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League of Women Voters of Oregon

VOTER

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**Printer-Friendly
Version**

Voter Service Fall 2014

Betsy Pratt, Voter Service Chair

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The production of the various versions of our *Voters' Guides* happened because of many League members' volunteer efforts to design, research, edit, proofread, and distribute guides as well as contribute to the funding through local budget planning and donations. We are certainly thankful for everyone who assisted or contributed.

For the 2014 General Election, we produced the standard, Easy Read, Spanish, Braille, audio, online/electronic, and Vote411 versions of the *Voters' Guides*. (See Table on page 4 for overall costs). We are very grateful to our partner, Disability Rights Oregon (DRO), who made it possible for us to produce the Easy Read and Spanish Guides at no cost to local Leagues. We also appreciate the support of Talking Books and Braille Services, which funded the Braille and audio versions.

The standard guide cost approximately \$.18/copy. We have informed the local League of their share of those printing expenses, and Ruth Kistler, state League Treasurer, is coordinating the reimbursement process. We are also asking the local Leagues to share information about their voter service activities for the fall so we can learn where our services need to be adjusted.



Voter Service Team: Mary Sinclair, Marianne Germond, Betsy Pratt and Becky Gladstone

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VOTER editor is 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.

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We concluded our voter service activities for 2014 with a debriefing meeting on November 7, 2014, that included a representative from DRO who confirmed their interest in partnering with the League in the future. Although we met most of our targets, a few problems arose this fall. First, DRO did not confirm their funding commitment to the Spanish guides until late in September so we were not able to arrange a significant distribution or publicity drive.

Second, our ballot measure research also encountered difficulties. We had several factual errors, which were identified in time to change the on-line version but not the printed versions. Marianne Germond wants to revise her ballot measure research guidance to avoid this problem in the future. Then, we received complaints that we had not presented the issues fairly (Measure 90, the Top Two Election being the primary target). We tried to explain that we do our ballot measure research in August to meet our production schedules, so we use what information is available - and do check with proponents and opponents. The sponsors and opponents then spend the next two months revisiting and refining their arguments, so it is not surprising that new concerns or objections might arise. That is why we encourage League members participating in local Speakers' Bureaus to look at other information sources, such as newspaper articles and editorials, as they prepare their presentations.

Finally, our major concern is that we have no way of knowing whether our *Voters' Guides* are disseminated and used effectively, although we suspect they are not. We ran only a limited PR campaign this fall, partly due to resource constraints but also because we can't tell what mechanisms work. We believe that the standard guide may not be worth producing in the future in its printed format, although we would still create it for on-line use and as the content source for the other guides. The Easy Read version seems to be more popular these days with most audiences.

As an action plan, we want to solicit further input from the local Leagues, develop better written guidance for the next voter service team, and connect further with the Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division to see if we can improve both our services and theirs.

	State Standard Version			
	Delivery	Quantity	Printing*	LL Total
Clackamas	\$ 64.27	700	\$ 124.33	\$ 188.60
Coos	\$ 51.50	500	\$ 88.81	\$ 140.31
Corvallis	\$ 89.10	900	\$ 159.86	\$ 248.96
Curry	\$24.70	200	\$ 35.52	\$ 60.22
Deschutes	\$ 46.50	500	\$ 88.81	\$ 135.31
Lane	\$106.40	1,900	\$ 337.48	\$ 443.88
Lincoln	\$41.70	300	\$ 53.29	\$ 94.99
Linn	\$ 22.89	125	\$ 22.20	\$ 45.09
LWVOR/Marion	\$ 80.00	1,000	\$ 177.62	\$ 257.62
Portland*	\$ 203.38	10,000	\$ 1,776.20	\$1,979.58

Rogue Valley	\$ 49.20	300	\$ 53.29	\$ 102.49
Umatilla MAL	\$ 18.07	100	\$ 17.76	\$ 35.83
Umpqua	\$ 57.56	350	\$ 62.17	\$ 119.73
LWV Total	\$ 855.27	16,875	\$ 2,997.33	\$ 3,852.60
*The Portland League also produced a Multnomah County Guide with the following costs (total expense \$5,373.91):				
Mult.Cty Guide	\$ 377.88	10,000	\$ 3,016.45	\$ 3,394.33

For a better view of the table below, [click here](#).

