


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON



VOTER

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Summer 2014

Northwest Leagues Participate in Regional Hearing on Voting Rights

Marge Easley, League of Women Voters of Oregon

On April 28, League members from both Oregon and Washington attended the Pacific Northwest Regional Hearing of the National Commission on Voting Rights at the University of Washington Law School. The event, organized by The Lawyer's Committee on Civil Rights was one of 21 hearings around the country to collect testimony about instances of voting discrimination and election challenges.

The state Leagues of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington were included in the list of partnering organizations, and volunteers from the Seattle League provided valuable volunteer support. Kappy Eaton (LWVOR) participated in a panel on Oregon's Election Administration, while Marge Easley (LWVOR Past President) and Kim Abel (LWVWA President) gave additional testimony. An interesting note is that National Commissioner Delores Huerta, when she heard that the Oregon League will be submitting a resolution at the upcoming LWVUS Convention on voting rights for ex-felons, asked that the Commissioners be sent a copy of the resolution.

Even though we, as League leaders, consider ourselves to be knowledgeable about voting issues, it was still an eye-opening experience to learn about the wide range of voting barriers that still exist, particularly for minorities, ex-felons, and the disabled. What was gratifying, however, was hearing about steps currently underway to better educate citizens about their voting rights, to use technology in innovative ways, and to litigate when necessary to effect change. One of the best parts of the event was the opportunity for League members from neighboring states to share information and to get to know each other a bit better. We were reminded that it pays to work together, and we even tossed around the idea of having a joint LWV Oregon/Washington Council meeting in the near future.



Oregon and Washington League members share a moment at the Pacific Northwest Regional Hearing of the National Commission on Voting Rights

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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

Support Membership and Leadership Development!

The MLD team is in need of a coach to replace Mary Sinclair. We would also welcome extra coaches in the program.

Training would be provided by the MLD team at a convenient place for the new coach. A notebook will be provided as a resource (currently in the Salem office.) The training could be completed in one day.

Commitment:

- Would be available to coach two local leagues
- Would participate in the monthly one hour MLD conference call
- Would conduct monthly conference calls with their local leagues: passing along the monthly guidance and help with their concerns and questions, plus be their cheerleader.

You will be their sounding board for ideas and projects. You will not be providing them with the programs, rather helping them develop their own.

Please think about joining our team, it is a great experience with lots of new ideas.

Please share this with all your members.

If interested, please contact Pamela Ashland.

503-622-3568
misschattr@aol.com



Fun at Council: Leaguers are an enthusiastic group!

President's Column / Robin Wisdom

Hello Leaguers In Action!

It was so great to see many of you at the recent [LWVOR Council 2014](#), which was held in Roseburg on May 16 & 17. It is so valuable to get together face to face at least once a year. Thank you to delegates and all local League presidents who attended. You inspire me. The local Leagues not represented were missed. We hope all Leagues will find a way to get together for [LWVOR Convention 2015](#). Let's aim for this!



Council in Roseburg was fun. We spent more time networking and people enjoyed it according to submitted evaluations. It was great to meet the [LWV Klamath Falls](#) delegates, Julie Ryder and Mark Bendixen. Thank you, Julie and Mark and our Umatilla representative and state board member Anne Emmons, for coming very long distances. We know travel can be an issue, so we thank you, All, for making the effort to stay connected.

In the afternoon on Friday, May 16, [Dr. Patty Scott](#) of Southwestern Oregon Community College spoke about "When Generations Collide". Each generation has its particular characteristics, and it's good to know the differences. Dr. Scott's presentation was eye opening and provocative.

At 7PM on the same day, Tom Bowerman Project Director of [PolicyInteractive](#) Climate & Public Policy Research Project, spoke about the third Oregon Values and Beliefs Survey results, the common vision of Oregonians, and the role of the individual in influencing social change in "We're Closer Than We Think". The different regions often polled alike, surprisingly. Visit truenorthoregon.org.

