From the President’s Desk

Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President

Welcome to the final month of 2019. I am encouraging everyone to take a deep breath, savor this time of year, enjoy the holidays, rest, and build up your reserves. Use this time to prepare for 2020.

We knew 2020 would be an ambitious year; we saw it coming, as indeed it vigorously is! As we approach the centennial of the 19th Amendment signing and founding of the League of Women Voters, let’s make our founders proud. We work today in differently trying times, with current issues like Cybersecurity and Privacy, this year’s study for League members. There is plenty of work to share, though.

We must call on our friends and partners to help us succeed with these formidable goals:

- Our state initiatives are underway, to bring redistricting to the ballot in 2020.
- Candidates are asking already for our election events! Plan to help Voter Service.
- Our larger Action Committee welcomes help; attend Day at the Legislature, February 18, 2020
- We will train with Oregon librarians to help with Census 2020 in Oregon.
- Save March 7th for the LWVOR Centennial Celebration; with grants for our Leagues, too!

Thank you for reading news from our volunteers in this newsletter. I hope you have signed up for our first of the month emails and know that your leaders get news after our board meetings- ask them! People trust the legacy of the League. Find a volunteer task that works for you and invite others to help! We can’t do this alone.

Happy Holidays

This LWV of Oregon Facebook post from October 6th has been seen by more than 223.8K viewers and shared 3,545 times.
Redistricting in Oregon
The People Not Politicians Campaign

Norman Turrill, Governance Coordinator

You have probably already seen this news: The LWVOR and the LWVORAF, together with their partners in the diverse People Not Politicians coalition, has filed three redistricting initiatives with the Secretary of State. The three initiatives are nearly identical, with the first one combining congressional and legislative redistricting, and the other two being separate congressional and legislative redistricting. We did this as a strategy for dealing with the possibility that the first initiative might be ruled to unconstitutionally contain two subjects.

The coalition so far includes organizations from the whole spectrum of politics in Oregon: Besides the League, it includes Common Cause, the ACLU, the Oregon AAUW, OSPIRG, the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, Oregon Business & Industry, the Independent Party of Oregon, the Oregon Progressive Party, and the NAACP Eugene/Springfield Branch.

Such a diverse coalition is possible because redistricting is a process issue that, like a double-edged sword, can cut both ways. We believe that in the long run everyone will benefit from having a fair, unbiased and transparent process. We believe that Oregon voters should choose their politicians—politicians should not choose their voters.

Not since the initiative for voting by mail has the LWVOR lead the way on an initiative. Past LWVOR President Norman Turrill is a Chief Petitioner together with Sharon Waterman, President of the Oregon Farm Bureau. Turrill also is Chair of the campaign’s Executive Committee.

Because of the long ballot title process in Oregon, petitioning may not start for several months. In the meantime, you can endorse, volunteer and contribute to the campaign at its People Not Politicians* website.

* https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/
Feeling deluged by e-media? Worried about its effects on privacy, truth and democracy?

LWVOR volunteers Rick Bennett, Jane Gigler, Betsy Gladstone, Sheila McGinnis, and Chair Mary Sinclair embarked on the Cybersecurity and Privacy Today study this summer to address those concerns. This one-year study focuses on the tensions between data privacy, information security, and accountability in cyberspace today.

The study examines how privacy is treated and protected under current rules and laws governing cybersecurity and internet commerce across the country and globally. It also highlights current and proposed Oregon legislation and concerns with election security. Additional resources include recommendations for individual’s cyber protection, plus a glossary, appendices and references for further reading.

Here’s some of what we’ve learned so far:

**Governance of individual information.** The United States constitution does not explicitly recognize an individual or absolute right to privacy; current policy debates focus on information privacy. Information privacy is based on data ownership—data about individuals collected by business or government is controlled by the entity collecting it, not the person represented by that data.

**Self-regulation by tech- and data-related industries.** Firms that gather, analyze, and distribute consumer information self-regulate, meaning they voluntarily define how they will handle responsibility for individual’s information.

