



## Open World Program: Russian Delegation to Arrive October 10

*Pat Osborn*

October will find League members showcasing accountable governance practices to a delegation of six Russian visitors through the Open World Program. The group of five delegates and one facilitator will be with us October 10–18 for a week-long field trip of meetings, site visits, discussions, and dinners.

Meetings with the Russians will take the place of our general meeting. There are three opportunities for League members to meet the delegates and learn more about their interests and experiences in Russia. (See **Meet the Russians** on p. 3)

This exchange is sponsored by the LWVUS through the Open World Leadership Center, a program within the National Library of Congress. Our delegates will arrive in Washington DC on October 8, spend a day learning about the US system of government there, and then fly to Portland.

The 2009 delegation includes Russians who are active in the municipalities of the country, specifically in the administration of housing and communal services. Their visit to Portland will include a tour of the city by public transit, visits at US Representative Earl Blumenauer's office, various departments of the city of Portland and Portland City Council, Multnomah County Elections Division, Metro, a tour of Station Place Tower housing project and the University of Oregon White Stag building. They will also make

### *MEET THE RUSSIANS:*

#### THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PORTLAND

INVITES YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER  
TO MEET AND GREET OUR  
**OPEN WORLD VISITORS FROM RUSSIA**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009 - 5:00 – 6:30 P.M.**  
AT AN APPETIZER RECEPTION

ADDRESS AND DIRECTIONS  
WILL BE PROVIDED WITH RSVP

**RSVP BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9,** TO LWV PORTLAND OFFICE  
(503-228-1675 OR [INFO@LWVPDX.ORG](mailto:INFO@LWVPDX.ORG)) WITH NAME AND NUMBER ATTENDING.

presentations at Portland State University and be honored guests at Portland's "Bridge to Russia," a celebration of Portland's Russian sister city, Khabarovsk. Arrangements have been made for each delegate to job shadow a Portland counterpart in their daily activities. The delegation will also visit the Oregon Coast.

The delegates come from wide ranging areas of Russia, from Apatity, 700 miles north of St. Petersburg, to Orsk in the south Ural Mountains.

Planning for this visit began in late spring. A committee of ten League members has been sharing ideas on how to host the delegates. Interpreter arrangements, transportation, publicity, and meeting arrangements are part of this process. Pat Osborn has served as the coordinator for the effort. Our League receives a \$3000 grant for these services, plus a budget to cover expenses of meals, activities, transportation and interpretation.

### No General Meeting in October

We are **canceling** the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, so members can attend several events scheduled around our participation in the Open World Program that same week. Unit meetings will meet as usual with discussions about education which is our local study topic this year.

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of Portland, OR**

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**Voter** is produced 9 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Portland. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Please contact Pat Chor or Heather Drake at the League office, 503-228-1675. Submissions must be received no later than the Friday before the board meeting each month.

**October 2009**



League of Women Voters  
of Portland, OR  
310 SW 4th Ave. Suite 520  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone & Fax: 503 228-1675  
Email: info@lwvpx.org  
Web: www.lwvpx.org

**President's Column**

*Betsy Pratt*

As I listened to Metro Councilor Robert Liberty at our September general meeting, I was struck by the complexities associated with even the most insignificant public policy issue (and Metro doesn't deal with trivia). Mr. Liberty talked about regional efforts to manage growth, noting that Portland is well ahead of the rest of the country.

In developing strategies, Metro has to consider issues such as where and how to site affordable housing, whether warehouse districts contribute enough jobs to justify the dead zones around them, where do transit corridors or green spaces need to be preserved, and the biggest variable – what is the human population going to need in 2040. We chatted before the meeting about the difficulty in dealing with 20 to 50 year planning horizons. In 1959, would anyone have predicted that high tech would have replaced high timber as a major driver in the economy? Or that global markets would have sent so many jobs overseas? Or that supersonic jets would have come and gone? It boggles the mind.

The League committee arranging the Russian visit this month has been dealing with complexity as well. Under Pat Osborn's leadership, they started by trying to find the best fit between the Open World grant requirements and our local governmental resources. Their goal was to find the most effective examples of

“accountable government.” When the Russian delegates' profiles arrived in late August, the committee started over to accommodate the delegates' interests, which range from public housing to utility management to stray animals.

