



City Auditor Griffin-Valade to Speak at Local Convention

Ann Mulrone

Portland has had an elected City Auditor since 1868. The City Auditor is the sixth elected official in Portland City government, along with the Mayor and four City Commissioners. As an auditor that is accountable to the voters of Portland, the City Auditor is administratively independent from the Mayor and other City Council members.

As Portland's City Auditor, LaVonne Griffin-Valade heads the 50-member Office of the City Auditor and its eight divisions, which are responsible for conducting performance audits of City operations, serving as the City Council Clerk, preparing the City Council agenda, managing City records and archives, providing hearings officers to adjudicate appeals of City actions, managing City elections, handling complaints against the City (through the City Ombudsman's Office and the Independent Police Review Division), working with financing of Local Improvement Districts, and administering foreclosures of City liens of property.

LaVonne was sworn in as the City Auditor on June 9, 2009. Before joining the City, she served as the elected Multnomah County Auditor, and prior to that, she was the Deputy County Auditor and a Senior Auditor in the County Auditor's Office beginning in 1998. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from Portland State University and is a Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Government Auditing Professional.

Local Convention

**Keynote Speaker: LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Portland City Auditor**

Tuesday, May 10

Registration begins at 5:30 pm

Business Meeting begins at 7:15 pm

Carvlin Hall, St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th, Portland

Dinner: \$20.00 • Coffee Only: \$5.00

Dinner menu: Hot chicken main course, dessert, and beverage

RSVP to the League office (503-228-1675 or info@lwvpx.org)
by **12:00 noon on Thursday, May 5!**

Parking: Available in church parking lot (enter from 16th).

By TriMet: Bus line: 4-Division to Gresham TC; get off at SE Division & 17th.

Pre-Convention Special Presentation!

Local Convention: How does it work?

All League members—and particularly those newer to our organization—are invited to come early to Local Convention (4:45 pm) to learn more about how the League functions and about the purposes and structure of our annual meeting. The very-experienced Carol Cushman will explain all—and make it fun, too!



Remember to Vote!

Ballots must be received
at an official drop-off site by
8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 17.



**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.

May 2011



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

I came across my childhood charm bracelet the other day, the kind with the little silver trinkets that signify important moments in a girl's life. Mine has a tiny llama that commemorates my birthday in Quito, Ecuador; a graceful musical note that reminds me of years as an earnest alto in school choirs; and two fleurs de lis indicating an early and long-lasting enthusiasm for travel.

If I could find them, here are the trinkets that I would add in memory of my three years as Portland League President. First, a *gavel* to represent the many meetings that I have organized, moderated, or facilitated. The gavel would also stand for the administrative duties of president, such as office management, committee oversight, financial coordination, or interaction with other League organizations.

Second, a *magnifying glass* to signify our local studies and community education efforts, as we peer deeply into governmental processes or cast light on obscure or incomprehensible public policy. The glass can also stand for our Action Committee, since a magnifying glass can light a fire, which occasionally happens when we testify (although more often issues just smolder). A miniature *bull-horn*

might also be appropriate for the Action Committee, as we try to make our voice heard above the crowd.

Third, a *silver coin* to stand for our development activities and fiduciary responsibilities. As a League in a large city with a permanent office, we are constantly seeking funding to support our activities. Our members have been particularly generous contributors, but we also have a strong and expanding base of friends. I'm grateful to everyone who has helped make the Portland League financially sound.

Fourth, a *VOTE NOW* tag in honor of our wide voters service activities. I have boasted in previous columns and to many public groups about the quality and value of our Voters Guides, our Candidates Forums, and our Speakers Bureau presentations. The League's work to educate voters is a valued component within our community.

And finally, a *heart* in appreciation for the all friends and colleagues who have made my time as president fun and satisfying. I have deeply appreciated your time, skills, and hard work on behalf of the League. Thank you, all.

