PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
By Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President

As we commemorate the 19th Amendment centennial, granting (some) women the right to vote, I want to feature our networking, our communications. This month should have been full of celebrations, fundraisers, in-person get-togethers, and lots of opportunity for us to celebrate in-person, to compare notes on the work ahead of us.

We are communicating more than ever, but now at a distance. After all, League members are known and trusted for being well-informed and supporting each other. Let’s focus on improving Action Alert performance and then Get Out The Vote (GOTV) networking for the general election. Please monitor email and social media messages. As to our outreach-- Please be sure we reach our members who are not comfortable with these formats. We are discussing GOTV postcard outreach for the fall, for our “Outreach Circles”- just the thing! Stay tuned!
CIVICS EDUCATION UPDATES
By Toni Lampkin

HARVARD CASE STUDY PROJECT

Our Oregon teachers and Leagues had the largest state participation in the national Harvard Project last year. The thirteen participants have been concluding their work by planning community presentations to share their new skills.

The good news is that the project is continuing with a new name and format as a way to involve even more Oregon teachers next year. The Case Method Institute (their new name) will look somewhat different for the upcoming school year (as will many things!) Our job, as League members, is to help identify outstanding high school teachers in the subjects of U.S. History, Government and Civics. The selection process has been simplified to encourage more involvement. If you are aware of teachers who may be interested in learning more, please submit their names (and the names of their high schools) to Deirdre Kamlani at league.rsvp@gmail.com.

The fall workshops will be scheduled online with additional trainings throughout the year. We know that there is a great deal of uncertainty around teachers’ plans for the upcoming school year, but we ask that nominees be willing to use at least four Harvard case studies in their classes and to moderate a public case discussion in their community. Leagues that nominate teachers in this way need to commit to organizing the community case discussion. While the teacher will be responsible for leading the discussion, the League should handle details including inviting guests, distributing materials, securing a physical space or an online platform, etc.

For additional background information, please visit the CMI website at www.cmi.org or the League of Women Voters of Greenwich Civics Resources page at lwvg.org/CivicsEducation.html. If you would like to dive deeper into the details of CMI’s partnership with the League and its scope and impact around the country, please consider this more in-depth set of documents, which you can share with school administrators and teachers: http://lwvg.org/files/lwvganewwaytoteachcivics.pdf. If you have further questions, please contact Toni Lampkin: tonilampkin@gmail.com.

VOTER GIRL PROJECT

Our Oregon League of Women Voters has been in contact with the Girls Scouts of Oregon and Southern Washington to discuss collaborating on the Voter Girl Project in our state.

WHAT IS THE VOTER GIRL PROJECT?
The VOTER Girl Project is a fun and rewarding activity in which Leagues collaborate with their local Girl Scout councils. A one-day class event is scheduled for all scout levels—from Daisies to Ambassadors—with a curriculum appropriate for each level. How this may look in the age of COVID is still being explored. League members work with Girl Scout volunteers to share their knowledge of voting and advocacy as the scouts earn citizenship badges that promote League ideals. While the scouts bring their curiosity and determination to learn, your League develops a high-profile community event that draws interest from media, parents and public officials.
CENSUS UPDATE

Currently, 64.4% of Oregonians have responded to the Census. The Census Bureau has begun identifying communities with the lowest response rates, and has started a project to encourage and assist citizens in completing their census. This operation is intended as a final push to encourage census completion before the Non-Response Followup operation begins nationwide on August 11. The representatives will be available to help people complete their census on a census tablet, in open, public places that people are naturally going when they leave home. Locations for MQAs include grocery stores and markets, food banks, laundromats, restaurants, and grab-and-go eateries, unemployment offices, back to school drives, places of worship, and libraries.

The Curry County League supported a Mobile Questionnaire Assistance event in Port Orford on July 11. Watch for an event in your area, or check online at www.2020census.gov.