Download the speakers' PowerPoint presentations online here: <http://www.lwvor.org/state-council-2014/>.

Just before Council on 5/15/14, Sally McKain, president of the Umpqua Valley League, and I were interviewed on the local radio station KQEN.

It's official! [LWVOR Convention 2015](#) will be held at Valley River Inn in Eugene from May 1 through May 3, 2015. Save the Dates and plan on attending! They are giving us a great deal. Rooms will be \$89 (plus tax 10.5% currently).

There's a new bit of information on **Directors and Officers Insurance**. See the short article in this newsletter.

See you at the [LWVUS Convention 2014](#) in Dallas on June 6 to 10! And Have a great summer! Thank You for tending your 'League Garden' all year round!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Wisdom". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop for the 'R' and a long, sweeping tail for the 'W'.

Directors and Officers Insurance Outcome

Liability Insurance Addendum 6/2/14

As discussed at Council on May 17, it is not likely that local Leagues would qualify for Directors and Officers Insurance coverage under the state League's policy. The question that bothered me in reading the contract was whether local Leagues are considered "subsidiaries"? If so, local Leagues would be covered as stated in the policy. But to be considered a subsidiary, a local League must follow the criteria as stated by the LWVOR's insurance company, Huggins Insurance in Salem:

Criteria to be considered a Subsidiary:

- * Must qualify as a not-for-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code
- * Does not include PACs
- * The Organization (League of Women Voters of Oregon) must have the right to elect or appoint more than 50% of the Board of Directors

The third point is the issue. The state League does not have nor want the "right to elect or appoint more than 50%" of your local boards.

On June 2, 2014, we received response to the question of whether or not local Leagues are covered by the state League's Directors and Officers Insurance. We were contacted by email by Michelle Gibson of Huggins Insurance, with whom the state League's board of directors is covered. It is no surprise that the answer is "No, local Leagues are not covered based on the criteria."

Your state board regrets this confirmation. I suggest further investigation by local Leagues via their own contacts, and reporting to the office or me their findings. For the moment, my investigation is now at a close.

Changes At The State Office

Kathy Greysmith

This past year the state office has had its share of staff turnover. With hopes of a more enduring and stable atmosphere, I want to have you welcome Paige Lancourt as our new Administrative Manager of Technology and Education. Having already worked with Paige as our past intern for three months, I feel very fortunate that she accepted this position. Please address all issues dealing with the website, voter service and mock election to her at p.lancourt@lwvor.org. Below is her bio.

Welcome, Paige!

Greetings and thank you to the League of Women Voters of Oregon for bringing me on board! My beginnings with the League started not too long ago when I was first hired as the League's spring intern for the 2014 short legislative session.



As a student studying politics at Willamette University, I was excited to begin my internship strutting around the state capitol, tweeting about current events, and finding out what it meant to advocate for a non-profit organization. I was immediately captivated by watching the LWV action team instill their passion for important issues on legislators, fellow nonprofit organizations, and even upon mere observers such as myself.

It is often rare that people who are fresh out of college find a job in the field of their choice, but I was lucky enough to find the League, where my passion for political activism and promoting voter access to citizens can
(Continued on page 5.)

Welcome, Paige (continued)

flourish. I started working in a permanent position with the League, as the administrative manager for technology and education support, within a week after my official internship ended, and I could not be more excited to be here!

I look forward to learning more about local league initiatives, getting to know our amazing members, establishing and maintaining connections, and reaching out to voters across the state of Oregon. If you want to know more about what I do here at the League, I'm just a click away, behind the scenes of our world-wide-web presence. Please continue to check out our website lwv.org, like us on Facebook, or follow us on twitter (@LWVofOregon) for frequent updates on what the League of Women Voters of Oregon is up to!

