

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



VOTER

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Fall 2013

Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013

Robin Wisdom, President

Fall forward with the League. This autumn brings new energy for exciting projects. Among them are two new statewide League studies: Children at Risk and Postsecondary Education.

League members will simply not rest with education in Oregon in its current state. Together Oregonians must discover what can be done to improve the education of our youth and our future. The League can ably assist, but first we must tell Oregon activists what we have available. And you can help with that.



LWVOR is offering two events to signal the launch of our studies. The official title of both events is “Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013”. Both events will run from 10AM until 2:30PM with lunch, but will have different speakers and panelists.

Join LWV of Oregon Education Fund trustees in a creative endeavor to launch the new statewide studies around the state by registering today. We are using all of our resources to try a new method to reach out to Oregonians. You may choose to attend one or both of the public educational events.

On October 12th, we will meet in the gorgeous new Danny Lang Event Center atop a hill overlooking the Umpqua Community College campus near Roseburg. The November 2nd forum will take place at the Clackamas Community College in the Gregory Forum building. These events will be co-hosted respectively by the LWV of Umpqua Valley and the LWV of Clackamas County.

Please support these outreach efforts by signing up and bringing a non-League-member friend to at least one of the events. Fill out the registration forms included in this newsletter ASAP. There's only room for 100 for lunch at each event, and many invitations will be sent out in both areas. League members can choose to come to either or both events. See the individual registration forms for registration deadlines. Please send in your registrations now!

If you come to the events mentioned above, you'll learn about the Children at Risk Restudy and the Postsecondary Education Restudy and committee efforts. League studies are so cool; everyone needs to know about them.

It's time to crow a little!

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VOTER Editor: 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.

Membership

Janet Calvert, Membership Chair

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.

Who Represents You

Who Represents You (WRY) is the new extension of
 Vote411.org, our candidate information page. WRY will
 list your incumbents by entering your zip code. Contact
 information is included, which may include photos,
 websites, YouTube channels, and social media
 connections.

LWVOR was selected as the beta state by LWVUS. The
 committee consists of Mary Sinclair, Heather Drake,
 Becky Gladstone, Anne Emmons and Peggy Bengry. We
 currently have 770 officials entered into the system,
 including all officials down through 36 counties and our
 top 60 cities by population. Now we are adding School
 Boards. There are approximately 1,000 Oregon school
 board members. We are working with Oregon School
 Boards Association for this information. We hope this
 will be launched in October!

It's fun to learn something new every day. Join the tech
 Team and you can learn too!

President's Column / Robin Wisdom

Hello League Leaders and Activists,

While summer fades and as I head out on my last vacation days for a while, new League cycle 2013 – 2015 kicks up. Your state board has worked hard this summer on many League issues.

For instance, your study teams, the development team and a new adhoc Events Committee has met and worked throughout summer. Long distance meetings have made that possible and financially reasonable.

The Action Team didn't stop until Sine Die on July 8th and then still stayed vigilant. Read the final sift of bills at the legislative session by reading the Sine Die edition of the Legislative Report located online <http://www.lwv.or.org/current-issues/legislative-report/>.



Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013 – Education Fund trustees have undertaken a bold plan to launch the new statewide studies around the state. We decided to try a new method to reach out to Oregonians, by planning two public educational events, one in southern Oregon and one in the northern part. Right now contracts are being negotiated at two locations, one at the Clackamas Community College to be hosted by the LWV of Clackamas County, and the second event at a southern Oregon location at the Umpqua Community College near Roseburg to be hosted by LWV of Umpqua Valley.

Please support these outreach efforts by signing up and bring a non-member friend to at least one of the events. Fill out the registration forms included in this newsletter ASAP. There's only room for 100 for lunch at each event, and many invitations will sent out in both areas. League members can choose to come to either or both events. Please send in your registrations now!

Both events will feature policy leaders and thinkers discussing current issues about Children at Risk and new developments in Postsecondary Education. Also, the two study committees will outline the direction of their efforts to restudy program topics.

And we will be employing all of our Membership & Leadership Development tools at these events. Come wearing your finest League tee-shirt! Let's show our communities our solidarity. League studies are so cool; everyone needs to know about them.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you in the fall!

Yours,

Come Learn With Us! Join a LWVOR Study Committee

Chris Vogel, Children at Risk Study Chair

In your years with League, did you ever find yourself wishing that you'd been in on a Study from the beginning rather than seeing it at a unit meeting in finished form? This could be the year!

