



*February General Meeting*

## Creating a Sustainable Future

The League of Women Voters of the United States has a position that promotes resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. We also promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources. With this in mind, we have invited three speakers to join us for our February meeting. David Bragdon, who is nearing the end of his second term as elected Metro Council President, and Susan Anderson, Director, City of Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, will share with us what Metro and the City of Portland are doing to increase, promote and/or practice sustainability. This could include what policies they have enacted, what changes they have made in how they do their activities, how they encourage the public to live a more sustainable life style, and what their future plans or goals may be.

Dianne Riley who is fairly new to the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) will speak about what CLF is doing and her specialty, equity as an integral part of sustainability.

## Creating a Sustainable Future



Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 pm

Board Room, Multnomah County Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard

*Please arrive early as this program will be cable cast.*

**Panelists:**

- **David Bragdon**, Metro Council President
- **Susan Anderson**, Director, City of Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
- **Dianne Riley**, Equity Agenda Coordinator, Coalition for a Livable Future

Parking: Ample street parking.

By Bus: Plan your route with TriMet's Trip Planner at [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org)

According to their website, the Coalition for a Livable Future “unites over 90 diverse organizations and hundreds of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities. By connecting issues, people and organizations, CLF empowers communities to take action together to shape the big decisions affecting the Portland region’s future.” Visit their website at [clfuture.org](http://clfuture.org).

For other background, the Sustainable Living selection on Metro’s web site ([www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov)) has links to programs and services to help citizens and businesses make the region “greener.”

“The Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) promotes integrated land use planning and development based on sustainability principles and practices. BPS also develops and implements policies and programs that provide environmental, economic and social benefits to residents, businesses and government, which strengthen Portland's position as an international model of sustainable practices and commerce.”

Their web site is:  
[www.portlandonline.com](http://www.portlandonline.com).

Please join us for what should be an educational and energizing experience.

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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.

**February 2010**



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**President's Column**

*Betsy Pratt*

When I was out walking the other day, it occurred to me that the metaphor of steps and footprints can lead in many directions. For example, as we contemplate the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, we remember the daring and passionate women who started this organization. It would have been thrilling to have walked beside them as they ventured down a risky path in pursuit of a better society. We try to follow in their footprints as we deal with the issues of our day, so I hope you will be able to join us for the anniversary celebration on Saturday, February 13th at the Riverside Golf and Country Club in Northeast Portland.

Sometimes we are treading a well-worn trail representing years of precedent and procedures. We pay attention to League policies and practices, because they reflect thoughtful consideration of the best way to proceed. For instance, our policies state that "All letters to the editor concerning League positions shall be written by the President or a person designated by the President. . ." Individual members may cite League positions in personal letters but they may not make an official statement on behalf of the League without coordinating with the President. We try hard to protect our reputation for accuracy and sound reasoning, so this coordination is very important.

Big projects or major challenges are undertaken in little steps. To master the complex information on the January ballot measures, the Speakers Bureau team went step by step through the ballot measure information developed by the state League. We searched other sources to clarify material, and we asked people for additional explanations. We prepared and rehearsed our presentations, and then delivered our spiels to our community audiences. Our education study committee is also trying to break that overwhelming topic into manageable steps. A study such as this one progresses from a glimmer of an idea to a formal scope, through research and interviews, to drafts, reviews, edits, and final production. At the end of the trail, the results are a product we can all brag about proudly.

Finally, we sometimes find ourselves blazing new trails. Our work on Portland's voter-owned elections is based on League positions, but we have been helping the city create new governing principles so that the concept works effectively. This topic will receive special attention in 2010 as citizens will likely be asked to vote on it in November. As with any new trail, we occasionally get muddy feet or stray into thickets, but we also find marvelous new scenery.

So this is my recommendation for your spring exercise program – take a step, follow a path, blaze a new trail - with the Portland League.

**Save the date! Education Equity Issues in Portland**

Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 pm  
Board Room, Multnomah County Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

We will have a panel of educators from school districts in Portland to address some of the questions our Education Study Committee has about equity in the schools.

Note: The April General Meeting on Water has been changed to a Candidate Forum for the primary election.

## Resource Access Center: A New Facility Serving Portland's Homeless

*Debbie Aiona*

On November 20, 2009, the city broke ground on an innovative service center for people experiencing homelessness, the Resource Access Center (RAC). For individuals and families living on the street, the building will provide a resource and day center, shelter space, and affordable rental housing. Pamela Kambur from the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) and Fern Elledge from Transition Projects, Inc. (TPI) shared information about the center at the November Action Committee meeting.

