

LEAGUE LINES



A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley
P.O. Box 2434, Roseburg, OR 97470

www.lwvuv.wordpress.com

JANUARY 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joyful Holiday Greetings to our members! As we see the year 2014 pass away, let us all be hopeful for positive change and new opportunities in the new year.

January brings the annual Program Planning on the 20th. We will review League positions, talk about what our local League is doing and where we may want to venture with our talents, interests, and passions. We will provide a meal and a warm location so I hope you will come.

We have the state study Children at Risk completed, with consensus planned in March. This has taken two years of hard work. It will be interesting to review it and take action later on the conclusions of the consensus.

Our Health Care Committee has provided thought provoking information with two League meetings. They have been focusing on different systems changes of health care in our local area. There is more to come on this huge topic so show support of the volunteers, and even add your time if you can, to their efforts.

Umpqua Valley League is partnering with the Bike-Walk designation for Roseburg. This was featured at a League meeting back in September 2012 with Burt Tate and Dick Dolgonas, who explained how safer walk ways and more places to walk and bike encourage more physical activity for community residents. It also influences healthy choices and outcomes for its people. It fosters development of new businesses and a better economy.

January 13 will be League Legislative Process Day, with advance registration to attend. Each legislative session League engages members to interview their own legislators and to lobby for action based on League positions. The League follows a multitude of issues, both on the state and national level. There are volunteer opportunities for you to work with other League members from around the state in the

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areas of public access, natural resources (and climate change), governance, social policy, and also an advocacy specialist. If you need more information, ask any board member.

And finally think about the importance of civil disobedience. Would our nation have a Civil Rights Bill without such action? I am amazed to see images of students and doctors lying down in white coats across the country to protest the recent police killings of unarmed people. These were the result of an action of many medical schools to act at the same time on the same day: lying motionless across the floor in their white medical coats, for 15 minutes, to give the image of death. Medical professionals act to save lives and to do no harm. Such protests to raise our awareness of issues can happen in many ways, I think nonviolent protests are the most powerful.

Sally McKain, President, League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

MEMBER PROFILE

This newsletter is so full, I've decided to skip the member profile this time. We will return to this feature in the next issue.

Anna Willman, Newsletter Editor

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We have six new members: Bentley Gilbert, Katrina Keleher, Lisa Sabol, Marilyn Carter, Kareen LaValley, and Stacey McLaughlin. Please make a point of introducing yourselves to them at our monthly meetings and making them feel welcome.

REPORT ON FALL ACTIVITIES

On September 23, approximately 16 LWVUV members attended our first general meeting of the 2014-15 year, held at the First Presbyterian Church. Robin Wisdom updated us on state league activities. We heard from Garden Tour Committee and Health Care Committee members, and enjoyed delicious soups, bread, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Toward the end of our meeting, Alex Loznak of LUCY (League of Umpqua Climate Youth) joined us and explained their Project SOS (Solarize Our Schools). Our league would like to be supportive of these young people's efforts to encourage clean energy generation in our community.

The league held four election-related events this fall. These included an October 7 forum featuring the candidates for House District Two and an October 14 forum featuring six out of seven of the candidates for the open county commissioner's seat. Candidate and ultimate victor, Chris Boice did not attend our forum that night. We were sorry not to be able to hear his viewpoints on the issues. Though our forums were sparsely attended, the press was there and we hope that the public gained some insight by reading the subsequent newspaper articles.

We also provided two Ballot Measure forums, one at Linus Oakes Retirement Center on October 16 and another at the DC Public Library on October 21. LWVUV board members Sally McKain, Tina Arredondo, Joe Yetter, and Jenny Carloni explained the ballot measures and answered questions from the audience. About twenty voters attended each of these events.

Our Health Care Committee provided our monthly program November 17 at the Umpqua Business Center, and presented a panel of local health care leaders at the library on December 7.

Our December 16 meeting was a potluck gathering at the First Presbyterian Church. (The food was delicious!) Linda Clary, co-chair of the state league's Children at Risk study, educated us about the status of the study due out in March.

