

LEAGUE LINES



A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

P.O. Box 2434, Roseburg, OR 97470

lwvuv.wordpress.com

Winter 2020 Events

January 18	Women's Rally	In front of Fred Meyer	12-1:30	Garden Valley Blvd.
January 21	Ranked Choice Voting/Program Planning	Deer Creek Rm Roseburg Library	6-7:45 p.m.	1490 NE Diamond Lk Blvd
February 13	LWV Birthday Party	South Umpqua Rm. Roseburg Library	12-2 p.m.	1490 NE Diamond Lk Blvd
February 14	LWV Day of Action	Nationwide		
February 18	LWVOR Day at the Legislature	Salem		
March 7	Century Celebration Luncheon	Salem Convention Center	10-2 p.m.	200 Commercial St. SE Salem 97301



President's Message

Greetings LWWUV Members –

One hundred years ago, the 19th amendment had been passed in Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Oregon ratified it in January, but it would be August before Tennessee narrowly pushed it past the finish line, and women were able to claim their right to vote as citizens of the United States.

February 14, 1920 is considered the birthday of the League of Women Voters. Suffragists formed the League to take on the task of educating a large new contingent of voters. Across the nation, Leagues will be holding 100th birthday celebrations all year long. We're working on some special events as well.

The Oregon Legislature meets for a short session in even years. This year's session will run from February 3 - March 8. Workdays in the Capitol have begun already. See more about League's priorities for this session elsewhere in this newsletter or at lwvor.org.

LWV of Oregon will hold its annual **LWVOR Day at the Legislature** in Salem on Tuesday, **February 18**. This is always a very informative day. Please consider attending. We will surely have a carpool going there from here.

Coming up soon, on **Tuesday, January 21**, we'll have a presentation from 6:00-7:00 about Ranked-Choice Voting. It is open to the public. It features former FairVote Arizona Chair Barbara Klein, assuming she can get over the passes between Ashland and here.

This is also our annual Program Planning meeting. Please come at 6:00 and plan to stay until about 7:45.

Program Planning this year may be a very quick process. We are being asked to reaffirm our support for **LWVUS's Campaign for Making Democracy Work®**, which "includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters". It focuses on **Redistricting, Voting Rights, Improving Elections, and Campaign Finance/Money in Politics**. We are also being asked to consider a proposed LWVUS position on **Electoral Systems** and to comment on the concurrence process being used to bring this position to the national convention in summer of 2020. You'll find the text of this position later in this newsletter, and you will receive more information by email. You can study ahead of time, or just come and enjoy Barbara Klein's explanation, as she is co-lead of the LWVUS pilot concurrence project. We'll be so lucky to have her here!

If you have a suggestion for a local League program focus for the 2020-2021 League year, you may submit that to me anytime for consideration by our board and membership. Reality dictates that the plan should include an outlook for work and a list of committed individuals prepared to work on its implementation.

Thanks for your continued support of, and participation in, the 100-year old League of Women Voters!

In League,

Jenny Carloni

Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position

Recommended by LWVUS for Adoption via Concurrence LWVUS Convention 2020

Position in Brief:

Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.

Position in Full:

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible. Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- Encourage voter participation and voter engagement
- Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities
- Are verifiable and auditable
- Promote access to voting
- Maximize effective votes/minimize “wasted” votes
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting
- Require the winner to receive a majority of the votes for executive and single seat offices
- Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail

[\(LWVUS, ME, OR, CA, MN, MA, FL, NC, OK, SC, VT, WA, Santa Monica\) *](#)

The LWVUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g. gerrymandering).

The LWVUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

(LWVUS, AZ, CA, OR, SC, WA) *

End of Statement

* All language from LWVUS Principles and multiple State positions

Link for a complete version of this doc is -

<http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/LWVOR-Action-Info-Sheet-2020-.pdf>

2020 LWVOR LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

You may sign up for LWVOR's legislative newsletter and follow activities during the session at <http://lwvor.org/home/take-action/>.

THE LWVOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM 2020 SESSION PRIORITIES:

- **ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY** by supporting Clean Energy Jobs legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero before 2050 while ensuring a just transition for workers and impacted communities.
- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY** by educating for and supporting an independent citizen redistricting commission to address gerrymandering. Fund election protection and defend voter registration integrity. Fund Oregon's Citizens' Initiative Review. Support a state constitutional amendment and statutes that implement campaign finance reform.
- **SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH** with an integrated approach to address suicide, alcohol and drug addictions, adverse childhood experiences, and anti-social or violent behavior.
- **ADVOCATE FOR ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS AND HEALTH CARE REFORMS** by preserving adequate Medicaid funding to build on Oregon's innovation to cover all kids and vulnerable adults. Focus on services for seniors, people with disabilities, and foster youth.
- **PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES** by fully funding community corrections programs, revising laws for juvenile offenders, and mandating the safe storage of firearms.
- **SUPPORT 100-YEAR WATER VISION** to assure abundant clean water for all.
- **GENERATE ADEQUATE REVENUE** for essential services while promoting equity and progressivity in tax policy.