PRIMARY ELECTION RECAP AND GENERAL PLANNING
By Betsy Pratt, Voter Service Chair

Local Leagues were busy - and creative – in their outreach efforts for the May 2020 primary. The Secretary of State’s office reported that total voter turnout was 46.42 percent, which is significant, although less than the 54 percent turnout in the 2016 primary. The table on the following page summarizes your activities as reported to me after the election.

Peggy Bengy and her team were highly successful with our VOTE411 service. Statewide, more than 50 percent of qualified candidates participated (340 out of 673) and we had 61 percent participation in races with a single candidate. According to the LWVUS, which manages VOTE411, we had more than 41,000 hits on the Oregon Vote411 site, including users in every county except Wheeler. This is a significant advance over previous years. In analyzing the data, I found that about 31% of the responses (approximately 13,000 users) were based in Washington County, and another 12% were in Clackamas County. I hope that our advertising efforts in these counties contributed to this result, although we cannot confirm this.

Continued on next page
## LEAGUE ACTIVITIES FOR THE MAY 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Voters’ Guide Distribution</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Ads/Promotion</th>
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</table>
| Coos       | English - 450  
Spanish – 30  
Distributed via post offices, med. Clinic & grocery stories | 4 virtual candidate interviews  
Virtual debate – County Commissioners | Ads – Newport News-Time, The News Guard & Letter to the Editor  
$600 ($300 Coos match) |
| Clackamas  | English – 300  
Spanish - 200 | Video voters’ guide | Digital ads - Pamplin Media, Clackamas & Washington County $300 |
| Corvallis  | English – 0  
Spanish - 0 |  | Corvallis Gazette Times, Albay Democrat Herald  
$614 ($307 Corvallis match) |
| Curry      | English – 150/200  
Spanish – 0  
Distributed via County Clerk, local markets, Post Offices |  | Ads in 3 local papers |
| Deschutes  | English – 300  
Spanish - 150 | 5 Virtual Forums:  
1. Republican candidates for Secretary of State, April 13th.  
2. Democrat candidates for Secretary of State, April 15th. | More Ads/Promotions from Deschutes:  
3. 2nd Congressional District for Democrat candidates, April 20th.  
4. 2nd Congressional District for Republican candidates, April 22nd.  
5. Deschutes County Commissioner, Democrat party, April 29th.  
Partner with Bend City Club. |
| Hood River | English – 50  
Spanish - 50 |  | Columbia Gorge News (digital) |
| Klamath    | English – 0  
Spanish – 100  
Post office & Spanish market |  | Radio & print ads |
| Lane       | English – 25  
Spanish - 10 |  |  |
| Lincoln    | English – 125  
Spanish – 50  
Tried Post Office, not allowed. | 8 Video interviews posted to Facebook | Ads in Newport New-Times & County Media |
| Linn       | English – 125  
Spanish - 20 |  |  |
| Marion/Polk| English – 100  
Spanish - 50 | Video voters’ guide: CCTV-SALEM, KMUZ  
13 local candidates plus SOS candidates |  |
| Portland   | English – 3,500  
Spanish – 1,000  
Mult. English – 3,500  
Mult. Spanish – 1,000 | Video Voters’ Guide | Contributed $1000 to OPB ad campaign |
GENERAL ELECTION VOTER SERVICE PLANS

As I have reported to the local League Voters Service leads, we are planning the same set of products for the fall election as we created for the primary: VOTE411, the standard (English) printed guide for the state level candidates, a Spanish guide, an audio guide, and a web version of both printed guides. We also intend to post any and all video voters’ guides on the LWVOR Voters Resources webpage. The one new product for the fall will be Ballot Measure information and Speakers Kits for all state-level ballot measures.

We have compiled an overview of our schedule, as shown below. We have a lot of activities to accomplish on a very tight schedule so we can get the voters guides into your hands as soon as possible. Our distribution target is the last week in September/first week in October. Getting the ballot measure reports done on time is particularly critical and I will be recruiting for researchers during July and August. As you look at the schedule, you will see that I highlighted blocks with local League responsibilities. The immediate need is for your League to confirm your participation in VOTE411 for your local races. You also need to start developing candidate questions for these local races and thinking about how many printed guides you plan to order for the fall.