She also explained that after the study is completed, the next step will be to further educate Oregon citizens and rally public support for vigilantly meeting the health and educational needs of our youngest citizens. Jean Galleher reported on the work of the LWVUV's Health Care committee, and Jenny Carloni suggested that it would be good to revive LWVUV's Observer Corps, and have a couple of people attending the county commissioner's meetings beginning in January. If you would like to help with this, please contact her at jennifer.carloni@gmail.com or 541-672-1914.

Jenny Carloni

GARDEN TOUR COMMITTEE REPORT

I am glad to report that the Garden Tour Committee has selected six gardens for the 2015 Garden Tour!

The date for the tour is Saturday, June 13th, from 10AM to 5PM.

The tour runs from near Umpqua Dairy in downtown Roseburg, to as far north as Del Rio Road – an 8 mile span.

Among the gardens for next summer is a Community Garden, a Master Gardener's expansive garden on the river, a hilltop view garden, and a couple of in-town gardens.

We have lined up some fabulous artists and musicians to round out the day-long event, and we are enthusiastic about another successful fund raiser for the League!

Each year we ask League members if they would like to volunteer at a greeting table at one of the gardens. We seat two volunteers at a table, for a 3 1/2 hour shift. Those volunteers are given a free pass to visit the gardens on the tour for the other half of the day. Non-League members are welcome to volunteer for this as well!

If you would like to sign up for this Volunteer duty, call or email Penny Reed at [541 637 7091](tel:5416377091);

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 7: First County Commission meeting in 2015. League volunteers needed to attend as Observer Corps..

January 13: Legislative Process Day in Salem.

January 20: Program Planning (530:at the Presbyterian Church)This is when we review state and national League positions and make recommendations.

February 17: *Henry and Us* movie on civil disobedience.

March 17: Children at Risk consensus meeting.

April 21: Annual Business Meeting

June 13: Annual Garden Tour

1happypenny@gmail.com, or Nancy Farris at 541 643 8113; nfarris73@hotmail.com.

Nancy Farris, Garden Tour Committee

HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Health Care Committee has met bi-monthly. Twelve League members have attended at least one Committee meeting. The original goal was amended October 2, 2014 to read as follows:

“The goal of the LWVUV Health Care Committee is to investigate and then educate the public about how health care is delivered in Douglas County.”

The Committee has done some incredible work since its formation. The Committee began by reviewing the national health care position for the LWV and the work done by the LWVOR. The Committee then began to investigate Douglas County health care organizations with an ultimate goal of producing a Health Care Delivery Services Flow Chart. This piece of work is still in progress.

The Committee also closely followed the public discussion of the possible transition of Douglas County public health services back to the State and reviewed the Umpqua Health Alliance Community Health Improvement Plan. Committee members attended the Community Health Alliance Open House to learn about mental health services in Douglas County, and the Place Matters and Coordinate Care Model Summit conferences in Portland.

The Committee learned early in its work that the topic of health care delivery is a very large subject and cannot be covered thoroughly in a short period of time. However, the Committee did provide two educational events this Fall. At the November 17, 2014 League meeting, the Committee showed the 2012 PBS documentary "U.S. Health Care: The Good News" to League members and the public. The documentary features several communities around the country where excellent health care outcomes can be provided at reasonable cost. League member Marilyn Carter facilitated a discussion following the showing. She also developed a resource link list of websites mentioned in the film and included other important health care resource links as well.

The Committee also assisted the LWVUV in sponsoring a Health Care Forum on Monday, December 8, 2014, at the Douglas County Library. Approximately 75 individuals attended. *The News Review* published a front page article the following day. The forum featured a panel of four local health care leaders (Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer - Archtrave and Umpqua Health Alliance, Dawnelle Marshall - Douglas County Public Health, Janet Holland-Community Health Alliance, and Christy Parazoo - Umpqua Community Health Center). The speakers were provided ten minutes to provide an overview of their organization and to answer questions that the Health Committee had sent to them. The remainder of the forum was devoted to questions from the audience. The audience provided over 25 written questions to the panel. The speakers agreed to answer the unanswered questions not



addressed in the forum via e-mail to the Health Committee. These responses will be posted on the LWVUV website.

