

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



# VOTER

Volume 67, Issue 2

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

Winter 2012

## *Leaguers Play Starring Roles*

The 2012 Suffrage Centennial draws to a close. This year was a humble reminder. So many before us worked for lifetimes to have what we now cherish. To honor those women and men, we celebrated in parades all around the state, participated in events with the Century of Action, and conducted our own local League events. Partners joined us in marching in the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade last June, and since then many local Leagues have used the Festival banner in their own local parades including Rogue Valley, Lane, Coos, Curry, and Umpqua.

My gratitude to all local and state League voters service teams. You've done an exemplary job once again. I am so proud of all you have accomplished.

How many League members does it take to advance democracy in Oregon? The answer is 1026 – this year. We have 1026 members now registered in the national database for all local Leagues in Oregon as of 1/31/12. You may notice that this is a smaller number than in the past. And that brings us to the MLD program AKA the Membership & Leadership Development Program.

Welcome, Lincoln County League, to MLD! Lincoln County will get together with their state coaches soon to catch up. The MLD program will help us connect with current and blossoming activists. I already see advances made by local Leagues who are participating after one or two days of training. Pay attention to your MLD coaches. Find out what is going on in your League with MLD and check in to help. Through this program will we learn to boost and maintain our numbers, add to our boards, spread the work out, and accomplish projects with others to lighten the load. This extra effort is worth it!

I sense greater visibility in our communities. Our events have been dynamic, partner-driven, and well attended. We even made the back of Portland buses!

Thank You! And Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Wisdom".



**Umpqua Leaguers in Veterans Day Parade**

**LWVOR Board of Directors**

Robin Wisdom, President  
 Mary Sinclair, 1st VP  
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 Directors: Marianne Germond, Karan Kuntz, and Rose Lewis

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**VOTER** is published four times a year by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Members subscribe through their annual dues. Any person, 18 or older, 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.

**LWVOR Raffle 2013**

*Lorie James, Raffle Co-chair*

The raffle is back! And we know you are excited about that! First of all, it's a fundraiser for your local League. Each ticket sold equaling the number of members in your League's database roster on 1/31/13\* will gain your League \$1 per. For all tickets sold over the number of members on 1/31/12 will benefit your League \$2 per ticket sold. This raffle is very important to the LWVOR's treasury, helps defray council and convention costs, and will aid the state's advocacy efforts.

The sales period will start in February 2013 and end in May. Lorie James, Raffle Co-Chair, will be calling local League presidents to ask if your League is willing to receive in early February a minimum number of raffle tickets equal to your January PMP count or more. We are investigating offering several raffle prizes instead of the usual one large prize. Keep watch for more information. Questions? Please call Lorie at 503-638-3207.

\* 1/31/13 is an important day. This is the day of the year on which LWV will next count its members designated as active in the national membership database for the 2013-2014 year. Based on the membership count, the local Leagues are charged with PMP (Per Member Payment) for the next four quarters. If you have questions about how to use this database, please call the Salem office for help.

**Help Wanted!**

The state board needs Board positions filled. We need LWVOR Board positions, which allow us to have a presence all across Oregon. Any thoughts on this issue should be directed to Lorie James at 503-638-3207.



## ***Oregon Student Mock Election Rocks the Mock Vote!***

*Rebecca Smith, Coordinator*

The Oregon Student Mock Election, coordinated by the LWV of Oregon, was a big success this year thanks to the help of many volunteers, teachers, students and staff.

This year more than 49,000 Oregon students participated in classroom exercises, voting, or both. Student voters chose Barack Obama for President by a wide margin and overwhelmingly supported Ballot Measure 85, which would redirect corporate kicker funds to schools. Students chose the economy as their top national priority and education as their second priority. Students also voted on US Representative, Secretary of State, Supreme Court Judge, state ballot measures, and national issues including energy and the environment, education, the national debt, and health care.



The League of Women Voters of Oregon has coordinated the Oregon Student Mock Election since 2002 and was involved in the program many prior years. The mock election is a program for public, private and home schools throughout the state that provides curriculum and the means to hold a mock vote every General Election. Our cosponsors this year include the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Department of Education, the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, and more. We also work closely with a national organization, My Voice National Student Mock Election.



Thank you to those of you who have reached out to local schools. I have received registrations from teachers who have told me that they heard about the mock election from you, so your efforts have made a difference.

Volunteers from Marion/Polk Counties and the Linn County League helped to revise the curriculum, a big job. We hired Rachel Buckley, past intern, for a few hours a week to help get the program off the ground last spring. We now have Hayden Clapper working about 10 hours a week on the program.