Membership opportunities with Voter Service

Janet Calvert, Membership Chair

Most local Boards meet this summer to plan/retreat/discuss League activities for 2014-2015. The upcoming election and League's voter service activities will likely be a major focus. Your voter service activities can and should be an opportune time to expand League's outreach to underserved voters and promote League membership. This is a time when voters want trusted information to fully understand the ballot issues and the policy issues that candidates often discuss with simplified explanations.

Do help with voter service activities and help with membership recruitment. Do call your Voter Service chair and offer to help register voters, staff a candidate forum, distribute the *VOTER* or whatever makes League more visible in your community.

If your League does not have a Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) coach and would like to join the program, please let Pam Ashland misschattr@aol.com or me know. Also, if you would like to be a MLD coach (past board members and other involved members make great coaches) please contact Pam or me. You can help your League grow by volunteering to be a local League MLD team member and by ASKING your friends, neighbors or that person whom you may not know.

Right after a very upbeat State Council meeting, the state office received a message from the East Multnomah County League (EMCO) informing the state Board that their membership had voted to dissolve. This is sad news for the engaged and determined members of EMCO and all Leagues in Oregon. EMCO had many outstanding programs and were very involved in their community. Libby Medley summarized some EMCO history.

"According to the revised More Power Than We Knew, p.41, EMCO was a provisional League between 1957 and 1961, originally a Unit of the Portland League. They joined with other metropolitan Leagues to form an ad hoc committee to follow metropolitan governance, and maintained membership in this group as it developed into a formal InterLeague Organization known as the Columbia River Region Inter League Organization (CRRIO). Our 1967-1971 state League President, Polly Casterline ("Mrs. George Casterline" in the 1969 Convention Workbook), was a member of the EMCO League."



Libby, Budget Chair, and daughter Emily (LWV Clackamas Delegate) at Council

Voter Service and Publicity

Please help us spread the word for this fall: get ready for General Election 2014!

Becky Gladstone, Education Fund Chair

Oregon Student Mock Election. Did you know we had almost 50,000 Oregon High School students using our free Mock Election curriculum last cycle? Share our Mock Election link so schools/teachers can register and participate:

<http://voteoregon.org/civics-101/oregon-student-mock-election/registration/>.

Who wants to know? Contact:

- Your local League! This is fun, speak up and see how you can help! You can choose from a variety of little jobs or big ones, at home, or out and about! *(ask me, email below)*
- School boards (which decide curriculum), your PTA's, your middle and high school principals and Social Studies teachers.
- Contact the press in your area and help participating schools get coverage. We provide ballots reflecting current candidate and issue decisions facing Oregonians.

Voters' Guides! *****Immediate Release!!

Our information needs to be shared; that is how you can help! Get and share on-line *Voters' Guide* info here:

<http://voteoregon.org/voter-information/voters-guides/>.

After paying for ads, we received free TV coverage linking to our Spring Primary *Voters' Guide* page! More are looking forward to working with us in the fall, including local event publicity. We are getting requests from universities and cities to link. Our web site usage was up 80% in May so our publicity is paying off!

Vote411.org includes so much more than our paper guides! Take a look and see how much more- I had 21 primary races covered in my

address entry, including 40 candidates, with lots of info- their web sites, campaign contacts, YouTube channels! For the general election in the fall we will also include ballot measures, should be able to include your local League ballot measure input if you send it to us.

Get ready to send out September press releases in your area. Any place that has a web site can include this link to click through to our *Voters' Guides*! Spread the word to schools, libraries, the press (radio, TV, newspapers, etc.), social media (Facebook, Twitter, your favorite blogs).

- **Race index**, a full listing of local races around Oregon, with comprehensive non-partisan candidate info.
- **Candidate index**, updated and expanded with full local race coverage.
- **Personalized ballot info**, who and what measures will be on your ballot? Enter your address and it will all be there for you, effortlessly!
- **Traditional versions**, Standard, Audio reader, Large print and Easy Read, also in Spanish. These are abridged, listing state-wide races and ballot measures.
- **Event listing**- send your League sponsored debate and forum info, to be included in Vote411.org, to Megan Brown, mbrown@lww.org.