During their planning, the committee conducted almost a mini-seminar on the Russian state, to understand where the two cultures and civic structures are alike and where they differ. The team has developed a very impressive and intensive agenda for our visitors – but they reserved a little time for fun. I encourage League members to meet the Russians at a couple of the fun events, or even attend some of the substantive meetings.

Barb Fredericks, Debbie Aiona, and I have been facing complexities in arranging an event in partnership with the Northeast Neighborhood Coalition. Last spring the Multnomah Bar Foundation awarded the League a grant to conduct a ½ day workshop for a select group of high schools students, focusing on civic participation in the Portland Plan. The event was originally to occur last spring and is now scheduled for September 29. We are working with a neighborhood association, students, other volunteers, and city staff, who all have different styles, expectations, and skill levels. I'll report next month on how it comes out.

*In Memoriam*

**Lillian Pereyra**, League member and historian, died in September 2009 at age 89. After a long teaching career at the University of Portland, she gave the League the benefit of her inquiring mind and historical perspective on issues. Among other roles, Lillian was a member of the committee that produced the 1978 League study of the Oregon Judicial System.



## Our Delegates

### Irina Malinina

Department Head for the Novgorod Region Borovichsky District Administration in Novgorod, a city of 57,000 between St Petersburg and Moscow

### Aleksandr Mefodyev

Legal Department Director for Municipal Technologies  
Cheboksary, Chuvashia, 400 miles east of Moscow, on the Volga River. (Pop: 450,000).

### Andrey Tarasov

Director of Pskov Municipal Services Pskov in the Pskov Oblast, on the western border of Russia near Latvia and Estonia. (Pop: 202,000)

### Veronika Trushkova

Director of the Department of City Management for Apatity, Murmansk Oblast, near Finland 700 mi N of St Petersburg. (Pop: 63,000)

### Sergey Yeger

General Director of Media Plus LLC of Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, over 1000 mi southeast of Moscow near the border of Kazakhstan in the South Ural Mountains. (Pop: 252,000)

## Facilitator

### Andrey Yuryevich Fink

from Tolyatti, Samara Oblast 500 mi southeast of Moscow (Pop: 718,000)

## Meet the Russians

### Welcoming Reception (see p. 1)

Monday, October 12, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Address and directions will be provided with RSVP

League members, spouses and significant others are invited to this reception featuring informal visiting and appetizers.

**RSVP by Friday, October 9**, to LWV Portland office (503-228-1675 or [info@lwvpx.org](mailto:info@lwvpx.org)) with name and number attending.

### Presentations at Portland State University

"Open World Russian Delegation Perspective"

Thursday, October 15, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Smith Memorial Union Room 296; 1825 SW Broadway

Delegates will make short presentations about their work in Russia to the public and PSU's students. Includes refreshments and a chance to visit. Sponsored by Friends of Russian Culture, PSU Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and PSU International Studies.

Public Transit: Max yellow or green line to PSU stop (SW 5th or 6th and Mill).

Parking: Shattock lot at SW Broadway and SW College; Parking structure 2 at SW Broadway and SW Mill.

### Bridge to Russia Celebration

Sponsored by Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association

Thursday, October 15, 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Portland City Hall, Main Floor, 1221 SW 4th Ave.

Russian food and music to benefit children's cancer hospital in Khabarovsk, Russia.

Tickets at the door \$20; RSVP 503-287-0477



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## Making the Greatest Place – *Get Involved* in Planning Our Region’s Future

Debbie Aiona

Metro Councilor Robert Liberty challenged League members at the September 15 general meeting to get involved in making the critical decisions facing the Portland metropolitan region over the next year. By the end of 2010, Metro is poised to adopt policies that will guide future development and investment including expansions to the urban growth boundary, designation of urban and rural reserves, and adoption of a Regional Transportation Plan.