Cost by Partner	Fall 2014 Election								Subtotal Print Versions	Audio Version OR	Braille Version OR	Partner Total
	Std Guide OR	Large Print OR	Easy Read OR	Spanish OR	Mult Cty Std	Mult. Cty Easy Read	Mult. Cty Spanish					
Quantity	16,875	300	8,400	3,500	10,000	3,850	3,850		Approx 500	9		
LWV OR*	\$3,852.60							\$ 3,852.60			\$ 3,852.60	
DRO Printing			\$ 2,969.62	\$ 2,231.26		\$2,931.20	\$2,036.97	\$10,169.05			\$10,169.05	
DRO Translation				\$ 1,200.00				\$ 1,200.00			\$ 1,200.00	
DRO Total											\$11,369.05	
Talking Books & Braille Services		\$2,089.23						\$ 2,089.23	\$1,530.11	\$550.53	\$ 4,169.87	
LWV Portland					\$3,394.33			\$ 3,394.33			\$3,394.33	
Product Total	\$3,852.60	\$ 2,089.23	\$ 2,969.62	\$ 3,431.26	\$3,394.33	\$2,931.20	\$2,036.97	\$20,705.21	\$1,530.11	\$550.53	\$22,785.85	

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Comparing Vote411.org and PollVault

Mary Sinclair, LWVOR Technology Chair, and Becky Gladstone, LWVOREF Chair

Were you able to try our [PollVault](#) test run this fall? Here's some background. PollVault is similar to [Vote411.org](#), which we subscribe to for a fee, from LWVUS. Vote411 is run by a vendor, eThePEople, which supplies other customers, like *The Oregonian*, their voters' guide. We use it to manage our candidate and ballot measure information for our *Voters' Guides* and the indexes you saw on our [VOTEResources](#) page. Both Vote411 and PollVault can show you your personal ballot choices. On PollVault, LWVOREF gathered data is on the profile page, and you can also compare many different organizations endorsements for ballot measures and candidates. You can post your choices and find out how your Facebook friends, for example, feel. This could be a very effective way to engage voting discussions for social media users.

We will be comparing these two, from our experience with Vote411 for several years, and this fall's PollVault test trial. We found it much easier to use PollVault as site administrators. We heard from users that PollVault was easier for them to use, too. We look forward to hearing what LWVUS thinks of our trial run in Oregon and will share results with you.

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President's Column / Robin Wisdom

Somewhere along the line we have not kept up with leadership training. I suppose we get board training more on the job nowadays. But that is really not enough. Again, this is where MLD - Membership and Leadership Development - tie in. At a recent workshop I attended, I learned some good leadership advice that I thought you might enjoy reading and sharing with your boards.



The Five Practices of Leadership:

- 1) Picture what you want - what is your personal vision of the organization? What's your passion? You must be able to tell a story about it. Translate your vision into a story.
- 2) Challenge the process! Ask why are we doing this? Ask questions, stretch yourself, take risks. Help people ask tough questions.
- 3) Enable others to act - help others be successful. Treat people with respect. Disagree respectfully. Offer decision choices.
- 4) Model the way - Walk the Talk. Keep your promises. Overloading burns people out.
- 5) Encourage the heart - leadership is about relationship and caring.

I enjoyed the Fall Workshop, and I hope you did as well. About 40 people networked and learned, and there were informative speakers. Be sure to check out the Fall Workshop web page to be aware of all of the resources posted there. <http://www.lwvor.org/events/fall-workshop-2014/>. Thank you for attending and being informed on multiple League levels.

I hope to see you at the Legislative Process Day on Tuesday, January 13 at the Capitol. Come and be informed! It's always exciting to connect with our Action Team in person at the Capitol and meet legislators and movers and shakers. Reserve early as there's only room for about 100. I'll meet you there!

Happy Holidays!

Yours,

Robin Wisdom



National MLD Coach, Penney Van Vleet (center) with Leaguers Norman Turrill, Libby Medley, Janet Calvert and Pam Ashland at Fall Workshop

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EF Notes November 2014

Becky Gladstone, EF Chair

As we wrap up another election, time to catch up! We welcomed Children at Risk Co-Chairs Linda Clary and Chris Vogel, to our November Board. Please read our notes to you on debates and money in politics, Voter Service strategy for the future, and our test of the PollVault website. Thank you also to Paige Lancourt for representing us as our Oregon Student Mock Election State Coordinator!

None of this would be possible without support from our donors, and especially from our many loyal volunteers! We will be working on how-to manuals to welcome new crews with efficient approaches for ballot measure research and editing, online [VOTEResources](#), *Voters' Guides*, and Speakers' Bureaus. Be thinking of how you'd like to participate. We want to welcome and train new members, too!

