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League of Women Voters of Oregon

VOTER

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Version**

Possible New Partnerships for LWVOR

Alice Bartelt, Action Committee Chair

On January 6th, Robin Wisdom, Mike Taylor and I attended a meeting sponsored by Oregon AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees). Some other community groups attending were Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Common Cause, LWV of Portland, Ecumenical Ministries, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Student Association, Rural Organizing Project, Urban League of Portland and the Western States Center.

Most of the meeting was spent talking about the various projects that the groups are working on. These included immigration reform, fair courts project, paid sick days, renewable portfolio standards and voting modernization. The hope is to connect groups to work on many of the issues. I will be serving on the steering committee for this large group. There will be a follow-up meeting in February.

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Alice Bartelt, Margaret Noel and Robin Wisdom explore new partnerships for LWVOR

Uphold the League with An Automatic

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VOTER editor is Karan Kuntz.

LWVOR Mission

The League of Women Voters® of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities statewide. The state League's purposes are to influence public policy through education and advocacy and to provide support for League members and the League organization.

Follow the League of Women Voters on



Join us on



Donation

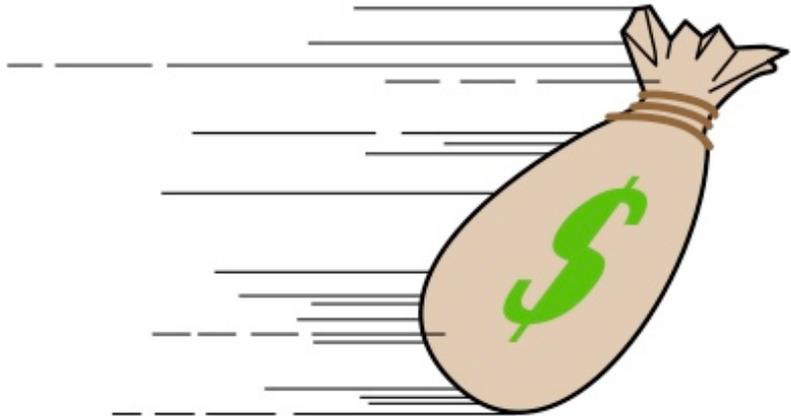
Robin Wisdom, President

Consider making a small monthly donation, which can be safely and automatically deducted from your bank account or other source. You can set this up yourself from one of our websites.

To support the League's advocacy work, go to <http://www.lwvor.org> and on the main page click on the Donate button. This will take you to PayPal, which is considered very secure for online donations. Although this type of donation is not tax-deductible because it supports our 501c4, funds are needed to pay for action, cover overhead, and pay our wonderful staff.

To support the League's educational work, which is tax-deductible, visit <http://voteoregon.org>. On the main page, click on the Donate button. That will take you to the Network for Good donation page. From there you can set up monthly donations to be automatically made in your name.

Both donation sites use security precautions and have privacy policies. By signing up to donate automatically you will steadily support League work. We thank you.



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Attention Nominating Committees - New Online Board Position Descriptions

For local League nominating committees, LWVOR has added some board position descriptions to its website at <http://www.lwvor.org/leadership-resources/board-position-descriptions/>. You need to be logged in here: <http://www.lwvor.org/login/>.

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President's Column / Robin Wisdom

Hello League Friends,

Looking for partners is a good thing to do in the spring, if you ask me. We are receiving many invitations and notices of meetings and events. It's a perfect time to attend those events, show our smiling faces, and connect and re-connect with people.

Often we meet current or potential partners at these events. Now that program planning on a local level has taken place, we can take another look at who just might make a good partner. Maybe it is someone we have not approached before or lately. Looking ahead and remembering lessons from the past are always a good combination.



Did you know that the Oregon state League has two websites? Please tell me you answered "Yes!" It has come to my attention that perhaps some League members are not aware of that fact. Please see both websites for different information. Lwvor.org is our c4 side and contains membership and action information. Voteoregon.org is our c3 side and pertains to our studies, civic education, and more.

Thank you for signing up to attend the Day at the Legislature sponsored and organized by our Action Committee. They worked very hard at scheduling state senators and representatives to speak on current legislative subjects. Since the event was canceled, you should have received a refund by now, or you chose to make a donation. Thank you in both cases. We will schedule a similar event in 2015.

For action news, read your Legislative Reports (sign up online at <http://www.lwvor.org/current-issues/legislative-report/>).

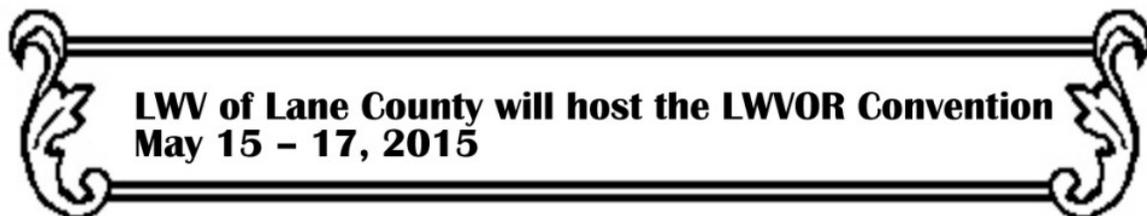
As we enter the last quarter of the fiscal year (yearend=June 30), we are coming closer to Council 2014 and the LWVUS Convention in Dallas TX. First Call to Council was emailed to League Leaders with the Feb. board report on 2/21/14. I hope you will plan to join us for Council in Roseburg. We are planning sessions we think local League members will enjoy and appreciate.