Another outcome from the work of this Committee has been connection with other League chapters in Oregon and nationally. Through her volunteer work with another organization (Health Care For All Oregon), Jean has been in contact with League members from around the State. She learned that the Lane County League has undertaken a study of health care in Lane County chaired by Pat Bitner. Our League will be invited to a February luncheon where their Committee will present their findings.

Our committee chair, Jean Galleher, also is now a member of a national LWV Health Care Group that meets via telephone conference calls once a month.

What is next for the LWVUV Health Care Committee? The Committee will be sponsoring a second educational presentation sometime this Winter or Spring and welcomes new League members. The Committee has been meeting twice a month on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m in a study room at the Douglas County Library. For more information, contact Jean Galleher (541-459-2189) or dcjean45@gmail.com.

Jean Galleher, Chair, Health Care Committee

LWVUV SUPPORTS BIKE/WALK ROSEBURG

On a recent visit downtown Roseburg for some work on my car, which took about an hour, I thought I would look around. The weather was fine and I discovered some new places recently opened and some that were now vacant.

But the real learning was that it was dangerous to cross the street via cross walks. I was nearly run down by cars speeding three times. When I returned to pick up my car I asked the technician about this. He agreed it was safer to cross in the middle of the street and avoid cross walks. I had noticed many people were 'jay walking' in the past, but didn't know why. He said the cars don't see pedestrians at cross walks, perhaps because they were so few, or perhaps because there are no lights anymore. Cars tend to turn and go forward if they don't see another vehicle.

Dick Dolgonas gave me some updates for the downtown Roseburg improvement plans. He is working to get the official designation for Roseburg as a Bicycle Friendly Community [BFC] and this will open the chance for grant money, feedback and technical assistance from the group which has already helped over 300 cities in the USA. It also seems to go with the League health care committee work since when people walk and bike more they become healthier.

Roseburg will be adding raised pavement for some downtown cross walks. There will also be different visual designs and color to make them stand out.

More public art will be included, and enhancements for the Oak Street Bridge will be made.

If walking is hazardous to people, how about biking next to heavy truck traffic? I know the injury rate for riders on bicycles seems to increase every year. There is also the rareness of children walking or biking to their schools because of the danger factor.

The Umpqua Valley League will be partnering with Dick Dolgonas and Jim Caplan of the Bike

Walk Roseburg coalition. Are our members also interested to help? For more information about these efforts, visit: www.bikewalkroseburg.org.

