

LEAGUE LINES



A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

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APRIL-MAY 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

You have received the information by now about the Annual Meeting on April 23 -- dinner at Dino's at 5:00 PM. If you have read it you know our League is in need of more active members. Looking over the past year with a successful garden tour to raise funds, I did see many helping at the gardens. With the money raised, we have decided to tentatively reduce our local membership dues from \$70 to \$55. If you did the math you see we will be collecting less than we pay out to State and National League, yet the board is trying to retain and obtain more members. Perhaps reducing the dues will help.

We currently have 39 members and one "Friend." The board has six members with two dropping. There is no one to replace the Treasurer, to be on the Nominating Committee, or someone to take the lead on membership. Also next year's garden tour will need a new chair. There are many reasons to be a League member, but what are members willing to do for our organization? Many are needed to help on the garden tour day, June 15. Others may be needed to make telephone calls or to work online for League business and to help with monthly meetings.

Last summer there was a paint-the-scarves day at Anna's house; Anna and I were the only members there. We then re-scheduled another day and were able to produce enough new scarves with just four of us.

To survive and thrive, we must start preparing and encouraging individuals to lead the League. If you are asked to help, it offers the chance to learn new skills, spend time with friends, and to understand our world a bit more. We hope we are providing a pathway to be active in our community with important topics and challenging events.

So I if you come to our business meeting and decide to serve on the board, or head a committee, that would be very much appreciated. It is not good enough to just sit back and attend a meeting now and then. And please, if something is missing in our local League that you think should be included, let a board member know. Our League is only as solid as our active members can make it.

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

MEMBER PROFILE

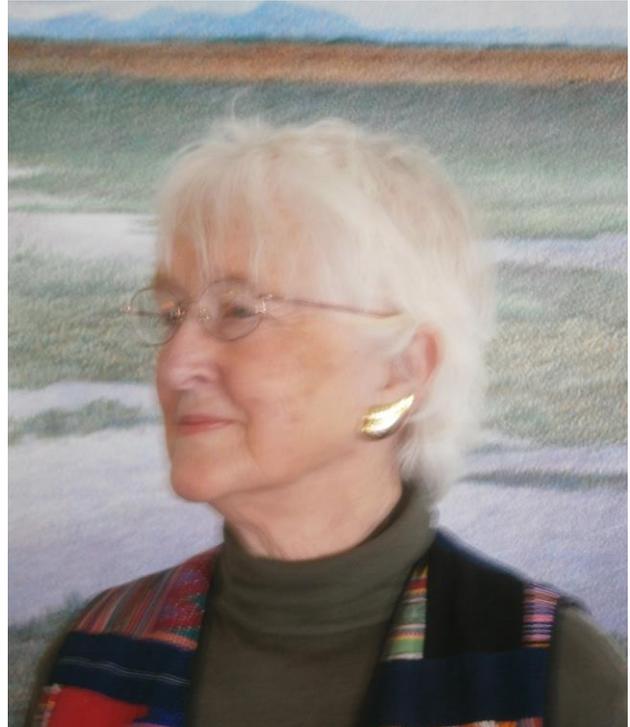
Beverly Paulson grew up on a diversified farm near Waseca in Southern Minnesota. The farm grew hay, wheat and corn, raised milk cows, hogs, and chickens. They used work horses instead of tractors. As a country girl, Beverly spent her childhood doing farm chores and attending school in a two-room country school house.

When she was ready for high school, her family sold the farm and moved to town. Beverly resisted the move as best she could and sat, pouting, in the car as her folks went house hunting in Waseca. Her protests were in vain.

When she completed high school, Beverly attended St. Olaf College in Worthfield, Minnesota, for two years before transferring to the University of Minnesota. At St. Olaf, as part of a required Norwegian language class, she wrote a family history, for which she interviewed all her relatives living in the area. She kept this paper and has found it very helpful over the years, especially now as she is working on writing her family history, including in it anecdotes from those old 1946 interviews.

In those days there were not as many majors as there are now, and Beverly ended up majoring in home economics and related arts. When she graduated she got a job teaching in Milaca, a small town in Minnesota. She stayed there for two years, living frugally and saving money for a trip to Europe that was being organized by her St. Olaf's professor in Norwegian.

She was in Europe from mid-June until early September, staying on after the tour to travel on her own for a while.



Beverly got an unexpected bonus from this trip. She became good friends with a woman on the tour who said she had an eligible nephew she thought would be a perfect match for Beverly. Beverly replied that she had an eligible uncle she thought would do for her new friend. It started as a joke, but when Beverly returned to the United States, they arranged for the two meetings. While her new friend and her uncle did not click, Beverly and Louis were much taken with each other. Beverly had not been thinking of marriage, planning instead on becoming a career woman, but Louis changed her mind. They've been married now for 59 years.