**Data on individuals is a commodity.** Commercial use of consumer profiles and networks of ‘big data’ has created a highly profitable industry that packages and sells personal data to third party users.

**Emerging technologies have unanticipated consequences for privacy.** Sophisticated technologies such as biometrics, monitoring and surveillance tools, the so-called ‘Internet of Things’, and artificial intelligence often solve problems while creating new vulnerabilities. Networked computers and computerized devices are subject to dangerous attacks, inundated with ‘fake news’ and questionable information. Elections are subject to disinformation campaigns and hackers. Users face greater intrusion on personal privacy.
Cyber Study (Continued from page 3)

More people get their information on-line. Traditional news media are transitioning to online platforms, now competing with free-wheeling on-line partisan and sectarian outlets which label their opposition as “fake news”. Social media tends to reinforce aggregation of those with similar preferences, isolating exposure to disparate opinions and rebuttal of disinformation.

Our brains are easily deceived. Human thought processes make us susceptible to disinformation and overload on the internet.

The first draft of the study is under review by outside readers and experts and the committee is developing consensus questions. See the timeline revision from the board, to allow Leagues extra time, if needed. The committee is anxious to share this urgent information with our members because we see important developments that call for our action, every day. We hope members are looking forward to reading our report. We are preparing presentation materials, so please consider inviting us to a meeting!

LWVOR Century Celebration

Robin Wisdom, LWVOR Century Celebration Committee, Chair, rwisdom@jeffnet.org
On Saturday, March 7th, 2020, League of Women Voters of Oregon celebrates its 100th Anniversary! We will meet at the Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Oregon 97301, from 10am to 2:00pm. The day’s highlight is an exciting panel of all our current statewide preeminent women office holders discussing “Women in Leadership” with former Governor Barbara Roberts serving as the moderator. Panelists include Governor Kate Brown (invited), Secretary of State Bev Clarno, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Commissioner of Labor and Industries, Val Hoyle, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters.

The program will include a brief history of the League’s 100 years, a look into the future, and presentations of the Carrie Chapman Catt and the Distinguished Service Awards.

The cost is $50, including morning coffee, a tidbit and lunch. Registration opens January 6th at the State Office and on our website. Be sure to respond immediately for we expect the reservations to fill quickly. It is time to celebrate our accomplishments!

The Action Committee has grown dramatically. We bid farewell to our Revenue Coordinator, Maud Naroll, with gratitude. See our December newsletter for our volunteer issue wishlist.
Local Leagues Celebrate a Century of Achievement!

Robin Wisdom, LWVOR Century Celebration Committee, Chair

- Local League grants for your Century Celebrations in 2020 – A grant application is available online in the Member Resources section on the www.lwvor.org website. The application period ends on Dec. 4, 2019. The Development Committee will send notifications after Dec. 18.

- Local Leagues are able to enter their Distinguished Service Award Honorees 2020 (up to 10) and a brief summary (up to 30 words for each Honoree) on LWVOR’s website in the Member Resources section.

Reminder:
Who do you want to invite to our March 7th Century Celebration at the Salem Convention Center? Important local officials? Your Mayor, City Councilors, your therapist? 😊 Who? We need your important addresses to mail ‘Save the Date’ postcards and January invitations.
Please email contact information to lwvor@lwvor.org.

2020 LWVOR Council

Sally McKain, Events Chair
It is time to save-the-date for 2020 LWVOR Council in Newport, Oregon on May 15 – 17, 2020. The location will be at the Best Western Plus, Agate Beach, 3019 N. Coast Hwy, Newport. There will be a short business meeting and elections if necessary. We are forming the event committee now. If you have interest to participate, there will be a committee meeting early January 2020. Most meetings can be via telephone conference call and do not require travel. Please contact Sally McKain about joining the committee sallymckain@charter.net.

Some rooms have been reserved at the Agate Beach motel which has been recently remodeled. There will be a special room rate given to participants at the event. It promises to be a fun and interesting event right on the beach in Newport. Should we plan a beach blanket oyster roast? Or gather to watch the sun set? There will be a dine-around on Friday night, with hosts from the Local League pointing us to the best restaurants nearby.

