



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

JANUARY 2019

LWVCC Leaders

Executive Committee:

Pam Ashland
Marge Easley
Nancy Murray

Secretary:

Pam Ashland

Treasurer: Nancy Murray

Directors:

Voter Service: Judi Umaki,
Katie Lu

Program Chair: Robina
Ingram-Rich

Clackson & Website:
Karan Kuntz

Membership: Hilly
Alexander

Action: Marge Easley,
Janice Green

Off Board:

Nominating Committee:
Mike Taylor

Budget chair: Sarah
Chaplen

Unit Leaders:

Betty Barber
Jean Hoffman
Katie Lu
June Routson

January General Meeting

“What’s Happening with Juvenile Justice in Oregon”

When: Thursday, January 17, 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Where: Lake Oswego United Methodist Church (Music/Choir Room), 1855 South Shore Blvd, Lake Oswego

We’re very pleased that **Barbara Ross**, a Portland League member and a longtime advocate for criminal justice reform, will be with us to share her expertise on juvenile justice reform in Oregon. She’ll bring us up to date on recent efforts and let us know what bills she’ll be following in the upcoming legislative session. As you may know, over the years the League has been a staunch advocate of many reform efforts, including an emphasis on community treatment facilities, the diversion of youth from adult facilities, and moving away from mandatory sentencing to give judges greater leeway.

Barbara has had a long and distinguished community service career: hospital social worker, 3 terms as a state representative in the 1990s, 10 years as a Benton County Commissioner, 12 years as a Corvallis school board member—not to mention a term as LWV Corvallis President. She moved to Portland in 2011 and since then has devoted her considerable energies to criminal justice reform on behalf of the League as well as other organizations.

Please join us and bring a friend. This event is open to the public.

Lunch & Learn

With the new year comes the return of one of our favorite League activities—getting together the last Friday of the month for Lunch & Learn. It’s a fun way to catch up with other Leaguers while learning something new. Guests are welcome!

Friday, January 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Szechuan Kitchen, 15450 Boones Ferry Road, Lake Oswego

\$15.00, payable at door

RSVP: Sonja Kollias, 503-636-2187, vskollias@aol.com

Rich Fiala, board member of the Stafford Hamlet, will give us an update on where things stand in the plans for development of the Stafford area, including the pending but not yet resolved Tri-Party agreement between West Linn, Lake Oswego, and Tualatin.

Holiday Party Recap: Spotlight on the Family Preservation Project

Attendees at our Holiday Party luncheon and raffle were treated to a presentation by Jessica Katz, director of the Family Preservation Project at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Also presenting were three former inmates who recounted the many ways they have each benefited from this program. Its name says it all. Run under the YWCA, some of its main efforts provide programs to guide mothers to learn healthy ways to interact and strengthen bonds with their children. Also, the project brings in experts to speak on topics like financial literacy and family law. Importantly, it gives ongoing assistance to help women successfully re-enter society and become self-sufficient. In Oregon, over 68,000 children have an incarcerated parent.

In 2017, Governor Kate Brown signed the Bill of Rights of Children of Incarcerated Parents, providing guidelines to the Dept. of Corrections when developing policies, procedures and funding that impact incarcerated individuals with children. As with all legislation, implementation is critical. The Family Preservation Project is there to advocate and provide services. Our League members gave generously when the hat was passed, and our speakers were thankful.

Raffle a Success (and fun!)

Nancy Murray

Many thanks to **Lyn Gordon** and **Karen Sherman** for collecting and arranging dozens of some terrific items that ranged from homemade goodies (I won two!), wine, poinsettias, Christmas-themed gifts, and much more. Thanks to all who contributed to our fundraiser that brought in \$350 to help fund our local activities. Thanks also to **Judi Umaki** for lunch arrangements and **Marge Easley** for inviting our speakers.