I am going to be looking for ways to coordinate with local Leagues on candidate events and video voters’ guides. We will no doubt be relying on virtual events again, so we want to minimize the number of times that candidates answer the same questions and maximize their participation (especially for candidates whose districts overlap more than one League). To the extent that we can coordinate event schedules and questions, the League will be viewed as providing useful information without placing an undue burden on candidates. I know we cannot avoid duplicate questions coming from other candidate events, since organizers are responding to the same issues, but we can try. I plan to develop some further guidance on this topic soon. You can find an overview of the tasks needed for us to deliver our voters’ service products this fall online here. Some of these deadlines are very tight, especially for providing information on the candidates for local races, but like a jigsaw puzzle, each of the pieces need to fit snugly.

Continued on next page
ABBREVIATED VOTER SERVICE TIMELINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION 2020
This is a brief overview of the voter service dates that are most relevant to local Leagues. There is much more going on behind the scenes. Find the full calendar online here: https://bit.ly/3gMnKnI

1-31-Jul Develop questions for county/local candidates (Local Leagues)
31-Jul Local Leagues submit recommended candidate questions (Local Leagues)
31-Jul Recruit ballot measure researchers (Betsy)
3-7 Aug Assign ballot measures to researchers, provide guidance (Betsy)
Aug - Sep Develop PR plan, arrange for publicity (Betsy/LWVOR staff/LL)
14-Aug Recruit Editorial Committee to review Ballot Measure reports (Betsy)
26-Aug First draft of ballot measure research due; including Speakers Kit versions (Research team)
26-27-Aug Return spreadsheets with races, candidates & contact information (Local Leagues)
28-Aug Submit information on planned local VS events & sponsors/Donors (Local Leagues)
28-Aug Last day to file completed ballot measure reports (Local Leagues)
28-Aug Last day to file completed ballot measure reports (Local Leagues)
31-Aug Review & edit ballot measure reports (Editorial Committee)
1- 4 Sep Send ballot measure research to outside pro & con reviewers (Research team)
4-Sep Local Leagues submit final orders for Voters Guides (quantity & delivery points) (Local Leagues)
15-Sep Final ballot measure reports due (Research team)
Sep 25 - Oct 7 Produce & distribute printed guides, audio guides, Speakers Kits. Activate VOTE411 (VS Team)
14-Oct Ballots Mailed (County Clerks)
3-Nov Election Day

LWVUS TASK FORCE ON NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE
By Barbara Klein, LWV of Rogue Valley

The LWVUS Task Force on NPV (of which I was one of the 5 members) is being disbanded this summer, a planned schedule from the 2018 convention. Now, after 2 years of work on the NPV Interstate compact, League action will become more organic at the state levels and supported by resources. These resources will be available on a dedicated LWVUS webpage, including developed NPV resources (such as PowerPoint) and a listserv for members who are interested, either from states where it has passed, or where it has not.

THE LONG-HELD POSITION OF LWVUS TO SUPPORT ABOLISHING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE (BY US AMENDMENT) HAS REMAINED INTACT FOR OVER 45 YEARS.

The long-held position of LWVUS to support abolishing the Electoral College (by US amendment) has remained intact for over 45 years and was confirmed as a priority at the recent 2020 convention. Likewise, the added portion of the LWVUS position to support the NPV interstate Compact (adopted by LWVUS in 2010, and passed into Oregon law 2019) ALSO remains intact and has a great deal of support within the LWV.

For more info see this summary: https://bit.ly/3gW9adn
OREGON CITIZEN ASSEMBLY PILOT ON COVID-19 RECOVERY
By Marge Easley, LWV Clackamas of County

Beginning on July 9, a group of voters from across Oregon worked together to help chart a path beyond the coronavirus pandemic. This Citizen Assembly pilot is a partnership between Healthy Democracy and Oregon’s Kitchen Table, a program of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University. The Assembly will answer questions put forth by state decision-makers, as well as members of the public surveyed before the Assembly begins.

