



September General Meeting: VOE

Carol Cushman

Portland will kick off the new program year with a priority issue for advocacy, whether LWVUS or our local. A national league position, first adopted in 1974, states: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process." This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office – presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

Action at the national level has been extensive; following the *Citizens United v. FEC (2010)* decision by the Supreme Court which basically allowed corporations the same rights as individuals when contributing to political campaigns, the LWVUS has been active in Congress lobbying for the DISCLOSE Act. LWV Portland has actively supported Voter-Owned Elections from its idea stage in 2004 and its adoption by City Council in 2005, to its referral to the November 2010 ballot. This fall LWV Portland is part of a coalition: *Friends of Voter-Owned Elections, Yes on 26-108*.

A panel of four will address several aspects of campaign finance reform

Please turn to **VOE**, page 4

September General Meeting

Campaign Finance Reform and Voter-Owned Elections

Tuesday, September 14, 7:00 pm
Board Room, Multnomah County Building,
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard

Please join us for a panel featuring:

Willie Smith, District Director, Congressman Earl Blumenauer

Barbara Dudley, Adjunct Professor, Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University

Janice Thompson, Executive Director, Common Cause Oregon

Leslie Hildula, Former Chair, Citizen Campaign Commission

Parking: Ample street parking.

By Bus: Plan your route with TriMet's Trip Planner at www.trimet.org.

Candidate Forum

City Club Forum for Metro President

Friday, October 1 (Tentative)
The Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Avenue
11:30 am – Doors open and lunch service begins
12:15 pm – Forum begins

For non-City Club members:

General admission: \$5.00

Reserved luncheon tickets: \$20 (**Reservations due to City Club at 503-228-7231 by 2:00 pm, on Wednesday, Sept. 29**)

Coffee/Tea Only (limited number of tickets available): \$10

Parking: SmartPark garage one block away at 10th & Yamhill.

By Bus: Plan your route with TriMet's Trip Planner at www.trimet.org.

**League of Women Voters
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.

September 2010



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President's Column

Betsy Pratt

There seem to be multiple "New Year's Days" in the year. The official one, of course, is January 1st, but once we get past the partying and the short-lived New Year's resolutions, not much changes in daily life. As spring arrives and fresh growth starts in the garden, that transition feels like a significant new start for the year, with new energy and enthusiasm to be outside. And finally, Labor Day (or the first day of school if you have kids) is definitely a new start, when organizations like ours wake up and march into a new round of activities.

We haven't really been dormant all summer, especially since this is an election year. The League has been a visible presence around town, including a delegation of League members, led by Debbie Aiona, who participated in the AmericaSpeaks town meeting on June 29. Debbie and her Action committee also testified several times to the City Council, mainly on issues related to the internal police review procedures. Also on the Action front, Carol Cushman and Debbie have been coordinating our involvement with the Voter-Owned Election campaign, which will be the featured topic at our September general meeting.

Barb Fredericks and her Voters Service team have been marshalling their forces to identify what needs to be done to get ready for the November election. You can look forward in October to forums for the Multnomah County Commission candidates and for the Metro President position. We are partnering with the City Club of

Portland on these events, with the League taking the lead on the County forum and the City Club heading the Metro event.

Barb also plans to hold at least one meeting on the ballot measures we will be facing in November. In addition to the 7 State-wide measures that have qualified for the ballot, there are 6 measures addressing proposed revisions to the County Charter, and two Portland measures. We may not have time to cover all these topics at our forum, but information will be available in the *Voters' Guide* and through the Speakers Bureau. Peggy Bengry, who is our *Voters' Guide* editor, and Debbie Kaye, who is organizing the Speakers' Bureau, will be glad to receive any help you can offer on these projects.

Our member education committee, led by Ann Mulrone, has been laying the ground work for our general meetings throughout the year. They have been identifying potential speakers and arranging logistics. Most of our meetings will be held at the Multnomah County Building and those of interest to the general public will be taped for airing on the local public access cable channels. The Development Committee, under Mary McWilliams' able leadership, is planning its fall fundraising events. And finally, the Membership Committee has been busy with the renewal process. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please send it along. And come celebrate the new League year with us at the September general meeting.