Dine & Discourse



What are your thoughts on the state of the nation as we start a new year? Share your insights and perspectives at the next Dine & Discourse on **Monday, January 21, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.** Each month we gather for intelligent conversation about current events while enjoying a delicious dinner at **White Orchid Thai Food, 18740 Willamette Drive, West Linn (on the lower level below Bugatti's)**. You can review their menu at <http://whiteorchidthaicuisine.com/>. Non-League members are also welcome, so feel free to bring along a friend or significant other.

Please RSVP by January 19 to Libby Medley, medleylj@gmail.com, 503-668-8520.

Oregon's Legislative Session Starts Soon

The LWVOR Action Committee has been getting ready for the busy days of the 2019 Legislative Session. The official start is January 22, and the end date may be as late as June 30. If you're new to the League or have not received the LWVOR Legislative Reports in the past, please be sure to [sign up](#) to receive the weekly email. The reports provide an excellent way to stay abreast of League legislative advocacy on a host of issues. Here's a list of LWVOR priorities, but it's by no means a complete list of all issues the League will be following:

The LWVOR Legislative Action Team priorities for the 2019 session:

- **ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE** by supporting Clean Energy Jobs legislation to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to avoid serious damage to the global climate ecosystem. The League has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment" with a focus on demanding pollution prevention.
- **INCREASE REVENUE** because the State of Oregon has insufficient income to support its current responsibilities in education, human services, environment, criminal justice, elections, and health care without significant tax changes resulting in stable increases in Oregon's revenue. LWV believes tax policy should provide adequate and stable funding for essential services while promoting equity and progressivity. Any tax proposal should be evaluated with regard to its effect on the entire tax structure and the tax system should recognize responsibility for government services by broadly sharing the tax burden.
- **ADVOCATE FOR ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS** to help low-income people move toward financial stability and assure Oregonians have access to adequate and affordable health care. This session we will advocate for: adequate Medicaid funding, increased housing to address rising homelessness, help for working families, paid family leave and additional gun safety. The League has a long-standing national position on meeting basic human needs, which promotes self-sufficiency for individuals and families and invests in social programs designed to prevent or reduce poverty.
- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY** with gerrymander-free redistricting, small donor elections, secure and efficient election processing, from candidate filing to voting hardware using contemporary technology, and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The League has been guided by its core principles, including the cherished belief that every citizen's voting rights should be protected.

Welcome, New Member!

Hilly Alexander, Membership

Lark Wysham, Lake Oswego, joined our League in November.

We currently have 88 members. 12 of our members have been in the League for 50 or more years! You should all have received your Membership Directories. Please let me know if your contact information changes.

Observing the Board of County Commissioners

Janice Green

Being an observer of the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is to see complex elected government in action--a board and administrator organizing and supervising staff and monies on behalf of the people of Clackamas County and touching on almost every aspect of the community.

The five-member BCC meets usually two times a week, once on Tuesday and once on Thursday. The Tuesday meeting, the "policy" meeting, is less formal and involves discussions and consideration of the many issues and staff submissions that come to the table. The Thursday meeting, the "business" meeting, is designed for public input, for formal actions, and for approval (or disapproval) of policies, ordinances, spending adjustments, etc., which require formal votes. The policy meeting is recorded and paperwork submissions to the BCC (dubbed "packets") are available on-line before the meeting. The audio becomes available on-line later in the day of the meeting. The formal business meeting has live video available, and the packets also are available before the meeting. Agendas for both meetings are posted online.

Reporting of the activities of the BCC, which many years past would have been almost automatic and very prominent in the newspapers, is spotty at best. Aware of the lack of journalistic coverage, the county government makes conscious, frequent efforts to reach out to the community it serves, including a county-generated newsletter through the mail, presentations to meetings of community groups such as chambers of commerce, city councils, and community planning organizations, advertised public presentation meetings, and social media such as Nextdoor.

