



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2017

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SEPTEMBER KICKOFF CELEBRATION

**Tuesday, September 19
5:30 p.m.
Oswego Pointe Clubhouse
5065 Foothills Dr., Lake Oswego**

The LWV of Clackamas County kickoff meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 5:30 pm at the Oswego Pointe Club House. Our speaker will be Dr. Stephen Beckham, lecturing on "Oregon's Public Lands: Homesteaders to Malheur Refuge Occupiers." His talk will cover the creation of "Public Domain Lands" in Oregon, the numerous programs whereby the federal government attempted to get rid of these lands, the retention of lands for special purposes (Indian reservations, lighthouses, military forts, national forests, national parks, rights-of-way and other uses), and some of the problems and challenges facing federal land managers over the past century.

Dr. Beckham is the Pamplin Professor of History, Emeritus, Lewis & Clark College. He is the recipient of the Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, American Historical Association: Oregon Professor of the Year" and other awards. We are thrilled that he will speak with us for he enjoys answering questions and comments.

The dinner cost is \$15.00 and will include wine. Reservations are required and should be sent to Sonja Kollias, either via email (vskollias@aol.com) or phone (503-636-2187). Guests are welcome, so come and enjoy!

DUES ARE DUE!

Thanks to all the members who have sent in their membership renewals. We would like to wrap up collecting dues in the next couple months. We value your membership and encourage you to send in your check and any donation you might add. You may also pay at our September fall kickoff dinner.

Reflections on Town Halls and Politics

Nancy Murray

As Senator Wyden's August town hall was held at Wilson HS, I decided to attend, gorgeous weather notwithstanding. I'm glad I did. I was interested to know what's on people's lists of concerns. As I review my notes, I'm reminded just how many topics were brought up by audience members who asked questions through a lottery process.

The only organized group there pressed Sen. Wyden on the topic of Palestinian human rights, and apparently not for the first time. Other topics ran the gamut from national topics like health care and net neutrality to those that concern our state in particular, such as the Jordan Cove LNG proposed project in Coos Bay. Many topics generated applause, others not so much, but Sen. Wyden spoke clearly and informatively. It was civil, orderly and respectful.

Like me, you may feel overwhelmed by the speed of policies being made and unmade that don't reflect your values or the positions League has taken over the decades. I've chosen, with limited success so far, to pick just a couple issues important to me and follow those, writing a quick email to legislators about them and letting the rest go.

I'm going to keep trying to limit the amount of input that scatters my attention and focus instead on just a couple areas that I can keep track of. Donations to other causes I care about will have to take the place of my close attention.

Time will tell if this becomes a successful strategy. What works for you? Let us know.

Holding District Attorneys Accountable

Marge Easley, Action Chair

The League has been invited to take part in an ACLU criminal justice reform campaign called They Report to You *, officially launched at an enthusiastic rally on August 27. Its purpose is to build on 2017 reform legislation and achieve a better balance in our justice system. DAs hold the power to truly reform the system, yet most voters don't even realize they are elected officials. They often run unopposed and stay in office for decades, with no real accountability to voters.

We want voters to know that DAs get to decide who gets charged with a crime, the seriousness of a criminal charge, when youth are charged as adults, who gets access to drug or mental health treatment vs. jail, whether to charge police with misconduct, the fairness of a plea offer, and when to pursue the death penalty. Who we elect as a county DA can have a major impact on whether true criminal justice reform can occur or whether we continue with the status quo—crowded prisons, racial disparities in sentencing, and prison time instead of effective drug and mental health programs.

We are looking forward to having a speaker from the They Report to You campaign to speak to our League in the next few months, so stay tuned!

* <https://www.aclu-or.org/en/events/they-report-you-campaign-launch>

Think Before You Ink

Judi Umaki, Voter Service Chair

In support of its Voter Service efforts, LWVOR created, and is now updating, a pamphlet entitled "Think Before You Ink." This is an attempt to have voters think carefully before signing an initiative petition.

Many of us used to think that it was good to "just get it on the ballot so voters can decide." But on more careful thought, our position has become that you should value your signature even more than your vote. Only sign a petition that you think should become a law. You do not want to help pass something with which you do not agree.

So in this upcoming petition signature gathering season, remember to answer these questions about the petition subject:

1. Is it complex? If so, it may need thorough legislative examination.
2. Is it confusing?
3. Does it belong in the Constitution?
4. How would it be funded?
5. Who is behind it?
6. Before signing, ask for the ID of the signature gatherer if not offered.

As thoughtful Leaguers, Think Before You Ink!