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Debate Perspectives

Becky Gladstone, LWVOREF Chair

This summer, there were many successful local League election events held around Oregon and posted on our Events page. The state League helped with a very successful 4th Congressional District debate between Congressman DeFazio and two of his opponents. It is important that we review what worked well and get ready for 2016, when there will be more interest and participation. My point here is to support our new LWVUS study, the section on "Money in Politics", and here is why---

LWVPDX asked the state Board to co-sponsor a Congressional debate, just as LWVUS asked us to work with Microsoft "Pulse" online audience participation. We began working with campaigns, who wanted multiple regional debates, and local Leagues, who were interested in multiple races. We met intensively, acquiring media partners, researching venues, clarifying policy, comparing notes with other state Leagues. The Gubernatorial and US Senate candidates did not accept our debate invitations.

Many "debates" did not observe League debate policy. Some "forums" were not open to public audiences or questions. The City Club of Portland would not try to include minor party candidates. I spoke with the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association about their July 18th Gubernatorial event. Their intention was to minimize "surprises", to learn what candidates "were for, not to hear them attack each other". They sent questions to campaigns in advance. Questions between candidates were minimal or absent during these events. League members discussed protesting at least one of them, since they didn't seem like "debates". There were calls for letters to editors about this.

A media analyst mused to me that campaign supporters were pouring money in and wanted better control of the messages they were underwriting. This control of candidates and separation of voters from the process is not the "League way". We need to be ready to weigh in when LWVUS calls us for their study of Campaign Finance Reform, which they will be calling "Money in Politics".

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Directors and Officers Insurance

Robin Wisdom, President

Since last April I've spoken numerous times with Michelle at Huggins Insurance in Salem. She has been very patient with me while I learn the insurance ropes, to some degree. The state League contracts with them for Directors and Officers insurance (D&O), which is now up to \$1,345 per year. Each year it increases by a small amount, i.e., \$10-20.

This policy covers the state League for \$1 million per claim and \$1 million aggregate, and does not cover local Leagues, which we found out earlier in the year. We've been hunting for a good deal for local Leagues ever since.

Now that others and I have made inquiries, all over the country in some cases, as with the national League, we have come back to information from Huggins. Also see the lwvor.org website for more options in the Members section under Leadership Resources.

Huggins does offer local League D&O coverage through the state's coverage but the state and local Leagues would have to share the \$1 million limits (**Option One**). Michelle does not advise it nor does Mr. Kirk Harvey who spoke at a board training seminar I attended on Oct. 25. Mr. Harvey works for the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities (he's just now retiring), and I asked him about our insurance situation. He said, it's hard to say exactly, but it sounded to him like local Leagues need their own D&O insurance. (See [Board Training Workshop](#) article for more about the seminar.)

Option Two for \$650 (plus taxes) per local League individually through Huggins will provide \$1 million per claim and \$1 million aggregate. This is one way for local Leagues unless you can find the same limits for lower cost somewhere else. Taxes on local League D&O coverage at \$650 would be an additional \$29.95.

General Liability

You have the choice of three options through Huggins for general liability insurance. This type of insurance is also called "slip and fall" insurance. See the spreadsheet from Huggins online here under Leadership Resources in the [Member Section](#) of lwvor.org. Your decision will be based on whether or not your local League needs property insurance. For example, if your local League owns a building, your board may feel the need for this amount of coverage. It is not needed in many cases, but your board must decide on what is necessary. We have been told the state League cannot provide certificates of liability anymore as in the past for local League activities.

The only other suggestion was that local Leagues call Liberty Mutual and ask them about general liability insurance coverage as an individual League. Then you can compare their coverage and charges to what Huggins offers.

We have been advised that the state League should not share its Directors and Officers insurance coverage of \$1 million per claim or \$1 million in aggregate with local Leagues. Legal costs might exceed the coverage. The same would be true for local Leagues. Therefore, it is up to local Leagues to decide how to go. Call Huggins at 503-585-2211 and ask for Michelle Gibson. Or investigate some more? There are other options for general liability, such as the single-event coverage, still listed on the website at <http://www.lwvor.org/leadership-resources/>.

Contact me if you have any questions at r.wisdom@lwvor.org.

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Board Training Workshop

Robin Wisdom, President

Recently I attended a workshop I would recommend organized by the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship. I attended an all-day Board Training held in Roseburg on October 25. One of the sections presented was on legal requirements for 501(c)(3) boards, and I thought you might be interested in some facts I learned.