She didn't give up on her career, however. After they were married, they lived in Amery, Wisconsin, where Beverly found another teaching job. They lived in Amery for 13

years and both of their children (a boy and a girl) were born there.

The Paulson's moved to Roseburg in 1966 and the next year bought the house on Lane where they still live. One of the first things they did in Roseburg was sign up for the JC ski school up at Taft Mountain. They also joined the Roseburg Community Concert Association, where Beverly has served on the board for thirty years.

Beverly started working at Umpqua Community College on special grant programs, and then in 1973 became the founding Director of the Senior Volunteer Program. They started with nothing but an Advisory committee. Beverly found a space for the program in the Pacific Building. Then when the county took over the old Mercy Hospital building for Health and Social Services, the program moved there. Beverly worked hard over the next nine years to get the program well established and also got the Senior Companion Program started before leaving to take a year off in 1982.

During her year off from work, Beverly and Louis (among other things) travelled to New Zealand and Australia to visit friends and see the sights.

The next year Beverly was back at work at UCC on a variety of projects. She worked as a coordinator for the Community Education Department. She started the Annual Conference on Aging, and organized training for caregivers and for foster care providers. "You never do these things by yourself," Beverly said, emphasizing that all of these were joint efforts with many people contributing.

If Beverly went to school today, she would major in Program Development. That, she

says, is her favorite thing to do – to get things started. And it is clear that Roseburg is the richer for her program development talents.

She has served on many boards over the years in many aspects of our community life. In addition to her thirty years on the Community Concert Association board, she served for twenty years on the board of the Volunteer Foundation of Douglas County. She has served on the board of Crater Lake National Park off and on over the years and was President of that board during the Crater Lake 2002 Centennial Celebration.

She was on the Advisory board for the Confidence Clinic for many years, on the UCC Art Gallery board, on the Communities United Resource Network, and has served in many capacities at the Faith Lutheran Church. Both she and Louis have supported many other organizations as well over the years, in a variety of ways.

Beverly joined the League of Women Voters early in the 1970s. She was President of our board in 1995 when we brought a traveling exhibit to the Douglas County Library on "Women in Action: Rebels and Reformers". The League brought in a number of speakers in connection with this exhibit, including Governor Kitzhaber, Shannon Applegate, and a number of national figures including the President of AARP.

For the past two years, Beverly has put her program development talent to use in playing a key role in coordinating our Garden Tour fundraiser. (Don't miss the article on this year's tour below.)

Beverly was initially drawn to the League because she wanted to know more about the political process and to learn how to be an effective advocate. She wanted to learn what

the community needed and then be able to take action to make that happen.

What she likes about the League are the friendships she's formed with people who have similar interests. It also satisfies her love of being involved in the community and in the legislative process. She likes belonging to an organization that makes a difference, and she believes the League does make a difference.

Certainly Beverly has proved that *she* makes a difference.

Beverly and Louis have two children and two grandchildren. Her favorite place is the wonderful retreat she and Louis have at North Ten Mile Lake, where they spend time maintaining trails and canoeing.

Anna Willman, Newsletter Editor

FEBRUARY MEETING ON THE DEATH PENALTY

Our February meeting, featuring Ron Steiner, Director of Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, was well attended by the community as well as by members of the League. The discussion was at times passionate and always informative.

Good job, Tina Arredondo, for bringing us this program.

MARCH MEETING ON HEALTH CARE

Again we had considerable community participation as we watched *The Healthcare Movie* which tells the story of how Canada's Health Care System came to be adopted. It is a compelling story and the movie tells it well.

Thanks to Jenny Carloni for taking the lead in organizing this meeting which was also co-sponsored by the organization *Healthcare for ALL Oregon*.

WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING IN APRIL

Linda Mullins will be our guest speaker at our April 23rd annual business meeting. Her talk will continue our look at health care with a description of what is happening locally with the creation of a CCO (Coordinated Care Organization) by DCIPA and Mercy under Governor Kitzhaber's new reorganization of health care in Oregon.

We are meeting at Dino's Restaurante in downtown Roseburg. Space is limited, so get your reservation in to Jenny Carloni as soon as possible. (541-672-1914)

REPORT FROM THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Garden Tour Committee is excited to report that we are well on our way in preparing for this year's event. We have some pretty spectacular gardens lined up, all in the Dixonville area, with the theme this year being "Country Gardens".

Our tour this year has an extra stop for a little bird watching in co-operation with the Audubon Society.