The annual budget is a major responsibility. Preliminary hearings are now taking place, gathering department input into challenges and changes in preparation for the eventual adoption of the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget in early summer. This year's budget was over \$845 million for the regular county budget, with a total responsibility for just over \$1.17 billion. That budget is available online, but, be warned, it is almost 900 pages for just the direct county budget. Budget hearings are separate, most recently on Wednesdays, and again, include "packets" of information.

Recent and important concerns, (besides the budget, of course), include:

- Donald Krumm, the highly respected county administrator, is retiring very shortly. Recruitment is underway. Five potential candidates have been identified by name, two of whom are county employees. Appointment is expected before the end of January 2019.
- Preliminary planning for the Metro housing bond initiative.
- Road tolling initiatives, planning, problems.
- Planning for a new county courthouse.
- Representation of county interests at upcoming state and federal legislative sessions.
- Lack of a dedicated tax income for road maintenance. A proposal for a vehicle registration fee to rectify this situation is under consideration.
- Homelessness and affordable housing.

All things considered, the commissioners need to be able to read and comprehend rapidly, target their concerns—choosing carefully which and when--and have good staffs. The work is arduous, exacting, and momentous.

Recognizing Bias/Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Part 1

Robina Ingram-Rich

At the 53rd National Convention in Chicago last June, the League of Women Voters US launched its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative to strengthen social impact and collaboration. The three-hour training for all attendees (divided into several large groups to allow interaction) focused primarily on raising awareness for the individuals. LWVUS believes that each individual will need skills in recognizing their “Everyday Bias” and how to change behaviors in order to become more inclusive, more welcoming and more diverse.

There are many types of bias that we develop and learn over our lifetimes starting as children. These include gender, race, age, ethnicity, foreign appearing names, spoken accents, physical appearance, e.g., height, obesity, hair style. Our biases rely on stereotypes and emotions.

The workshop opened with slides of 3 men and 3 women of visibly different ethnicities and ages. The question was how warm and competent do we perceive each person to be from just a picture. As a group, the white male in a suit with a smile on his face was highly rated in both categories. That was Ted Bundy. The African American woman (light skin) had middling ratings. She was Mae Jamison, an American engineer, physician and NASA astronaut.

Practicing Conscious Awareness. Six Ways to Mitigate Biases

1. Recognize and accept that you have bias.
2. Develop the capacity to use a flashlight on yourself
3. Practice “Constructive Uncertainty”
4. Explore awkwardness and discomfort
5. Engage with people who are different from you and expose yourself to positive role models in that group
6. Get feedback.

Take a P.A.U.S.E.

- Pay attention to what’s actually happening beneath the judgements and assessments.
- Acknowledge your own reactions, interpretations and judgements.
- Understand the other possible reactions, interpretations and judgements that may be possible.
- Search for the most empowering, productive way to deal with the situation.
- Execute your action plan.

What I appreciated in this training was the focus on listening. The levels on listening were categorized as:

- INTERNAL: Focused mostly on the words and judging what is said in relation to self. How does this apply to me?
- CURIOUS: Committed to listen with a sharp focus. Attention to tone, pace and feelings. Listening to understand.
- BEYOND WORDS: Listening deeply and compassionately.

Our questions that start with “why” can trigger defensiveness. Questions starting with “how” elicit information about process. Questions starting with “what” are openers - less personal and easier to answer.

The Cook Ross curriculum used by LWVUS is also used by Oregon Health & Science University. OHSU’s program focused on unconscious bias and the neuroscience behind bias. I will share more from the OHSU trainings next time. The neuroscience is very interesting.

