

LEAGUE LINES



A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

P.O. Box 2434, Roseburg, OR 97470

lwwuv.wordpress.com

April/May 2016

April 5	First Tuesday Talk Time	12:00 – 1:00 PM	428 Chadwick	Bring your Lunch.
April 14	Candidate Forum	7:00 – 8:30 PM	Holiday Inn Express 375 W Harvard	Candidates for County Commissioner
April 28	Annual Meeting	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Elmer's 1450 NW Mulholland Dr.	All members please attend.
May 10	First Tuesday Talk Time	12:00 – 1:00	428 Chadwick	Bring your lunch.
May 10	General Meeting Health Care	7:00-8:30	Ford Room Douglas County Library	Movie Fix – It Health Care for All Speakers

President's Message

Dear LWVUV Members,

Despite the relentless rain and blustery weather, signs of spring are lifting our spirits. In the yellow drifts of daffodils and the bold pink blossoms on peach and cherry trees, is the promise of summer and clear skies ahead.

Your league has been busy during these winter months, working hard to make good things happen in our community. Here are some examples.

Under the leadership of Linda Clary, with help from Julee Wright, Jenny Carloni, and others, the Early Teaching Project is training citizens to use and teach a process called Dialogic Reading.

This technique for engaging a child with a book gets young children talking and encourages inquisitive thinking, preparing them to succeed when they get to school. We want to spread this technique far and wide, and we can use your help on our ETP committee.

LWVUV's Listening Tour committee has been reaching out to folks who want to learn to listen to our community in the wake of the shootings at UCC. Under the leadership of Anna Willman, Robin Wisdom, Sandra Huffstutter and Martha Sinkula, several listeners have been trained and are prepared to engage with community groups soon.

Jean Galleher has spearheaded our engagement with potential young voters. The deadline to register to vote in the Primary is April 26. Under Jean's leadership, LWVUV has already registered students at South Umpqua, Sutherlin, and Douglas High School as well as UCC. The League will be at Glide High School on Monday. We are grateful to Jean for making these contacts and to Tina Arredondo, Robin Wisdom, Connie Page, Jenny Carloni, Nancy Farris, and Julee Wright for helping her to get voters registered.

Another aspect of Voter Service is providing the public with an opportunity to question the candidates who seek to represent them. (Is anyone else longing for the days when the League of Women Voters took on this task in presidential elections?) Locally, eight candidates have filed to run for the County Commissioner position being vacated by Susan Morgan. Our Governance committee is planning a Candidate Forum for Thursday, April 14, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. Please note the date and plan to attend. Then start crafting your questions for the candidates. We will encourage questions from the audience. We'd appreciate help with refreshments for this event. In fact, we'd love to have a member take on the role of organizing hospitality at our events.

Our intrepid Garden Tour committee, led by the indomitable Nancy Farris, is planning details of this year's June 11 Garden Tour. At our league's April 28 Annual Meeting, you'll have a chance to volunteer to be a greeter for the tour. This is a half-day commitment. You may choose to work as a greeter in either the morning or afternoon and then get free admission to the tour during the other half of the day. Remember, you may invite a non-league friend to join you. Start recruiting now. Whether you plan to be a greeter or not, please SAVE THE DATE of JUNE 11 for our annual, fabulous Garden Tour, the main fund raiser that supports the work of our league.

You'll be receiving more information about the Annual Meeting in the mail. Please plan to attend this lunchtime meeting. We'll address league business, including electing more members to our board. Besides, it's always great to get together in person and have a rollicking good time! Let's combine business with pleasure.

Sixty by 2016 and Seventy by Summer!

We have plans for a May 10 program about health care including the showing of a DVD called Fix It!

Thank you for being a part of LWVUV. We value your membership, participation and support in any form. For details of the many ways that U can participate in LWVUV, please see our calendar in this newsletter, check our website lwwuv.wordpress.com, or email or call me at jennifer.carloni@gmail.com or 541-672-1914.

Jenny Carloni



Jenny, Robin and Tina attended Day at the Legislature on February 22nd.



Tina with the AFS students at the capitol.