Thank you to everyone for your help in making this program a success!

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

*Pamela Ashland,*

*State Coordinator for Oregon MLD*

The League of Women Voters of Oregon joined the League of Women Voters membership program. We have six coaches: Janet Calvert, Debbie Kaye, Marnie Lonsdale, Libby Medley, Mary Sinclair, and Robin Wisdom. There are ten local Leagues participating: Clackamas, Coos, Curry, Lane, East Multnomah, Marion Polk, Portland, Rogue Valley, Umpqua, and West Umatilla (the new MAL.) There are 30 members from those leagues that will be trained.

The In-State training for the program was held in Salem on September 28-30<sup>th</sup>. The six state coaches and the state coordinator arrived on Friday at 1pm and worked with National trainers Cheryl Graeve and Kelly M. Stratman Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The Shur Fellow (Sarah Diefendorf) was unable to attend, so Norman Turrill joined us for the training. We had lively discussions, received valuable information, and were able to learn more about each other. We learned how to communicate via phone and still maintain the personal touch.

Saturday at 1pm, the coaches and the state coordinator were joined by 25 local League participants and the following LWVOR board members: Betsy Pratt, Karan Kuntz, Alice Bartelt, and Rose Lewis, and a coach and local League representative from Washington state. Cheryl and Kelly led the sessions which included hands-on applications, many new ideas, role-playing, and lots of discussion. The local Leagues left on Sunday with enthusiasm and plans that they had developed to add the membership portion into one or two of their upcoming local events. Dates were planned for conference calls with their coach. The coaches will

report the results of their conference calls (to take place in the second week of the month) to Sarah Diefendorf (the national coach and Shur Fellow) and to the state coordinator. All the national coaches have their conference call during the fourth week of the month.

Both of the training sessions were very positive and productive. It was a great opportunity for the coaches to have face-to-face sessions with their Leagues. The follow-ups will be via phone, which the coaches discussed and learned about different ways to still have the personal touch.

One of the tools discussed was the use of a membership ambassador at events – this person would help pass out membership brochures, sign up visitors, and answer questions. This can be used by both the state and local Leagues

## ***Program Recommendations for Convention 2013***

*Robin Wisdom, President*

The LWVOR bylaws state that that Local Leagues will submit program recommendations and any proposed changes to the bylaws to the state board for consideration **at least three months prior to the convention**. At that time the LWVOR Board will consider all recommendations and formulate a proposed Program which is submitted to the local League Boards **at least six weeks prior to the convention**.

Any recommendation for program submitted to the LWVOR Board at least three months prior to the convention, but not proposed by the LWVOR Board, “may be adopted by the convention, provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and the vote on adoption comes on a following day. Adoption of Program shall adhere to convention rules.” (Continued on page 5)

## **Program Recommendations (Continued)**

See

<http://www.lwvor.org/lwvimages/lwvorbylaws-5-2011.pdf>.

To be successful at convention, **ALL program recommendations and or proposed changes to the bylaws from local Leagues must be submitted to the LWVOR Board by February 19, 2013**, three months before Convention 2013. Please email program recommendations to [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org).

**Children at Risk Study** was placed on-hold by the state board. The study may need to be cancelled at LWVOR Convention 2013 if there are no volunteers who will serve on this committee. If you have new or renewed interest in the mission of the study, please contact [k.kuntz@lwvor.org](mailto:k.kuntz@lwvor.org). For Scope and Outlook For Work check out <http://voteoregon.org/issues/study-reports/current-studies/>.

### **Visitors from Japan Enrich the League**

*Rebecca Smith, Executive Administrator*  
The League of Women Voters of Oregon hosted a group of three Japanese teachers, headed by Masakazu Sugiura, Head Teacher, Shibaura Institute of Technology Kashiwa Junior & Senior High School. They visited Portland during the last week of October. The three teachers, Masakazu Sugiura, Shinri Sugiura, and Sakae Okabe, have been developing a mock election program in Japan and wanted to experience some of the activities here first-hand. In addition, they are interested in our country's election activities in general. They were joined by Mr. Okabe's wife, Sanae, whose excellent English aided their visit.

The teachers visited David Douglas High School and Central Catholic High School to watch them carry out their mock election activities, accompanied by past president Margaret Noel, past mock election coordinator Eva Schweber, and coordinator Rebecca Smith. With the help of the Mary McWilliams, president of League of Women Voters of Portland, they toured the Multnomah County elections office, the Democratic and Republican Party headquarters, and a League ballot measure presentation. Hosted by Hayden Clapper, Voter Service assistant, and her family, they enjoyed Get-Out-The-Vote activities in costume on Halloween afternoon at the Bus Project's Trick or Vote.