Action Committee Sept Kick-off Meeting

Debbie Aiona

The Action Committee consists of League members interested in learning more about local public policy issues and exploring ways in which the League can influence related decisions based on our positions. All members, including those who are actively involved and those who want an in-depth understanding of current issues, are invited to attend any of the monthly meetings. At the meetings the committee reviews current action items and develops recommendations to the board. Quite often, invited speakers address the group and provide detailed background information that is used to more effectively influence appropriate decision-makers.

Our kick-off meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 24, 1 pm – 3 pm**, Board of Trade Building, room 433. We will review the activity that took place over the summer, discuss strategy, and make plans for the upcoming year. Please plan to join us and help the League make a difference. *All members welcome to attend.*

Opportunities for Involvement

There are various opportunities available to League members who want to help make a difference by getting actively involved in the community.

1. Attend action committee meetings and increase your understanding of critical issues facing Portland.
2. Add your name to the action and/or Portland Plan email list and receive reminders of monthly Action Committee meetings, Portland Plan public engagement opportunities, and announcements of other meetings related to LWV issues.
3. Become a League observer by attending public meetings and reporting back to the committee.
4. Choose an issue, follow it closely, and help shape League strategy in that specific area.

LWV Portland joins the Coalition for a Livable Future

Debbie Aiona

Last spring, LWV Portland board voted to join the Coalition for a Livable Future. The following information from their website provides a brief overview of the coalition's work. To learn more, visit www.cfuture.org.

The Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) is a partnership of over 100 diverse organizations and thousands of individuals working together to create a more equitable and sustainable Portland metropolitan region. By connecting issues, people and organizations, CLF empowers communities to take action together to shape the big decisions affecting the Portland region's future.

Through research, policy advocacy, and public education, CLF works to create and preserve affordable housing; ensure clean water; protect open space, wildlife habitat and farmland; create living wage jobs; provide real transportation choices; and end hunger in our community.

CLF emphasizes connections between the issues and between the cities, towns and counties that make up our region. Thus, we strive to promote "regionalism," which recognizes that the communities within our urban area are interdependent and that cooperation will improve the economic, social, and environmental health of the metropolitan region as a whole.

September Action Committee Meeting

Kick-off Meeting

Friday, September 24, 1:00 pm

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

All members welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Aiona.

Join the Email Lists for the Action Committee and/or the Portland Plan Study Circle

Action Committee list members receive monthly meeting reminders and occasional updates on committee activities. Portland Plan list members receive information on how to get involved in planning our city's future. Email Debbie Aiona if you would like to sign up for one or both.

VOE

Continued from page 1

during the first hour, followed by audience questions.

- Willie Smith, assistant to Representative Blumenauer: *Campaign finance legislation in the U.S. Congress, with a focus on federal elections.*
- Barbara Dudley, Hatfield School of Government at PSU: *Implications of the Citizens United case and reform proposals that would address its negative consequences.*
- Janice Thompson, executive director, Common Cause Oregon: *An overview of local and state programs of campaign finance reform in place throughout the United States.*
- Leslie Hildula, former chair of the Citizen Campaign Commission: *Portland's campaign finance program.* Leslie will share some of the views expressed by candidates who used the Voter-Owned Elections program, who attempted but did not qualify, and who chose not to participate.

News reports on campaign contributions have noted that LWV Portland is a large donor to the 2010 campaign for Yes on 26-108. In the spring of 2006 it was anticipated the issue would be on the ballot; we engaged in fundraising for education on the importance of the reform program. The election did not occur; the money has now been transferred to the current campaign: Friends of Voter-Owned Elections.

For a quick refresher course on the work of either the national or local LWV on campaign finance reform, please visit the websites:

LWV Portland:
www.lwvpdx.org/issues-and-advocacy/campaign-finance-reform

LWVUS: www.lwv.org
 and follow Issues to Representative Government and Campaign Finance Reform, or follow Take Action to Campaign Finance Reform.