While working on a Study may seem overwhelming; just small contributions from many participants will lead to a better product than one completed by just a couple of overburdened members. The study is richer for the eclectic perspectives of those involved. So, plan to attend either or both of the **Kick-Off meetings October 12 in Roseburg and November 2 in Clackamas** to learn more about the two current studies. This may be the year you elect to be part of a Study group. You'll get an overview of both studies at the conference, hear from a panel of thought leaders on each topic, and have an opportunity to join a Study group, if you wish.

With technology including GoToMeeting, ReadyTalk Conference Calls, Email, DropBox, GoogleDrive and other tools it is not necessary for participants in the study to travel long distances to be in the same conference room. If you have an interest in either of the current statewide Oregon studies, now is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor, make a contribution, and also learn something about the technologies that allow us to create productive meetings and participatory work groups without excessive travel. This is also an opportunity to learn more about multi-media presentation tools. As Chris Vogel, chair of the Children at Risk Study notes, "Most of our meetings will be in electronic or telephone virtual conference, not held with everyone in the same room. We hope to include PowerPoint slides and YouTube speakers as well as the traditional written Study in the packet sent to local Leagues. That means unit meetings will have an opportunity to hear from a wide variety of people across the state with diverse perspectives as well as their own local professionals working with children at risk. Being part of the Study team is an opportunity to learn more about the topic and to build technology skills. Come join us."

League studies are very well respected by policy makers at the local, state and national level. Typically these balanced documents—full of factual information supported by research and diverse sources—provide background needed to reach Positions that LWV utilizes in advocating for legislative action.

LINKS to the two studies.

<http://voteoregon.org/issues/about-study-reports/>

<http://voteoregon.org/issues/about-study-reports/current-studies/>

Restudy of Children at Risk



Scope: A two year study to research all state governmental agency programs and services for at risk children, ages zero to third grade.

The legislature has adopted new divisions in the Department of Education for Early Learning and Youth Development. Services will include child care, preschool education, special education, and family preservation. These new divisions will coordinate with the Department of Human Services in welfare and family assistance programs as well as the Oregon Health Authority for physical health services for mothers

and children and mental health services for families. (Continued on page 5.)

League Studies (Continued from page 4)

Work Outlook: A state committee will gather information on those statewide programs and services currently available and send an educational update to local leagues. Local Leagues will interview local providers and/or conduct an educational program, to provide feedback to the state committee. The state committee will draft questions for local leagues and a revised statewide position.

We are seeking LWV committee members with specific interest in researching state governmental agency programs for at risk children, ages zero to third grade in these areas:

- **child care**
- **early learning and preschool education**
- **health care**
- **mental health**
- **child welfare, and**
- **family preservation**



Restudy of Public Postsecondary Education

Proposed Scope: Review our Public Postsecondary Education position with the idea of changing or deleting points that are no longer valid or do not make sense in today's world. Examine the unique roles and interrelationships of community colleges, the four-year regional universities and the three comprehensive universities. Examine the governor's plan for a continuum of pre-K through graduate education and examine how the 2013 Legislature considered the role of postsecondary education in the continuum. Examine how all the postsecondary levels are funded. Develop comparison criteria and compare Oregon's higher education outcomes with other successful states.

Outlook for Work: A committee will review our current position with an eye for what is relevant today, and research issues that are being discussed or might be in the future. Background materials will be prepared discussing the roles of each institution, the new education plan and how postsecondary education is integrated financially and programmatically in the education continuum.

This committee is looking for additional members and a chair or co-chair.

Good News For Local League Fundraising!

Libby Medley, LWVOR/EF Budget Chair

The LWVOR Board of Directors has increased the amount of PMP that can be paid directly to the LWVOREF from 7.5% of your League's assessment to 18% for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Thus the state LWV budgets have been amended so you can use tax-deductible donations intended for the broad spectrum of educational use that the League's Education Fund supports to help satisfy more of your obligation to the LWVOR, leaving more unrestricted funds in your local League coffers for action, membership or other activities.

Increasing the LWVOREF's financial responsibility for the state League overhead expenses, begun in July 2011, has resulted in this reinstatement of a higher percentage for your "in lieu of PMP" contributions. For more information about how to take advantage of this opportunity, refer to the articles under Leadership Resources: "Treasurer" in the Members Section of the LWVOR website, or contact Mike Taylor, our state League treasurer, or myself.