According to Mary, "The Japanese visitors were a delight. They asked good questions and were engaged in whatever we did." We were all gratified to see students and the public engaging the teachers in questions about Japan and their visit to Oregon. Many thanks go out to the volunteers that helped arrange activities and to Tracy Lind, teacher at David Douglas High School, and Geoff Stuckart, teacher at Central Catholic High School, for allowing us to observe student mock election activities in the classroom.



**Rebecca Smith, Shinri Sugiura, Sakae Okabe,  
Masakazu Sugiura, Sanae Okabe, and Margaret  
Noel at David Douglas HS**

## **“The Cost of Voter Identification Laws” or “The Right to Vote”**

*Hannah Miller, LWVOR Intern*

Voter Identification Laws are laws that require voters to prove they are who they say they are before voting. The type of identification needed as proof varies by state but some examples of what states require are: a government-issued photo, a current utility bill or a bank statement. These laws are meant to prevent voter fraud, however these forms of identification are not available to the general population and therefore prevent those who cannot afford them from voting.

So far, 30 states have implemented Voter Identification Laws, five of these states strictly require photo ID, six require photo ID but are more lenient, and 19 states require some non-photo type of identification. These laws restrict people from voting in place of someone else and therefore having more of a say than is fair, but they also restrict certain people from voting at all. For some people, getting the needed identification can be difficult and expensive. In this way, Voter Identification Laws are sometimes compared to poll taxes because they require more than just registering to vote.

Because voting is a constitutional right, not having ID in a state that requires it isn't as big of a problem as one would think; you can still vote. In Pennsylvania, for example, election officials can ask for ID, however the lack of ID will not prevent you from voting. Other states have a 10-day grace period, or even the option to vote via mail, which inherently cannot require ID. The problem is publicity of these provisions. In Pennsylvania, again, large signs outside polling stations state that ID is required. If you didn't know the provision, which most people don't, you as a voter without ID will be discouraged from even trying to vote. In that way, the states are

actually misleading the electorate by not informing them of their full rights.

The League of Women Voters is working to prevent requiring ID because one of the main goals of the League is voting equality.

Voter Identification Laws take away equality because they give an unfair advantage to those that can attain ID. Voting equality means equal opportunity to vote and a “poll tax” that prevents voting prevents the equal opportunity to vote

In my opinion, Voter Identification Laws are good in theory but not in practice. The idea of ensuring that everyone's vote counts equally is wonderful, but going about this in a way that makes some people not vote is not fair. If there was a way to have Voter Identification Laws without any extra charge or hoops to jump through, I would be first to vote for them, but I don't believe in taking anyone's right to vote away and therefore I cannot say that the Voter Identification Laws as they are should be used.

Resources:

ProPublica “Everything You've Wanted to Know About Voter ID Laws”

Minnesota Public Radio “League of Women Voters president on group's opposition to voter ID amendment”

National Conference of State Legislatures “Voter Identification Requirements”

CNN “Judge Blocks Pennsylvania voter ID law for November Election”



## ***Coastal Consensus Reminder***

Local Leagues have been busy this fall reaching consensus on LWVOR's coastal management report. Please remember to submit your results to the state office by January 15, 2013. From local League responses, a committee will develop a new position in late January.

## ***LWVUS Agriculture Update***

*Betsy Pratt, LWVOR Ed Fund Chair*

The national LWV is recruiting for members for the agriculture study approved at convention last June. Subject to review and recommendation by the update committee, the Board adopted this scope for the update:

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, sustainable farming, 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.

Members of the study committee will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus questions, and participating in reviewing/tabulating responses submitted by participating Leagues. Norman Turrill, LWV member from Portland and LWVUS Board member, is chairing the study. If you are interested, an application form is available at <http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-committee-application>. The application deadline is December 3, 2012.

## ***National Popular Vote Update***

*Robin Wisdom, President*

The National Popular Vote (NPV) issue will be front and center at the Oregon Legislature during the upcoming session. Oregon and Minnesota are the primary target states to pass the interstate compact in 2013. Oregon legislative leaders have been contacted by Barry Fadem, President of the National Popular Vote (NPV) organization, a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation whose specific purpose is to study, analyze and educate the public regarding its proposal to implement a nationwide popular election of the President of the United States. NPV hired two lobbyists over the summer. Kappy Eaton, LWVOR Governance Chair, interviewed Mr. Fadem in July 2012, after which the Action Committee decided to make NPV a Governance priority for 2013.