Vote YES on 26-108: Retain Voter-Owned Elections

All of us deserve an equal voice—and an equal vote—regardless of wealth or political power. Portland's "Voter-Owned Elections", working since 2005, assures that the special interests cannot overwhelm the public interest in local elections. LWVPDX has been a leader in the coalition that enacted and is now working to retain Voter-Owned Elections.



LWV Member Carol Cushman testifies before the Portland City Council regarding Voter-Owned Elections.

In states from Maine to Arizona, and cities from Albuquerque to Portland, campaigns are cleaner and the influence of big money is reduced under a system of Voter-Owned Elections. In just 5 years, we've elected two candidates using the program, including only the seventh woman to serve on the Portland City Council in its 160-year history.

**LWV supports
a YES vote on
Measure 26-108**

You can contribute to or
volunteer for the
campaign at
www.yesforportland.org

Portland is a city that embraces a tradition of innovation and thoughtful reform. Voter-Owned Elections is a simple, proven and important law that works—providing an equal voice and a real choice on our ballots. To contribute or volunteer, go to: www.yesforportland.org and vote YES on 26-108.

Your November 2010 Voters' Guide and Election Forums

Barbara Fredericks

Planning is underway for the *Voters' Guide* and educational forums for the November 2 general election.

Members of the LWV of Portland and the LWV of East Multnomah County have drafted questions for candidates and are researching local ballot measures for the Multnomah County Edition of the *Voters' Guide*. The LWVUS has offered state and local Leagues the opportunity to present our voter information using VOTE411 online voters' guide software. The goal of VOTE411 is to provide voters with much easier access to candidate and ballot measure information.

We are planning two candidate forums in partnership with the City Club of Portland. The forum for Metro Council President candidates is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 1, at the Governor Hotel. Confirmation of the forum date will appear on our website (www.lwvpdx.org). For non-City

November 2010 Key Election Dates

Friday, October 1 (tentative)
City Club Candidate Forum for Metro President

Tuesday, October 5
Candidate Forum for Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2

Tuesday, October 12
Ballot Measure Forum

Tuesday, October 12
Voter Registration Deadline

Friday, October 15
Begin Mailing Ballots

Tuesday, November 2
Election Day

Club members, admission at the door to view the forum is \$5; a reserved luncheon ticket is \$20 (call City Club at 503-228-7231 by 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29 to place a reservation); a limited number of coffee/tea tickets will be available at the door for \$10 each. Doors open and lunch service will begin at 11:30 a.m.; the forum will begin at 12:15 p.m.

The Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2, candidates panel will take place on Tuesday, October 5, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Multnomah County Building.

On Tuesday, October 12, we will present a ballot measure forum, also at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the Multnomah County Building.

Speakers representing the pro and con positions on selected state and local ballot measures will appear.

We hope to see you at some or all of the forums – be sure to invite your family and friends.

Speakers' Bureau Rides Again for Fall Elections!

Debbie Kaye

The Speakers Bureau is made up of League members who study the ballot measures and then explain them to a variety of organizations such as retirement communities, political study groups, and Rotary. We are the circuit riders with researched, non-partisan, and unbiased election information. There is a big ballot this year; we will need a stable of Speakers Bureau participants.

The November ballot includes two measures for the City of Portland, six for Multnomah County (referred by the Charter Review Commission), three legislative referrals, and four citizen initiatives. We are unlikely to

discuss all of them at any presentation.

The Speakers Bureau will schedule preparation sessions in late September, working together to understand and learn to present each measure. Most of this year's measures are pretty straight-forward. We often ride double, going out in pairs, but never bareback!

I look forward to a stimulating election season, with Leaguers offering our customary quality information to the community. Who rides with us? Send an email or call with questions or to volunteer: Debbie Kaye

Directory Updates

Evelyn Boyl-Ofstad

Frances Egan

Nancy Elliott

Dorothea Hosch

Brenda Smith

League Legacy Member (over age 70) Luncheon



Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Beginning at 11:00 am. Lunch will be served at 11:45 am.

