

## LEAGUE LINES



A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

P.O. Box 2434, Roseburg, OR 97470

### Calendar

<b>Creating a Road Map to Common Ground: Learning from Community Leaders</b> The next 2 events will be held in Roseburg Public Library at 4PM to 5:30PM:			
<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Sarah McGregor</b>	<b>Feeding Umpqua Program Manager</b>	
<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Thomas McGregor</b>	<b>Phoenix Charter School ED</b>	
<b>LWVOR Fall Workshop</b>	<b>Oct. 7 - 10AM-2PM</b>	<b>Campbell Community Center in Eugene</b>	<b>Carpooling available</b>
<b>LWVOR Legislative Process Day</b>	<b>Nov. 7 - 10AM-1PM</b>	<b>State Library in Salem</b>	
<b>LWVUV Program Planning Meeting</b>	<b>Jan. 16 TBA</b>		
<b>LWVOR Youth Voter Summit</b>	<b>Jan. 19 - 10AM</b>	<b>A virtual meeting TBD</b>	

### September 2023

The League welcomes the new fiscal year 2023-2024 that began with events starting in September. Welcome to all members! We also welcome our new Executive Committee which is comprised of all board members. Please contact any of us with your ideas and energy.

We have a great lineup for our September, October and November membership meetings. And there's lots going on with the state League LWVOR and our national League LWV. Read this newsletter and check out our website (<https://lwwuv.org>) for information on all of those events.

The board will continue to use Zoom for board (and Exec Com) meetings for the year, but mostly we want to connect in person with you. So keep an eye out for upcoming events you could attend. And we need your attendance. We need your involvement so we can stay current.

Robin Wisdom, Executive Committee & Board member, 541-784-8762

## LWVOR Convention May 19-21, 2023

Synopsis by Robin Wisdom

**Friday, May 19:** The Convention was hosted by the Lane League and held at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene on Friday, May 19 through Sunday at noon on May 21. Delegates representing Umpqua Valley were Dori Jacob, Earl Jacob, Robin Wisdom, and Gerald Wisdom.

On Friday, we had a fun evening with other League members that began at 4PM when we signed up for 6PM Dine-Around after checking into the hotel. The Lane League had contacted a number of local restaurants to reserve 6 to 8 seats for dinner. Our delegation had dinner with League members from the Lane and Deschutes Leagues and Abigail Hertzler, LWVOR's Salem office manager.

Later that evening there were caucuses: Voter Service, and others.

**Saturday, May 20:** This was the biggest, longest day. Our delegation sat together in the large meeting room at large round tables. Coffee and water were available and a few snacks.

Roll Call: There were 49 delegates present for this Business Session I, and 11 Leagues were represented (out of 12 including units). A credentials report, convention rules, the order of business and the agenda were all approved.

The LWVOR proposed budget was introduced, program and studies for 2023-2024 were discussed, and the proposed concurrence with LWV Maryland on Open Primaries was introduced and discussed.



Our delegates

Nancy Nathanson, Lane County Representative, District 13, spoke to the group about the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative assembly. Three thousand bills were introduced with one thousand remaining at that time. Twenty-seven had been signed by the Governor. The housing bill HB 2001 was signed, but more is needed. Other bills signed are semi-conductor provisions, land use, and research and development tax credits. Nancy chairs the revenue committee where they considered 95 bills.

In the afternoon on Saturday, Regina Lawrence, PhD, Agora Journalism Center, University of Oregon spoke to the group on "The Decline of Local News: What's Happening to Local Journalism in Oregon and How It Matters".

The economic and revenue forecast was amazing. Oregon has good recovery since the pandemic. We should expect slower growth. We have an older population, and not enough younger people are moving to Oregon. Younger people are working less these days. The revenue forecast is good but there is always a risk of recession. The biggest news was the Fed's adjusted the forecasting model so that it is closer to reality. There is now less incentive to go offshore which is a very

good change for Oregon. Interest earnings were 20-30 million per year but now that is per month!

To change the tax credit kicker in the state constitution would be a big lift, so that will probably not happen soon. If it was changed to the state keeping the excess revenue, the PERS debt could be reduced.

That evening the keynote address was given by Les Zaitz, owner/editor of Malheur Enterprise and Salem Reporter on “Free Press and the Survival of Democracy.” He received a standing ovation.

**Sunday, May 21:** Bylaws revisions passed. A budget of \$171,175 for 2023-2024 passed with several amendments. State officers and board members were elected. Alice Bartelt, who has been Action Team Chair for years, will serve as president of the LWVOR board for 2023-2025. Rebecca Gladstone, who has served as president of LWVOR for the past four years, will serve as second Vice-President and Action Chair for 2023-2025.