During the interim the proper legislation is being drafted, and Rules Committee leaders are involved. Mr. Fadem has been covering the state during the past six months and has been interviewed by local editorial boards, including the *Register Guard* in October. While in Eugene he was asked to speak to the Lane County League. LWVOR will invite Mr. Fadem to the Legislative Process Day (LPD) on January 17<sup>th</sup> to witness Kappy's "Not Ready for Prime Time Players," who will conduct a "mock" hearing on NPV. You won't want to miss it!

Please register today for Legislative Process Day, using the registration form in this issue of *The Voter*.



## **LWVOR Fall Workshop 2012**

*Robin Wisdom, President*

On Saturday morning October 13<sup>th</sup>, the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund conducted an hour-long forum on one of the statewide ballot measures, Measure 80 Marijuana Legalization, at the LWVOR Fall Workshop held at the First United Methodist Church in Eugene. A M80 proponent Paul Stanford and chief petitioner and primary author of the bill, and Alice Bartelt, EF trustee, represented both sides of the issue and answered questions prepared by League members. Mr. Stanford described M80 in terms



**Paul Stanford and Alice Bartelt**

of the US experience with the prohibition of alcohol. Once alcohol was made legal again, with significant regulatory and taxing provisions, many of the criminal problems subsided. He argued that the initiatives set up a parallel system for recreational marijuana. Nine people from the community also attended. KEZI TV covered the forum. See <http://www.kezi.com/league-of-women-voters-measure-80-forum/>.

After lunch Chuck Sheketoff of the Oregon Center for Public Policy spoke on how the statewide ballot measures could affect Oregon's budget. He talked about tax trends in Oregon over the last 30 years. There are about 1,600 people in Oregon who qualify as "one percent", whose income is over \$295,000 annually. With an overhead presentation, Chuck graphically showed how income has soared for wealthiest, but not for others. Taxes are not evenly distributed throughout the income levels. Some tax brackets have paid much less over the last 30 years compared to other brackets. Here's a link to the substance of Chuck's talk:

<http://www.ocpp.org/2012/07/19/20120719-Oregon-income-inequality-soars/>. The charts say it all.

We thank all participants and Fall Workshop attendees for making this a very interesting and worthwhile event.

## **League and OADP**

*Rose Lewis, LWVOR Liaison Chair*

The state LWV Board is actively seeking someone to serve as an observer at the meetings of Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP). The meetings are held in Portland.

The National League has a clear position in opposition to the Death Penalty, and we would like to be involved with this effort in Oregon. Since our Action Team is overstretched with issues to cover during the upcoming legislative session, it would be very helpful to find someone else to follow this issue. OADP and other organizations have formed an umbrella group, SAFE Oregon, "Safe, Affordable, Fair and Effective," to work toward a repeal of Oregon's death penalty in favor of a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for the crime of aggravated murder. The intention is to pursue a referral to the Oregon ballot within the next few years. Please help us find someone to serve as a League observer.

## ***Voter Service Wrap-up***

*Betsy Pratt, LWVOR Ed Fund Chair*

I have been seeing messages from Leagues across the country describing long lines at polling places, long and confusing ballots, and various other problems which had to be frustrating for everyone. In New Mexico, polls closed at 7pm and in at least one precinct, the last people cast their ballots after midnight. Florida voters faced 12 constitutional amendments; and Austin, Texas ballots included 60 different items. Of course, there were also states that were well organized with plenty of resources and few problems. Oregon's voting environment may be too special to replicate elsewhere, but I certainly appreciate the ease and convenience of the vote-by-mail system, and I value the integrity with which our election officials manage the process.

I also value our League contributions to the election. My heartfelt thanks go out to every member who researched a ballot measure, conducted a candidate or ballot measure forum, helped produce and distribute voters' guides, or told your friends about our services.

Mary Sinclair and her team had the Vote411.org site up and running before the end of September. They covered 322 different races across Oregon, invited 472 candidates to participate, and got responses from 255 (a 54% response rate). They also posted information on 19 ballot measures. Mary reports that Vote411.org had about 18,500 hits (or views). For comparison, the LWVUS reported that Vote411.org generated about 800,000 hits nationwide. In addition to the on-line service, the Vote411.org information provided the content for our printed guides. Our prize feature was the ballot measure information as developed by Marianne Germond and her other researchers. Marianne was also instrumental in producing the printed guides.