### Facility and Services

The RAC will be located near the downtown Greyhound station and will replace Transition Project's Community Service Center, currently located at the west end of the Steel Bridge.

Transition Projects will manage the RAC and coordinate services among other community organizations.

Staff will provide information and referrals; housing, employment, and treatment counseling; restrooms, hot showers, and laundry; storage for personal possessions; kennels; and communications services including mail and computers. The center will serve 1,000 citizens every day.

A 90-bed shelter for men replacing Transition Project's Glisan Street facility will be part of the RAC.

The RAC will include 130 studio apartments providing permanent supportive housing for very low-income residents and will be available to both individuals and couples.

The building will include a large multipurpose room, an art studio, and a garden balcony. Activities such as 12-step meetings, yoga and life skills classes, and a proposed Community Court will take place in the multipurpose room.

### Financing

The total development cost is \$46.9 million. Funding for the project comes from a variety of sources: River District Urban Renewal funds, \$29.5 million; Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, \$11.7 million; Recovery Act competitive grant (U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development), \$3.3 million; cash (Housing Authority of Portland portfolio reorganization and development fees), \$1.9 million, and other, \$.5 million.

Annual operating costs will run \$3.5 - \$4 million. At this point, sources of operating funds have not been fully identified. During the two-year development period the city, HAP and TPI will explore various options.

### Homelessness

The leading causes of homelessness are job loss, financial crisis, illness, disability, addiction, and domestic violence.

Requests for emergency shelter in Portland increased by 70 percent between fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

A 2007 count found over 1,400 people sleeping on Portland's streets. The city estimates that over 2,000 residents of Portland sleep outside or in the city's 670 shelter beds.

Currently, 70 - 75 percent of the individuals served by the TPI housing program are still successful in their housing placement after one year.

## February Action Committee Meeting

### Portland's Office of Human Relations

Maria Lisa Johnson, Bureau Director

Friday, February 26, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Room 433, Board of Trade Building, 310 SW 4th Avenue

The Office of Human Relations and the Human Rights Commission have a shared mission to eliminate discrimination and bigotry, strengthen inter-group relationships, and foster greater understanding, inclusion, and justice in Portland. All members welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Aiona.

## Meet the Press with Dave Mazza

*Mary Hepokoski*

Dave Mazza, co-host of KBOO radio's Thursday morning call-in show, was guest speaker at our annual "Meet The Press" luncheon. He argued that the current lack of resources for news in the media, whether it is television, newsprint or radio, means that issues in our democracy are getting simplistic coverage. They are often presented as two opposing sides when they are much more complex than that. For example, the coverage of the Portland City auditor's report said that much of the money intended to go to minority-owned business is going to white-owned businesses. But the press is

failing to follow-up on examples of communities that have been successful in creating opportunities for minorities. They fail to educate the public and policy makers so that changes can be made.

The other example he gave is press coverage of recent extreme police behavior such as shooting bean bags at a 12-year-old girl on the MAX. The same officer has been involved in a number of arrests with questionable police action. Mazza feels the press is remiss in not "connecting the dots" and providing a true history of the officer's inappropriate police behavior.

# Carbon Footprint Worksheet for February Unit Meetings

There are many different tools for figuring carbon footprints. This one is adapted from two sources as shown. Please fill it out to the best of your ability and bring it to your unit meeting for a rousing discussion of what we are, and can be, doing to reduce our carbon footprint. Note: If math isn't your thing, try the online carbon calculators provided by the following organizations:

EPA: [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

Climate Crisis: [www.climatecrisis.net/calculate-your-impact.php](http://www.climatecrisis.net/calculate-your-impact.php)

SafeClimate: [www.safeclimate.net/calculator/](http://www.safeclimate.net/calculator/)

## What is a Carbon Footprint?

The term is used to describe a measure of the direct effect our activities have on the environment around us. It allows us to assess our impact on various global issues such as climate change. It is essentially the amount of "greenhouse gas" (Carbon Dioxide) produced as a result of our everyday lives. We produce greenhouse gases when we burn any kind of fossil fuel, and we burn fossil fuels whenever we use electricity, heating, and transportation, etc.

The term was coined as the measurement of all greenhouse gases we individually produce as a household or as a business and is measured in metric tons or kilograms of carbon-dioxide equivalent.

An accurate impact assessment is made up of two parts, direct and indirect.