Civil Discourse

Marge Easley

The dangerously divisive political rhetoric we've been hearing lately underscores the importance of the state League's decision to focus on civil discourse in the coming year. Here's the first in a series of Clackson articles on the topic.

Congressional Town Halls

Town hall meetings provide one of the few opportunities to directly pose questions to elected officials. Yet they are becoming increasingly rare, because many are fearful of the media optics of being confronted by angry constituents. Did you know that 167 members of Congress have not held a single in-person town hall this year? Some are turning to virtual or online town halls, while others are forgoing them completely. This does not bode well for civil discourse in our country.

We in Clackamas County are fortunate to have U.S. Senators and Representatives who welcome the opportunity to hear the concerns of constituents at town hall meetings. League members attended town halls held by Rep. Kurt Schrader and Senator Ron Wyden during the first week in August and were impressed by the well-organized structure, respectful dialogue, and general enthusiasm of the crowd. We'll do our best to keep you alerted by email as to upcoming town halls in our area. Please join us!

Getting a Balanced Perspective on the News

Our political biases often give us a one-sided look at issues, since we tend to choose media sources that reinforce our world view. This can fuel anxieties and increase the "us vs. them" mentality. One of the ways to get a more well-rounded perspective is to step outside our media bubbles on a regular basis. To do this I highly recommend the website <http://www.allsides.com/>, which provides stories on important issues from the left, right, and center. Give it a try!

Welcome to Our New Board Members!

League of Women Voters of Clackamas County welcomes our two new board members, Janice Green and Linda O'Malia. Both are new to our League, but have long League histories.

Janice Green

I grew up in Berkeley, and then Reno. I married a young naval veteran while we were attending the University of Nevada. (I joined the League under influence of a faculty wife who was also state president, and later served on boards in Carson City, Roseburg, and Arapahoe County in Denver area, and always maintained membership.) We graduated, moved to Carson City, Nevada, started a family, one son, one daughter. A job with Nevada State Welfare helped with the bills, but also made clear that I would need more training if I were to be really helpful. Returned to school for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Then we moved to Oregon where I was with mental health programs of Morrow County and then Douglas County, then two of the hospitals in Roseburg, and then private practice. We lived down the Umpqua River—in the town (?) of Umpqua—for almost 30 years.

In 2011-2012 I moved my husband (and stuff) to the Denver area so that our daughter and I could join forces taking care of our sick menfolk. After that chapter closed in 2013, I gradually moved to Portland, hoping to stay out of our kids' ways as long as possible. Gardening, fixing up my ancient mobile home, and volunteering of various sorts keep me way too busy.

Linda O'Malia

I was born and raised in Northern California, then spent 10 years in Nevada. I moved to Oregon in 1977, living in Pendleton, Roseburg and Portland. I have one son, who is married and has a son and daughter, all living in Poulsbo, WA. I have a master's degree in social work, and my career focus was in medical social work and psychiatry. More recently I received a PhD in Public Administration and Policy. Currently I work part-time in the civil commitment area of psychiatry.

My involvement with the League started when I was in Reno, and it was an exciting time for me. I went to the national convention in San Francisco in 1973, and we marched through the downtown area carrying placards for the Equal Rights Amendment. I was in the LWV in Pendleton and Roseburg also.



LWVCC Board hard at work at summer retreat

Save the Date!

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017
LWVOR Fall Workshop 2017
Lane Community College

A team of experienced and motivated members is developing interesting workshops and inviting knowledgeable speakers to the LWVOR Fall Workshop 2017. Please save the date and add it to your calendar. Watch for more info soon! Registration will begin in a few weeks.

Plan now to come to Eugene and visit Lane Community College for this event. Join us for lunch, topical speakers, and four workshops to choose from. Workshops include topics such as LWV Transformation, an update on elections in Oregon, understanding the changing media, and civil discourse.

The day's theme is "Mediating the Message – The League's Role in the 21st Century".

Idea for local Leagues: Offer to bring your new members by subsidizing their registrations or lunches. Or commit to bringing a friend who you know is interested in League issues.

Coming Events

LWVCC Fall Kick-off: Tuesday, September 19, 5:30 p.m., Oswego Pointe Clubhouse
5065 Foothills Dr., Lake Oswego

LWVCC Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 26: 9:30 a.m. Social, 9:45 AM Meeting, Pacific West Bank, West Linn

LWVOR Fall Workshop: Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, Lane Community College, Eugene, OR



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 a new member.
- 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. \$35 Full-time student attending an accredited institution or adult under age 35. 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