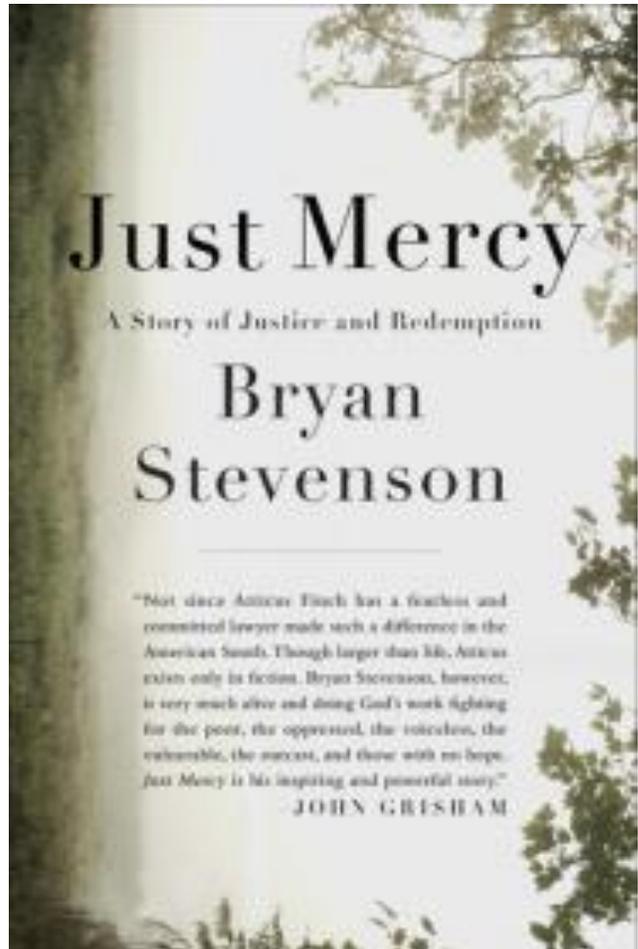
Sally McKain

BOOK REPORT

JUST MERCY: A Story of Justice and Redemption
by Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson is my new hero. Before I read this book, I had not heard of him, but he is now the person I would most aspire to be, and the person I would hope my children to look upon as a role model. The book made me cry and made me cringe, but I couldn't put it down. Yes, it's that good.

Bryan starts his tale as a young law student who makes his first encounter with a death row



inmate in Georgia. As a student, he had been struggling to find purpose and focus in the abstract principles of law he was learning, but upon meeting the imprisoned and desperate people who needed his help, his studies became “relevant and critically important”. It became immediately obvious to him that “there was something missing in the way we treat people in our judicial system.” That ‘something’ was humanity, mercy and justice.

There are three types of cases highlighted throughout the book: the case of Walter, an innocent black man on death row convicted by a jury in Monroeville, Alabama (ironically the home town of Harper Lee, where the populace proudly boasts about their best-selling author of “To Kill a Mockingbird”), juveniles who are mistreated and over criminalized, and the mentally ill who are committed to our prisons instead of being treated for their illness. Throughout all of these, the themes that unite are the injustice perpetrated upon the poor and people of color, as well as the high cost of our inhumanity to each other, of our rush to judgment and condemnation, of our lack of compassion and mercy. This sounds like a potentially depressing tome, but in the end, it is the fact that people like Bryan, and his colleagues in the Equal Justice Initiative he founded, fight bravely against the Goliath of our criminal justice system to unearth truth and create justice – it is this fact that proves most heartening. Sometimes they lose their cases, but because they occasionally win, and because they keep trying, the world is a better place and we all have potential for a brighter future.

I will leave the detail of Walter’s case, as well as the cases of the juveniles and the mentally ill – (sometimes heartbreaking but we owe it to them to know about their struggles) to the reader to discover. Stevenson is a gifted author, and his stories are riveting. Your travels through them will be brief and rewarding, but hopefully the legacy will stay with you and broaden your views and your future actions regarding criminal justice. I recommend this book without reservation for every book club, study group, and individual.

I’ll end my review with this quotation from Stevenson: *“My work with the poor and the incarcerated has persuaded me that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice. Finally, I’ve come to believe that the true measure of our commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness, and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned.”*

“We are all implicated when we allow others to be mistreated. An absence of compassion can corrupt the decency of a community, a state, a nation. Fear and anger can make us vindictive and abusive, unjust and unfair, until we all suffer from the absence of mercy and we condemn ourselves as much as we victimize others. The closer we get to mass incarceration and extreme levels of punishment, the more I believe it’s necessary to recognize that we all need mercy, we all need justice, and – perhaps – we all need some measure of unmerited grace.”

Tina Arredondo

ACTION UPDATE

As I write this on Saturday, December 13 the U.S. Senate is having a weekend session to consider a \$1.1 TRILLION spending bill already passed by the House. The LWVUS is asking its members (that’s us!) to contact our Senators to vote against this bill as it includes “the most corrupting campaign finance provisions ever enacted.” By the time you receive this newsletter it will probably be too late to contact our senators as I think the Senate will probably vote on it this weekend, but I want you to be aware of how strongly the League opposes the measure.

