

President's letter to Local League Leaders 2020 09 15

Dear local League Leaders,

I hope you and your members, families and friends, are safe from wildfires and well from coronavirus! I hope you have time to read this and that it helps you. Please share with your members. Take a minute to explore our new [Newsroom](#) page! This letter will be posted on that webpage in [League Updates](#). Much of this is already on our website with member materials so you'll find links below.

This newsletter is an assortment of September election topics. We've gotten questions about voting from worried members and wildfire evacuees around Oregon. I am forwarding LWVOR Board reports from last Friday and from LWVUS. The next League Leaders' call is at 6pm on October 6th, details closer to the date. Our fall VOTER should be out before the election. Please keep reading for news on:

- [Oregon Wildfires and Vote by Mail!](#) How evacuated voters will get ballots after wildfire alerts. Please share this with affected friends and family.
- **Voter Service News** Betsy Pratt, September 2020.
See Toni's Census and Student Mock Election Report and a PR scam alert from LWVUS.
- **Program News** Sheila McGinnis, Study news, two wrapping up, including consensus and concurrence work. We hope you are thinking about new study topics to lobby for support!
- **Action News** Alice Bartelt
- **Climate Change** LWVUS Climate Change Team
- **League to League** Louisiana and Oregon

[Oregon Wildfires and Vote by Mail](#) See our page for wildfire emergency information, how displaced voters can forward their ballots to their temporary mailing address, and how to verify voter registration online. A couple of our Leagues have been asked to help with voter registration, with safe distancing.

Voter Service News -Betsy Pratt's [September Voter Service report](#) includes news on GOTV postcards, Vote411, ballot measure research, and Outreach Circle for GOTV support from LWVUS. Voter Service Reps will have another ZOOM meeting September 16th.



Photo credit: Michael Mann @AboveTheNorthwest

Student Mock Election & Census News [Toni Lampkin's Census and Mock Election report](#)-describes an Oregon Census response rate of 68.3% and League litigation to stop the premature closure of the Census count in September. [Toni](#) expects to open the Mock Election shortly. Please contact her with questions or to help.

Publicity Alert from LWVUS -League Leaders, please be extra vigilant handling media requests from individuals or organizations that you don't recognize. The group Project Veritas has recently targeted at least one of our partner organizations. This group seeks to catch individuals on video saying embarrassing things. The requests sometimes come from "Kurt Insley" who is actually Christian Hartsock. See [Project Veritas EXPOSED, Wisconsin Alert, Kurt Insley + Zeitgeist](#).

Not just media requests, but one Project Veritas tactic is misrepresenting (lying) who they are and asking for meetings or informational interviews. They pose as documentary producers or claiming to be news outlets, and even misrepresenting trusted organizations like NBC. Please exercise caution and if you receive a request that looks fishy, do your due-diligence to vet the request, check the URL and **if it doesn't check out, IGNORE IT.** If you find yourself in a position with someone who has misrepresented themselves as a journalist, back out of the interview to protect yourself and the League, and please inform the LWVUS Communications Team.

Check out last week's Messaging Webinar including [what to do about misinformation & disinformation](#), with [slides available](#). Thank you! [Sarah Courtney, LWVUS](#)

Program News (Studies) [Program Chair Sheila McGinnis](#)-reports on our 'Cides Study (Biocides and Pesticides) and state and national efforts at concurrence for our Privacy and Cybersecurity Study. If your local hasn't already completed its Cybersecurity consensus, please plan to do so soon; contact the study committee if you would like assistance.

Action News [Alice Bartelt's report online](#) includes our latest LR (Legislative Report), issue updates, a call for Member Agreement Committee participants for Hard Rock Mining and the Cyber Studies, and the Legislative Process Day on January 19th.

Redistricting Thank you all for your hard work! Read [Norman Turrill's report](#).

Climate Change, LWVUS Fellow League Members, the League of Women Voters [U.S. Climate Team](#) is a group of League members from across the United States working together to fight climate change. All League members are welcome. Together we inform each other, share information and strategies, are forming nationwide special interest teams, and are analyzing federal legislation for maximum impact.

Thanks, Diz Swift and Eleanor Revelle, Co-chairs, LWV U.S. Climate Team

To better link folks with similar interests, or to join our Google Group, please fill out this [LWV U.S. Climate Team Survey](#).



LWV State Presidents, Becky Gladstone, Oregon and Hilda Walker Thomas, Louisiana at the LWVUS Council 2019.

League to League Our Leagues are now fully engaged in the issues of our current (second) 100 years, with Climate Change and Election Security at the top of my list. As we grapple with wildfires, my friend Hilda, LWV Louisiana President, hopes we are all safe from the fires as they brace for Hurricane Sally. Hilda was asking for Oregon Vote by Mail (VBM) tips as they faced Laura a few weeks ago, with very dim prospects of VBM legislative passage for this fall's election, as their Governor promised to veto any legislative support. They were convening as we chatted and her power was going out. Now both of our states are experiencing Climate Emergencies. Here's hoping everyone will come through this safely.

Please, everyone, keep in touch, take good care of yourselves and thank you for reading.

Becky Gladstone, President LWVOR