



League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

SPECIAL EDITION JUNE 2005

June Action

What you can do

May 2005 Leagues in the Spotlight

On May 18, the **League of Women Voters of Portland, Oregon** achieved a landmark in campaign finance reform. After nearly two years of hard work by the League and its coalition partners in "Voter-Owned Elections," the Portland City Council established full voluntary public financing of elections for the offices of Mayor, City Council and City Auditor.

This makes Portland the first municipality in the country to institute public financing of elections similar to the successful statewide systems in Maine and Arizona.

"For over two years the Portland League has worked alongside a number of community organizations and elected officials towards this goal," said Debbie Aiona, LWV of Portland Action Chair. "We are fortunate to have a mayor and city council with the courage to enact a fully funded public campaign finance system that will very likely make their races for reelection more challenging.

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LEAGUE RESOLUTION

LWV DEMANDS PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FINAL VERSIONS OF BILLS

In response to events occurring at the 73rd Oregon Legislative Assembly, delegates to the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) unanimously passed the following resolution on May 22, 2005:

- The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports maximum citizen participation in the legislative process.
- Citizens who have come to testify deserve balanced treatment along with elected officials, invited testimony and agencies.
- In order to maximize the opportunities for public access and review, the Legislature is responsible for publishing all bills and proposed amendments in advance of any hearing where they are being heard.
- No version of a bill shall be the subject of a vote unless it has had a substantive public hearing where opportunity for public testimony has been afforded.

LWVOR members who have observed the Legislature in action told convention delegates that bills often go to a final vote without ever being seen by the public in their final form. Furthermore, amendments are made to bills by committee work groups in the Legislature and then voted on by the

committee with minimal discussion and no public hearing.

"The problem is chronic and generic," said Liz Frenkel of the LWVOR Action Committee. "It is not only the public that doesn't know how the bill has been changed, but often legislators do not either. Appointed work groups that may or may not represent all the stakeholders report back to the committees with an amended compromise bill. That version—often with no further discussion by the committee or the public—is voted on and goes to the floor. This is why the League is saying so strongly that there must be hearings on final versions of bills before they go to a vote."

This year LWVOR's Action Committee has emphasized the need for citizen access to legislative hearings and has achieved some successes in modifications of procedures. The House and Senate added to their rules a requirement for a 48-hour notice of hearings. Also, this week the Budget Committee announced it will be posting the subject of pending budget bills in advance—a departure from last week's approval of many bills with only vague advance statements of their content. The anger and activism of citizens has been credited with forcing the House Budget Committee to make this change. ■

MISSION

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government in order to build better communities statewide.

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1st Vice President: VACANT
2nd Vice President: Betty Mack 672-1706
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Join the League of Women Voters Today!

We Need you with Us! Be informed by becoming a member or renewing your membership today.

Please send us your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and a check for \$60 for annual membership to:

**LWV of Umpqua Valley
PO Box 2434
Roseburg OR 97470**

If you have questions, please call 672-6982 for more information.

And visit: <http://www.lwvuv.org>

May 2005

Dear League Members and Friends,

I would like to thank the hardworking people who gave their time and hearts to the League's State Convention to lobby for their work to continue on as a State Study. Congratulations. This project will go on and we'll hear more about it as the study unfolds on a state level.

At the State Convention our league among others was congratulated for a significant increase in membership in 2003-2005 and for significant contribution to Voters' Guide fundraising. Congratulations to the many of us played a part in the membership increase, including our new members. Beverly Paulson chaired the Voters' Guide fundraising committee this past biennial and deserves much of the credit for that committee's success. A special thank you goes to Beverly.

Come to the June Social on June 28th at Sharon Lee Schwartz' new home at 1067 SE Main Street in Roseburg at 5:30 PM. This is a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. Shelley Wetherell and the Friends of Douglas County have been invited to join us for dinner and talk to us about their work in our county.

I hope you were able to attend the May 24th general meeting at the library to hear about Measure 37 and its current status. Keith Cubic, Planning Commission Director, spoke and gave out handouts. It was a very informative talk and was well attended. He said most of the applications were for land divisions and most applications if they qualify will succeed. He also spoke to SB 1037 favorably as it does currently have a provision to notify neighbors upon application, but it also contains many other debatable provisions. However, that bill is now going to the House and therefore will probably be edited much more. Cubic had recommended to the Douglas County Commissioners to provide a notification clause in their adoption of M37, however it was not included. To receive a copy of the two different [public record] lists kept, one listing applications and one the outcome of applications or successful applicants, call the planning department.

You are most welcome to attend our Board Retreat in July or August TBA. Please let me know if you'd like to attend.

