



VOTER

Volume 68, Issue 2

www.lwvor.org

Winter 2013

Studies' Debut Success!

The League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund presented “Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013” at two fall events open to the public specifically to announce and launch our new studies, Children at Risk and the Postsecondary Education studies. The events were held in Roseburg at the Umpqua Community College and in Oregon City at the Clackamas Community College.

Key professionals described how the new education programs in Oregon are being developed. We invited all citizens, educators, and parents to attend by sending out press releases, personal invitations, and newsletter and website articles.

The event at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg was held on Saturday, October 12 from 10AM to 2:30PM and hosted by LWV of Umpqua Valley. Nancy Golden, Chief Education Officer of the Oregon Education Investment Board was the keynote speaker. Panelists included Christy Cox and John Amoroso, Ford Family Foundation, Pat Sublette, Douglas Education Service District, Gwen Soderberg-Chase, UCC Early Childhood Ed. Coordinator, Roxanne Kelly, Vice-President of Umpqua Community College, and Susan Weeks of the University of Oregon.



Children at Risk Information Group Clackamas event

The event at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City was held on Saturday, November 2 from 10AM to 2:30PM and hosted by the LWV of Clackamas County. Pam Curtis, Chair of the Early Learning Council was the keynote speaker. Panelists included Whitney Grubbs of the Oregon Education Investment Board, Carol Middleton of Clackamas County Youth and Family Services, Bob Stewart, Gladstone Public School Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Truesdell, President of Clackamas Community College, Mary Louise McClintock of the Oregon Community Foundation, Lois Davis of Portland State University, and Sam Dotters-Katz of Associated Students University of Oregon.

(Continued on page 4)

LWVOR Board of Directors

Robin Wisdom, President
 Jane Calvert, 1st VP
 Alice Bartelt, 2nd VP
 Becky Gladstone, Education Fund
 Chair
 Mike Taylor, Treasurer

Directors: Anne Emmons and
 Karan Kuntz

LWVOR Staff

Kathy Greysmith: Administrative
 Manager: Financial and Advocacy
 Support
 Larissa Abello: Administrative
 Manager: Technology & Education
 Support

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

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.

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.

***Membership: Never miss an
 opportunity***

Janet Calvert, Membership Chair

Each and every League member is a membership
 committee of one. Be ready and be prepared to ask your
 friend, neighbor, exercise buddy, or member of another
 group or club to join the League.

Have a membership brochure with you. Never be
 without brochure, especially at a public meeting. As the
 TV ad says. "Never leave home without one."

Consider offering the new *Think Before You Ink* brochure,
 which is a great tool that illustrates League's mission to
 encourage informed and active participation in
 government.

Be enthusiastic and share what you have gained from
 League membership. Share your personal story of why
 League membership is important to you.

Everyone has a special skill or interest. Let individuals
 know how they can make an impact in their community
 by being a part of League. You may know of their special
 skills that could assist study committees, League
 observers at public meetings, or research on ballot
 measures.

You may want a League business card that has your
 contact information to give to that perspective member.
 Ask your local League Board to investigate the business
 card template available on both the LWVOR and LWVUS
 web sites. Board members and interested members may
 want business cards to offer at that special membership
 recruitment opportunity.



President's Column / Robin Wisdom

Hello League Friends,

I hope you are well and excited about League prospects and your association with the League. Your membership is important to all levels of League, and your help with recruitment is also crucial especially this time of year. Let's each promise to call one friend who been a fence sitter and ask them to join. We need them and they need us!

I also see the need for education everywhere! It's time to see progress and feel a sense of hope. And we have reason to. There are good things going on in Oregon. And we're here to help it along.

The state board feels a sense of completion after working so hard on providing a stellar program in two locations to launch the Children at Risk and Postsecondary Education studies in Oct. and Nov. I must say "Bravo!" to board and "Thank You!" Check out the websites (LWVOR and VoteOregon) for updates, slide presentations, photos, links, etc. Bear in mind, work is still in progress. Videos of the presentations at both events will soon be added.