State laws about nonprofits are located in [ORS 65](#) and [128](#).

The law requires basically three things:

- 1) Act in good faith - Board members must be informed.
- 2) Act in best interest of the organization.
- 3) In decision-making, use care that an ordinary and prudent person would use.

Law requires making informed decisions. Mr. Kirk Harvey, who is just retiring from the Dept. Of Justice

Charitable Activities Section and presenter of this session, used an endowment as an example. What if a board put their funds in the stock market in 2008 before the market collapsed 50%? Would the board be liable for that decision? If research was done before the investment, there is no personal liability. Board members who don't come to meetings are not informed. How to prove your case: Document your process, take screen shots, save correspondence, keep notes, and keep accurate board meeting notes. Keep board minutes forever.

If something happens and you are gone, you are still responsible. You could participate via Skype or conference call, which is within the law. Oregon has strong legal protections for boards (see ORS's above).

The board has a right to look at past records including treasurer reports. A board can rely on committees, which have the same standards.

Indemnification - Often there is a statement in bylaws that an organization will pay attorney fees if a board member is sued. If a director is sued, often lawsuits run into six figures. If the director wins the suit, the organization must pay the attorney fees. The organization is only as good as its fund balance.

From LWVOR Bylaws:

Sec. 7. Indemnification of Officers, Directors, and Employees. The LWVOR shall indemnify to the fullest extent not prohibited by law any director, officer, member of any committee, or employee who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding because such person was or is a director, officer, member of any committee, or employee of LWVOR, including any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding whether brought in the name of the LWVOR or otherwise and whether of a civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative nature, against all expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the Indemnified Person in connection with such a proceeding. Any indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under these Bylaws, agreements, statutes, policies of insurance, or otherwise.

Sec. 8. Limitation of Liability. The civil liability of directors, officers, or employees shall be limited as specified under the [Oregon Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1989](#).

When Directors and Officers Insurance subject came up, I asked Mr. Harvey about our current investigation on insurance for local Leagues. I explained that the state League is both a c3 and a c4, and all local chapters are c4s. We found out that our chapters are not covered by our state policy. He asked if the chapters are subsidiaries and I explained they are separate legal entities and each is registered with the Oregon Corporation Division. I asked if D&O is necessary for our local Leagues. He said there's no easy answer, but it sounds like local Leagues need their own Directors and Officers insurance. Please also see [Directors and Officers Insurance](#) article.

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Activist Award

Congratulations to Jane Baumgarten of LWV Coos County who was awarded the 2014 Oregon Andrus Award for Community Service on October 24, 2014. AARP's most prestigious and visible state volunteer award, it celebrates the recipient's contributions to their community, neighbors and the programs they serve, and serves as a symbol to the public that Oregonians can work together for positive social change.



As a long-time volunteer for AARP, Jane made many positive contributions towards their mission of creating a society where everyone can age with dignity, choice and purpose. Jane has also made many contributions through her work as a League member. She has been a Director on the LWVOR Board, and a state Action Chair with a Health Care portfolio. She is a passionate advocate and a great ambassador for the League of Women Voters. Thank you, Jane, for

outstanding service and commitment to your community. We are proud of you!

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League Board Meetings: A Fresh Look

Janet Calvert, Membership Chair

Being a member of the League has taught most of us many things; from the mundane, of how to "unjam" a stapler, to the nuances of the politics at a legislative hearing. An effective, active League often has a Board of Directors that provides on-the-job training for its members, new and experienced. At the same time an effective board adapts its procedures to meet the needs of members, League activities and community expectations.

League members have traded in their hats, gloves and the "Mrs." title for shorter meetings, fewer formalities, Skype, social media, faster and frequent electronic communication. All of these advances or changes are tempered with appreciation of the thorough, deliberate procedures for studies and the League's reputation for careful information gathering and balance to ensure fair dialog.

At the October Workshop, we asked League members, most of whom were board members, to share their practices or ideas on how to provide for important board member training and get their business done in a timely manner.

The following suggestions could improve almost every volunteer board of directors.

League board members said they valued being updated and informed of future events, deadlines for activities, and learning about League's positions on state ballot measures. When votes are taken, members want information on the pros and cons of the proposed action, the cost in 'person' power and dollars, the possible benefit to League goals and members, and a clear designation of who is responsible for the action, activity or study. This information should be presented to the board rather than evolved after much discussion during a board meeting.

