to Administrative Manager: Financial and Advocacy Support starting June 1st.

We welcome Kathy as our new lead position as Rebecca Smith, current Executive Administrator, leaves our employment at the end of July. We cannot say Kathy is "replacing" Rebecca, as that is impossible. But Kathy will take on many of Rebecca's tasks especially while overseeing and training a new employee that we are advertising to hire.

(Continued on page 7)

Greysmith (Continued)

Recognizing this was Rebecca's last year as our Executive Administrator, the Human Resources team of Betsy Pratt, Alice Bartelt, Mike Taylor, Rose Lewis and Robin Wisdom met monthly and often more frequently beginning in October 2012. A few meetings were held via conference call and but most meetings were face to face in Salem.

At first the team spent some time on visioning. We investigated how other League offices are organized and discussed different possibilities. And the staff gave useful input throughout the process. Eventually, the group decided to move towards an 'equal' job sharing staff. After a training period, staff would be fully conversant with each other's job duties and how to perform them. At the same time, one position will specialize in technology and education matters, while the other will perform as the legislative aid and support financial reporting.

After the visioning and planning period, the HR committee then got busy crafting a new position description and hiring and training timelines, meeting with the staff, and continuing to discuss changes we could make now to meet future League needs. The plan we arrived at is to hire a new technology-minded person to assist with website editing, voter service and the education side of the League, while Kathy will specialize in supporting the action team, development and finances. Kathy and Rebecca will train the new person, who is hopefully hired by mid-June.

When you get a chance please congratulate Kathy on her new position. The state board is elated to elevate her to this new job and level of responsibility. Please help us in thanking Kathy for her exemplary work that she does for the League!

After this monumental task of hiring and training a new person, the HR committee's

next step will be to prepare to hire a part time development person. Funding has been received specifically for such a hiring from the Saling Foundation this year.

Local Leagues will continue to talk to Kathy about membership and action issues. If you have questions, please ask one of the staff or a board member.

In Memory of Ruth McFarland

Many of you may remember Ruth McFarland, an active East Multnomah County League member in the 1970s. She served as an Oregon State Senator from 1981-84 and Portland Metro Councilor from 1989-98. She was one of LWVOR's Distinguished Service Award Honorees for 1995, as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations. Ruth passed away in the summer of 2012, but it was just recently brought to our attention. Following is an excerpt about Ruth from our history book *More Power than We Knew*,* published in 2012:

Convention 1977 was honored by guest speaker Ruth Clusen (LWVUS President), who spoke of the progress being made to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). A major campaign to secure ERA ratification by March 1979 was adopted at LWVUS Council with the condition that each state League was to raise an amount equal to \$10.00 per member. Accordingly, our LWVOR delegates pledged \$20,000 to this campaign, with the understanding that the funds would come from innovative fundraising activities beyond normal funding sources.

In the heat of the moment during the Convention, a spontaneous auction was held, with delegates taking turns offering items for bid. *(Continued on page 8.)*

Ruth McFarland (Continued)

The June-July Bulletin features a photo of Ruth McFarland (EMCO) holding up a "Trust in God and she will prevail" pin for \$25.00, payable to the ERA Fund. This auction brought in several hundred dollars and kicked off our state ERA fundraising, which culminated in over \$21,000 being raised by Oregon local Leagues as of September 1978. Unfortunately, while the Oregon League met its pledge, the ratification failed to pass the required number of state legislatures by the deadline.

We honor the spirit with which Ruth offered her energy to the League and to those issues for which she was passionate. To read her obituary, go to:

<http://www.goldendalesentinel.com/story/2012/06/13/obituaries/ruth-mcfarland/884.html>.

*To purchase a copy of *More Power than We Knew*, please contact the LWVOR office at lwvor@lwvor.org or 503-581-5722. The cost is \$12.00 plus shipping.



President Robin Wisdom's Closing Convention Message

This weekend is not just about the League. It's not just about membership numbers or the official PMP count.