I wish you a meaningful and rewarding summer,
Robin Wisdom

**Jane McMillin
Attorney**

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LEAGUE CONVENTION

Umpqua Valley League Members Attend State Convention

Five members of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley (LWVUV) traveled to Welches, OR to attend a statewide convention of the LWV at the Resort at the Mountain May 20-22. Delegates adopted an ambitious study program for the next two years. Jacie Pratt and Robin Wisdom were delegates and Beverly Paulson and Lois Allen were Observers. Betty Mack attended as a State Board member.

The League will look at the Oregon Judiciary in depth during a two-year study, with the goals of (1) achieving a better understanding of existing state and local court systems and how they are currently functioning in Oregon, (2) studying alternative systems and whether they might improve our system, and (3) developing a new position on the judicial branch of our state government that will allow LWV advocacy in this area.

Also adopted by delegates from sixteen local Leagues was a two-year study of homeless youth in Oregon with the goal of gathering data throughout the state on what is known, what is unknown, what services and solutions exist, and what is needed, and then making this data available to the public as well as using it for advocacy of a new League position on homeless youth.

A third one-year study of the redistricting process in Oregon will take place in 2006-07.

The League of Women Voters advocates for positions it has adopted only after intensive study and consensus by its members. The League maintains a very active lobbying program during each Oregon legislative session. Action committee members advocate for or against bills dealing with issues they have studied. The new studies, once they are completed, will broaden the areas in which LWVOR can advocate.

Robin Wisdom, LWVUV President, expressed enthusiasm for the League's new Program. "We will have local programs as well as publications on these issues available to the public during the next two years," she said. More information can be found on LWVUV's web page: www.lwvuv.org.

During the Convention, delegates heard addresses from Dr. Preston Pulliams, Portland Community College District President, on the challenges facing Oregon's community colleges and from Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Professor of Zoology and Marine Biology at OSU, on "Nurturing Oregon's Bounty".

The LWVOR Convention also adopted a budget and elected officers for the next two years. Elected by the Convention to continue as the Oregon League President for two years was Margaret Noel of Portland, OR.

■ a similar press release was issued around the state.

State Programs for the Year 2005-2006

LWVUV delegates were concentrating most of their attention on their successful effort to be sure that the Homeless Youth item would be adopted as a statewide study. In addition to that decision, the delegates agreed to a two-year study of the Judiciary and a one-year study for 2006-2007 of Redistricting.

As program chair, I would like to encourage those of you not involved in the Homeless Youth Study to be prepared to be part of a committee to consider the Judiciary. The convention directed a study focusing on, but not limited to, the following issues: selection, campaign finance in election of judges, budgeting for the courts, discretion of judges, and specialty courts and specialty judges.

The first meeting in the fall will be on September 27, 2005. Circuit Court Judge Joan Seitz will be speaking on the local Judiciary. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the kickoff of this two-year study.

■ Betty Mack, Program Chair



June Social Announced

All league members and friends are welcome to attend the June Social which will be at Sharon Lee Schwartz' home on June 28th at 5:30 PM.

The event is a potluck and members are asked to sign up on the email sign-up sheet going around. The Friends of Douglas County and Shelley Wetherell have been invited to also attend and speak to us about their activism in the land use arena.

This event also offers us the opportunity to catch up on the latest in Douglas County. Also this will be a good time to let the board know what's important to you for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Come for fun, great food and to be informed. Sign up today to bring a main dish, a salad or dessert that will serve 6 to 8 people by calling Robin Wisdom at 672-6982 or emailing her at rwisdom@jeffnet.org.

Diana Wales, PC

Attorney at Law

673-0696

**Divorce & Family Law
Mediation & Litigation**

**318 SE Jackson St
Roseburg, OR 97470
541-673-9791 (fax)**

LEAGUE STUDIES

A 360 Degree Look at the League

This article summarizes a talk given at the State Convention on May 22nd in Welches, Oregon, by Cheryl Graeve, LWVUS Membership and Field Support.

Cheryl's presentation at the state convention 2005 compared the league to a bicycle. The hub, the center of activity addresses issues, education and advocacy. One wheel represents the local, state and national leagues; the other membership, visibility and fundraising. When the hub and wheels work together energy is produced and we move forward toward our goals. Cheryl was an energizer explaining why we are important. We have respect, credibility, impact, access to political leaders and power at the local, state and national tiers. She gave accolades to the Oregon League for being leaders in issues of election, campaign finance reform, taxes, land use, natural resources, education, jury trials, state spending and others.

She challenged us to focus our efforts in order to achieve goals relating to membership, program development and fundraising. She encouraged us to develop partnerships in the community and to foster leadership roles.