The League Council occurs every other year, and this one will be interesting as there is much happening around the state. We have an election year with Census, Re-Districting, and the 100-year anniversary for League in Oregon.

There is a lot on our plates to accomplish in 2020. Support for this Council will be a way to connect and share with League leaders, new members and old friends. We need a commitment from Local Leagues around the state to put forward your thoughts, needs, and people power so this event will rock. There will more information early in the New Year.
Equal Rights Amendment Closer to Ratification

Ruth Kistler

The Equal Rights Amendment states:

“Women shall have equal rights in the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

“Congress and the several States shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.”

“This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

This November, Virginians elected a majority in both houses of their state legislature pledged to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. If the Virginia General Assembly ratifies the Amendment, as expected, during its 2020 session, Virginia would be the 38th state, the last state needed for ratification.

After the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, the strategic goals of the leaders of the Woman’s Suffrage movement diverged. The more “radical” suffragists, among them Alice Paul, founded the National Woman’s Party which sponsored the first ERA, introduced in Congress in 1923. Others, including the founders of the League of Women Voters, opposed the ERA because they felt it would erode special protections for women. (LWV maintained a position opposing the ERA until 1954.) The ERA was reintroduced in every session of Congress following its original introduction. In March 1972 the ERA finally received the required two-thirds majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and was sent to the states for ratification. Delegates to the May 1972 LWV national Convention voted to support the ERA as one of the major ways to take action in support of the League’s equal rights positions.

The 1972 Congressional bill that approved the ERA set a seven-year deadline for ratification. That deadline was later extended to June 30, 1982. Yet by that date only 35 of the constitutionally required 38 (three-fourths of the) states had ratified. With renewed advocacy by supporters, Nevada became the 36th ratifying state in 2017, and Illinois the 37th in 2018. In anticipation of Virginia’s ratification, the House Judiciary Committee is working on a bill to remove the deadline for ratification. A possible roadblock to making ERA part of the Constitution is that five states, Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota, have attempted to withdraw their approval; such withdrawal of ratification has never been accepted. This decades-long effort to amend the Constitution seems to be coming to a successful conclusion (but the Supreme Court may yet have the final say).
THE WAR ON PINEAPPLE:
Understanding Foreign Interference in 5 Steps

To date, we have no evidence of Russia (or any nation) actively carrying out information operations against pizza toppings. This infographic is an ILLUSTRATION of how information operations have been carried out in the past to exploit divisions in the United States.

1. TARGETING DIVISIVE ISSUES
Foreign influencers are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to inflame hot button issues in the United States. They don’t do this to win arguments; they want to see us divided.

2. MOVING ACCOUNTS INTO PLACE
Building social media accounts with a large following takes time and resources, so accounts are often renamed and reused. Multiple accounts in a conversation are often controlled by the same user.
Pro Tip: Look at an account’s activity history. Genuine accounts usually have several interests and post content from a variety of sources.

3. AMPLIFYING AND DISTORTING THE CONVERSATION
Americans often engage in healthy debate on any number of topics. Foreign influencers try to pollute those debates with bad information and make our positions more extreme by picking fights, or “trolling” people online.
Pro Tip: Troll try to make people mad, that’s it. If it seems like an account is only aiming to raise tensions, think about whether it’s worth engaging.

4. MAKING THE MAINSTREAM
Foreign influencers “fan the flames” by creating controvery, amplifying the most extreme version of arguments on both sides of an issue. These are shared online as legitimate information sources. Sometimes controversies make it into the mainstream and create division among Americans. This is a foreign influencer shuffling gold! Their meddling is legitimized and carried to larger audiences.

5. TAKING THE CONVERSATION INTO THE REAL WORLD
In the past, Kremlin agents have organized or funded protests to further stoke divisions among Americans. They create event pages and ask followers to come out. What started in cyberspace can turn very real, with Americans shouting down Americans because of foreign interference.
Pro Tip: Many social media companies have increased transparency for organization accounts. Know who is inviting you and why.

For more information, please visit the Project2020 website at https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/project2020.
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