LWV Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor of Darleane Lemley
from Lee Soreng

LWV Portland Endowment Fund
from Darleane Lemley

Bequest to the LWV Portland Education Fund
from the Estate of Joanne Schuler

Action Committee Report: Public Involvement Best Practices Program

Debbie Aiona

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement's (ONI) Public Involvement Best Practices Program (www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=48289&) grew out of a concern that, in spite of the city's best intentions, involving the public in key decisions was inconsistent across bureaus and needed improvement. Significant work was accomplished under Mayor Potter's Bureau Improvement Project, Community Connect, and the Public Involvement Task Force. In spite of all the work that was accomplished, there was no plan for implementation.

In 2008, City Council created the Public Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC). It consists of 34 members with representatives from 14 city bureaus and 14 community organizations. Action Committee guests Afifa Ahmed-Shafi (ONI) and

Linda Nettekoven (PIAC) provided us with information about PIAC's progress on developing policies that will assist city bureaus in conducting more consistent and improved public involvement processes.

PIAC's collective values are the basis for all of its work. They are Representation/Reducing Barriers to Involvement, Effectiveness, Consistency, Partnership, and Implementation. Currently, PIAC is conducting an assessment of how bureaus engage the public and is exploring ways to coach, nudge, and encourage them to incorporate best practices that reflect the values listed above. A PIAC-recommended public involvement assessment soon will be attached to each City Council action item. This will require each bureau to outline how it involved the public in recommendations to council and ideally will

lead to a more deliberate inclusion of the community in official actions.

PIAC's Community Engagement Group works to find ways to build relationships and engage communities that typically do not participate in the neighborhood system such as communities of color, immigrants and refugees, and low-income households. The group is working to develop an equity workbook called "Equipedia" that assists bureaus in how best to engage underrepresented community members. It also is developing a volunteer opportunity database called PDX Civic Connect.

Although PIAC has no regulatory authority, its principles are adopted policy. Linda and Afifa said that they were very encouraged by the participation and buy in from bureau representatives.

Why Is Our Position Called "Teenage Girls at Risk?"

Debbie Aiona

In 1995, LWV Portland published "Teenage Girls At Risk" after a two-year study of teenage girls involved in Oregon's child welfare and juvenile justice systems or at risk of needing their services. The committee focused entirely on the unique needs of girls with serious and difficult to treat problems. Many of the girls in this population suffer from early abuse and respond to that abuse by engaging in self-destructive behaviors. When girls have access to research-based and practice-proven gender-responsive services they can develop to their full potential.

At the same time the League was conducting its study, a statewide coalition of girls' advocates (www.equalaccessforgirls.org)

worked successfully with the Oregon Legislature to pass an Equal Access Law. In 1993, Oregon adopted the country's first and to this day only equal access law. The law acknowledges the disparity in services for girls, requires annual reporting from state agencies and the provision of gender-responsive programming for both girls and boys.

ORS 417.270 Policy on equal access; documentation of expenditure for males and females; identification of disparities; equal access plan. (1) The Legislative Assembly hereby acknowledges that females under 18 years of age often lack equal access, both individually and as a group, when compared with males under 18 years of age, to the

facilities, services and treatment and treatment available through human services and juvenile corrections programs provided by or funded by the State of Oregon.

(Source:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/417.html>)

Although important steps have been taken, providing girls with appropriate services continues to be a challenge. Girls direct their pain inward rather than engaging in violent criminal behavior. They often fall between cracks in the system and when they are enrolled in programs there is a high likelihood they will run. It is important that we continue our commitment to these girls and provide them with programs specifically designed to meet their unique needs.



Silent Auction List Grows... Still Time to Donate!



League members will again enjoy bidding at a Silent Service Auction as part of our Local Convention on Tuesday evening, May 10. The idea is for members to offer to share services, creative or practical skills, knowledge, or possessions to raise funds for our League. This meaningful exchange among members is a fun way to get to know one another's talents and interests, and has been very financially successful in the past.

The auction list below is current as of press time. We welcome you to add your donation to the list: contact Debbie Kaye or Pat Osborn. Donors determine the parameters for their items such as available dates, duration of service, etc. We can help you determine a starting bid, and you need not be present to donate! On the night of the auction please bring your checkbooks and calendars (we are not set up for credit cards, and some items are date-specific).

