August 1, 2019 - Update from LWVOR President Becky Gladstone

Here’s to a delightful August! Plan ahead, catch up, savor summer, enjoy each other’s company! Refresh to prepare for the busy year ahead and find new ways to engage!

Please read about our upcoming events; the first one on August 6th! Sign up, put them on calendars, share with members, and join in. Be sure to save October 19th for our Fall Workshop in Eugene, teaser: Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda, with a look at implicit bias.

LWV 100th Anniversary

Please remember that we have modest grants available for local League 100th Anniversary activities. We hope to celebrate all year! Call your quilt and costume friends! Celebrate Americana!

Yes, we’re working on Climate Change, Voting Rights, & more.

Quilters and costumers want to know how they can help us celebrate our 100th Anniversary. Now is the time to set Suffrage Themes & Challenges for 2020! Reach out to your Historical Societies & Museums, quilt groups and shops.

Remember the League anniversary celebration in Salem on March 7, 2020.
From LWVUS

Feeling left out? **Subscribe** to League Leaders' Updates, **July 18th**. From Chris Carson, LWVUS President:

“Speak out against inhumane treatment of human beings seeking refuge in our country, **at the border** or **in their own homes**. We must **call out racism and xenophobia** that comes from the highest positions of power in our government. We cannot allow confusion and fear to silence us when our country commits such horrors. Our voices matter, as does the power we lend to those who are marginalized. I thank Leagues across the country for standing up against these terrible policies and rhetoric, and I urge you to continue speaking out.”

LWVUS Opportunities and Responsibilities

- Voting Rights Vigil, August 6, 2019. [Sign up to host or attend.](#)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion webinar, August 29: League History through a DEI Lens, past LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, [Register.](#) She spoke at Council in June- Powerful!
- National Voter Registration Day, September 24, 2019. [Register your League now.](#)
- Census Action! [Sign the petition and ask your lawmakers to fully fund the 2020 Census.](#)

(This petition has partners. By signing, you may get emails from our partner groups).

More Census 2020 News

I am thrilled with LWVUS 2020 Census support; the [new LWV Census page](#) and [LWV Census Action Kit](#). LWV has set up regional networks and I will represent our region, including AK, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, and WA. Oregon could get or lose an expected 6th Congressional District, depending on census results. Look for an upcoming Census Voter article from LWVOR Board Census Rep [Toni Lampkin](#).

Oregon News

Campaign Finance Reform- Asking Leagues to step up!

Please publicize to members and communities; attend to be informed and bring questions.
Rep. Rayfield, with election policy experts and other campaign finance reform legislative leaders, will present a statewide forum tour in September. Forums will feature a history of Oregon campaign finance reform, discussion of the 2019 legislature’s accomplishments, and a community discussion about the future of campaign finance reform. This can drive local reform conversations and energize the legislature to pass campaign contribution limits, which we support. For further information, contact Rep Rayfield’s staff, Tony Lapiz, or by phone: 541.740.7744. Please put these in your calendars and help to publicize them. All of these campaign finance forums are in September, all from 7-8.30pm:

- Medford: 4th Medford Library (map) – 205 S Central Ave, Medford, OR 97501
- Eugene: 5th UO, Global Scholars Hall Room 123 (map) – 1710 E 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 97403
- Hillsboro: 9th Shute Park Library (map) – 775 SE 10th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97123
- Oregon City: 10th Exact location TBD
- Portland: 11th Midland Library (map) – 805 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
- Salem: 17th Oregon State Capitol Room 350 (map) - 900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301
- Bend: 23rd East Bend Library (map) - 62080 Dean Swift Rd, Bend, OR 97701

LWVOR Behind the Scenes in July

Our “cyber study” research is underway. The Redistricting Matters coalition is too, for an Independent Redistricting Commission Initiative. We are working with 2020 pre-session coalitions. We signed two amicus (friends of the court) briefs.

- LWVOR and LWVPDX, with the Honest Elections Coalition, signed an appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals, Multnomah County Charter Amendment 26-184. It is a local court case but the outcome could overturn a campaign finance ruling affecting the Oregon Constitution.
- LWVOR signed to Brown v Cherniak, the Oregon case related to Juliana v US, the Our Children's Trust national constitutional case.

League Readers’ Bookshelf!

Books give us the opportunity to explore experiences beyond our own life. This column will be a chance to share books with other Leaguers books that have opened you up to other worlds. Send me your suggestions—k.hersh@lwvor.org.

July Featured Books

**“Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants” by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

“As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.”

This is a series of essays. One essay, “Witness to the Rain” describes our coastal forest—”here in these misty forests those edges seem to blur, with rain so fine and constant as to be indistinguishable from air and cedars wrapped with cloud so dense that only their outlines emerge. Water doesn’t seem to make a clear distinction between gaseous phase and liquid.” And the essay “Burning Cascade Head” describes the native people's ritual to call home the salmon and care for the land. This a lovely book with lots of wisdom for the reader.

**“Rules of Civility” by Amore Towles**

The turbulent final days of Oregon’s 2019 Legislative session were stark reminders that democracy is a fragile thing. We attended the July 8th Oregon Senate conduct hearing, listened to the Mueller
hearing on July 23rd, also a C-SPAN February 13th Election Protection rebroadcast. We urge legislators to face the perils of confrontation politics, i.e., viewing every issue as us vs. them, urban vs. rural, left vs. right. Please join us in calling for respectful dialogue and listening because democracy only works when "we're all in this together."

As a salute to civil discourse and to August being precious summer reading time, take a quick escape read with Amor Towles' Rules of Civility, set in Manhattan over the year of 1938, "infused with contemporary parallels", "snappy dialogue".

What are your League book groups reading? Some are on vacation or reading books in advance over the summer. In case you missed it, our July featured book was "Vote For US, How to take back our elections and change the future of voting", by Joshua Douglas, pictured here at the Powell's event on July 1st.

Thank you for reading! Please keep in touch. Let's improve communications!

Becky Gladstone
LWVOR President