

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



VOTER

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Fall 2019

From the President's Desk

Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President

Welcome to Fall 2019! We need you in 2020! We'll celebrate the League's 100th Anniversary (and 19th Amendment), with grants for local League 100th Anniversary events. Such a Thrill to say that, even if they may be small grants!



I'm excited with local League collaborations forming! The "Cyber Study" is going gangbusters, on schedule. Census 2020? Of course, we're working on that. Action will meet to address committee growth- with almost 20 advocates! There is lots in this newsletter, please read & share it! ***It all looks promising!***

I want to add, from me to you- League members still rest in summer, but it isn't a League time off. I heard your Convention call for improved communication. If you read monthly all-member President's emails, get local League Leader emails, follow our daily social media, or call in for meetings, *you know!* Did you hear about our letter to Governor Brown asking her to protest the Jordan Cove surveillance? With more League news options now, Sarah, our tech-spiffy staffer is updating "manage your subscriptions" – available soon.

October Focus -- Voter Service 2020 (see the article inside)

BEING TAUGHT TO AVOID TALKING ABOUT POLITICS AND RELIGION HAS LED TO A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICS AND RELIGION.



WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAUGHT WAS HOW TO HAVE A CIVIL CONVERSATION ABOUT A DIFFICULT TOPIC.

Please- Be sure to attend the Fall Workshop in Eugene on October 19th! We'll have two training workshops: one to learn Redistricting petitioning and the other for the Voter Service Reps TOOLBOX and Voter Service Policy updates. We have worked around that old "Empty Chair" debate problem *mostly! Come and hear details.

Oregon is counting on our 2020 Voter Service, a BIG election year, *obviously.*

I hope to see you there! Thank you, Becky

ANONYMOUS

We ran this image on Facebook "LWV Oregon", reaching over 14,800, with 221 shares. People count on the League for Civil Discourse, especially facing the 2020 election year!

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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 Fall Workshop

"Our Lives on the Web: Equity, Discourse and
 Propaganda"

Saturday, October 19th
 9:00am - 3:00pm

Lane Community College
[Center for Meeting and Learning](#)
[4000 E. 30th St, Building 19](#)
[Eugene, OR 97405](#)

The biennial Fall Workshop is scheduled for Saturday
 October 19. This one day gathering will host members
 from Oregon's Local Leagues. It will give new and
 longtime members a chance to enjoy some workshops
 and two outside speakers with a buffet luncheon.

To register, go to <http://lwvor.org/fall-workshop-2019/>.
 Now is the opportunity to promote our new brand and
 our organization which will celebrate one hundred years
 in 2020. There are many new tools from national to Local
 Leagues available now.

Guest speakers will be **Dr. Erik Girvan**, a professor from
 the University of Oregon, and **Donna Cohen** both of
 whom have expertise in communication and conflict
 resolution. Dr. Girvan will give the keynote address at
 lunch "Implicit Bias" and Ms. Cohen will speak about
 political propaganda and fake news.

In addition, the morning session offers a choice of
 workshops: **Voter Service** with Becky Gladstone and
 Betsy Pratt or **Redistricting Petition** with Candalynn
 Johnson. Sharing from teachers who attended the
 Harvard Project this summer, updates on our Centennial
 Celebration, and census 2020 tools also may be available.

A special video project is underway from the Portland
 League. Margaret Noel will bring Metroeast professional
 videographers to conduct interviews of League members
 for the promotional public relations video being
 produced for next year.

Sharing with other League members is always
 productive and fun. Consider this workshop and bring
 your latest ideas and experiences. The upcoming election
 cycle will include many challenges for promoting a more
 secure democracy. Our work is voter education, we will
 be stronger together.

Four Local Leagues of Women Voters from Coos Bay to Malin and LWVOR Call for State and Federal Agencies to Deny Permits to Jordan Cove Energy Project

Shirley Weathers, LWVRV Climate Change Coordinator and Christine Moffitt, LWVCC Board

At the 2018 Convention of the LWVUS, grass-roots membership from around the nation approved a Resolution: “The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that . . . require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and *major projects* . . .” The Resolution hits home for the four local Leagues in southern Oregon counties that, along with their communities, have faced for over a decade the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP). Canadian Pembina Corporation seeks to build the two-part JCEP, consisting of a 530-acre liquefied natural gas storage and export facility known as the Jordan Cove LNG project on Coos Bay and a 230-mile 36” Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline to supply it from a hub in Malin, Oregon. Proponents see jobs (mostly temporary) and tax revenues as benefits; Pembina spares no expense on high-dollar promotional efforts. Opponents, including the four local Leagues and the LWVOR, see unacceptable negative impacts on the natural environment from air to water to aquatic and wildlife, as well as serious safety risks. Build a massive LNG storage and export facility hosting 950-foot tankers traveling in and out of the bay in the Cascadia Subduction and tsunami zone? This activity near the largest population center on the Oregon coast—an important fishing port and tourist center with many schools and regional health centers? Allow a foreign corporation to bury a highly pressurized natural gas pipeline across 230 miles of drought-stressed, heavily timbered and landslide-prone terrain, while exercising eminent domain against hundreds of private landowners for right-of-way takings? Install a massive new, methane-emitting fossil fuel infrastructure in Oregon—or anywhere—with a climate emergency already upon us?