How is the LWVUS focusing? The Democracy Agenda is geared to renewing and repairing democracy through election and campaign financing reform, nonpartisan redistricting and fostering civil liberties.

What are some successful habits for growing leagues?

- interesting programs addressing issues important to the community
- building on the League's trusted reputation
- maintaining a high degree of visibility, externally oriented
 - 85% of local press coverage due to relationship with media
 - 80% due to letters to the editor
- setting yearly membership plans with goals
 - using your website, offering new member orientation, flexible involvement opportunities for members and membership renewal through letters and follow-up phone calls

What about fundraising?

- your primary support may come from members who support the league but would rather give \$\$ than time
- funding from a variety of sources...always make your case about the impact you make on the community

In closing Cheryl said, "Choose a few things and do them well and you will energize your membership and the community. Maintain the hub and the wheels of your league and it will move forward."

■ Beverly Paulson, Voters' Guides Chair

LEAGUE CONVENTION

Marine Reserves and Global Warming

Jane Lubchenco, Doctor and Professor of Zoology and Marine Biology at OSU spoke to those gathered at dinner at the Oregon State League Convention on Saturday night, May 21st.

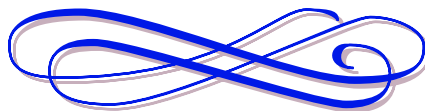
She presented an up-to-date view of the planet's condition as a system of interrelated services. The four services were the provisioning services of nature (the ability to provide for the needs and uses of its life forms), the regulation and control services (natural interactions among life forms), the cultural services, and supporting services (recycling and reconstructive activities). The benefits to humanity as we use the provisioning services come at an increasingly steep cost, which will continue to increase if we keep using the planet's resources as we are. One aspect of this cost is the loss of biological diversity that has become evident. Lubchenco called for people to acknowledge their relationship to the dynamic nature of the planet, and to work together to mitigate the stress our life style places on the services of nature. "The changes required are not currently in place," said Dr. Lubchenco. She detailed the rising carbon dioxide level, an 4-10 degree increase in the temperature, increased precipitation and decreased snow pack we experience in Oregon, and the summer draughts, longer fire season, and increase in the insect population.

She told of changes in the Ocean ecosystem—its diminishing capacity

to provide seafood. People have transformed the biochemical cycle of nitrogen by fertilizer use and burning fossil fuels to the extent that 40-50 "dead zones" have formed in the oceans at the mouths of rivers that drain farmland. Nothing is alive in these zones. But the regenerative capacity of the ocean ecosystem is proving quite powerful if we provide a network of marine reserves, places of refuge, "potent protectors of life forms where the ocean cultures are allowed to develop, and the supporting services are nurtured. We need to identify and dedicate one percent of the ocean area as "intact, productive, and resilient reserves if we are to allow the ocean to produce enough burgeoning life to restore the ecosystem.

Dr. Lubchenco recommended a video "Common Ground—Oregon's Oceans" to get an idea of how these refuge areas bring the ocean culture back to life. The information she shared with us is part of the report of an international meeting of 95 scientists held recently. Describing nature as an interdependent interrelationship of services, and people as major transformers of the landscape gave us a clear picture of how our planetary ecosystem is evolving.

■ Jacie Pratt, delegate to League State Convention held May 20-22, 2005.



Continued from Page 1, June Action

We are celebrating this victory and looking forward to increased citizen participation and a leveling of the playing field for candidates wishing to run for public office."

The system will be put into place beginning September 1, 2005 for the May 2006 primary.

Congratulations to LWV of Portland for this tremendous victory!

■ from <http://www.lwv.org/about/leagues/inaction.html>



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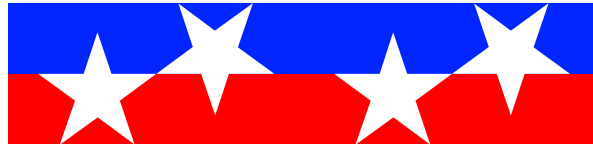
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Leslee Sherman
672-9614



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Roseburg Oregon 97470-2434
<http://www.lwvuv.org>



June 2005 Calendar

JUNE SOCIAL POTLUCK..... JUNE 28

AT THE HOME OF SHARON LEE SCHWARTZ, 1067 SE MAIN ST, ROSEBURG,
ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND;
MEMBERS, SIGN UP FOR POTLUCK VIA EMAIL OR CALL ROBIN AT 672-6982

THERE IS NO BOARD OR GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH
THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE THE BOARD RETREAT TBA

HAVE A SIGNIFICANT SUMMER!