There was no shortage of ideas when asked what five actions would improve board meetings. Suggestions included:

- Respect for new or inexperienced board members
- Committee work done before the meeting
- Committee reports with recommendations or updates sent to all board members before the meeting
- A timed agenda allowing most members to give a short update of their written report
- A consent agenda might be helpful for routine items
- Less side-talking
- Members urged to stay on topic
- A rotating process observer to comment on dynamics of the meeting

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Leeanne Gwynne MacColl

We would like to honor a hero, Leeanne MacColl, and thank her and her family for her kind bequest to LWVOREF. The following is an eloquent description of Leeanne from the LWV Portland's October 2014 newsletter.

We are sad to hear of the death of our lifetime member Leeanne MacColl, who died September 6 after a brief hospitalization. Leeanne will be remembered by many of us for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to the League.

Some members who worked with her closely have noted that "she never seemed to age. She always participated fully in life." "She was unstoppable in the activities for the causes she supported. Leeanne was also gracious and encouraging to those newer to the



League." "She was an effective recruiter because of her great powers of persuasion. You just couldn't resist. She also had a long-time passion for affordable housing."

Leeanne was past president of LWV Portland and the regional LWV of the Columbia River Region and served on their boards. She also served as Development Chair on the LWV of Oregon Board. She worked on many League studies and, through her connections in the Portland community, she helped us find funding and advice for our Voters' Guide. She came regularly to our general meetings and other League activities, and continued to be interested and involved with the issues that affect our lives in Portland and Oregon until shortly before her death. Some of us also remember her skilled jazz and classical piano playing. We will miss her. She was a remarkable citizen of Portland and of the world.

Read Leeanne's obituary [here](#).
She will be greatly missed.

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What Does State League Do?

You may wonder just what does the state League do. We thought it would be good to remind you and ourselves of just how much we do accomplish - together! Because we work together we can and do get a lot done. The state board is a working board that works tirelessly for the benefit of League members and communities all over the state.

- Provides an office and a staff to handle member questions and administrative functions
- Carries out all fiduciary responsibilities and maintains legal requirements set forth by the Oregon state and the federal governments for nonprofits
- Manages the Ed Fund endowment held in public trust by the Oregon Community Foundation
- Provides membership to Members-At-Large
- Updates and provides documents:
 - Local League Planning Guide
 - Who's Who
 - Issues for Action
 - Voter newsletter quarterly
 - Monthly Board Reports
- Distributes documents and items received from LWVUS to local Leagues
- Receives training and communications from the national League to better serve local Leagues
- Conducts trainings and educational events such as:
 - Fall Workshop
 - Legislative Process Day
 - Day at the Legislature
 - Council and Convention in alternate years
- Provides online resources at lwvor.org and voteoregon.org
- Maintains a Member resources website (lwvor.org)
- Supports a Technology Team to keep us visible in the cyber world
- Assists in publicizing local League events through multiple means (websites, press releases, Constant Contact communications, Facebook, Twitter)
- Provides state League board experience and training
- Supports an Advocacy Team who represents League positions at the Legislature and with coalition partners
- Offers choices of engagement:
 - In-depth studies determined by membership
 - Voter Service
 - Action team participation
 - Board membership
 - Ad hoc committee participation
- Supports the Membership and Leadership Development Program (MLD) for local Leagues
- Researches legal issues for state and local Leagues
- Supports regional and national League coalitions

- Responds to all questions and inquiries from League members and the public

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Save the Date:

Save the Date!

Legislative Process Day Tuesday, January 13, 2015

At the Capitol in HR 50
Registration will be available on our
website and emailed to you on
December 18.



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Leaguers in Action



Janet Calvert and Pam Ashland lead MLD training at Fall Workshop



Members represent League at Girl Scout Luncheon, 9/17/2014



Tyrone Reitman discusses the Citizen Initiative Review process at LWVOR Fall Workshop

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Join or Donate to the League of Women Voters

Interested in joining?

Join the League of Women Voters, a respected, national grassroots organization. Members of the LWV, an active group of women and men of all ages and backgrounds, work on issues which make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally. You too can help make democracy work.

Interested in donating?

Because we rely on thousands of volunteer hours from our members and our Board, we are able to operate with a very low overhead. However, as a nonprofit organization, support from people like you is essential in order to carry out our activities.

Learn more about joining and donating by linking above or visiting our web site, www.lwvor.org.

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