Today is also about women's place in our society. Women and girls are severely threatened even today in this 21st century even in our "civilized" society. But I still have faith in people. The League and those who also carry the torch along with us will be heard and society will advance. It is right to stand up for women and children because they are not fairly represented. We stand up for the voiceless, for the disenfranchised and the poor, no matter who they are, no matter what sex they are or whether or not they live in tract homes, mobile homes, prisons, or don't have homes.

The League is a vehicle to act out our inner longings. In our heart of hearts we believe in the mission of the League – that is to protect and include everyone – legislatively and governmentally. Basically, we seek fairness for all.

We must continue the good fight. While I see progress, we are still surrounded by those who would limit us or worse. But I choose to fight with intelligence and clear thinking, with a pen and with a voice, with knowledge of the past, reason, and a vision of the future, and without remuneration.

Let us proceed together!

Willamette Basin Reservoir Study

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator for State Action Team

Natural resources issues go on all year long, not just during the legislative session.

Agency Boards and Commissions meet, publish reports and provide a plethora of information on a wide variety of environmental issues. The Willamette Basin Reservoir Study is one.

From Cottage Grove and Oakridge all the way to Portland, the Willamette flows, with many rivers adding to its volume. In the late 1930s, thirteen federal reservoirs in the middle and upper Willamette Basin were authorized for construction. The dams were built from 1941 to 1969, with Fern Ridge Dam near Eugene being rebuilt in 2005. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is authorized to issue stored water contracts for irrigation, but less than 5% of the total storage is currently under contract. Of course, recreational use of the reservoirs is significant.

In 1996, the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study began. In 2008, the Willamette Biological Opinion (BiOp) was released that addresses in stream needs for fish, wildlife and water quality. Dams on the North Santiam, Middle Fork Willamette and McKenzie Rivers block more than 400 miles of streams. Basin-wide, wild spring Chinook runs, estimated at 300,000 before the dams were built, are down to 10,000 today. Also, because the dams are so high, water temperature varies from the top to bottom and fish ladders are almost impossible to construct. One solution has been the construction of temperature control towers. But challenges continue.

A Small-Scale Reallocation Study has begun to consider reallocation of up to 499 acre-feet of storage for municipal and industrial uses.

This would add these uses to the agricultural irrigation use now allowed. It would take Congressional action. Any reallocation would also have to consider the BiOp.

Although the Willamette Basin represents only 14% of the land area in the state, it is the heart of the state's economy and home to more than 70% of Oregon residents. Since this project may affect many League members, local Leagues might want to contact the Oregon Water Resources Department or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ask for a program on this important study.

The Willamette River Basin



A Fond Goodbye

Rebecca Smith

As many of you know, I will be leaving at the end of July after 14 years as office manager and then executive administrator of the LWV of Oregon. This has been a wonderful experience for me, and I'd like you to know what it has meant to me to be a part of this organization.

You have shown me that as the years go by, I can be doing the same things that I'm doing right now: I can be active, I can make a difference, and I will continue to care about making the world a better place.

You've been my friends and allies, celebrating my joys and sharing my sorrows, supporting my life outside the League as well as in it.

You listen. Like a typical League member, I have lots of opinions and I like to speak up. You have shown me that all opinions are valued, including mine.

You have allowed me to grow as a person, continually offering me opportunities to learn new things. In fact, it is because of the League that I am starting my new path. Without the ability to explore and the support of you all, I would not have discovered the passion I have for communications.

So, what am I doing in the future? First, I will attend the Graduate School of Communications at Portland State University and earn a master's in communications. I have been granted an assistantship, so will be working hard both on schoolwork and assisting a professor. I will be spending my days in class, reading, writing, and missing you all some too.

What do I plan to do with my new knowledge and credentials? It is my hope to be employed in a communications position at a nonprofit in the Portland area. In particular, I would like to work with organizations that empower people, work toward peaceful solutions to solve problems, and create healthy and sustainable environments. I plan to help nonprofits create effective messages to make their work more easily understood and successful. I will continue to work with social media, no doubt, and I am sure I will be doing many more things I can't even imagine yet!

I will remember all my experiences with you with great fondness. Each of you that I've been fortunate to interact with has shared something special with me. I am taking a small piece of each of you into my new life. I know as I face challenges and triumphs, you will be right by my side in spirit.