Based on our understanding of the potential impacts of this proposed project and an ample list of League positions, the local LWVs of Coos County, Umpqua, Rogue Valley, and Klamath County have determined that this project is contrary to the public interest. We have exerted extensive efforts to stop it through regulatory advocacy. This means submitting well-researched, substantive technical comments to effect denial of key state and federal permits JCEP needs to move forward to construction. We will not drag you “into the weeds” with us. Our local websites, as well as that of the LWVOR, have our four major comments posted for anyone interested. More are on the way. We also act individually in our own local communities, sponsoring presentations for our members and the public, testifying at public hearings, supporting comment writing workshops hosted by allied groups, and encouraging League members to write.

This joint action by the four local Leagues, taken in solidarity with other community members and organizations and Tribes, is a step in the long journey to stop this harmful project. We thank the LWVOR for their support and welcome the participation of local Leagues and Leaguers statewide.

100th Anniversary Lunch- March 7, 2020

You are Invited, And Your Spouse, And Your Daughter,
And Your Son, And Your Mother

Robin Wisdom, The Century Celebration Committee, rwisdom@jeffnet.org

The League is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on March 7th in Salem, Oregon at the Convention Center with a grand party. Since the League is an important part of your life, we want you and your family to help us celebrate our 100th birthday. Bring your daughters, your mother, your sons, your spouse and join us as we applaud the 100th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Join Governor Kate Brown (invited), Secretary of State Bev Clarno, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Commissioner of Labor and Industries Val Hoyle, Chief Justice Martha Lee Walters and former Governor Barbara Roberts as we salute the League and honor its achievements and the members who created it, nurtured it and continue to make democracy work in Oregon.

Registration will open in January at which time you may purchase tickets to attend. We hope so!

Come celebrate with us on March 7th in Salem!

LWV 100th Anniversary Quilt Challenge!

Paula Grisafi, paligri1@gmail.com

Quilt guilds across the state are considering challenging their members to make quilts for next year with themes to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, women's suffrage and the League of Women Voters. So far three quilt shows, the Umpqua Valley Quilt Show in April, the Oregon Coast Quilt Show in August and the Northwest Quilt Expo in September 2020 will be displaying quilts on the topic. Watch for further information about other quilt shows that may join the year's observance of the occasion.



Quilters, talk to your guilds about the idea and have them contact the League to be included in the celebration!

Redistricting in Oregon

Norman Turrill

The LWV of Oregon has joined the [Redistricting Matters Coalition](#), and the LWVOR Board has formally endorsed the proposed initiative campaign, acting on our state and national redistricting studies and positions. The League is a leader of this coalition. Additionally, the Oregon League through its Advocacy Fund wing has raised considerable money in many small donations that will be dedicated to the campaign. The League member donations (keep them coming!) will go to a chief petitioner PAC that will be formed when the initiative is filed. Several other organizations have also now joined and endorsed the campaign. Eventually, after a ballot title is certified and petition formats are approved (which may take months), then League members and coalition partners will be asked to help circulate the petitions. Stay tuned!

Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order Law: Is it working?

Marge Easley

Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law, often referred to as a "red flag law," has been in effect since January 2018. It allows law enforcement or family members to petition a state court to remove firearms for a one-year period from someone who presents a danger to themselves or others. In 2018, there were 74 ERPO petitions in Oregon; 62 were granted by a judge and 12 were denied. In 2019, from January through June, 43 petitions were filed; 30 approved by a judge and 13 denied.

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) keeps track of petitions, but much more can be done at the local level to make the public aware of the law and filing process. OJD provides details on their [ERPO Website](#), and a helpful packet of information and forms can be found [here](#). Also, Ceasefire Oregon is happy to share a [short video on ERPO](#), created by Lake Oswego high school student Penelope Spurr.

What can Local Leagues do to help get the word out about the ERPO law?

As a simple action item for your League, first check your county/local government and law enforcement websites to see if there are links to the [Oregon Judicial Department's ERPO webpage](#). If no link exists, please ask that such a link be added. Also ask whether information about ERPO could be included in their next newsletter. Remind them that public access to this vital information can save lives.

If you are interested in having a speaker on this issue, please contact Marge Easley. marge.easley@frontier.com.