COMING SOON!
GARDEN TOUR 2016



The Garden Tour Committee is in high gear, making final preparations for the 5th annual Spring Garden Tour. This year the date is Saturday, June 11th from 10AM to 5PM. The cost is \$12.00.

Once again, we are asking League members and friends to volunteer at a greeting / host table for 1/2 day shifts. As a thank you, we will give you a free ticket for the tour! We will have a sign-up sheet at the LWVUV Annual meeting on April 28th, or you may call or email Jenny Carloni to sign up. Her phone number is: 541 672 1914, email: jennifer.carloni@gmail.com.

This year, the 6 gardens are on a route which spans just 4 miles north to south! One of the gardens is on a hillside overlooking the view just south of Roseburg. It features a fabulous waterfall and pond, handmade gates, unusual glass yard art, and a plethora of vegetables, trees and flowers. Then there's the "Hobbit" garden tucked in a city block in Roseburg which is largely comprised of repurposed containers, transplanted plants, a custom made greenhouse, and a one of a kind indoor-outdoor feline home for the two family cats!

Finally, I'm happy to share that we are partnering with a number of local agencies in presenting the first ever Umpqua Urban Edibles Project! Come see it to believe it!

Mark your calendar! This is the Umpqua Valley League's major fund raiser for the year! Tell your friends, bring your families! We will send out an email version of the Garden Tour Poster sometime in May, so you can send it to your other contacts to spread the word.

Nancy Farris

Great Schools, Great Communities

The Umpqua Valley League held a *Great Schools, Great Communities* forum on Thurs., Mar. 10th in the evening at the library. Even though the attendees were few (about 15 not counting the facilitators), the participants were diverse. Among those represented were: the Douglas County Museum, Head Start, the Ford Family Foundation, and Umpqua Community College.



Sixty by 2016 and Seventy by Summer!

The main point of the forum is the extreme need for better funding of our public school system. Did you know that Oregon is the 38th in school performance? And 39th out all of the states in spending per child in the school system? The simple explanation is we are not spending enough per student. Oregon's children receive one less year of instruction by the time they leave high school, making them much less competitive with children from other states.

This affects the economy as a whole, too. If we don't have an educated workforce that pays taxes, the state can't raise enough money to cover all services and pay for better education.

Where do we find the funding for a great school system? The Great Schools, Great Communities forum helps clarify options and viable choices. But what are your solutions? Our kids deserve better!

If you would like to attend a forum, let us know and we will work on holding another one in Douglas County in the future.

Submitted by,
Robin Wisdom

Please contact Robin Wisdom, r.wisdom@lwvor.org, 541-672-6982, for more information. And check out our new website: <http://www.greatoregonschools.org>.



HEALTH CARE NEWS

The LWVUV will be showing the powerful new documentary film “Fix It- Healthcare at the Tipping Point” on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00p.m.in the Douglas County Library. Two speakers from Health Care for All Oregon (Mike Huntington, a retired Radiation Oncologist, and Lee Mercer, former Director of Main Street Alliance of Oregon) will facilitate the discussion following the film.

The Producer of the film (Richard Master) is the founder and CEO of MCS Industries, a world leader in the picture frame and decorative mirror business. The film looks at spiraling health care costs from a business perspective and Master’s personal journey on what businesses need to do to control health care costs.

In other League News, 11 Leagues from across the country were represented on the HCR4US phone call 2/28/2016. Several Leagues are preparing to show “Fix It” either as a community presentation (like we are doing here in Roseburg) or at their LWV State Councils. The next HCR4US phone call will be Sunday, April 24th. I would encourage LWVUV League members to join the group by e-mailing Linda Mahon (lmahan@alum.bu.edu) in Colorado. Once you are on the list you will receive an e-mail reminder and information on how to call in. The group meets via a phone conference call approximately every two months.

While not “official” League Health Care news, three local League members (Diana Wales, Marcia Hall and Jean Galleher) attended the public meeting of the Umpqua Health Alliance Community Advisory Council. While the focus of the public meeting was to brainstorm recommendations for new programs for next year, League members did manage to publicly express concern on the lack of public data on current programs and transparency issues with UHA. If you are interested in this community health issue, sign up for the free UHA newsletter (www.umpquahealthalliance.org) for additional news and the announcement for the next public meeting. Jenny Carloni serves on the Community Advisory Council.

