



VOTER

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Spring 2012

Day at the Legislature a Huge Success

Alice Bartelt, Action Chair

94 people gathered in Room 50 of the Capitol on Tuesday, February 7th. With the co-sponsorship of AAUW of Oregon and the Oregon Women's Commission, a new record for attendance was set. The audience heard from Sue Castner, of Vision 2020; Jenny Greenleaf of the Oregon Women's Commission; Marcia Kelley of AAUW of Oregon; Kappy Eaton, Government Portfolio Chair; Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Chair; and Karen Nibler, Social Services Chair. All of them reported about the bills that they are following this year.

Paula Krane offered a session in how to use the Legislative website to participate in the process. We were honored to hear from Gov. John Kitzhaber. He focused upon the Early Learning Council and health care reform. These are both areas in which the Governor is taking the lead.



Governor Kitzhaber



Big Turnout

After lunch, members attended hearings and/or visited their members of the Legislature. Judging by the enthusiasm in the room, the attendees learned much and enjoyed the day.

A special thanks goes to Flo Alvergue, Rebecca Smith and Kathy Greysmith. These events take time and effort to produce. Without the good work of staff and volunteers, we would not have enjoyed the great learning and lobbying experience that we all experienced.

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Send address changes to:
 LWVOR State Office
 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
 Salem, OR 97302
 email: lwvor@lwvor.org

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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.

New MAL in Eastern Oregon (not MALL!)

Robin Wisdom, President

Welcome to the Umatilla/Morrow County Members-
 At-Large (MAL) unit that recently formed and has at
 least 7 new members. In January Rose Lewis, State
 Liaison Coordinator, Marge Easley, past state
 President and Action team member, and I had the
 pleasure of visiting the new MAL at one of its first
 meetings in Hermiston.

The MAL began with a great level of enthusiasm that
 was inspiring to witness. Congratulations to new
 Acting Chair, Anne Emmons, and new Acting
 Secretary, Jann Tresham.

Thank You, Umatilla/Morrow County MAL Unit
 members, for the inspirational boost and re-
 affirmation we all gained from our time with you! This
 is great news for the Hermiston area that will benefit
 by having a League of Women Voters MAL unit in their
 community. The state will benefit from having more
 ears in more parts of the state. The state board is
 thrilled to welcome you to the fold.



**Umatilla/Morrow County MAL with Anne Emmons, Acting
 Chair (standing far left). And Jann Tresham, Acting Secretary
 (standing center).**

President's Column / Robin Wisdom

*"Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for women! There is so much yet to be done."
Susan B. Anthony.*

2012 marks the past 100 years of Oregon women's right to vote bestowed in 1912. And with it, 2012 brings many opportunities to highlight and commemorate the work that has preceded and afforded us the rights we enjoy now.

How perfectly this year ties into the emphasis of the LWVUS and the LWVOR boards to increase visibility through use of regular public relations streams, social media techniques, new partnerships to increase Vote411's online traffic and our own new websites (lwvor.org and VoteOregon.org) which we hope will provide the best and most up-to-date voter information available in Oregon.

Besides using electronic outreach methods, nothing replaces in-person attention. Our board committees and voter service team have been providing voter registrations for organizations' events, attending such events as the EMCO Champagne Brunch and Century of Action luncheons, meeting with the Secretary of State's office, speaking at the Oregon Women's Health Network lecture series, and traveling to Hermiston to help start a new MAL unit. So far \$3,300 has been raised towards the \$5,000 Grand Floral Parade entrance fee. More will be revealed soon about the parade progress (it's getting exciting!).



February 2012 was an Action Month -- Feb. 1 to Mar. 6th. This short 35-day annual legislative session has flown by. The process moved rapidly and the Action Team virtually lived at the Capitol during the month of February. The Day at the Legislature on Feb. 7th was a marvelous success sponsored by the League, AAUW of Oregon and Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women. Over 90 people attended this session and received training on how to access audio and video on the legislative website (at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>), and Governor Kitzhaber spoke about his healthcare and education work. Kate Brown, Secretary of State showed her appreciation by stopping by for a visit, and attendees finished the day by sitting in on legislative hearings.

Inspired by our Action Team? Ways to honor our very committed Action Team are by attending hearings online or in person, "shadowing" that person at the Capitol, or making a donation to LWVOR in honor of state action team member. Expressed support always boosts those working hard in the trenches, and makes their work possible.

Have you seen our new e-newsletter, the *Voter Extra*? Thanks to our Publicity Committee, our first electronic newsletter was emailed out in early Feb. The e-newsletter will not replace the quarterly *Voter*, but will provide a quick update of League news in in-between months. We hope you enjoy it.