June 15 is not far off and we will need volunteers again this year to help out. There are only six gardens this year, but that means a minimum of 12 hosts sitting at tables, and more if people take half-day shifts. We also need some help with organizing traffic at a couple of gardens where there are long and narrow driveways. And help getting signs in place beforehand and taking them down afterwards.



We can also use your help in distributing our poster. You will find two electronic copies of it attached to the same email that this newsletter is attached to. One version prints out on 8 x 11 paper and the other on 8 x 14. We'd like you to send the poster to everyone on your email list to help get the word out. We also have bookmarks to distribute and will post a few printed posters about town in key locations. If you have trouble opening the pdf versions of the posters, you can let Anna Willman know and she'll send you a Word version.

There will be a signup sheet at our April meeting to volunteer for June 15, but you don't have to wait until then to volunteer. Call Penny Reed (541-673-3025) or Anna Willman (541-440-3075).

Those who volunteered last year will tell you it was a fun experience. It also brought in some new members. This fundraiser has made it possible for us to reduce our annual dues to \$55.00, which should also help our organization grow. All of us benefit from it, and we hope everyone will participate in making this a great day.

DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE, APRIL 10

Three of our members will be attending the League of Women Voters of Oregon's Day at the Legislature in Salem. They will report to us what they learned at our May meeting on May 21.

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION MAY 17-19

Be sure to let Sally McKain (541-679-5597) know if you would like to go to the convention as an observer. It will be at the Mill Casino in North Bend and should be both interesting and fun.

If you attend, we will ask you to report back to the membership at our May meeting.

MAY EVENTS

We will be co-hosting a program early in May with NAMI (The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) on Monday, May 6 at the Douglas County Library. The topic: Public Safety and Mental Health continues our interest in health care and also connects to our interest in public safety issues from our January meeting on the Death Penalty.

Then at our regular monthly meeting on May 21 (a lunch meeting at 11:30 at Brix), we will have reports from members who attended the Day at the legislature and the convention, plus a short presentation by Betsy Cunningham from CEA (Citizens Education

and Access) for a different perspective on Coordinated Care in Douglas County.

ACTION UPDATE

The U.S. League is asking members to contact our Senators re: S 649. This bill will require background checks on all gun purchases and impose stricter penalties for "straw purchases" where one individual buys guns for another.

The League intends to support amendments that will be made (maybe already made?) from the Senate floor including Senator Feinstein's Assault Weapons Ban and an amendment to limit the size of high capacity ammunition magazines.

H.R. 924, a bill extending the Investment Tax Credit for offshore wind power and encouraging investment in that industry, received strong support from the League and other environmental community members in a letter sent to the U.S. House of Representatives on March 18.

The national League Agriculture Update study committee is working at this time to prepare or select study materials, a Leader's Guide, etc. There is a study forum or discussion list for this on-line. The update will focus narrowly on 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Norm Turrill from Oregon is the chair of this study committee, and Marnie Lonsdale from

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10: Day at the Legislature in Salem

April 23: 5:30 pm, Annual Business meeting at Dino's. Healthcare changes in Douglas County.

May 6: 6:30 pm, Co-sponsored meeting with NAMI on Public Security and Mental Health at the DC Library

May 8: 2:00 pm. Board meeting at Elmers (?)

May 17-19: State League Convention in North Bend.

May 21: 11:30 am, Monthly meeting at Brix.

June 15: 10-4, Country Garden Tour

Oregon is one of ten committee members. Consensus questions for the update should be available in August 2013.

I hope each of you is getting the state legislative report. It is a great way to keep informed on what is happening in Salem during this legislative session and the action the State League is taking on different bills.

I would also like to commend local radio station KQEN - (1240 AM) for the coverage it is giving to the Legislature. There are many weekly, lengthy interviews with all the legislators who represent parts of Douglas county. The 30-minute slots for those interviews are usually on Monday and Tuesday at both 8:30 in the morning and 12:30 in the afternoon. The station has also had recent live interviews with Congressman DeFazio and Sen. Merkley. I think it may be

the only radio station in the state devoting that much time to the state legislature.

Remember to celebrate Earth Day this month. Do something you have not done before to help the earth.

Alice Lackey, Action Chair



HELP WANTED

Volunteers for our Garden Tour on June 15. (See the article for details)

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.

We also need non-board members to volunteer to be on our nominating committee next year. This is a vitally important task and only takes your time once a year in the late winter/early spring.

Callers are always needed, to remind members of meetings and other important events.

Consider joining the garden tour committee for 2014. It's a wonderful opportunity to explore our county's gardens and be creative as well.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these things, please call Sally McKain (541-679-5597) or Anna Willman (541-440-3075).

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