

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



# VOTER

Volume 66, Issue 2

[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

Winter 2011-2012

## ***The Voter is going paperless...***

LWVOR has launched a change in our newsletter that will enhance member communication and save the League \$3,000 a year! The *Voter* will continue to be published on a quarterly basis. You can choose to receive your quarterly *Voter* via email by doing nothing. **If you prefer to continue receiving a mailed version of the *Voter* you simply need to contact LWVOR.** You can telephone, email or fill-out and submit the form. Starting January, in months when a *Voter* is not published, LWVOR will also issue a new email newsletter called *Voter Extra*. *Voter Extra* will only be available via email. But don't worry --- you won't miss a thing! Your quarterly *Voter* will contain the information from the previous two months editions of the *Voter Extra*, as well as plenty of new and interesting articles.



### **Would you like to reduce your paper load and save the League money? You choose!**

Starting with the first newsletter in 2012, the *Voter* will be delivered electronically, saving the League thousands of dollars! If you like this idea, do nothing. If you prefer to receive your *Voter* by mail, no problem --- simply fill out this form and return to the League office.

**Please continue to mail my *Voter*....**

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Mail completed form to LWVOR, 1330 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.E., Ste. 200, Salem OR 97301

## ***Two Leagues Unify***

### **LWVOR Board of Directors**

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 Mary Sinclair, 1st VP  
 Marnie Lonsdale, 2nd VP  
 Becky Gladstone, Secretary  
 Pam Ashland, Treasurer  
 Betsy Pratt, Education Fund Chair  
 Directors: Alice Bartelt, Trish Bowcock  
 Rita Fawcett, Marianne Germond, and  
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### **LWVOR Staff**

Rebecca Smith: Executive  
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 may join. **VOTER** is also available on  
 the LWVOR website at

[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org).

**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.

*Robin Wisdom, Liaison for the LWV of Rogue Valley*

On Sept. 6, 2011, nineteen members of the LWV of  
 Rogue Valley voted to merge with the LWV of Ashland.  
 The Ashland League had voted earlier in the year at  
 their annual meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> to consider merging.  
 Recently Ashland filed their dissolution documents  
 with the state of Oregon, another necessary part of the  
 process. Both Leagues have begun to work as one  
 League. Congratulations to Rogue Valley League  
 members and former Ashland League members who  
 are transforming into one new larger, stronger  
 League.

Barbara Davidson, President, League of Women  
 Voters Rogue Valley stated, "By combining forces, the  
 Rogue Valley and Ashland Leagues (of Women Voters)  
 have taken an historic step which should better serve  
 the citizens of Jackson and Josephine County. ...The  
 work Abigail Scott Duniway and colleagues did to  
 secure women's right to vote in Oregon in 1912...  
 remind[s] us of our debt of gratitude for what they did  
 and guide[s] us in our obligations to continue the  
 education and citizen involvement for the future."

Ashland's Merge Coordinator, Iris Milan said, "We are  
 very happy the merger is now a reality. Our merged  
 League will cover the same communities as in the  
 past, and we will continue to provide our services and  
 expertise in Ashland and the Rogue Valley. This is a  
 positive and invigorating step, and we look forward to  
 working together."

"We are delighted to be part of a larger organization  
 which will multiply our resources and create more  
 opportunities for citizen involvement and  
 participatory democracy in Southern Oregon." --  
 Vanya Sloan, past president LWV Ashland

The LWVOR board voted on 11-11-11 to request the  
 withdrawal of the Ashland League. After submitting  
 paperwork to national, LWVUS will vote at their  
 January board meeting to officially accept the merger  
 of the two Leagues.

The LWVOR board and I wish you, the League of  
 Women Voters Rogue Valley, now including the  
 Ashland membership, the very best during in this  
 transition and into the future.

## *President's Column / Robin Wisdom*

To me it's wonderful to see so many speaking out right now in the Occupy movement. It strikes a chord with me as we Leaguers have a long history of fighting for people's rights. Let us remember our vision: "Informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good." I personally support peaceful political expression and hope this movement will lead to increased active participation in our government.

I'd like to thank all participants in the Fall Workshop that took place in Eugene on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. In particular I thank you, Lane League, for helping us with location and the helping hands of Flo Alvergue. It was an honor to have four visitors from the Washington state League, including the two state Co-Presidents Linnea Hirst and Kim Abel, who came to be part of our Vote411 breakout session lead by Heather Drake, plus a state Technology Committee member.

While we have a talented and hard working board, we are still lacking two very important board positions -- a Membership Chair and a Development Chair. Therefore I called a Development /Membership Committee meeting that was held on 11/8/11. The Committee is creating a plan, which will focus on reaching out to diverse audiences to share League expertise. We invite you to join this committee, if you are interested in seeing that the League of Women Voters survive in Oregon. Not to over-dramatize the fact, but we are in survival mode as our declining membership over the years indicates. And the fact that the development team has not been successful in grant writing since the Mock Election grant, brings us to acknowledge our grant proposal failures and to step back and take a harder look at our outreach program or lack of. The committee needs You.