It's a gloriously exciting and busy time that poses risk but also offers great possibility for our one voice to be heard a little bit louder. Figuratively speaking, let's pump up the volume!

I wish you a rewarding Presidential Election Season 2012!

Robin

What did the spider email to the fly? Visit my Web site!

LWVOR.org **VoteOregon.org**

Mary Sinclair, Technology Chair

Now is the time for all good.....Leaguers to check out the new websites! LWVOR.org provides all the information you need for Advocacy, and there is a Members section that includes information on the inner working of LWVOR and the League. To enter the Members section you must Register (upper right hand corner). You will be approved and given a password that you can change when you enter the site.

VoteOregon.org has all the Voter resources. It will be a gateway to Vote411.org when it is published for the primary election (look for it in early March)! This site also contains all of the information on our current and past studies. If you are looking for something specific try using the Search option.

We are still working out a few of the kinks that we are finding since the websites have launched. If you find any error, missing links or are having any problems at all, please contact Mary Sinclair (m.sinclair@lwvor.org) and she will try to figure it out.

Road to 21 Presidential Debates in 2012

Robin Wisdom, President LWVOR

I received a communication from LWV President Elizabeth McNamara in early Feb. that informed state League presidents that LWV would not be pursuing a request to support an effort entitled "Road to 21 Presidential Debates in 2012". Please remember the proposal last November 2011 <http://www.opendebates.org/theroad.html>. LWVUS decided not to support this proposal stating the reasons below.

Elisabeth stated in her letter, "We had two major concerns about this proposal. One stems from the anonymity of the donor who has pledged to provide the initial funding for this effort. We found this lack of transparency both inherently worrisome and a source of potential risk or embarrassment for the League. Secondly, there is no assurance, or commitment to assure, that the debates would be conducted in ways that the League would feel appropriate or in full compliance with federal and state laws. We felt that these were limitations that presented unacceptable levels of risk to the League and to our public reputation for high quality debates."

I support the decision made by the LWV board and so informed Elisabeth.

State Program Activities

Marnie Lonsdale, Program Chair

Children At Risk: The update study is in progress but could still use more input. The team is working by conference call with the next meeting scheduled for February 28 at 9 AM. The group will meet in person for a workshop on April 30th. If you are interested contact the League office or Becky Gladstone at bgladstone@lwvor.org. The study team will also be contacting local Leagues to look into local and regional services for children at risk.

Coastal Natural Resources study: The study went out to reviewers mid January and editing should be completed by March. However please be warned that we are behind schedule and although we will have the document and questions this spring, the actual final printing date is still in the air. Meanwhile the committee has put in an incredible amount of volunteer hours. With only six participants this has been a huge task. Consensus will be due December 31, 2012.

THE MAGIC OF VOTE411

Easy to Create Voters' Guide

Using Technology to Improve Democracy



Every Oregon Local League now has access to an easy-to-use web based program. You can **create your own regional online Voters' Guide in time for the 2012 Primary Election.**

How does it work? You enter the basic data, like candidate contact information and questions in Vote411. Then just Point and Click. Candidate invitation letters are generated, giving instructions on how to post biographies and question answers. You set word limits and guidelines. The candidate enters the information.

Won't we lose control if the candidates enter their own information? No. Vote411 was launched in 2006 and has a tried and true track record. Leagues across the country have used Vote411 to create Voters' Guides. This year, LWVOREF purchased the right to allow all Oregon Local Leagues to participate for free.

What is LWVOR doing? LWVOR will enter the data for all statewide races and state legislative races not covered by your Local League. We will set-up all the templates for invitation letters, reminders, Bio fields, etc. LWVOR will provide training and technical support for your Local League to ensure success.

What do we need to do? Your Local League can decide whether to include additional races, such as County Commissioner, City Council or even the race for Dog Catcher. A volunteer will need to enter contact information for each candidate you plan to include in the Voters' Guide. You will also need to write and input questions for the candidates in your local races.

What is our first deadline? March 6th is the deadline for candidates to file for office. You will need to have as much information entered as possible before that. You will input last minute filings by March 7th and immediately launch letters of invitation.

Will we still have paper Voters' Guides? LWVOREF will produce a certain number of Voters' Guides. Your Local League can use Vote411 to convert your online VG to paper if you have the resources.

The Voter winter issue, page 6, has lots of details for the upcoming elections.