If you are unable to attend the convention but would like to bid on an item, contact the auction organizers and we will bid on your behalf according to your specifications and limits.

1. **Scrabble Lesson** offered by Claire Corwin-Kordosky
2. **Airport Shuttle Service** offered by Margaret Noel
3. **Four Homemade Fruit Pies** offered by Marnie Lonsdale
4. **Transfer of VHS Tapes to DVD** offered by Debbie Kaye
5. **Two Hours of Expert Meeting Facilitation** offered by Molly Keating
6. **Computer, Network, or Internet Service or Training** offered by Norman Turrill
7. **Pittock Mansion Tour June 25 or August 21** offered by Carolyn Rundorff
8. **Handmade Baby Quilt** offered by Jane Gigler
9. **Landscape Consulting** offered by Brenda Smith
10. **Two Nights at Metolius Meadows Cabin** offered by Jan and Don Wolf
11. **Afternoon Tea for Four** Served at the Home of Beth Burczak
12. 13. and 14. **Cork Trivet and Trays** made by Jewell Lansing
15. **Basket of Fiction Books** offered by Viva Libra Book Club
16. **Basket of Non-Fiction Books** offered by Viva Libra Book Club
17. **Dinner at the Home of Barbara and Bill Stalions** - date to be determined
18. **Three Loaf Cakes** offered by Beth Johnson
19. **Weekend or 2 Night Use of a Power Washer** offered by Alyda Gilkey
20. **Oil Painting Portrait of You or Other Subject** offered by Pat Osborn
21. **Round Trip Airport or Train Transportation** offered by Carol Cushman
22. 23. and 24. **Photography Notecards** offered by Elaine Hakala
25. **"Winning the Vote"** illustrated suffragist history book offered by Darleane Lemley
26. **Cozy Hand Knit Shawl** offered by Florence Hinchcliff
27. **Wine/Cheese/Dessert Event June 25** at the home of Mary and Bob McWilliams

Why I Joined the League....

Brenda Smith

When I graduated from college and lived in New York City, my mother recommended strongly that I join the League. I chose the League of Women Voters, learning later that she wanted me to join the Junior League. Oh, well, I never did join the other league.

We moved to Portland almost three years ago, from Alexandria, Virginia, where I previously had been active in LWV. I contacted the Portland LWV so I could meet intelligent, informed, and caring people in my new city, as well as learn about the city's concerns and solutions
Thanks, Mom.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

Betty Rosenfeld

Tia Wulff

Directory Update

Jeanette Fruen

Calendar

May 2011							June 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

4: **Old/New Board Mtg.**
5:30 pm, Home of Mary McWilliams

10: **Local Convention**
5:30 pm, St. Philip Neri

13-15 **LWVOR Convention**
Renaissance Inn,
Keizer

17: **Election Day**

24: **Office Closed**

30: **Office Closed**

4: **Board Retreat**
9:30 am, Home of Carol Wilson

6: **Summer Office Hours Begin**

30: **Voter Deadline**

May Unit Meetings

No unit meetings in May!

Summer Office Hours

Mon: CLOSED
 Tues: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
 Weds: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
 Thurs: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
 Fri: CLOSED

Summer Office Hours Begin
Monday, June 6

Normal Office Hours Resume
Monday, August 23

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)

St. Philip Neri is located at 2408 SE 16th Street in Portland.



The League of Women Voters® of Portland

310 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 520
Portland, OR 97204

Phone/Fax: 503-228-1675
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Help Us Make Democracy Work! Ask a Friend to Join the League!

Return this coupon with your dues to: **LWV Portland, PO Box 3491, Portland, OR 97208.** Please make checks payable to **LWV Portland.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues Levels

- _____ Single --- \$70.00
- _____ Household --- \$105.00
(2 people at same address)
- _____ Limited Income --- \$43.60
- _____ Student --- \$25.00