Thank You for Adding Your Power to Ours! Let's Power Up Together!

Yours,

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Convention 2015



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LWVUS Agriculture Study Update

Becky Gladstone, EF Chair

Please remember that our deadline for local League consensus for this study update is April 18, 2014. Here is a full assortment of links to comprehensive information to help. Enjoy and dig in!

- Update, timeline, further reading, committee:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee>
- Leader's Consensus Guides:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/leaders-guide-agriculture-update-consensus>
- Consensus Questions:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-consensus-questions>
- USDA Background documents:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/a1-united-states-department-agriculture>
- Intro to League Study Process:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/introduction-study-process-0>
- Ag Study Glossary:
<http://www.lwv.org/content/g2-agriculture-update-glossary>

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League Strength- Its Members

Janet Calvert, Membership Chair

Due to hard work, focus and sometimes luck, the Leagues in Klamath Falls, Portland and Umpqua Valley reported a combined membership gain of 23 during the 2013-2014. Congratulations to those Leagues.

The membership count from each League and Members at Large (MAL) sent to the League of Women Voters of United States in February is the basis for the Per Member Payment (PMP) that local Leagues send to the Oregon and National League. These payments are a major source of funding for the activities of the Oregon and national Leagues.

Statewide, the membership count, which includes lifetime members, decreased by 35 members. We lost these members for a multitude of reasons, many of which we cannot change. To hear one League's story, Klamath County, presented on KLCC go to this link, <http://klcc.org/post/league-women-voters-faces-dwindling-membership>.

What we can do now is to renew our efforts to personally remind, encourage, offer amazing programs and ASK women and men who are concerned about effective government to join the League. We also need to encourage and engage new and perspective members to do short term introductory jobs: register voters, staff a booth or table at a festival, attend a candidate forum or help out a "fun" League activity.

After the official membership count is submitted, some Leagues offer reduced or half price memberships until the next renewal time. It is a less expensive way for perspective members to get a taste of the League.

While watching the Olympics, we have watched with awe the determination, team work, skill and bravery of the athletes. It took practice, focus, determination to improve and coaching to achieve their goals. Leagues in Oregon can achieve sustained membership growth with focus, practice, determination and a good bit of bravery to try new approaches.

The very best way to increase League membership is for you to ask your neighbor, the man or woman who asks good questions at a committee meeting or that student who attended a candidate forum. All you need is a piece of paper to get a name and address, or a membership application, or a sign-up sheet at your League sponsored meeting.

You don't have to have a memorized speech. Just share why you like belonging to the League and emphasize that the amount of member involvement depends upon the individual. One other essential step is to follow up with a phone call, a note or an offer to accompany the person to a meeting. The personal ask is powerful.

The State Board is encouraging local Leagues to establish their own membership growth goals for the coming year and will give special recognition to those who grow by five percent based on the official membership numbers as of 1/31/13. The real reward will be more vital local Leagues and more voters who are advocating for informed and active participation in public policy issues.

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Need Some Help in Streamlining Your League?

Robin Wisdom, President

While this may sound like downsizing, I call it modernization. Let's get real. The old positions are not being filled like they used to. Keeping old portfolios listed for years, and being unable to fill them, can be disheartening and downright discouraging. Let's start anew, while keeping our cherished attributes like group wisdom, sharing the load, getting the work done and remaining nonpartisan and unbiased.

This article is best viewed electronically for quick access to the following documents.

The national League has streamlining resources for us and the PDFs are located here:

<http://www.lwv.org/content/management-team-model>. Here you will find the overall explanation of 'streamlining the League', and this is where you can access all of the other PDFs listed below (scroll to the bottom).

Related documents also on the LWV website:

Streamlining Best Practices (one pager - easy to read and present).

[http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlined Best Practices.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlined%20Best%20Practices.pdf)

How to Handle Hot Topic Events (one pager - easy to read and present).

[http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlined HotTopics.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlined%20HotTopics.pdf)

Using advocacy to peak interest in the League (one pager - easy to read and present).

[http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlining Local League Advocacy.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/Streamlining%20Local%20League%20Advocacy.pdf)

This is the main Streamlining document (14 pages). The main topics are community outreach, building resources, teams, and national resources.

[http://www.lwv.org/files/ABC™s of Streamlining.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/ABC%20of%20Streamlining.pdf)

Streamlining Appendices. This is a separate document and contains direction on such items as calendar planning, checklists, and a streamlined nonpartisan policy plus much more (41 pages).

[http://www.lwv.org/files/Appendices_ABC™s of Streamlining.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/Appendices_ABC%20of%20Streamlining.pdf)

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Join or Donate to the League of Women Voters

Interested in joining?

Join the League of Women Voters, a respected, national grassroots organization.

Members of the LWV, an active group of women and men of all ages and backgrounds, work on issues which make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally. You too can help make democracy work.

Interested in donating?

Because we rely on thousands of volunteer hours from our members and our Board, we are able to operate with a very low overhead. However, as a nonprofit organization, support from people like you is essential in order to carry out our activities.

Learn more about joining and donating by linking above or visiting our web site, www.lwvor.org.

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