LWVUV Members at 2012 Veteran's Parade



LWVOR Century Celebration

Robin Wisdom

The LWV Oregon is getting ready for a Century Celebration on March 7th in Salem to celebrate a century of the League of Women Voters. The LWV United States will become 100 years old on Feb. 14, 2020. This is an occasion to celebrate.

Plan to join in the rejoicing! While your local League also plans events marking the century, this event is for all League members and friends. Soon you will receive an invitation in postal mail, and you will be able to reserve online as well. Please RSVP as early as possible.

There are more details on the state League's website at <http://lwvor.org/celebrate-100-years-of-the-league/>. Soon online registration will be available there. So, check back for new information, register, and plan to get together with League friends from all over the state.

LWVOR Century Celebration 2020
Saturday, March 7, 2020
10AM to 2PM
Salem Convention Center

Robin Wisdom
LWVOR Century Celebration Committee Chair
541-672-6982

Quilting Woman Suffrage in 2020

Jenny Carloni

The Umpqua Valley Quilters Guild has accepted the "Women's Suffrage Quilt Challenge". Suffrage-themed quilts will be one category in the guild's April 24-26, 2020 Quilt Show. The LWVUV is a sponsor of this event and will be awarding the prize in this category! We are so excited to be a part of this and to see these works of art honoring the women who worked for suffrage!

Voter Service at the Farmer's Market

Connie Page



With some important elections coming up in 2020, the Umpqua Valley League of Women Voters is looking forward to helping citizens of our area get registered to vote, learn about the voting process, and get answers to any questions they may have. One of the ways we will be doing that this year is by tabling at the Saturday Umpqua Valley Farmers' Market once the vendors move back outside.

A few of us tested the waters this past summer and the response was good. We answered questions for newcomers to the area and area residents that had not voted for a long time. We

had the opportunity to encourage folks to register and if they were registered, to check that they were still on the rolls. It also gave us an opportunity to educate people about the League and its mission. It is a meaningful thing to do, people watching is great, the music is fun and with two volunteers at the table you can take turns getting your shopping done!

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please contact Connie Page at 907-888-0460 and put your name on the list. I will contact you when the opportunity gets closer. The Farmer's Market moves outside in April. Thank you!

9th Annual Garden Tour

June 29, 2029

Nancy Farris



Our fund raiser has proven to be not only a reliable source of funds for the Umpqua Valley League, but an *anticipated community event!* We should be proud to have our name affiliated with something that welcomes all. As we feature a variety of artists and musicians, and include local small businesses in our route, this one-day event feels like a big hug around our county!

If you haven't attended one of our tours, I encourage you to treat yourself to a relaxing day. The gardeners live along rivers, on hilltops, in neighborhoods, on country roads. All 5 of our gardens this year have "handicap parking" or "drop-off" and are easily accessible to foot traffic.

This year one of the gardeners' methods of gardening is influenced by her enjoyment in collecting varieties of the same species. One example: she has over 50 different Hosta! Another gardener whose covered porch takes in a view of the Callahans, has transformed a steep, rocky hillside into a massive succulent garden!

Once again, the day requires **VOLUNTEERS!** We are asking League members to sit at a host table for a four-hour shift, and as a Thank You, receive a complimentary ticket to attend the tour yourself. Your responsibilities as a host will be to familiarize yourself with the tour (you'll have a map of it), pass out any League materials which might be requested, and keep the water jug full of water for guests. Please contact our Garden Tour Volunteer chair, Connie Paige to sign up: rkreofsky@gmail.com, 907-888- 0460.

If you want details of the tour, what we do with the funds we raise, or about specifics of each garden, you may email me or text me anytime. nfarris73@hotmail.com, 541-643-8113.

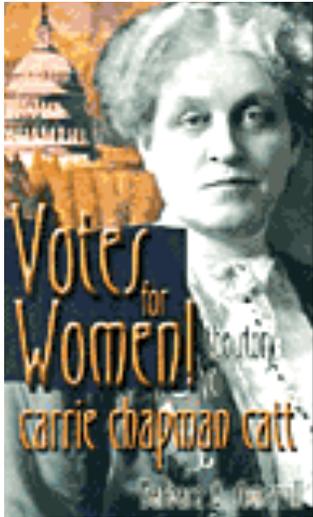
Photos and information from past tours on our website: lwwuv.wordpress.com

It's Complicated: Racism in the Suffragist Movement, and in the League of Women Voters

Joe Yetter

“White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women’s suffrage.”

Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, and of the International Alliance of Women.