Marriage Equality Initiative

Alice Bartelt, Action Chair

The LWVOR Board voted to support the Marriage Equality initiative. Generally, LWVOR does not support initiatives, but our policies allow the board to make an exception. At the meeting on August 9, 2013, the board agreed to allow local Leagues to work to gather signatures for the Marriage Equality ballot initiative. Of course, other activities related to the initiative may also be done by local leagues. The board's action is based upon the LWVUS position, cited below.

This was added to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position, which was adopted by concurrence on the floor of the 2010 LWVUS Convention: "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

<http://www.lwv.org/content/convention-2010-action>

Should you have any questions about activities, etc., please contact Action Chair, Alice Bartelt at A.Bartelt@lwvor.org or 503-522-5061.

Are you registered to vote?

Robin Wisdom, President LWVOR

Becky Gladstone, Chair LWVOREF

The answer to this question depends on how highly you value one of the fundamental rights of our society – the right to vote. Registering is not a difficult process, but it's an alarming fact that tens of millions of Americans don't vote because they miss a registration deadline, don't know how to register, or don't update their registration information when they move. Don't let this happen to you. Just go to www.oregonvotes.org or visit your local Elections Office or DMV office to see how easy it is to answer "yes" to "Are you registered to vote?"

September 24th is National Voter Registration Day, a good time to remind ourselves that throughout history men and women have given their lives to secure the basic right to vote. This reminder is especially timely given the fact that in state after state we are currently witnessing a systematic effort to make voting more difficult by erecting barriers to voter registration and to casting a ballot.

Oregonians are indeed fortunate to have easy access to voting through innovations like online voter registration and a vote-by-mail system. Please take the time to register by October 15th. Then read up on the issues and candidates, so that come November 5th you will have not only run out of excuses not to vote, but be ready to contribute your voice to making democracy work in Oregon.

Good News For Local League Voter Service Funding!

Libby Medley, Direct Mail Chair

In response to the warning that appeared in the 2013-14 Local League Planning Guide, the LWVOREF Board just passed a motion to allow the February 2014 Challenge letter to follow the normal process for local League voter service fundraising.

Accordingly, when we send out the appeal to your members, we will offer to credit your local League with the amount of their donation to be used for local voter service activities during the 2014 election cycle. (The Challengers will be asked to donate to the general LWVOREF budget rather than being designated just for voter service.) Any amount left unused after the November 2014 general election will revert to the LWVOREF.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Becky or Robin.



Meet Larissa Abello: Our New Administrative Manager of Technology and Education

Larissa was raised on the remote island of Unalaska, part of the Aleutian Chain off of mainland Alaska. Her parents moved to the island in 1976, when the population was about 400 people. It was an exciting upbringing, influenced by the local Aleut (Unangan) culture and wild adventures only island life can bring. In addition to living on this remote island, Larissa had the good fortune of escaping isolation every summer to travel to Spain. Summers were spent in Madrid and Asturias with her father's family, immersing herself in Spanish and connecting with her heritage.

As a teenager, Larissa moved from Alaska to California. After dealing with culture shock of this move and completing high school, she moved to Belgium to work as an Au Pair. She studied French and backpacked through Europe, visiting as many countries as her budget would allow. When the money ran out, Larissa came home and found work in the Silicon Valley as a Program Manager in the security industry. She then worked at an elementary school as the librarian, thrilled to combine her passions for literature and work with children. It allowed her time to start a family.

Larissa's first child was born prematurely at 26 weeks. In spite of her tiny size, she proved to be a spitfire from start. Larissa spent years working with an early childhood development program to meet the needs of her young daughter. During this time, she moved to Oregon to enjoy a slower more affordable pace of life. During her second pregnancy, she became a self-advocate for the right to birth naturally with a midwife. She celebrated the success of this endeavor with the birth of her second daughter.

Prior to working at the League of Women Voters of Oregon, Larissa worked at a bankruptcy law firm in Salem. This firm predominantly served the Hispanic community, where she was able to utilize her Spanish. Larissa serves on the board for Special Education Advisory Council for the Salem Keizer School District, and started a book club in Salem for avid readers - Salem Book Trials.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Cradle to Career:

LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013

Umpqua Community College

Danny Lang Event Center

Saturday, Oct. 12th, 2013

10:00AM – 2:30PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Nancy Golden, Oregon Education Investment Board

PANELISTS:

John Amoroso, Ford Family Foundation

Christy Cox, Ford Family Foundation

Dr. Joe Olson, President of Umpqua Community College

Gwen Soderberg-Chase, UCC Early Childhood Education Coordinator

Pat Sublette, Assistant Director Special Education – Douglas ESD

☐ **Sign me up for the Umpqua Event (lunch included): \$25.00**

Registration check in 9:30 AM Coffee, tea and pastries provided

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

LWV Member? Please, indicate League: _____

Don't Forget Your Lunch Choice:

- ☐ Roast Turkey Wrap: Roasted turkey, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & cranberry cream cheese
- ☐ Vegetarian Wrap: Hummus, lettuce, tomato, marinated onions, olives & cucumber dill sauce
- ☐ Barbeque Beef Wrap: Barbeque roast beef, lettuce, tomato, grilled sweet onions & shredded cabbage

Umpqua Community College

Danny Lang Event Center

1140 Umpqua College Road, Roseburg, OR 97470

www.umpqua.edu

Register & Pay ONLINE at

<http://www.lwvor.org/umpqua-registration> or

Make checks payable to LWVOR & return with this form to: LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302. Questions? Call 503-581-5722.

DEADLINE: October 2, 2013



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Cradle to Career:

LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013

Clackamas Community College**Gregory Forum****Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 2013****10:00AM - 2:30PM****KEYNOTE SPEAKER:****Pam Curtis, Chair of the Early Learning Council****PANELISTS:****Whitney Grubbs, Oregon Education Investment Board****Karen Gorton, Clackamas County, Children Youth and Families Division****Dr. Joanne Truesdell, President Clackamas Community College**☐ **Sign me up for the Clackamas Event (lunch included): \$25.00**

Registration check in 9:30 AM Coffee, tea and pastries provided

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

LWV Member? Please, indicate League: _____

Don't Forget Your Lunch Choice:☐ Chicken Caesar Salad ☐ Turkey Spinach Wrap ☐ Portabella Spinach Wrap

Register & Pay ONLINE at
[www.lwvor.org/clackamas-
registration](http://www.lwvor.org/clackamas-registration) or make checks payable to
LWVOR and return with this form to:
LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200,
Salem, OR 97302. Questions? Call
503-581-5722.

Clackamas Community College
Gregory Forum
19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City, OR 97045
www.clackamas.edu

DEADLINE: October 25, 2013

Don't Miss This Opportunity

The deadline is fast approaching for you to nominate yourself or another exceptional League Leader for the 2014 national board and/or the 2014-2016 national nominating committee.

This is a great time to take the next step and continue your League journey. For the first time in decades we have seen growth in national membership, development of new and younger state and local League leaders, a tool kit for attracting younger members to our local Leagues, an emphasis on sustainability/fundraising at the state and local level, an all-out effort on voter registration, and cooperation at all levels to end state voter suppression efforts.

Think of what is possible for our organization as we join with others to effect the changes that are so necessary at all levels of our governing bodies: to strengthen our democracy, our economy, and the rights of our citizens. This will be an exciting time for all of us and we ask you to consider what you have to offer our national League.

Visit the [LWVUS web site](#) and fill out the nomination form for yourself and or another exceptional Leaguer for the national board or nominating committee. Submission deadline is Monday, **September 30**. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the process at nominatingcommittee@lww.org.

2012-2014 LWVUS Nominating Committee
Linda Duckworth, chair
Judy Davis
Karen Nicholson
Mary Santi
Penney Van Vleet

New LWVOR Office Staff

Rebecca Gladstone, Education Fund Chair
LWVOREF received funding last January from the Carol and Velma Saling Foundation to assist the League in modernizing presentation methods in electronic media and for seed money to hire a part time development staff.

The HR committee recently hired Larissa Abello who is now the Administrative Manager of Technology and Education in the Salem office. She began on July 10th. Next is the task of hiring a part time development staff person. A position description has been drafted and current tasks are creation of a contract and an advertisement to go out in September. This is a part-time position for Sept. through Nov. or December only. If you know of a candidate for the position, please let us know.

The job for the new Development person should be filled by October. We would like this person to be knowledgeable of current development practices for nonprofits, conversant with email and internet fundraising promotions, donor development, and yearend solicitations. Our hope is this person will train staff, board, and committee members on the how-tos between October and December 2013.

Local Leagues may be interested to partake of the resultant trainings. When that opportunity is available the state board will let local Leagues know.

League of Women Voters® of Oregon

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Save the Date

Oct. 12th "Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013" at Umpqua Community College

Nov. 2nd "Cradle to Career: LWV Education Studies Kick-Off 2013" at Clackamas Community College

Office Regular hours, Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm, will resume September 3.

May 17 & 18, 2014 LWVOR Council in Douglas County, hosted by LWV of Umpqua Valley.