Thank you.

LWVOR is looking for your suggestions for a new state League project. Please send your ideas! A survey can be found on the next page.

A Survey on Your Vision of the League's Future

One of LWVOR's current goals is to develop a new external project that will fit with and complement what the League already does. The project must have measurable outcomes to be fundable, which is part of the goal. We need your input. This is not a plan for local Leagues. This is a plan for the state League which could involve local Leagues if they so choose.

Definition: Civic Education- the cultivation among the public of the qualities, knowledge, and skills necessary for political participation. A civic education project could involve training or informing the community, perhaps with partners, have Internet components, and be an ongoing project we can add to.

1) If you could choose a good project for LWVOR to take on as a statewide public project, what would it be?

- A civic education subject
- A Voter Service subject, i.e., Vote411.org, *Video Voters' Guide*, *Voters' Guide*, or online *Who Represents You*
- Statewide voter registration in various places around the state in 2014
- Education on: _____ (fill in with whatever inspires you)

Please elaborate.

3) Would you like to see the state League develop more civic education programs?

- Yes No

Why? _____

4) Would you publicize and/or attend a public "How to take back public discourse" training workshop if it contained a well thought out presentation including your own copy of the *New York Times* bestseller "Don't Think of An Elephant", hands on activities and opportunities for follow-up support?

- Yes No

Why: _____

5) What specific projects, subjects or ideas related to civic education can you suggest that would fit into League education?

2) A series of workshops is often attractive to local communities. What theme would you choose for a series?

8) Is there anything else you like the League to do visibly in the community either at a state or local League level?

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

6) In what way do you see the League being able to contribute to our communities in the future that is unique and impactful?

7) What image do you want the League to have in the eyes of the public?

9) What is the biggest issue facing Oregonians today on which you feel we can have an impact? What would you suggest we do to create that impact?

10) What topic(s) are you passionate about (League or other)?

11) What should the League be doing differently in one year? In five years?

Your name & email address (optional): _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill this out. Your input is invaluable!

Spring Into Summer with MLD

Pam Ashland, MLD Coordinator

Oregon is gaining a new national Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) co-coach who will be joining Sarah Diefendorf – Linda Mahan. Linda Mahan grew up in the St. Louis area and after college in Ohio, began a career in teaching in Boston. Following graduate school at BU Linda moved to Colorado in 1979 where she quickly was invited to "join the League" in Fort Collins. In addition to leadership roles in the League of Larimer County and seven years on the LWVCO Board, Linda has enjoyed networking on health care with Leaguers and working in many other organizations related to health care, youth, the arts and her faith community. Linda's life has been further enriched through hosting international students and living abroad for three years with her family. Her educational background and League experience equipped Linda to teach English as a second language in France, Belgium and Nepal and most recently conduct civic education programs in Nepal and India. Linda and her husband raised their two sons in Fort Collins and continue to appreciate biking, camping and hiking in the outdoor playground. Linda will be joining us on state coach monthly conference calls soon. Don't worry, we're not losing Sarah, but gaining Linda on our MLD team!

All state coaches will be continuing into the second year of the program. Pamela and Janet Calvert (as membership chair for the board) will be working on combining the programs so that MLD will continue through the years.

Although no coaches will be replaced, your local liaisons may change. There is an ongoing discussion of how that transition will take place, with some thought as to the future when new coaches come on board.

Sarah's afternoon MLD presentation at Convention is online and available for download in the Members' section on the LWVOR Convention 2013 web page. For login help, please call the office.



Sarah Diefendorf addresses Convention 2013

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In This Issue:

LWVOR 2013-2015 Program	1
LWVOR Raffle 2013	2
Visit the LWV Clearinghouse	2
We Will Miss You!	3
Rename the Members' Site	3
President's Column	4
LWV Forums	5
Breakfast at North Bend	6
Greysmith Elevated to New Position	6
In Memory of Ruth McFarland	7
Robin's Convention Message	8
Willamette River Basin Study	9
A Fond Goodbye	10
League's Future Survey	11
Spring Into Summer with MLD	13