The LWVOR EF produced about 52,000 print copies of the various voters' guides. We also created audio and Braille versions. A generous Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant from the Oregon Secretary of State's office covered the cost of the Easy Read, Spanish, Large Print, audio and Braille editions. The Spanish edition was our largest run; because of a distribution arrangement with El Latino de Hoy newspapers, we are able to reach Spanish-speaking communities along the I-5 corridor.

	<i>Standard Guide</i>	<i>Easy Read</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Large Print</i>	<i>Multnomah County</i>
<i>Quantity</i>	19,167	6,730	25,000	1,380	10,650
<i>Unit cost</i>	14¢ apiece	41¢ apiece	15¢ apiece	\$1.20 apiece	36¢ apiece
<i>Size</i>	24 pages	32 pages	36 pages	48 pages	44 pages

(Note: The unit cost is a factor of both the size of each edition and the number of copies printed; data which is not available until the layout and printing run is complete.)

To help spread the message about these excellent guides, we hired Hayden Clapper for the fall season (Hayden also supported our work on the Mock Election program). She had great, creative ideas for promoting our products, including:

(Continued on page 10)

## ***Voter Service Wrap-up (continued)***

- Vote411 bus ads – Posted on the back of 10 Portland area buses through Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, shared the cost with the Portland League. I finally saw my first bus ad the day after the election.
- Business card campaign - 10,000 cards printed, 6,500 distributed.
- Radio PSA campaign – Hayden sent our message to more than 200 stations, and she is trying to find out how many ran our announcement.
- Party headquarters campaign, email blast to candidates with the link to Vote411.org.
- Stickers for campuses/ farmers markets/events –ordered 1,000, distributed 700.
- Vote411 posters for tabling – ordered 50, distributed 37.
- Vote411 door magnets for vehicles – ordered 20, distributed 17.
- Google ad- Ordered \$500 worth of promotion, which ran from October 19 to November 6.

It's hard to measure the results of these efforts, but they helped get the League name out in the community. The printed materials may be usable in the next election cycle if we use Vote411.org again.

As we dash from the election season into the holiday season, I am grateful to everyone who contributed to our successful election products. And I'm thankful that the election is over.

## ***Oregon Healthcare***

*Rose Lewis, Liaison Coordinator*

Members of the coalition Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) met in Salem on November 16 and I attended as an observer for LWVOR Board. It was a lively meeting of folks from all over the state - Pendleton, LaGrande, the Gorge, southern Oregon, Florence, as well as Portland and the valley - about 60 or so, with lots of union people, doctors, nurses, social workers, as well as veterans, musicians and retirees.

Each person was asked to introduce themselves and whom they represented and say what they expected from the meeting. I gave my name and said I was an observer for LWV, and am hopeful the League can become a member, based on our national position in favor of single payer - and was surprised at the applause that statement got.

The main focus was on plans for a big event on the Capitol steps on February 4<sup>th</sup>, opening day of the Legislature, to publicize plans to introduce legislation, which Representative Michael Denbrow described. Speakers are eager to make presentations to local Leagues, including several doctors. For now, I hope we can find someone with a passion for this issue to serve as the League observer at HCAO meetings. Anyone interested should contact me or Robin. Following is information from HCAO:

### **HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. AND OREGON -**

- 1/3 of each health care dollar is wasted in the overhead of a sick care system driven more by profit than by public good.
- 1/3 of all individual insurance applications and claims are denied.
- 1/3 of us are uninsured or underinsured.
- We are #19 (dead last) of 19 developed nations in preventing death from treatable illnesses (France is #1).

# Legislative Process Day



**Thursday, January 17, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**  
**Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Hearing Room 50**  
 Sponsored by  
**LWV of Oregon • AAUW of Oregon • Oregon Commission for Women • Oregon NOW**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum • Director of Early Learning Councils Jada Rupley  
 Oregon's legislative process • Hearings (if available)  
 Preview of issues in the 2013 legislative session  
 How to have an impact

## Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form by Friday, **January 11, 2013**

**Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization affiliation (if member of sponsoring org): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshop with lunch:

- \$21.00 member of sponsoring organization
- \$26.00 guest

Box lunch features sandwich, salad, chips, juice and dessert. Choose:

### Workshop only:

- \$12.00 member
  - \$17.00 guest
- Turkey
  - Beef
  - Vegetarian

### Parking Pass:

- Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for **\$8.50** (\$8.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee. I have included my mailing address.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **January 11, 2013**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org).

*Register online and get map, parking info, and agenda at*  
<http://www.lwvor.org/events/legislative-process-day>

# League of Women Voters® of Oregon

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