The direct footprint is a measure of our direct emissions of Carbon Dioxide greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels, including domestic energy consumption and transportation (e.g. car and plane).

The indirect footprint is a measure of the indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the whole life cycle of products we use - for example the energy used to create a plastic bottle, delivery it to a store, recycle it and so on. You will hear people say that you can decrease your carbon footprint by reducing and reusing - this is

because the less we buy, the less emissions will be caused on our behalf.

Downloaded on 1/17/10 from:  
<http://ezinearticles.com/?How-to-Calculate-Your-Carbon-Footprint&id=2051756>

## The Facts

(adapted from [www.motherearthnews.com/Healthy-People-Healthy-Planet/Carbon-Footprint-Calculator.aspx](http://www.motherearthnews.com/Healthy-People-Healthy-Planet/Carbon-Footprint-Calculator.aspx) on 1/17/10)

- Sixty percent of man-made contributions to global warming comes from carbon dioxide emissions; 75 percent of which comes from burning fossil fuels.
- Worldwide, each person emits an average of 1 ton of carbon dioxide each year.
- The average American emits 20 tons each year.

## The Calculations

### 1. Car emissions

Estimate the average miles you drive each year and your car's average miles per gallon. Here's the formula:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Avg miles/year} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Avg mpg} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Gallons/year}$$

Burning one gallon of gas emits 9 kg of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. So to calculate your driving emissions:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Gallons/year} \times 9 \text{ kg/gallon} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Kilograms of Carbon dioxide/year}$$

### 2. Electricity emissions

Estimate the amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) you consume each year. You can do this by either looking at your most recent electric bill and multiplying the amount of kilowatt hours you were charged for by 12, or go with the typical amount of 3,000 kWh per year.

One kilowatt hour of electricity produced from a coal-fired plant is equivalent to 1 kg of carbon dioxide emitted into the air. So your average kilowatt hours of electricity per year is equal to the kilograms of carbon dioxide emitted for its production.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Kilograms of Carbon dioxide/year}$$

Please turn to **Carbon Footprint**, page 5

## Carbon Footprint

Continued from page 7

### 3. Natural gas emissions

Estimate the average amount of energy you use each year to heat your home (also known as British thermal units, or BTUs). Just as calculating the electricity emissions, find your last heating bill and multiply the units by 12 to get your yearly consumption.

100,000 BTUs is equivalent to 5.5 kg of carbon dioxide. Here's the formula:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ BTU/year} \div 100,000 \text{ BTU} \times 5.5 \text{ kg} =$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Average natural gas emissions/year}$$

### 4. Airplane travel emissions

Estimate the number of miles you traveled by airplane last year. On average, one mile traveled by plane equals 0.23 kg of carbon dioxide emissions, so:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Miles of airplane travel} \times 0.23 \text{ kg} =$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Airplane travel emissions}$$

For more information about travel emissions, see: [www.motherearthnews.com/Nature-Community/2007-11-01/Tips-for-Eco-friendly-Travel.aspx](http://www.motherearthnews.com/Nature-Community/2007-11-01/Tips-for-Eco-friendly-Travel.aspx)

### Direct Totals

Add the carbon dioxide totals highlighted in bold.

$$\text{Car emissions} + \text{Electricity emissions} + \text{Natural gas emissions} + \text{Air travel emissions} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ kg/yr}$$

### Indirect

Multiple the carbon dioxide totals calculated about by 2. It is estimated that the carbon dioxide we emit indirectly through purchasing food and other goods and services is twice the amount we emit in the ways calculated above.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Total from above} \times 2 =$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Indirect Total carbon dioxide emissions: kg/year}$$

### Conversion of Total

Convert kilogram/year to metric ton/year:

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Total carbon dioxide emissions}$$

$$(\text{direct} + \text{indirect}) \div 1,000 \text{ metric tons/year} =$$

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Metric tons/year of carbon dioxide emissions}$$

Is your total carbon dioxide emission greater than 1 ton/year? Is it greater or less than 20 tons/year? Where do most of your emissions come from? How could you lower this amount?

## Join us in Celebrating the League's 90th Anniversary (1920-2010)

**Saturday, February 13, 2010**  
**9:15 – 11:30 am**  
**Riverside Golf and Country Club,**  
**8105 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland**

Light Brunch Buffet: \$15 per person. Menu: yogurt, muffins/bagels, granola, fresh fruit, beverages

RSVP by noon, Monday, February 8. Send your reservation and check to the League office or call 503-228-1675, or e-mail [info@lwvpdx.org](mailto:info@lwvpdx.org), with your check to follow. Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable.