Have a great summer and keep in touch, feel free to share any ideas or questions!



Children At-Risk Study – Holy Moley! Big Changes

Linda Clary, CAR Study Co-chair

At the League's 2013 Convention, we approved two studies that would report to us on the state of education in Oregon: a postsecondary education study and a Restudy of Children At-Risk (ages 0 – 8) This article addresses the latter study.

Our Children At-Risk (CAR) study is moving along at a good clip. We banded and huddled together, (in good League fashion) did a heap of learning, developed our questions and a timetable, and started interviews. We are so very interested in what is being done in our state for its youngest citizens.

Here's a sneak preview of lessons learned: In 2011 Governor Kitzhaber announced his 40-40-20 plan: The goal declares that by 2025, Oregon will ensure that:

- 40 percent of adults will have earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 40 percent of adults will have earned an associate degree or post-secondary credential.
- 20 percent of adults will have earned a high school diploma, modified high school diploma or the equivalent of a high school diploma.

In order to accomplish this ambitious goal, Oregon has restructured many of its service delivery agencies and models and re-routed many funding streams by creating The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). It oversees all spending in public education, creating a seamless path for young people to learn, a blueprint from "cradle to career" and subsequent success. The OEIB then created and designated, with the legislature (2011 - SB909), the Early Learning Council. The Early Learning Council was tasked with developing a set of policy recommendations for coordinated service delivery. It did so in a

collaborative manner with other agencies (within and out of the state government structure), resulting in the concept of Early Learning Hubs. The Hubs move us from "a collection of isolated programs to a coordinated system, integrated across sectors, dedicated to the needs of children and their families, and focused on results." (Early Learning Hub Legislative Report. Prepared for the Oregon State Legislature by the Early Learning Division. February 3, 2014)

Here's a link to an article which gives you lots of details on the origins of the Oregon Education Investment Board:

http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2011/11/gov_john_kitzhaber_oregon_educ.html

The ELC issued a Request for Proposals to communities in August 2013, inviting them to submit their ideas on what would work well for their community's children. Fifteen communities responded, one contract was awarded (Marion County) and negotiations with five other communities were underway (as of March 1, 2014). Those proposals not recognized for an award or negotiation were invited to participate in a second round of submissions, with contract awards being completed by July 2015. Yes, your conclusion of "Holy moley! Big changes." is correct.

New LWWUS Agriculture Position!

Just what we've been waiting for! Here's a [link](#) to the new Agriculture position based on national agricultural study findings.

Welcome, New LWVOR Treasurer!

Robin Wisdom, President

The state board is more than happy. We are elated.

At Council our dear Ruth Kistler of the Lincoln County League casually let it slip that she would serve as Treasurer. And she has since confirmed it. She would have at Council but had a prior engagement she had to leave for before we voted for the slate that lacked a Treasurer.

And Ruth is doing this as a volunteer. This is such a relief for the board! We ask that all members bear in mind we will be in an adjustment period as Mike leaves the board and Ruth comes on.

Many thanks to you, Ruth!

And now, hip-hip-hooray!

(Ruth's bio and those of our newly elected board members, Anne Bell and Kathleen Mason follow.)

Ruth Kistler



I, Ruth Kistler (nee Goldstein) was born in the Bronx and lived there for the first three decades of my life. I was raised in the intellectual ferment of socialism and Zionism. My interest in the natural world was nurtured by frequent visits to the world-class Bronx Botanical Gardens and Bronx Zoo, as well as to the Museum of Natural History (one subway trip away). As a girl child, I was pressured to be "beautiful but dumb" and I knew I could be neither. Although urged to attend a high school that would develop my artistic talent, I chose instead to attend the Bronx High

School of Science and concentrated on mathematics and biology. After high school I spent eight years dropping in and out of City College (with one disastrous year at Cornell), and graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics.