League Member Spotlight



Lorraine Werblow has served many leadership roles in the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley. Recently she proved instrumental in the successful merger between LWVRV and the League of Ashland. Lorraine makes sure the annual Grapefruit sale always succeeds and brings a level head to the League, when needed. This month Lorraine was honored by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to receive a Community Service Award for her outstanding volunteer work with Mediation Works.

"Being a League member has helped me develop skills that have worked in all aspects of my volunteer life, from school board member to synagogue president to mediator. The skills I've developed of impartially sharing election information with voters and advocating issues through the League guide me daily in business and as a volunteer.

LWVUS Membership Leadership Development Program

Robin Wisdom, President

Leagues everywhere are concerned about how to attract new members. Last summer LWVUS contacted the LWVOR state board about the regional training program that other parts of the country have already gone through, the Membership Leadership Development Program (formerly MRI). Oregon has been selected to be included in the last wave of this national training program with about 20 other states.

To begin the program in Oregon, your state board needs two or three "State Coaches" who will be guide us as we learn best practices for recruiting and keeping active members and for developing new leaders. Janet Calvert of the Lane County League has volunteered to serve as our first State Coach, and we are seeking one or two others to join her. State coaches will attend a training session in Houston, TX, from April 13th to

15th, fully funded by LWVUS. Is anyone interested in joining Janet for this great opportunity? If so, please let me know.

After the April training, coaches will organize regional trainings around Oregon with several local Leagues represented at a time. We plan to begin scheduling local League training sometime in late spring and conduct the meetings in late August or early September.

I have great hopes this will help our Leagues struggling with membership issues. This program will give us a boost of encouragement and enthusiasm and teach us how to attract more new members. Stats from other Leagues who have experienced this training say they have increased their membership up to 4% or more. Learn more here: <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/recruitment-and-retention>. Let's get on with it!

If you have any questions about this program, please contact me.

Thank you,
Robin

R U 1?

Wanted: Two or three authentically-costumed Suffragists (League members)

When: Saturday, April 7th, 2012 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Rose Building, 1020 SW Naito Parkway, Portland

Why: To represent the League and hand out materials at the Rose Festival Open House (<http://www.rosefestival.org/about/openhouse.shtml>).

What: Hand out materials about the League, which will be provided along with a tabling display.

What else: The Rose Festival Open House will present three themes which they are highlighting this year:

- 1) **100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in Oregon presented by the League of Women Voters of Oregon**
- 2) 100th Year Anniversary of the Royal Rosarians - <http://www.rosefestival.org/about/royalrosarians.shtml>
- 3) 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic - (<http://www.titanic-facts.com/1912-the-sinking-of-the-titanic.html>)



Let's participate! If you would like to **BE** one of these **Suffragists**, please contact Robin. A League photographer is needed for this event as well.

Official Membership Numbers

	2012-2013	2011-2012
MALs	19	26
Lane	177	183
Rogue Valley	61	59
Portland	192	186
Marion/Polk	94	90
Corvallis	147	138
Coos	31	29
Clackamas	109	129
Lincoln	24	24
EMCO	19	32
Umpqua Valley	34	33
Deschutes	47	40
Ashland	19	35
Klamath	19	11
Curry	34	32
Grand Totals	1026	1047

Congratulations to those Leagues who increased their numbers over last year's: Rogue Valley, Portland, Marion/Polk, Corvallis, Coos, Umpqua Valley, Deschutes, Klamath Falls, and Curry County. Even with those additions, overall, we lost 21 members. Thank you to all boards and Membership Chairs who have worked hard at recruitment and retention. Help is on the way through the Membership Leadership Development Program.

Volunteer to Be a Volunteer



Volunteerism is what the League is all about. Without the many dedicated and talented volunteers how could the League have survived these 90+ years? The League continues to need you. When you work as a volunteer for the state office, you also earn money for your local League! You receive \$5 for your local League treasury for every hour volunteered. Your hours also build on the state League's total volunteer hours which help define the League for receiving grants.

Some activities on the help list are:

- Office help during the Legislative Sessions
- **Fill out deposit spreadsheet on computer.** Every other week
- **Enter donations in database.** Daily activity any day
- Voter Service for the 2012 primary and general election
- Special in-house mailings
- Office clean-up day
- Filing
- Work in the member database
- Open and sort mail

When? The office is open Monday – Friday, 9am to 1pm but we are often here later than that.

Will you volunteer to be a volunteer?

Just email me, kathyg@lwvor.org, or call the state office, 503-581-5722.

Thank you, Kathy Greysmith, LWVOR Administrative Services Manager

League of Women Voters® of Oregon

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302
503-581-5722; FAX 503-581-9403
lwvor@lwvor.org; <http://www.lwvor.org>

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