We just started work with our new development staff, Kathleen Mason. We are meeting regularly with her and are planning a year-end solicitation campaign that will roll out quickly.

I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving and holiday season no matter what your faith. Enjoy life, you deserve it!

With gratitude,




How Do Our Studies Work?

Becky Gladstone, LWVOR Ed Fund Chair

As our League EF Chair, I want to talk about League Studies, to give a perspective on how studies fit into what we do.

We care about Oregon's future, and educating our young people. The League of Women Voters believes **that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all.** This is fundamental to American social mobility.

League positions support it, and it is time for an update.

We haven't looked at Higher Ed in Oregon since 1985, and a lot has changed, particularly recently! Our Children at Risk study, from 1995, focused mostly on teen pregnancy, high time for an update. The League has many activities. You may have a favorite and these studies could be the one!

(Continued on page 5)

Studies Debut *(Continued from page 1)*



Postsecondary Education information group at Umpqua event

The presentations were informative and interesting. The Children at Risk panel in Roseburg received the highest marks. The panelists all knew each other and coordinated their combined presentation in advance of the forum. The quality of the programs in general was high as indicated by written evaluations. At the end of both forums we broke into two groups, one for each study. Each study committee grew and members got to meet and sit down with each other. Most local Leagues attended one or the other event, and some attended both.

The slide presentations by the speakers and photos from the events are posted online at www.voteoregon.org. We will let you know when the videos are available.

Please thank the Events Committee who worked so diligently on formulating the plan for the forums and then contacting potential speakers. They gave up much of their summers to work on this for the advancement of the League. Sincere kudos go to: Alice Bartelt, Rebecca Gladstone, Lorie James, Fran Mazarra, Karan Kuntz, Kappy Eaton, Luana Luther, Sally McKain, Karen Nibler, and Chris Vogel. I would also like to thank our staff, Kathy Greysmith and Larissa Abello, who were essential in this achievement.



**Children at Risk Panel at Umpqua Community College:
Pat Sublette, Gwen Soderberg-Chase, and Christy Fox**

How Do Studies Work?

(continued from page 3)

So, how do our studies work?

What the League does relates very loosely into a cycle. Among other things, we have Voter Service, our Studies, developing advocacy positions from study reports, taking Legislative Action using our positions, and Action Alerts.

Voter Service

Let's start with Voter Service. The League of Women Voters started as Suffragettes, to get Votes for Women.

In Oregon, that happened just over a hundred years ago, and that wouldn't do us much good without an informed electorate.

Now, we work at

sharing non-partisan information and encouraging active

civic participation. That includes welcoming new citizens, voter registration, debates and forums, serving on boards and commissions, and seeking political office. Look at our recent Fast Fact Flyer on Petitions, "Think Before You Ink". Did you know that Chief Petitioners for Oregon ballot Initiatives, don't need to be Oregon residents, or even US citizens?

Sometimes, issues arise that pose questions or need action. Then, we look to our studies to form positions.

Studies

For studies, we compare current hot topics, and then choose! Honestly, some issues have strong popular interest, like these two today,

with important developments during our analysis!

The League conducts studies at local, state and national levels. Our current national study is Agriculture. The state League just published an Oregon Coastal study. My league, in Lane County, is updating their county government study. We research with literature searches, interviews, field trips, and so forth. Reports are compiled and shared with members, to form advocacy positions. You can look for further study information to our LWVUS National

Clearinghouse, by logging in as a member.

Advocacy Positions

To form League advocacy positions, members meet and discuss "Every Member Materials", study reports and related documents, sent to members before meetings to help ensure informed discussions. These are

carefully studied and considered. Based on members' consensus, advocacy positions are developed. I welcome you to come and join in- you can get what you need to know, satisfy your curiosity and make a difference in your community!

Action!