Voters Service

Betsy Pratt, Voter Service Chair,

The LWVOR Voters Service team has begun to plan our activities and services for the upcoming elections. You may have heard from Peggy Bengry about using VOTE411 to post information on local ballot measures for the November 2019 special elections. She asked that any material be sent to her by September 30.

If you don't already know what VOTE411 has to offer, please plan on attending the Voters Service session on the LWVOR Fall Workshop [see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter]. We will provide a demonstration of the newest features of VOTE411 and a presentation on LWV policies regarding candidate forums (hint: we don't do debates). We will then discuss how to make VOTE411 more successful and useful to everyone. By the end of the session, you should have a good sense of what to expect from our Voters Service team and how you can help.

Lively Discussions for Program Planning

Kathleen Hersh and Margaret Noel

Winter “Program Planning” can be fun and interesting! Here’s a two-step process that the Portland and Washington County Leagues have used. We start with a “Winter Party” to develop some proposals. Then we follow-up with group discussions of the proposals to plan for the following year. The proposals can be for our local Leagues and for LWVOR or LWVUS.



Winter 2018 Planning Party

1. **The first meeting** is for all your interested members; it includes refreshments, social time, and focused table discussions. This event should be in a location where the members can divide into groups of five to eight. It could be in a meeting room with tables, or in someone’s home with several sitting areas—a dining room, breakfast nook, rec room, living room, etc.
 - a. Select a few topics, based on issues that are important in your community. The topics can be quite broad like Education or more specific like Air Quality. Six topics for large Leagues; four topics for smaller Leagues.
 - b. Find a discussion leader for each topic.
 - c. Provide each discussion leader with some ideas to start the discussion, a copy of positions (local, state and/or national) that may apply, and outlines for action, study, and event plans (what needs to be done, why, how, and who).
 - d. Let the members select which discussion group they wish to join.
 - e. Each group should select a recorder/reporter. Let the group brainstorm about the issues in the topic. Then ask, “Do we have positions that cover these issues? Is the position current? Actionable?”
 - i. If no, develop a study scope. Have some examples of study proposals on hand.
 - ii. If yes, and we know enough to take action, write up an action plan.
 - iii. If we don’t understand the problem well, should we find a speaker or panel of experts to address our League? Do we want an interest group to read up and find out what experts are saying? Again, have the group develop a written plan.
 - f. Whatever the plan, include ideas for who will help.
 - g. The groups may not be able to develop polished plans, but group volunteers can finish the drafts. At the end of the meeting, a spokesperson for each group should present what they propose to the other members. The plans should be written up and circulated to all League members before the next meeting.

(Continued on page 7)

Program Planning (Continued from page 6)

- 2. The second meetings** will be Unit meetings for large Leagues or another all-member event for smaller Leagues. Discuss the proposed plans, make suggestions and add names of members who are interested to the lists of those who will help. To the extent possible, fill in the program planning forms to retain, drop, or update current positions and to propose new studies.

Although your League may not be able to fill in responses for every position on a program planning form, you may have developed study proposal(s) and ideas for great informational meetings for your League in the year ahead. Feel free to contact one of us to find out more about how this can work: Kathleen, hershhor@gmail.com; Margaret, margaret.w.noel@gmail.com. (We have had excellent results and hope you do too!)

How to: A Book Group

Kathleen Hersh, Membership

Some Leagues have asked about how to start a League Book Group. I asked Mimi Alkire from LWV Deschutes County how she started that League's book group. First, she sent an announcement to members to ask for interest and book suggestions. Their goal was to read books that help the group to understand and appreciate our nation and democracy. Members are encouraged to come and bring a friend. (This has resulted in some new members for the League). Everyone is welcome even if they haven't finished the book.

They meet in the evening in members' homes. Mimi and the local League President hosted the first two meetings. Mimi picked the first two books. The group selected a name, The Freedom Readers, and devised a method for selecting books to read. The books are selected two months ahead. They meet monthly except August and December. A simple snack like popcorn is provided by the host and members may bring wine to share. The Freedom Readers have about 35 on their email list and 10-15 come to any given meeting.

To get you started, here are some books that Mimi and other League book groups recommend:

[*Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice*](#) by Bill Browder, [*American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*](#) by Colin Woodward, [*Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*](#) by Linda Hirshman, [*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*](#) by Isabelle Wilkerson

NEW LWVOR study, [Pesticides and Other Biocides in Oregon](#), is recruiting volunteers and committee members. Volunteers will learn about the diverse pesticides and other biocides used to control unwanted pests. This study will allow the LWVOR to develop detailed positions on the use of pesticides and other biocides and will help us prepare better testimony. All levels of expertise and all different perspectives are necessary for a successful study. Please contact a.nestler@lwvor.org to learn more and volunteer!

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