According to the LWVUS message “the omnibus legislative authorizes massive increases in the allowable contributions to political parties which

can only be made by millionaires and billionaires. These huge contributions would be solicited by federal officeholders with the ability to provide access, influence and results to the donors.

A single individual is authorized under the bill to give a total of \$777,600 to the three committees of a national party per year or a total of \$1,555,200 in a two-year election cycle. Such massive contributions have been prohibited for more than four decades to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption."

You should also know that the LWVUS does have a "Money in Politics Committee" which will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance "for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider 1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities, and 2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position."

Stay informed and stay vigilant about this important issue.

Alice Lackey

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY

The League is co-sponsoring a Legislative Process Day on Tuesday, January 13 in Salem. This is an opportunity to get the most up-to-date information on all the issues followed by the League, and also to network with League members from around the state. In addition, you can meet people from other sponsoring

organizations who are actively involved in the legislative process. You will find a registration form at the bottom of this newsletter as well as an agenda of the day's activities. Or, you can register online at the state League website - www.lwvor.org. Registration deadline is January 5th, so be sure to check this opportunity out asap.

HELP WANTED

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following opportunities, please call Sally McKain (541-679-5597).

- We need volunteers to sign up for the observer corps. You will find it is a fascinating experience to attend local commission meetings regularly. You feel connected to the community in a new way and at the same time are playing an active role in keeping our government transparent.
- We welcome volunteers for committees, including our garden tour fundraiser committee, and our health care committee.
- Volunteers to write book reviews for this newsletter. Any topic you think might interest League members.
- Board members. This is a fun job with interesting people and a chance to make a real difference in the community. Meet once a month and help lead this organization.
- Callers are always needed, to remind members of meetings and other important events.
- Drivers to help non-driving members get to meetings (or to car pool with other drivers for state events held in other communities).

Legislative Process Day

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 - 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Oregon State Library, Salem, Rooms 102 and 103

**Sponsored by LWV of Oregon * AAUW of Oregon * Center for Women's Leadership
* Oregon NOW**

HIGHLIGHTS

State Treasurer Ted Wheeler * Issues Panel Discussion

Journalists Panel Discussion *

Action Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed

Return form by Monday, January 5, 2015

Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!

Name: _____

Organization affiliation (member of sponsoring org): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch:

Box lunch features sandwich, salad, fruit and dessert.

Choose: Turkey Roast Beef Veggie Delight

\$24.00 per person

Workshop only:

\$15.00 per person

Parking Pass:

Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for \$15.50 (\$15.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee. I have included my mailing address. Please note that the cost has gone up for these parking passes. Carpooling can help with this cost.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to:

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302

Due January 5, 2015. Questions? Call [503-581-5722](tel:503-581-5722) or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Registration deadline is January 5, 2015

Room capacity at the State Library is limited, so register early to secure a place.

Legislative Process Day Agenda

- 9:30 - 10:00 Registration and networking
- 10:00 - 10:05 Welcome
Robin Wisdom, President, League of Women Voters of OR
- 10:05 - 11:00 **Journalist Panel** (invited)
Peter Wong, Pamplin Media Group
Hillary Borrud, EO Media Group
Chris Lehman, Oregon Public Broadcasting
Taylor Anderson, Bend Bulletin
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Ted Wheeler - State Treasurer**
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch with Sponsor presentations and Break**
Joyce Zook and Penney Hoodenpyle, American Association of University Women of Oregon
Sunny Petit, Center for Women's Leadership
Michelle Ganow-Jones, Oregon Chapter of the National Organization for Women
- 1:00 - 2:00 **Issues Panel** (invited)
Kate Titus, Common Cause
Christy Splitt, Oregon Conservation Network
Rose Englert, Human Services Coalition of Oregon
(One more speaker, still being discussed)
- 2:00 - 2:25 LWV Action Overview
- 2:25 Fill out and turn in evaluations
- 2:30 Adjourn

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY
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