At the home of League member

Mary McWilliams

Several blocks north of Mt. Tabor Park

The every-other-year lunch for League members 70 & over, was established in the 2008-2009 FY by Kris Hudson and others. The lunch is for long-time and not-so-long-time League members and leaders to come together for several reasons: a social time to renew friendships; to meet newer League members, and to hear updates on League activities from LWVUS, LWV Oregon, and LWV Portland leaders. Also, a speaker's bureau member will discuss one or more November 2nd ballot measures, and Kris Hudson will talk on ways League members can help fund the Portland League's Education and Endowment funds.

The complimentary sit-down lunch (salads, sliced fruit, cookies, and the usual beverages) is sponsored by the Development Committee. Invitations are being mailed to Portland League Legacy members. But, since we do not know everyone's age, and so many League members look far younger than they are, if you do not receive an invitation by mail by mid-September, please consider this your invitation or contact the office for one. We will try to arrange a ride for those who need it. You may bring a guest.

RSVP to Heather Drake at the League office by 12:00 noon on Friday, September 24th: 503-228-1675 or info@lwvpx.org. (Last minute contact or detailed driving directions: Contact Mary McWilliams).

The Portland League hopes that you will attend. All are welcome to stay afterwards to continue visiting with old and new friends.

50-Year Member Profile: Ruth Johnson

Betsy Pratt

I recently had the privilege of delivering her 50-year certificate to Ruth Johnson. Ruth has been in Portland since 2004 and was long-term member of the Clark County, Washington, League. As a League member, Ruth assisted with units, studies, and candidates events. She has fond memories of educational field trips, including one to the Camas sewage treatment plant. She and her husband raised a daughter, who now writes

educational software for Vernier Software & Technology, and three sons, one a Boeing engineer, the second, a doctor with Multnomah County Public Health, and the third, a professor of environmental engineering with OHSU. Ruth also worked part-time as a pharmacist, and she and her late husband enjoyed international travel. Help us make her feel welcome in the Portland League.

Membership Renewal & League Participation

Debbie Kaye

We have an exciting year ahead of us! The League will offer great educational programs, stimulating unit discussions, information on the November general election which will determine our future in important ways, and opportunities to make a difference in our community through advocacy. Don't get left behind; join in! Please renew your membership in the League of Women Voters so you can be an informed citizen. Share the League with your friends – encourage them to join and sustain our valuable work for Portland.

Your annual renewal letter was sent in July. You may also use the coupon on the back of this *VOTER* or go to our website www.lwvpx.org. Remember to choose the activities in which you would like to be involved. We're ready to engage your talents!

Directory Updates

Jeanne Steed

Donna Ward

Anne Willer

Bev Wilson

Water in Oregon – Not a Drop to Waste

Prepare for consensus in two parts:

Oct. and Nov. 2010 Units

*Ann Mulrone*y

Background: In 1969, the League of Women Voters of Oregon adopted a position on Water Quality. In 1985, LWVOregon adopted a position on Water Policy and Planning. These positions do not reflect transformations in the last decades that greatly affect water supply in Oregon and the quality of that water. In 2008, LWVOregon adopted a restudy to update these positions and combine water quality and quantity issues in a single Water Resources position. LWVOregon expects to consider a position update recommendation at its 2011 Convention. Local Leagues have been responding to consensus questions since they became available in Spring 2010.

Resources: “Water in Oregon – Not a Drop to Waste, Part 1: Regulating Water in Oregon”. This publication was mailed to League members in Spring 2009.

“Water in Oregon – Not a Drop to Waste, Part 2: Issues and Perspectives”. This publication was mailed to League members in Spring 2010.

These publications are available online at www.lwvor.org. Go to Studies and Publications, listed first on left, LWV Studies listed first on Studies and Publications page, go to Recent Study Reports. Both of these publications guide readers to many additional resources.