**Jane Cease**, former LWV Portland President and Oregon State Senator, and **Norman Turrill**, current LWVUS Board Member from Portland, will speak. We will recognize our League volunteers and major donors, and there will be an archival display of Portland League history.

Invite your family and friends, and let us know if you need a ride. Last minute contact: Mary McWilliams

Directions & Parking: Riverside Golf and Country Club is just north of Columbia Drive. If you are going north on NE 33rd, take the off ramp going WEST, but do not go on to Columbia Drive, but veer right onto the continuation of NE 33rd. Riverside is on the left, several blocks through a light industrial area. There is plenty of parking. Passengers can be dropped off at the club-house entrance and then the car parked. The building is handicapped accessible.

On Our Web Site: For a related story about the 90th LWV Anniversary, go to [www.lwvpdx.org](http://www.lwvpdx.org).

## LWV Columbia River Region: Board Recommends Group Dissolve

*Debbie Aiona*

After much thoughtful deliberation, the League of Women Voters of the Columbia River Region (LWVCRR) board voted reluctantly to recommend to its April convention that LWVCRR be dissolved. For several years, your regional League has been struggling to get full participation from local Leagues on its board.

We are requesting that the three local Leagues served by LWVCRR do the following during your program planning process:

- Review the LWVCRR positions and agree to retain them. Be prepared to adopt these positions at your annual meetings in the spring if the LWVCRR convention votes to dissolve. In the future, local Leagues within the Portland metropolitan area may collaborate on updates or new studies of regional issues.

- Determine if any of your members are interested in continuing the update of the TriMet portion of the LWVCRR Metropolitan Transportation position. The committee has

assembled a good deal of background material on TriMet, but more information from community leaders, advocates, and academics is needed before a report is drafted and consensus questions formulated. A committee of at least five committed members is necessary to complete the work. We believe our remaining funds can be used for printing and distribution.

We hope local Leagues will send a full delegation to the April convention. This decision deserves careful consideration.

## LWVUS: 49th National Convention, June 11-15, 2010

### Making Democracy Work: A History of Change, A Future of Hope

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate

body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

Convention 2010 site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium,

relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website [www.Atlanta.net](http://www.Atlanta.net) and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

### Late Renewals

Susan Proppe Tong

Bobbie Regan

### New Member

Colleen Shoemaker

**Calendar**

February 2010						
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						
1:	<b>Development Comm</b> 1:00 pm, Room 520					
2:	<b>LWVCRR</b> 10:30 am, Room 433					
3:	<b>Exec Committee</b> 12:00 pm, Room 520					
9:	<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 pm, Board Room, Mult. Bldg.					
12:	<b>Voter Deadline</b>					
13:	<b>90th Anniversary</b> Riverside Golf and Country Club					
15:	<b>Board Meeting</b> 5:45 pm, Room 433					
16:	<b>Membership Comm</b> 9:30 am, Room 520					
23:	<b>Mailing Party</b> 10:00 am, Room 520					
26:	<b>Office Closed</b>					
26:	<b>Action Committee</b> 1:00 pm, Room 433					

March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			
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**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.

## February Unit Meetings

We will continue our discussion about sustainability, begun at the February 9 General Meeting, at the February units. Please review the material in this VOTER to consider your personal sustainability action plan. I think we will have lively discussions! See you at units.

**Unit 1 – Southwest**  
**Monday, Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Leader – Ann Mulrone  
 Host – Kris Hudson

**Unit 2 – Southeast**  
**Monday, Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m.**  
 Leader – Mary McWilliams  
 Host – Beth Johnson

**Unit 4 – North/Northeast**  
**Thursday, Feb. 18, 1:00 p.m.**  
 Leader – Susan Proppe Tong  
 Host – Debbie Aiona

**Unit 5 – Terwilliger Plaza**  
**Monday, Feb. 15, 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, Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Leader – Debbie Kaye  
 Host – Beth Burczak

**Unit 7 – Vermont Hills**  
**Monday, Feb. 17, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Leader – Jeanne Steed  
 Host – Donna Pregill

**Unit 8 – Online**  
 Leader: Kathleen Hersh  
 Location: [groups.yahoo.com/group/LWVPDXVirtualUnit/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LWVPDXVirtualUnit/)



**The League of Women of Voters® of Portland**

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