LWVUS in Action: Fighting Voter Suppression

Why it matters

From the League of Women Voters of the United States website

Voting rights are under attack. In recent years, politicians in dozens of states have erected intentional barriers to our right to vote, including forcing discriminatory voter ID and proof-of-citizenship restrictions on eligible voters, reducing polling place hours in communities of color, cutting early voting opportunities and illegally purging voters from the rolls.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

We are at the forefront of the most important federal and state voting rights cases around the country. We actively oppose discriminatory voter photo ID laws, fight against attacks voter registration process and hold lawmakers accountable when they try to institute last-minute Election Day barriers. We work year-round to combat voter suppression through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action and public education. Our efforts have resulted in the protection of voting rights and ballot access for millions of Americans.

HR1: Legislation by and for the people

In November, voters sent a clear message across the country that they are ready for bold, comprehensive democracy reforms. Now, the League is working with a broad coalition of over 100 organizations to draft and shape HR1, a policy reform package that will include [key democracy provisions](#):

- **Expanding voter registration:** Modernizing the registration process through the expansion of automatic voter registration and online voter registration.
- **Implementing fair redistricting:** It's time to end gerrymandering once and for all so that voters select their elected officials – not the other way around.
- **Outlawing voter purging:** Prohibiting illegal voter roll purging will ensure that eligible voters will not find themselves wrongfully stripped of the right to vote.
- **Restoring the VRA:** Restoring the Voting Rights Act will strengthen our elections by cutting back the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their right at the ballot box.

HR1 will improve our election system and make our democracy stronger. It could also be our opportunity to rebalance our system so that Big Money doesn't set Washington's agenda or decide who gets a seat at the table—[contact your Representative to ensure that this key provision is also included](#).



State League Program Update

Karan Kuntz, LWOR program chair,

The long-awaited Hard Rock Mining study is currently at the printer and should be available later this month! Local Leagues will hold consensus meetings this spring. Our League needs volunteers to guide Clackamas county members in this endeavor. Please contact me (kjkpiano@me.com) if you are willing to help.

This study is currently the only state level study in progress. Since 2019 is a state convention year, January is program planning time for LWVOR. If you have suggestions for any new studies or updates, please contact our local board before February 20. The current program planning form can be found at <http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ProgramPlanning2019-2021.pdf>. From the planning form:

When proposing new studies, please keep the following things in mind:

1. What are issues of statewide importance that are most critical in your community?
2. How could League of Women Voters of Oregon, along with your local League, have greater visibility and credibility?
3. What issues of statewide importance will stir the imagination of your members and attract potential members?
4. What studies of educational/advocacy projects would help your League to link with individuals and organizations representing different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities, or other diverse groups that are underrepresented in the League?
5. Why should LWVOR focus its time and resources on this study or project?

Also consider that:

1. The issue must fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters.
2. The issue should add balance to the League program and have good appeal for our members.
3. League of Women Voters' volunteer time and financial resources must be available. Successful study proposals usually include a group of members ready to work on the study.
4. If the issue is already covered in LWVUS positions, is it necessary to study it on a state level?

Coming Events

January General Meeting: Thursday, January 17, 1:30 to 2:45 p.m., Lake Oswego United Methodist Church (Music/Choir Room), 1855 South Shore Blvd, Lake Oswego

Dine & Discourse, Monday, January 21, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.: White Orchid Thai Food, West Linn

LWVCC Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 22: 9:30 a.m. Social, 9:45 a.m. Meeting, Pacific West Bank, West Linn

Lunch & Learn: Friday, January 25, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Szechuan Kitchen, 15450 Boones Ferry Road, Lake Oswego

Cost: \$15.00, payable at door

RSVP: Sonja Kollias, 503-636-2187, vskollias@aol.com



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
lwvclackamas@lwvclackamas.org
www.lwvclackamas.org

Join the League of Women Voters!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email

- I am renewing my membership.
- This is a gift membership. (Please provide the recipient's contact information above.)
- I am interested in volunteering for the League. Please contact me.

Annual dues: \$70 Individual. \$105 Household. Full-time student attending an accredited institution or adult under age 25 free! Membership grants are available.

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Clackamas County.

Mail to: LWVCC, PO Box 411, Lake Oswego, OR 97034