After graduation I went to work in New York City for the Service Bureau Corporation (SBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of IBM, as a computer programmer. In 1969, SBC transferred me to San Jose, California, where a new development lab had been established. I transferred into the mother corporation when SBC was sold. During my 35 years with IBM, I worked in Research and Development Divisions, and was involved in the design and development of several large operating systems and database systems (most of which actually became released products). In 1978, I married another IBM programmer, Jack Kistler, a native of Portland. In 1980 our son David was born. During those years, working long hours, raising a child, and maintaining a home, left little time for community involvement, although I managed to find time to volunteer as an Algebra tutor at the high school. Recreation was mainly hiking and camping, and planning when and where to retire.

In 2000 we retired and moved to Newport, drawn by the ocean, the wonderful climate (cool), and the lack of Willamette Valley allergens. (Jack has hay fever.) I became aware of the local League of Women Voters and agreed with the League's progressive positions and its mission to involve citizens in government. I joined LWV of Lincoln County in 2000. I volunteered to serve as our local League Treasurer in 2005, and served as President from 2009 through 2013. I edit our local newsletter, *Wavelengths*. Husband Jack now serves as our local Treasurer, membership database manager, webmaster, and newsletter publisher. I participated in the recent LWVOR Coastal Study group, and am now involved with the Public Postsecondary Education Study.

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Ruth (continued from page 8)

Besides my involvement with the League, I am a volunteer interpreter at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, at the Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center, and at Port Dock 1 (the sea lion pier) in Newport. I recently completed the Master Naturalist, Coastal Ecoregion Course. I am a volunteer math tutor for GED and community college students. I also enjoy reading, especially history and economics books. And I am looking forward to taming and training our three-and-a-half-month-old standard poodle puppy, Ginger.

Anne Bell



Anne grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland just outside of Washington, D.C. where her mother, admitted to the bar in both Maryland and Washington, D.C. during the mid-1930s, worked for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Although the household was the scene of many vigorous discussions regarding civic, cultural and legal issues, Anne's interests were primarily in the arts. She was a member of the Washington Ballet during her high school years and went on to Bennington College in Vermont to receive a B.A. in Dance. After several years teaching at the University of Maryland, she made New York City her home and pursued a career as a professional dancer and choreographer that took her around the U.S. and Europe throughout the 70s and early 80s. She fell in love with Oregon in the mid-80s, moved west and became involved with non-profit administration and program management. She worked in the Development Office of the Portland Art Museum, assisting with their earliest efforts to organize and computerize

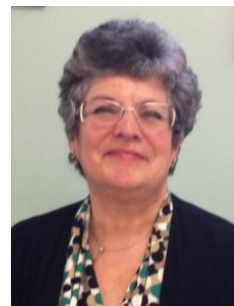
their donor records, and later shifted to the Northwest Film Center to run their Arts in Education program and community education classes. Over the years, she was fortunate to serve as the Executive Director of the Eastern Oregon Arts Council in La Grande and program director for the Fishtrap Gathering out of Enterprise. She started in the Oregon State University Development Office in 1995 as Executive Assistant to the Director, moved with the development operation to the OSU Foundation in 1999 and retired from the Foundation in late 2011 as Director of the Data Management Group.

Anne is a perennial LBCC student in French and Yoga.

Her husband, Emilio Bandiero, is an attorney based in Eugene and they live in Linn County. As transplants from the urban East, they are sometimes bemused to find themselves on a small acreage where they grow far too many tomatoes. Happily, they find that vigorous discussions regarding civic, cultural and legal issues also flourish in this setting.

Since settling here, Anne has found the work of the League, with its hands-on emphasis on education, access and engagement in civic life, inspiring. She is pleased to have an opportunity to join in and looks forward to learning much in the process.

Kathleen Ochoa Mason



Relocating with my husband to be with our adult children and grandchild from Southern California just two years ago, I've discovered a lot about Oregon: rain; a State Legislature whose members actually have

other jobs (!); rain; wonderful and "can-do" spirited people; untamed rivers spanned by glorious bridges of all sizes and compositions; rain; and more Mexican
(Continued on page 10.)