But there is also good news in our membership challenge. Please see an article on page 4 about the Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD), formerly known as the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI), that Oregon has been chosen to be part of by LWVUS starting in 2012.

Your board has not been idle. LWVOR attended and participated in the Oregon Civic Engagement Conference in Salem on Nov. 4. The workshop was well attended and interesting. Kudos and compliments go to Marnie Lonsdale and Deanie Anderson who presented the Silver and Gold workshop on volunteer recruitment and retention based on their presentation at the LWVOR Convention last May.

Thank you for voting for the League in September after which the Oregon Business Magazine awarded us No. 17 out of 33 small businesses as one of the "Best 100 Nonprofits to Work For" in Oregon. Board and staff attended the award ceremony on 9/28.

Other events we've attended recently include: the Multnomah Bar Foundation social, Woman of Achievement Awards, partnering with the Portland League on the District One Candidates forum, LWVUS conference calls and webinars, and the new website training session for staff and volunteers by JVMedia Design. And your Action team has been busy with interim legislative dates and meetings.



(Continued on page 4.)

## ***President's Message Continued***

The new Human Resources team has met for the first time to review and update staff employment agreements.

Special thanks are in order for Pat Hocken and her committee (Heather Drake, Merle Bottge with assistance from the LWVOR staff) who achieved "Agreed-Upon" procedural analyses of the LWVOR & EF's financial records. Due to the committee's effort and expertise and after minor changes were pointed out and or corrected, we feel secure that our books are in order. Many thanks for your hard work.

Thank You to All League Members and Happy Holidays!

## ***Membership and Leadership Development***

*Robin Wisdom, LWVOR President*  
Success is on the horizon.

Our older experienced members must see a great need for the League to find ways to continue effectively. We all know of our declining membership and the fact that most of us are gray or white haired. Where are our replacements? Nowhere in sight.

We had a big impact on the nation in the early and mid parts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we must focus on sheer survival amidst an increase in nonprofits like

never before (1.5 million in the U.S. according to the [Foundation Center](#)) in this new era of an electrified electorate and massive global financial problems heretofore unseen. We must focus on a plan or plans that will ensure our longevity as a sought-after organization.

I have been informed by LWVUS that Oregon has been chosen to be part of the next round of states to participate in the Membership and Leadership Development program (MLD), formerly known as the Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). Our national League is currently working with 32 states and the District of Columbia on this effort.

LWVUS will help us set up a state coaching team, giving us a great opportunity for League members to work in connection with LWVUS and help our state and local Leagues survive and thrive in the coming crucial turnkey years.

At a regional training, state coaches will receive three days of hands-on training in outreach techniques, organizational planning, leadership development and mentoring from experienced LWVUS leaders and staff. This is a great networking and personal development opportunity. Training is funded entirely by LWVUS and will generally take place in Summer/Fall 2012.

Successes are already being experienced by states who have participated in this program. I am encouraged that Oregon will be in the next round. Now who among us will step up to this opportunity for personal growth and to help us pull ourselves up from our bootstraps to reboot the Oregon Leagues? Please contact me: [R.Wisdom@lwvor.org](mailto:R.Wisdom@lwvor.org).

***Needed: Children-At-Risk Co-Chair  
Contact the Office if you would like to see this important  
study move forward!***

## **Fall Workshop Held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Anna Willman of LWV of Umpqua Valley  
November 2011 Newsletter*



**Sarah Miller from the Governor's Chief Operating Office addressed the Governor's 10-year Budget Plan Process at the Fall Workshop.**

One of the highlights of the Fall Workshop was a presentation by Sarah Miller who is a Project Manager for Governor Kitzhaber's efforts to transform how Oregon does business, moving from a biennial, budget-based planning process to a longer range view, looking at ten-year program outcomes as a basis for strategic planning. Instead of debating funding amounts, the Governor wants to have decisions made on the basis of debates about desired results from spending. Funding decisions will not be designed around requests from governmental departments and agencies (of which there is an unknown number), but around seven different policy areas:

- Economy and jobs
- Education
- Good government (changes which are made across state agencies)
- Healthy environment
- Healthy People

- Livable Communities (including infrastructure and the Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Safety (which includes the Department of Human Services – protection of the vulnerable)

This just touches on some of the details of what seems to be a fascinating effort to transform the usual "way of doing business."

## **2012-2014 LWVOR Board**

*Lorie James, Nominating Committee Chair*



Bells may be in your future. After the first of the year, LWVOR's nominating committee will be contacting statewide League members to find people to serve as Second Vice President, Treasurer and at

least three Directors for the 2012-2014 LWVOR Board.

We have several opportunities for League Leaders to fill very important positions that could make a huge difference for Oregon's future. Please read the article on page 4 about Membership Leadership Development. LWVUS will guide LWVOR through their leadership training to help us boost membership and participation in the League. This is what it's all about, if we want to stay viable. Maybe you are the person to lead this team.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or would like to recommend a League friend, please contact Lorie James at 503-638-3207, 503-638-7038 or [latjames@comcast.net](mailto:latjames@comcast.net).