The vision for “Making the Greatest Place” is based on values established by residents in the 2040 Growth Concept:

- **Vibrant Communities** – People live and work in vibrant communities where they can choose to walk for pleasure and to meet their everyday needs.
- **Economic Prosperity** – Current and future residents benefit from the region’s sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.
- **Safe and Reliable Transportation** – People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.
- **Environmental Leadership** – The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.
- **Clean Air and Water** – Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.
- **Equity** – The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably.

The staff of Metro, under the leadership of Chief Operating Officer Michael Jordan, released their Strategies for a Sustainable and Prosperous Region ([www.oregonmetro.gov/greatestplace](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/greatestplace)) on September 15.

Their report states that the current urban growth boundary can contain virtually all the region’s population growth over the next 20 years if local governments take effective and efficient actions.

### Report Highlights

- **Make the Most of What We Have:** Invest to maintain and improve our existing communities.
- **Protect Our Urban Growth Boundary:** To the maximum extent possible, ensure that growth is accommodated within the existing boundary.
- **Walk Our Talk:** Be accountable for our actions and responsible with the public’s money.

As Councilor Liberty pointed out, the League of Women Voters has a long history in the land use arena. It has worked tirelessly since the 1960’s to promote comprehensive land use planning with robust citizen participation, conservation of farm and forestland, development of compact and livable communities with access to transportation, parks and open

spaces, affordable housing, and jobs. Keep these values in mind when communicating with Metro officials.

Now it’s up to you to tell Metro how you want our region to grow. You can attend an open house and public hearing, send an email or write a letter.

### Letters and email to:

Greatest Place Comments  
Planning and Development  
600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232  
[greatestplace@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:greatestplace@oregonmetro.gov)

### Open Houses:

**Thursday, Oct. 8**  
4 p.m. (open house) | 5:15 p.m. (hearing)  
Happy Valley City Hall, 16000 SE Misty Dr., Happy Valley

**Thursday, Oct. 15**  
4 p.m. (open house) | 5:15 p.m. (hearing)  
Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland  
Submit comments in writing

## October Action Committee Meeting

**Impact of Urban Renewal on Multnomah County**  
Rhys Scholes, Communication Policy Director  
for County Chair Ted Wheeler

Friday, October 23, 1:00 pm

Room 433, Board of Trade Building,  
310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland

All members welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Aiona.

**Note:** Action Committee meetings are scheduled for 4th Fridays at 1:00 pm. In November we will meet the 3rd Friday. There will be no meeting in December.

To sign up for the **Action Committee Email List**, send email to Debbie Aiona and receive reminders and updates.

## We are ALL the Membership Committee

*Debbie Kaye*

Because you are reading this *Voter*, you are likely already a member of the League of Women Voters of Portland. You chose the League because of your interest in civic affairs, your desire to assist others to be informed voters, or a specific issue in the community, such as police oversight, the evolution of the South Macadam area, or the opportunity for participation in the Portland Plan. You appreciate the value of the League's work for and with Portland's citizens.

**You've** made the decision to join, to engage, to support the League's work. Now **share this opportunity** for involvement in a valuable institution: Bring a friend!

We are **ALL** the Membership Committee! Please help keep our League vital and active by introducing new people to our work. Invite your neighbor to the next general meeting. Share the websites with your colleague who is interested in Portland Public Schools or the State League water study. You know the League is a terrific organization. Share the wealth!

## Directory Updates

**Jeanette Fruen**

**Darleane Lemley**

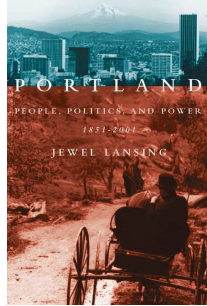
**Robert Lustberg**

**Paulette Meyer**

**Pat Russell**

## There is Still Room to Attend The November 7 League Social Evening / Fundraiser with Jewel Lansing

*Mary McWilliams*



### Meet, Greet, Eat, and Discuss

There are still a few spots available for League members and their guests to attend the Saturday, 7 p.m., November 7, 2009 social evening/fund raiser with Jewel Lansing at a Mt. Tabor home.

Jewel Lansing is a Lifetime League member, former elected Multnomah County Auditor and City of Portland Auditor, and book author. During a pause in this social evening, Jewel will discuss her book **Portland: People, Politics, and Power, 1851-2001**.