Well, that’s a breathtaking statement! We should have been better than this, but we were not (maybe; see below), and we need to own our mistakes. Responsible human beings do that.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920; in our centennial celebration of that foundation (February 14!), and of the subsequent ratification of the 19th Amendment (in August, 1920), we must not lose sight of the fact that our heroes were not saints. The struggle for women's suffrage was long, complex, and morally messy. There were giants in the earth in those days, but they had feet of clay.

The movement for women's suffrage includes classical Athens, the Iroquois in the 1600s, Sweden and Sierra Leone in the 1700s, the kingdom of Hawaii in 1840, and in the United States, of course, preceding the 1848 Seneca Falls watershed moment. From that moment, at least, there was marked competition between advocacies for the rights of women and the rights of people of color. Many in the movement insisted on the primacy of women's suffrage, even at the cost of universal suffrage.

Here is the ACLU’s Tammy Brown:

When suffragists gathered in Seneca Falls, New York, in July 1848, they advocated for the right of white women to vote. The participants were middle and upper-class white women, a cadre of white men supporters and one African-American male — [Frederick Douglass](#). The esteemed abolitionist had forged a strong working relationship with fellow abolitionists and white women suffragists, including [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#) and [Susan B. Anthony](#). No Black women attended the convention. None were invited.

Black women were largely excluded from the movement, or relegated to the literal back of the line; the famous 1913 suffrage parade wound up having some African American participants with their state delegations, while others were forced to march at the rear of the parade. Remember, this was 65 years after Seneca Falls, at which event Frederick Douglass was instrumental in assuring resolution in favor of women's suffrage.

Even after the 19th Amendment southern states, especially, disenfranchised people of color through various stratagems such as poll taxes, literacy tests, intimidation, and lynchings. The League Of Women Voters paid scant attention to this, until the 1960s, and even then the response was generally weak. It's only been in the last few decades that we have done much better.

It's complicated. That quotation at the top? It's from Carrie Chapman Catt's 1917 book, "*Woman Suffrage by Federal Amendment*"

(<https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu/2018/03/21/woman-suffrage-by-federal-amendment-chapter-vi-objections-to-the-federal-amendment-jan-1917/>). Personally, I don't read racism into what she writes there; she is merely countering a disingenuous argument of Southern, white, male, politicians. She demonstrates demographically that their argument is unsound. Elsewhere, though, she does express racism: Native Americans are referred to as "savages" and she has little use for the proletariat of any race.

Here is where our League stands today:

[O]ur organization was not welcoming to women of color through most of our existence. Even during the Civil Rights movement, the League was not as present as we should have been. While activists risked life and limb to register black voters in the South, the League's work and our leaders were late in joining to help protect all voters at the polls. It wasn't until 1966 that we reached our first position to combat discrimination. Still, our focus on social policy was from afar—not on the front lines.

Today, we acknowledge this shortcoming and that we have more work to do.

The League of Women Voters serves millions of voters in underrepresented communities across America every year, but as an organization, our membership does not always reflect the communities we serve. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we are not only striving for better, we will do better.

...

Today, we invite all people, regardless of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, or race, to join us as we commit to righting the wrongs of our past and building a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

Amen. Again: it's complicated. But we are moving forward, and we invite you to get your friends and neighbors to join the League, and to actively participate.

Further reading:

How the Suffrage Movement Betrayed Black Women:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/28/opinion/sunday/suffrage-movement-racism-black-women.html>

The Power of Our Story, by Carolyn Jefferson – Jenkins, Ph. D.:

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/cjjforposting_0.pdf

Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins' book, for pre-order, publishes Feb 29, 2020:

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/47538841-the-untold-story-of-women-of-color-in-the-league-of-women-voters>

Chapman Catt's "Winning Plan": Woman suffrage by federal constitutional amendment, compiled by Carrie Chapman Catt, , comp. 1859-1947

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=osu.32437000313540&view=1up&seq=7>

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote* (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1998)

This link has a compendium of relevant articles:

https://www.seattlelwv.org/racism_in_womens_suffrage.html

Membership Update & LWVOR Council Opportunity

Jenny Carloni

We started our renewal campaign a bit earlier this year and we really appreciate the fact that you stayed with us and renewed in a timely fashion. We currently have 62 members. That will allow us to send at least two voting delegates to the LWVOR Council meeting, being held May 15-17, 2020 in Newport, Oregon. In addition to delegates, any number of our members may attend as Observers. If you are interested in this opportunity to be involved in the Council, just call Jenny at 541-672-1914.

LWVUV Board Members

President: Jenny Carloni

Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Julee Wright

Treasurer & Web Master: Robin Wisdom

Member at Large & Web Assistant: Nancy Farris

Membership: Sally McKain

Member at Large & Treas. Assistant: Sherry Couron

Member at Large: Connie Page

Member at Large: Jo VanKrevelen

Member at Large & Nominating Committee: Pat Sherman

Member at Large: Joe Yetter

Nominating Committee: Tina Arredondo