The Assembly’s citizen panel will be composed of 40 Oregonians from all walks of life, randomly selected from among Oregon voters. The panel will reflect a microcosm of the state in terms of age, gender, location of residence, race and ethnicity, political party, educational attainment, and level of political engagement. Panelists will be compensated for their time, with a stipend of $600 covering the first phase of the project.

The Assembly will deliberate online in small groups, using processes drawn from Healthy Democracy’s 12 years of experience running Citizens’ Initiative Reviews and Citizens Juries. All sessions of the Assembly will be observed and evaluated by academic researchers, who are independent of the project team.

The panel met online every Thursday for six weeks, July 9–Aug. 13, 6–8PM. The presentation of recommendations will occur on August 27, 6–8PM. Members of the public can visit Healthy Democracy’s YouTube page to watch the sessions live or to view a recording afterward. However, all small-group sessions will be closed to respect panelist privacy.

The League is not an official partner of Healthy Democracy, but we (Kappy Eaton and myself) were instrumental in shepherding the initial legislation for the Citizens’ Initiative Review (CIR) Commission. The CIR model is the brainchild of Healthy Democracy and is now considered “the Oregon Model.” The League has invited Healthy Democracy spokesmen to speak at Fall Workshop and have included support for the CIR in the LWVOR Advocacy Agenda for many sessions. This particular project is not related to a ballot measure but uses many of the “citizen jury” processes that a CIR uses. It is a pilot to see how well this form of citizen engagement will work in an online setting.
LWVOR’S PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY STUDY IS GOING NATIONAL!
By Mary Sinclair, Study Chair

LWVOR’s work on Privacy and Cybersecurity study is progressing on two fronts! In addition to our ongoing state consensus process, we have embarked on a national collaboration.

LWVOR presented its Privacy and Cybersecurity (PCS) work at a LWVUS convention caucus on Monday, June 22. Interest was high, with nearly 200 League members from around the country participating in our hour-long caucus. [Watch the caucus online!]

Our caucus goal is to engage other states in a collaboration to support national concurrence on a cybersecurity position in 2022. The study committee is gathering names of interested members from other states and planning a collaboration campaign. We will encourage other states to use Oregon’s materials and our upcoming position statement to develop their own position and/or concur with our position.

With our goal for national concurrence, the clock will be ticking for your League to complete its consensus by November 13. Oregon must then complete the process of developing and approving our state position by January 2021 for use in Oregon’s 2021 legislative session. We will also share it with other states and engage in the lengthy process of developing concurrence among states to submit for the 2022 National Convention.

KEY DATES FOR OREGON CONSENSUS AND NATIONAL CONCURRENCE
- November 13, 2020: Oregon local leagues complete PCS concurrence
- December, 2020: Oregon convenes committee to draft state PCS position
- January, 2021: PCS position committee submits draft position to state Board for approval
- Upon Board acceptance, LWVOR’s PCS position will be shared with other states.
- May, 2021: LWVOR convention reviews PCS position to affirm
- December, 2021: Concurrence due from other state’s Leagues
- February, 2022: Concurrence initiative submitted to LWVUS Convention 2022

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH CONSENSUS!
This ambitious schedule will dramatically shorten the usual time from state study to national position adoption. You can help by making your local consensus meeting a top priority—even in the midst of the general election and the pandemic. Please be prepared to conduct e-consensus sessions to keep consensus and concurrence on track. While we will all miss the personal connection of a live meeting, feedback from a handful of e-consensus meetings shows participants have been pleasantly surprised at how well the process worked. We ARE getting the hang of video conferencing! Plus the study team and several tech volunteers will be available to help your league to prepare and/or conduct e-consensus. Let us know how we can help!
A TESTIMONIAL TO THE JOY OF LEAGUE PARTICIPATION
By Libby Medley, LWV of Clackamas County and former LWVOR Direct Mail Chair

I joined the League 46 years ago—young, curious, and wanting to make a difference in the world. My first League impressions were a jaw-dropping awareness of the expertise and dedication of Leaguers combined with their respect for a new, ignorant member’s contributions to a discussion. I became hooked—here was the epitome of an environment for satisfying curiosity as well as using this knowledge to be an active participant in advocating change (in other words, for finding my dream job!)