At the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> evening there will be fine Oregon cheeses and wines and other food and drink. See the "coupon" below for details on how to join (or simply call the League Office for your reservation; 503-228-1675), have a fun evening, and raise money for the Portland League. The evening is limited to 50 people with 42 already signed up.

It's not too late for you and/or your guest(s) to join us for this festive evening.

The League of Women Voters of Portland  
PO Box 3491  
Portland, OR 97208-3491

503-228-1675  
info@lwvpx.org  
www.lwvpx.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street/city/zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

November 7th Meet, Greet, Eat, and Discuss – for League members and their guests

(Attendees will receive directions to the event prior to Nov. 7th.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 – one attendee and one autographed copy

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 – two attendees and one autographed book (each additional attendee is \$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$95 – two attendees and two autographed books

\_\_\_\_\_ Other – contribution to the League of Women Voters of Portland

\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Make checks payable to: The League of Women Voters of Portland and send to the PO Box, above.

## LWVOR Joins Defend Oregon Coalition

The legislative session was difficult because of a large budget shortfall. Legislators made difficult decisions to cut approximately \$2 billion in state services. In addition, they used about \$1 billion in reserve and stimulus funds. But this was not enough to keep vital services. Legislators passed two taxes to help pay for vital services and to make the tax system more fair.

Even though these taxes are needed, a group has begun collecting signatures to overturn the statutes. If enough signatures are collected, two measures will appear on the ballot in a special election to be held on January 26, 2010. The signatures must be collected by September 25th, and the Secretary of State must verify them by October 25th. *Voters' Pamphlet* statements are due on November 19th, and the voter registration deadline is January 5, 2010.

These measures are *referenda*, which means that the voters will be affirming the law. Therefore, voters must vote 'yes' to keep the tax measures in place. Because these taxes are sorely needed, LWVOR joined the coalition to work to make sure that the taxes stay in place.

One of the taxes is to raise the corporate minimum tax from \$10 per year, which it has been since 1931. In recent years, 66 percent of C corpo-

rations paid only \$10. The new tax is one tenth of one percent of Oregon sales, or a minimum of \$150. Also, profitable corporations, who now pay taxes of 6.6 percent on profits, will pay 7.9 percent for the next two years, and then will pay 7.6 percent. This rate is lower than individuals who have income of just over \$15,000 per year. The new law makes the tax system fairer, and helps to pay for services that businesses use.

The other statute increases the tax rate for individuals who have income of more than \$125,000 per year or families with income of more than \$250,000. The increase will be 1.8 percent on income over the above amounts. For individuals with income of more than \$250,000 and families with income of more than \$500,000, the rate will be 11 percent on amounts over those levels.

The League and other organizations worked hard during the session to make sure that new taxes were part of the package to balance the budget. It is anticipated that a campaign to save these taxes will be necessary. You are all encouraged to work on this campaign. If you would like more information or a speaker to come to your meeting or community forum, contact the Defend Oregon Coalition at [www.defendoregon.org](http://www.defendoregon.org) or 503-239-8029.

### Oregon Civic Engagement Conference

The State League is participating in the *Oregon Civic Engagement Conference: Connecting the Dots, Linking Ideas with Action*, sponsored by the Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service (otherwise known as "Oregon Volunteers"). It is being held on October 1-3 at the Salem Conference Center. The League will be presenting a workshop at 3:30 pm on October 1 entitled "From Issues to Action, The League of Women Voters' Unique Approach to Political Advocacy." Marge Easley and Jane Gigler will be touting the League process of moving from study to action, as well as conducting an interactive session on the consensus process. For more information, see [www.oregonvolunteers.org](http://www.oregonvolunteers.org).

### LWVOR Fall Workshop, October 17th, Eugene

The theme of the LWVOR Fall Workshop will be "Growing our Grassroots" and will feature innovative ways to reach out to the public in today's world. Join us for hands-on learning about new technologies, information about the Legislature's tax fairness plan, and plenty of time to share with other Leagues. Attendees should:

- Bring a copy of their directory of elected officials;
- Share a successful fund raising idea;
- Share one innovative and unusual (outside the box) way of communicating with others - citizens, voters, local League members, or others; and
- Bring a laptop computer if possible.