Consensus Questions are available online at www.lwvor.org. Go to member login prompt in upper right corner. Type **lwvor** in “user name” space and **carriecatt** in “password” space. Water Study materials including consensus questions come up first.

LWV Portland gratefully acknowledges
these thoughtful gifts:

*In Memory of
Walter & Judy Handelman*
from JWHands Foundation

In Honor of Irene Marvich
from Kim Ball

In Honor of Betsy Pratt & Debbie Aiona
from Mary Hepokoski

Education Study Activities

Lynn Baker

The education study committee gathered information and interviewed stakeholders about Portland's public educational systems last winter and spring. A large amount of material was gathered, and committee members are in the process of organizing what was learned and writing a report. Consensus questions will be written in the fall. The committee plans to present them to units in February.

In Memoriam

Mary McWilliams

Robert Clark, husband of Portland League Lifetime member, Thelma Lester Clark, died Friday, July 23, 2010, when his experimental plane crashed along Oregon 213 south of Oregon City. Bob was 81. According to an *Oregonian* article July 27, Bob, a former Grant High School teacher, inspired students with his can-do spirit and kept in touch with many of them long after he retired in 1990. In his 70s, Bob built his own airplane and then took flying lessons.

Thelma has been a long-time southeast League unit member. She has recently recruited several new members to the Portland League. When Unit 2 met at Bob and Thelma's home, Bob provided a crackling fire in the fireplace for us. After our meeting, he would often join us to chat. They loved to dance at the Laurelhurst Club, and Thelma extended an invitation to join them, which some of us did. Thelma always spoke highly of Bob and his talents, but what she often said was: “Bob is a good man.”

Directory Updates

Below you will find a handy list of all the new members who have joined since the Membership Directory was printed. (Continuing members who renewed late, after the printing deadline, are also included.)

Calendar

September 2010							October 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

<p>6: Office Closed</p> <p>8: Exec Committee 12:00 pm, Room 520</p> <p>13: Program Committee 1:30 pm, Room 520</p> <p>14: General Meeting 7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.</p> <p>17: Voter Deadline</p> <p>20: Board Meeting 1:00 pm, Room 433</p> <p>23: Board Briefing: Finances 10:00 am, Room 433</p> <p>24: Action 1:00 pm, Room 433</p> <p>28: Office Closed</p> <p>28: Legacy Member Luncheon 11:00 am, Home of Mary McWilliams</p> <p>29: Mailing Party 10:00 am, Room 520</p>	<p>1: City Club Candidate Forum 11:30 am, The Governor Hotel</p> <p>5: Candidate Forum 7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.</p> <p>6: Exec Committee 12:00 pm, Room 520</p> <p>12: Ballot Measure Forum 7:00 pm, Mult. Bldg.</p> <p>15: Voter Deadline</p> <p>16: LWVOR Fall Workshop</p> <p>18: Board Meeting 1:00 pm, Room 433</p> <p>26: Office Closed</p> <p>27: Mailing Party 10:00 am, Room 520</p>
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September Unit Meetings

Unit #1-Southwest-Evening
Monday, September 27, 7pm

Leader: Ann Mulrone
Host: Kris Hudson

Unit #2-Southeast
Monday, September 27, 10am

Leaders: Paulette Meyer AND Beth Johnson
Host: Tangela Purdom

Unit #4—North/Northeast
Thursday, September 16, 1pm

Leader: Bev Wilson
Host: Bev Wilson

Unit #5—Terwilliger Plaza
Monday, September 20, 3pm

Leader: Jeanne Steed
No Host: Convene at Terwilliger Plaza Auditorium A, 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd

Unit #6 Southwest/Northwest Hills
Friday September 17, 9:30 am

Leader: Mary Hepokoski
Host: Debbie Kaye

Unit #7—Vermont Hills
Monday, September 20, 9:30am

Leader: Jeanne Steed
Host: Corinne Paulson

Unit #8—Online

Leader: Kathleen Hersh
Location: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LWVPDXVirtualUnit/>

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.

The **Governor Hotel** is located at 614 SW 11th Avenue.



The League of Women of Voters® of Portland

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