Most of us credit the League’s allure to voter service or a particular governmental issue. For me it was the broader concepts defined in our Principles and my personal desire to serve in this special grassroots organization, supporting the work of these unique volunteers. Because of their mentorship, training and patience, members of the League have enabled me to grow personally as I discovered the fulfilling, behind-the-scenes roles League offers. The most recent of these roles is as Direct Mail Chair.

The point of a Direct Mail campaign is to inform the reader about something we are doing in a way that engages their curiosity and entices them to want to be part of our efforts. Serving to introduce the League (the organizational structure, our foundational Principles, our study and action process, our nonpartisan voter service), the letters invite the recipients to participate, supporting our work to monitor, to inform, to advocate and to litigate and become a part of making a difference.

When Direct Mail is mentioned, many feel uncomfortable, looking at the appeal as a request for money. But the letters aren’t just about money; they serve to inform and present an invitation. They greet the recipient as a person of value, and offer them an opportunity to belong.

When I took over from Jean Milgram (a fellow Leaguer with a professional background in direct mail appeals), she gave me several valuable pointers on timing and content, with the caveat that most of the letters we send will not get read. The successful appeal needs to be prepared to not only catch their attention, but entice them to want more. Thus, the challenge of presenting a compelling letter comes into play.

The LWVOR only sends three letters a year to our members (allowing the local Leagues half of the year for their own personal appeals). Four letters a year go to our nonmembers (which includes past members who have dropped their membership as well as supporters and friends), so our mailing list stays current. The return per letter varies—about $30,000/year for members and about $15,000/year for nonmembers. The cost of a letter very rarely exceeds the return, and specific appeals can yield much larger amounts (e.g. the June 2019 LWVOR Advocacy Fund appeal for our redistricting initiative campaign brought in $19,000 from members and $2,500 from nonmembers.) In addition to fundraising, the letters also provide recognition to League volunteers that their work is valued!
The present two column format is designed to catch the reader’s eye and draw them in. The wide right column contains the main text of the letter, while the left column highlights the text through excerpts, captioned photos and/or graphics. Adjacent to the signature, a P.S. contains a final appeal to donate. Members receive a single side letter; nonmembers get an augmented version printed back-to-back.

Over the past 17 years I have written appeal letters to members and a select group of nonmembers—all of which have been reviewed and occasionally revised, as they have gone out under the signatures of others. Content comes from various sources, including our local League newsletters, statewide committee activities and events, and special recognitions of our members and actions by outside sources. Support from office staff plays a significant role in making Direct Mail the success it is!

Being motivated to stay in touch with all that our League members are doing throughout the year, and acknowledging the successes and impacts they make on behalf of all of us brings me joy. But with the start of a new League century, the time has come for someone new to have the challenge/privilege/fun of crafting appeals to engage others in our LWVOR work.

A new LWV century beckons—make your mark with the League as you face the challenges, put your interests and skills to work, and feel the joyful fulfillment of being a part of it all—volunteer!

ARGUS ARTICLE: ON THE 2020 LWVUS CONVENTION
Paula Grisafi and Charlcie Kaylor, reprinted from The ARGUS, LWV of Lane County

For six days at the end of June 2020 the LWVUS held its 54th Biennial Convention in an unprecedented manner. About 1200 delegates from all fifty states, a few territories, and across several time zones attended by Zoom. Previous in-person conventions had 700 to 800 attendees. Starting June 22, three days of caucuses were held on topics ranging from Oregon League’s Privacy and Cybersecurity Study and Climate Migration, Immigration and Human Rights Caucuses, to Abolition of the Electoral College, to Rebuilding Trust with Each Other to Save Our Civil Society, to Voting Rights Across a Lifespan. Some topics garnered a broad consensus in favor of the information presented, others were more controversial.