Kathleen Mason (Continued from page 9)

restaurants than I expected. I work part time for the Old Aurora Colony Museum as its public relations manager; I volunteer as a member of the Statesman Journal newspaper Readers' Panel; and I work as a free-lance consultant for small nonprofits. I do enjoy living here!

So why am I interested in being a board member for the League of Women Voters of Oregon? I guess I just want to do more to measure up to the civic engagement and the activism that I witnessed growing up in the Los Angeles area—especially on my mother's side of a very extended family. Esther Esparza, my maternal great grandmother, proudly exercised her newly earned citizenship by voting in the 1960 presidential election and every election until her death at 93 years of age. She always voted Democrat. My grandmother, Juanita "Jenny"

Esparza Azcarate, marched in the 1930's to unionize the garment workers in downtown Los Angeles—and got tear-gassed during one such outing. She also operated a small grocery store during the later Depression years. My mother often said that Jenny would lose money because she was always handing out food to those in need. My own mother's story builds on the intelligence and community mindedness of her own mother and grandmother. My mother volunteered at my schools, as a Girl Scout leader, has always voted (she's a Republican) and even in her 80's carries on the family tradition of sharing with those in need.

I would like to work as a member of the board of League of Women Voters of Oregon to advocate for voters who are often not heard or seen and to help educate and inform new voters and new citizens. I was raised to believe in the power and privilege of the vote – I think this makes me a good fit for the League. I hope that you think so too.



Global climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our planet today, and its effects are already being seen worldwide. Temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising, sea ice and glaciers are melting, precipitation patterns are changing, and oceans are acidifying.

We must act now to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to prepare for the projected impacts of climate change. League members working at the state and local levels have a critical role to play in this effort. The **Toolkit for Climate Action** is full of detailed suggestions of ways in which Leagues can help promote climate solutions in their communities and beyond.

Sections of the Toolkit that League members may find particularly helpful include --

Choosing a Role for Your League — suggests a range of things Leagues can do, from including regular energy and climate articles in their Voters to (co-)sponsoring a community forum to promoting a "green" policy initiative in their communities.

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Climate Change Toolkit (continued from page 10)

Grassroots Action Priorities — focuses on key issues where state and local League action can make a real difference right now.

- **Climate Change: Action in support of EPA's regulatory initiatives** aimed at reducing GHG emissions. This section provides background information and suggestions of things Leagues can do to help ensure the success of EPA regulations, such as carbon pollution standards for new and existing power plants.
- **Energy Efficient Buildings.** Buildings are responsible for about 40% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, yet the technologies needed to improve building efficiency are readily available and cost-effective. This section provides information about policies and programs that can reduce energy consumption in buildings and offers ideas for League action.
- **Renewable Energy.** One or more renewable energy resources are available in all parts of the country and have the potential to meet a significant portion of our energy needs. This section discusses policies to promote renewable energy and provides suggestions of what Leagues can do to advance these policies in their communities.

NEW • **Adaptation: Preparing for the Unavoidable Impacts of Climate Change.** Mitigation — the actions we take to limit carbon pollution — no matter how rigorous, cannot prevent the climate from continuing to change for the foreseeable future. Adaptation — the efforts taken to decrease vulnerability and limit the impacts of climate change — is critical as well. This section provides information about how Leagues can help their communities prepare for these impacts and describes possible adaptation strategies for specific sectors.

To access the Toolkit for Climate Action, go to the [Global Climate Change page of the LWVUS website](http://www.lwv.org/issues/global-climate-change) (<http://www.lwv.org/issues/global-climate-change>) and click on the Toolkit box in the right side bar at the bottom.



Dr. Patty Scott speaks about "When Generations Collide" at Council



Tom Bowerman of Policy Interactive speaks at Council Banquet



Local League delegates at Council

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