Go to [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org) to register.

## November General Meeting Preview

### Deconstructing the State Budget

**George Naughton**, Budget Director, Budget & Management Division, Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 pm

Board Room, Multnomah County Building,  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland

## Calendar

October 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
7: <b>Exec Committee</b> 12:00 pm, Room 520 10-18: <b>Open World Civic Hosting Visitors</b> 16: <b>Voter Deadline</b> 17: <b>LWVOR Fall Workshop</b> 19: <b>Board Meeting</b> 5:45 pm, Room 433 23: <b>Action Committee</b> 1:00 pm, Room 433 28: <b>Mailing Party</b> 10:00 am, Room 520						

**Calendar Location Key:**

**Room 520** and **Room 433** are located at our office building: Board of Trade Building, 310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland (4th Avenue between Stark and Oak Streets)

The **Mult. Bldg.** is located at 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard. The Board Room is located on the first floor.

November 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
4: <b>Exec Committee</b> 12:00 pm, Room 520 7: <b>Jewel Lansing Event</b> 7:00 pm, Home of Mary McWilliams 10: <b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 pm, Board Room, Mult. Bldg. 13: <b>Voter Deadline</b> 16: <b>Board Meeting</b> 5:45 pm, Room 433 20: <b>Action Committee</b> 1:00 pm, Room 433 24: <b>Mailing Party</b> 10:00 am, Room 520 26-27: <b>Office Closed</b>						

### Directory Updates

**Joan Schwager**

**Brenda Smith**

## October Unit Meetings

**Education in Portland – Another Look at Portland Public Schools.** For a year, an Education Committee has been reviewing the local League position statements on Portland’s K-12 education system. The Committee was charged by the 2008 Convention to review the positions from the perspective of our system today and recommend consolidations, deletions and updates. October units will review with the Committee their findings to date and what’s ahead for their 2nd year’s work.

**Unit 1 – Southwest**  
**Monday, Oct. 26, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Leader – Ann Mulrone  
 Host – Kathleen Hersh

**Unit 2 – Southeast**  
**Monday, Oct. 26, 10:00 a.m.**  
 Leader – Mary McWilliams  
 Host – Mary Ann Schwab

**Unit 4 – North/Northeast**  
**Thursday, Oct. 15, 1:00 p.m.**  
 Leader – Susan Proppe Tong  
 Host – Ann Hyde

**Unit 5 – Terwilliger Plaza**  
**Monday, Oct. 19, 3:00 p.m.**  
 Leader – Jeanne Steed  
 No host – Convene at Terwilliger Plaza Auditorium A, 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd

**Unit 6 – Southwest/Northwest Hills**  
**Friday, Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Leader – Debbie Kaye  
 Host – Gail Post

**Unit 7 – Vermont Hills**  
**Monday, Oct. 19, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Leader – Jeanne Steed  
 Host – Beverlee Smith

**Unit 8 – Online**  
 Leader: Kathleen Hersh  
 Location: See the Summer *Voter* for guidance on how to sign up and participate.



**League of Women of Voters® of Portland**  
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*“to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government”*

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**Inside this issue...**

- ◆ Open World Program Reception - Oct. 12
- ◆ Action: Tell Metro How Our Region Should Grow
- ◆ Only a Few Spaces Left for Nov. 7 Jewel Lansing Event!

*Have you sent in your membership renewal yet? Don't forget!*

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*“to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government”*

Why not invite a friend to join?  
**Help us make democracy work.**

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- Student Membership \$25.00

**Return to:**  
**LWV Portland**  
 310 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 520  
 Portland, OR 97204-2310  
 Phone/Fax: 503-228-1675

**GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

- \_\_\_ I am a new member!
- \_\_\_ I am interested in working with the League this year. Please call me.
- \_\_\_ Please send me more information about the League.
- \_\_\_ I cannot join right now, but I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support League education activities. (Tax deductible if made to the LWV Portland Ed. Fund.)
- Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_