One controversial topic was the idea of having voting rights bestowed from birth. The main argument presented was it would teach children from an early age that voting is important. The theory was also that children at a much younger age can make rational and intelligent voting decisions. No discussion ensued about the influence or control parents could have over young children’s decision making. In practice, it seems, this has a strong potential to give increased voting clout to groups who traditionally have large families.

The workshop on Improving Civics Education and Strengthening Democracy with the Harvard Case Study method generated a lot of enthusiasm. The method examines a problem from American history by having discussions on how to address it. For example, many decisions needed to be made about which ideas were incorporated into the Constitution and which were left out to induce the original states to form the union. After assigned study, a group of citizens or students take part in the decision-making exercise to see what they would come up with as compared to what our founding fathers decided. They discuss the problems faced and the compromises needed and explain and defend those positions. It is a method intended to induce more active participation in our democracy that has garnered high praise in schools nation-wide and fits well with the LWV’s philosophy and objectives.

Continued on next page
Another highly praised workshop was Engaging Non-Voters & Seldom Voters in Lowest Turnout Precincts. The basics of how to identify low-voting neighborhoods and methods to reach them. Pre-COVID19 methods, such as going door-to-door, were surprisingly well received. Handouts spelling out the ABCs of voting were effective as were pandemic methods such as door hangers. One group even offered a 24/7 phone line to answer questions!

If you are interested in watching some of the caucuses and information sessions visit: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-virtual-caucuses-and-info-sessions

Following the caucuses and workshops there was a day for an organizational meeting that included parliamentary guidance to work out the logistics of debating and voting during the convention. Finally, there were two days during which the plenary session took place. The keynote speaker was Norah O’Donnell, managing editor and anchor of the CBS Evening News. By-laws changes were approved, as was the annual budget. The slate of new national board members, including our new President, Dr. Deborah Turner, was elected. The program proposed by the LWVUS was adopted along with two additional motions brought from the floor by individual state leagues, Protections of Public Lands and Abolition of the Electoral College.

The proposed program included retaining current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. The Board also recommended a League-wide Campaign for Making Democracy Work: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting. It proposed continuing work on Climate Change, ERA, Health Care, Gun Safety and Immigration. Finally, the Board recommended the Electoral Systems Concurrence should go to the convention floor for a vote where it passed. Our new president ended the session with some closing remarks. https://www.lwv.org/ConventionSchedule

The Oregon delegates met via Zoom prior to the convention. This helped folks new to Zoom as well as LWV convention newbies. Positions (particularly those proffered by LWVOR) were discussed and debated. Anticipating the lack of communications among Oregon delegates we used WhatsApp to comment and ask questions during the plenary sessions. Great idea! LWVOR President Becky Gladstone did the equivalent of juggling balls while riding a unicycle on a tightrope. During our delegate pre-meetings and the convention she kept us on track by keeping an eye on four screens. It was easily a 30 hour commitment for delegates and adult beverages were welcomed by some after the sessions.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY 2020:
START PLANNING NOW!

We know you are already planning to make #NationalVoterRegistrationDay a trending topic on September 22. But if you’re looking for some help, National Voter Registration Day has some sample material you can use right now!

Here’s a list of some of the resources you can find at nationalvoterregistrationday.org:
- Communications toolkits
- Posters and stickers
- Social media assets
- Sample press release
- Tips for Covid-proofing your events and more

Now is a great to time to plan your local outreach. Happy organizing!
VOTER NEWSLETTER

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Special thanks to Karan Kuntz, long-time Editor of the Voter. Welcome to new Editor, Kate Culbertson!

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