## ***The Gift That Keeps on Giving***

*Pam Ashland, Treasurer*

The League established an endowment fund with the Oregon Community Foundation in October 1994. It was subsequently named the Annabel Kitzhaber Education Endowment Fund in 2006 in recognition of her services to the League. This endowment fund has grown over the years due to donations and management of the funds. The endowment fund is administered by the Oregon Community Foundation, which also manages many other groups' funds. The League receives semi-annual distributions that are deposited to the Education Fund account and are an important source of support for our civic education services. If you would like to give a "gift that keeps on giving" you may make a donation in two ways: a payment to LWVOR Education Fund with the notation that this is a donation to the endowment fund, or you can donate stock directly to the Endowment Fund via Oregon Community Foundation.

As we start to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suffragettes, please consider a donation to the Annabel Kitzhaber Education Endowment Fund.

## ***Human Trafficking in Oregon***

The League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties is sponsoring an event to highlight the problems with sex trafficking in Oregon at the Salem Public Library, Loucks Auditorium, on February 16, at 6:30 PM. Willamette University Assistant Professor Gwynne Skinner will speak on this issue. Professor Skinner directs the [International Human Rights Clinic at Willamette](#) and also teaches



Refugee Law and Human Rights and has published and spoken on this topic in multiple arenas. The Mid-Willamette Valley Women's Crisis Service will be part of the evening's activities. Please attend to learn more about the seriousness of this issue and what solutions could be put in place to address the problem.

## ***Voter Service***

*Betsy Pratt, Education Fund Chair*

At the LWVOR Fall Workshop we announced our planned voter service activities for the 2012 election cycle. In addition to providing the usual general information on the election process, we will solicit and publish information on candidates for state-wide offices, including at a minimum, US Congress, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, and if needed, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. We will also research and develop ballot measure information.

The LWVOREF expects to provide the following products and services for both the primary and general elections:

- *Voters' Guide* (standard printed version)
- *Voters' Guide* (large print version)\*
- *Easy Voters' Guide*\* (print version)
- Audio version of standard *Voters' Guide*\*
- Braille version of standard *Voters' Guide*\* – To be distributed through Talking Book & Braille Services (TBABS)
- Spanish translation of *Easy Voters' Guide* (print version)\* – Includes a supply to be distributed through El Latino de Hoy
- VOTE411 on-line service for statewide offices and ballot measures

(Continued on page 7)

## Voter Service (Continued)

- Accessible on-line version of the standard *Voters' Guide*\* – Includes features to assist disabled voters
- Speakers' Kit material for any state ballot measures
- Mock Election program – if funds are available
- Marketing plan and advertising campaign to publicize these products

We are in the process of developing a partnership with the Secretary of State's office (SOS) which has offered us funds from the US Election Assistance Commission and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to cover at least some of the costs associated with those products marked with an asterisk. The VOTE411 service and the initial copy of any speakers' material will be funded by LWVOREF.

Local Leagues are facing a number of decisions about your own voters' service options. For example, do you want to help distribute any of the LWVOREF printed materials? If so, which ones, and how many copies do you want to order? Do you want to produce your own local *Voters' Guide* or do you want to provide local content to

VOTE411? Do you plan to conduct local candidate forums or ballot measure presentations? Do you want to help local schools participate in the Mock Election program? And, finally, do you need to raise funds to support your chosen activities?

We would like to know by early January 2012 whether you plan to contribute local content to VOTE411 or participate in the Mock Election program. It would also be nice to know as soon as possible your desired quantities for the printed voters' guides. VOTE411 and the materials supported by HAVA funds are available at no cost to local Leagues. But local Leagues will probably need to contribute to the cost of the standard *Voters' Guide* – which we estimate will be about 25¢ per copy. In other words, if you want 2,000 standard Voters' Guides, you can expect to pay about \$500.

It may seem early in the process to be considering all these topics, but the future always seems to arrive before we are ready for it. Any advanced planning that we can do will make it easier for us to deliver timely, high-quality voter information. If you have questions, contact me ([b.pratt@lwvor.org](mailto:b.pratt@lwvor.org)), Marianne Germond ([m.germond@lwvor.org](mailto:m.germond@lwvor.org)), or Rita Fawcett ([r.fawcett@lwvor.org](mailto:r.fawcett@lwvor.org)).

## East Multnomah County League Annual Champagne Brunch

*Holiday Inn, I-205, Portland*  
**Saturday, January 28, 2012**  
**9:30 AM to Noon**

— **SAVE THE DATE** —

**Champagne Brunch**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**  
**9:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Century of Action Program**  
100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage  
&  
Featured Speaker

**Hon. Barbara Roberts**

Please join us for a fabulous Champagne Brunch at the Airport Holiday Inn while the Century of Action shows and tells the fascinating story of Oregon women's years-long struggle for the right to vote and their triumph in 1912. Then, sit back, sip champagne and/or coffee, and enjoy The Honorable Barbara Roberts' story about her own, triumphant journey to become the first—and only—woman governor of Oregon almost 80 years later.

Net proceeds will help the League create, print and distribute the Voter Guide, one of our traditional, public service projects. Donations may be tax-deductible.

# League of Women Voters® of Oregon

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