The positions we develop are published for local, state and national issues. They are quoted in testimony presented at all governmental levels. The League has a well-respected reputation for non-partisan advocacy. Legislators appreciate the quality of our studies and I have seen them ask for League testimony during legislative sessions.

(Continued on page 6)



LWVOR Education Fund chair, Becky Gladstone and Chief Education Officer of the Oregon Educational Investment Board, Nancy Golden

Studies *(Continued from page 5)*

Action Alerts

Based on League positions and government proceedings, sometimes members are called to act, to contact their members of Congress, for example. These alerts are sent for rapid response to impending legislation, available to all of our members, through various quick response avenues, email and social media, for example.

Membership

As a League member, you can choose just how involved you want to be. With these studies, I know we can all get a better understanding of recent Oregon educational system changes.

- Maybe you could use some unbiased analysis of what's going on, what you need to know, how you can make a difference.
- I hope some of you want to dig in and look at what is happening in Oregon educational reforms, to work on these studies with us. You can work on a piece that just fits you. We are a volunteer group and we welcome your input!

Please think about what your particular interests are when read about our studies, and what you'd like to learn more about. Learn more about our current studies here at www.voteoregon.org.

Charitable IRA Rollover - Keeps On Rolling Through December 31, 2013

At the last moment, Congress passed legislation to avoid the fiscal cliff. This legislation, known as the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, included a two-year retroactive extension of the charitable IRA rollover. The previous authorization of the Rollover expired at the end of 2011, but it has now been reinstated through December 31, 2013. This extension applies to any distribution up to \$100,000 made directly from an IRA to charity by an individual who is 70 1/2 or older.

What are the requirements and restrictions for making a charitable IRA rollover gift to the EF Fund?

- The donor must be 70 1/2 or older.
- The gift must be made directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization (i.e LWVOREF) in 2013.
- Gifts to all charities combined cannot exceed a total of \$100,000 for the year.
- The gifts must be outright, and no material benefits can be received in return for the gift. Thus, a transfer for a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or pooled income fund is not permitted.
- Gifts cannot be made to a donor-advised fund, supporting organization, or private foundation.
- The gift is not included in taxable income and no charitable deduction is allowed.
- The gift can only be made from an IRA. Gifts from a 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans are not permitted.

(Continued on page 7)

IRA Rollover *(Continued from page 6)*

- You would like to make an additional charitable gift, but it would not be deductible because of the annual 50-percent-of-adjusted-gross-income limitation on charitable contributions. The charitable IRA rollover is equivalent to a deduction because it is not included in taxable income.
- You have an outstanding pledge to a charity. The charitable IRA rollover can satisfy a pledge without violating rules against self-dealing.

What steps should you take to make a gift?

- If you want to make a qualifying 2013 transfer, contact your IRA administrator and instruct that person to transfer funds to the charity(ies) you designate.
- Contact our office. We will answer your questions and provide instructions for completing your gift.

Want to make a paperless donation? Just go to our website www.lwvor.org. Click on the DONATE button. You can make a one-time donation or a monthly pledge. Whether you send in a check or make an online donation, we thank you for your commitment to support the work of the League of Women Voters of Oregon.

SAVE THE DATE!
DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014
AT THE STATE LIBRARY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CAPITOL
Stay tuned for more information!

The League Mourns the Loss of A Member

Barbara Fredericks, a LWV Portland member, passed away on Oct. 8, 2013, and will be truly missed.

<http://lwvpdx.org/about/board-staff>

League of Women Voters® of Oregon

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Salem, OR
Permit 312

In This Issue:

Studies Debut Success	1
Membership: Never Miss an Opportunity	2
President's Column	4
How Do Our Studies Work?	4
Charitable IRA Rollover	6
Paperless Donation	7
Save the Date	7

Save the Date

**Day at the Legislature, February 10,
2014**

**Office Regular hours, Mon-Fri, 9am-
1pm. Closed December 23 through
January 1.**

May 17 & 18, 2014 LWVOR Council in
Douglas County, hosted by LWV of
Umpqua Valley.