Jean Galleher



Sixty by 2016 and Seventy by Summer!

Trained and Ready ... To Listen

Horrified by last October's mass shooting at Umpqua Community College, the LWVUV has been meeting with its members, as well as with members of other groups, to determine what can be done to make our community safer.

We decided to initiate a community-wide conversation. But how do you do that with an issue as polarizing as firearm safety? An issue where people talk -- demonstrate, even scream -- right past each other?

With guidance from long-time League member Anna Willman, we started by inviting community members to join us in learning how to become "Community Listeners." We developed a two-part training and then mailed/e-mailed a "Become a Community Listener" flyer around town.

Our trainings took place in February. At these sessions, we talked about times when we really felt listened to ... and what that felt like. We talked about "cues" that show someone is truly hearing us, such as leaning forward, nodding, repeating back our words, reflecting back our feelings. Then we were assigned homework: "Listen to someone we don't usually listen to, practice those cues, and report back."

After discussing our experiences, we scheduled a dry run in March, to practice the questions we would pose in a "Listening Tour on Firearm Safety," such as ...

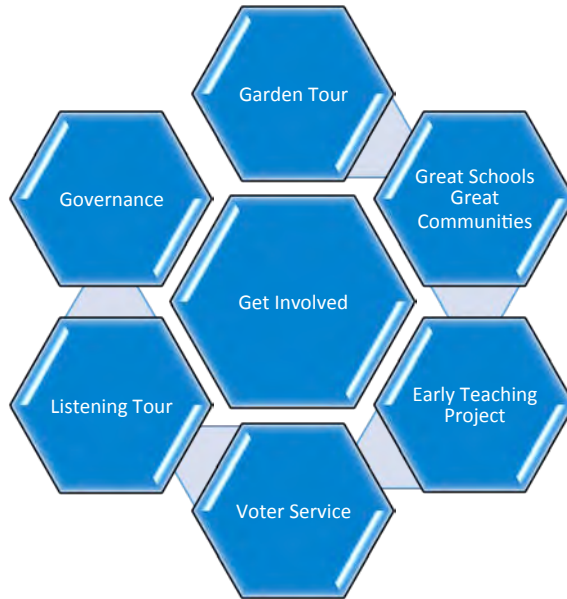
- 1) What thoughts have been going through your mind in the wake of the mass shooting at UCC?
- 2) Do you feel safe in Douglas County? If yes, what makes you feel safe? If no, what could be done to make you feel safer?

The dry run was hard. Participants described times they attempted to raise these issues with family and friends and were surprised by how quickly the conversations escalated. One participant, who grew up in a family with guns, said, "What bothers me the most is they don't feel concerned about my fear of their guns. Instead, they just get angry."

Anna explained that "We flip to anger in response to lots of other emotions. Fear can turn to anger. You're fearful of guns. They're fearful of having their guns taken away. Both of you are feeling threatened ... People can't hear that you want to protect your family if they're not feeling heard about the importance of guns to them. We listen to people to let them know we hear them ... to show we esteem them ... which creates a "space" so that they can then listen to you."

Jenny Carloni, president, is now fielding requests from other groups for "Listening Tour" sessions on community safety. If you belong to a group or know of a group that would like to sponsor a session, please contact her at jennifer.carloni@gmail.com.

I



Yes! I want to join the League! as a new member as a renewing member

I am enclosing:

- ___ \$60 for Individual Membership
- ___ \$85 for two Household Members
- ___ \$30 for Student or Limited Income Member
- ___ \$ ___ Contribution to LWVUV budget (not tax-deductible)
- ___ \$ ___ Total to LWVUV (not tax deductible)
- ___ \$ ___ Contribution to LWVOR (tax deductible; requires separate check to LWVOR)
(LWVUV can use these funds for educational projects or Per-Member-Payment to LWVUS)

**Please mail your check(s) and form to Treasurer Robin Wisdom, 1260 Arcadia Drive,
Roseburg OR 97471**

For more information, contact President Jenny Carloni, 541-672-1914,
jennifer.carloni@gmail.com or
Treasurer Robin Wisdom, 541-672-6982, rwisdom@jeffnet.org

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