The proposed study about Oregon’s Recall process passed. Work will begin to write the study material for local Leagues to use considering a consensus for the Oregon League to establish a position regarding the Recall Process. Also the proposed concurrence with LWV Maryland on the Oregon Primary System passed with a 2/3 majority. We will be hearing more about this.

Convention delegates and observers attended workshops and caucuses to learn more about Climate Change, the First Amendment, initiatives including the petition drive regarding redistricting, Home Owners Association issues and Parliamentary Information.

Six of the new LWVOR Youth Council members led a Youth Engagement workshop on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), OSME (Oregon Student Mock Elections) and young voter outreach in Oregon for local Leagues to a packed room. These youth were very impressive and actively engaging with OSME and LWVOR.

### **New Study Updates Adopted:**

The update on Caring for our Children and the expansion of the 1988 LWVOR study was adopted on Jan.23, 2023.

The Elections Methods Informational Update was adopted on Feb. 10, 2023.

A new position on Pesticides and Other Biocides from the Study adopted in 2021 was adopted on Jan. 19, 2023.

Users of Vote411, the primary candidate information source that LWVOR provides, were about 31,000 in 2022. That amounts to slightly over 1 percent of registered voters, a number we would like to increase.

And you can read more here from the Convention minutes also attached to this email.

**Footnote:** We learned on Sept. 7 that Alice Bartelt passed away suddenly unexpectedly. She is a great loss and was a wonderful advocate for many groups including the League.

## A Glance Back – The Annual Meeting 5/23/23

The LWV Umpqua Valley Annual Meeting was held on May 23, 2023 at Sherry and Jay Couron’s bed and breakfast, the CH Bailey House, at 5:30 to 8PM. About 40 members attended.

The food was delicious, and there were many compliments on Sherry and Nancy’s wonderful table decorations and flowers. The evening went very well, and people seemed to enjoy themselves and each other. The annual meeting is always a great time to meet and reconnect with like-minded folks we don’t often see.

After the dinner of roast beef, Italian chicken, or vegetarian lasagna, and cheesecake for dessert, Barbara Klein, Action Chair of the Rogue Valley League, spoke to the group about voting method Ranked Choice Voting.

According to LWVOR study reports, Rank Choice Voting is one of the best methods for leading to more reflective outcomes and improving elected representation. It also has proven success having been used or adopted in over 60 jurisdictions across the U.S., including four in our own state.

The meeting was then called to order by president Robin Wisdom who presented the budget for 2023-2024, proposed bylaws changes, proposed program, and slate of officers for 2024-2026.

### **Proposed Budget**

The proposed budget for 2023-2024 was included in the annual meeting program that was mailed to each household. After some discussion, the budget was approved unanimously.

### **Proposed Program**

Beverly Paulson made a motion to approve the following program. Jenny Carloni seconded the motion.

“The LWVUV board recommends retaining all current LWVUS positions and continues to support the LWVUS Campaign for Making Democracy Work . We will work to promote civil discourse and informed voter participation.” The motion passed unanimously.

### **Proposed Slate of Officers**

A nominating committee report was given by Ann Fasig for 2024-2026. Thanks go to all who helped with that process and for volunteering to be on the board.

### **Proposed Bylaws Changes**

We discussed the formation of an Executive Committee. The board of directors recommended we develop an Executive Committee mainly because we are unable to find anyone willing to act as President or Vice-President. The everyone on the current board has volunteered to become the new Executive Committee, and therefore, proposed a number of changes to the bylaws.

The new Executive Committee met to discuss what the change would mean. A number of chores were listed and committee members (also board members) cheerfully volunteered to take on a number of tasks. A question was asked as to whether an executive committee had been used in



Barbara Klein, RCV speaker at our annual meeting

other Leagues. Robin knew of two. Diana Wales brought up the need for an officer's signature on non-profit annual report documents. Stacey McLaughlin said that the BOD was prepared to, and could appoint a member of the executive committee to fill that role. The motion passed unanimously.

Thank you to Nancy Farris and Sherry Couron for making all the arrangements for a well-planned event. There were other volunteers too, so thank you to you as well. This was the second year in a row that Sherry and Jay shared their lovely setting with us. We thank you sincerely for your generosity and hosting our group.

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### **RECAP: Annual Board Retreat 2023**



In the spirit of “retreat,” the Board of Directors met at the home of board member Jenny Carloni and enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch along the beautiful Umpqua River on August 3rd. The meeting was facilitated by Stacey McLaughlin who prepared the agenda and led teambuilding activities as the Board got into the nitty gritty planning process for the 2023/2024 program year.

The Board used the following guidelines to move through the agenda:

1) To be aware of personal intentions; 2) Clarify any assumptions; 3) Speak with integrity; 4) Do their individual best; 5) Take care of self and each other and, 6) to operate from a place of love. It was noted that we speak often of hate and rarely of love in public settings and going forward that will be a charge to the League.

In examining the upcoming year, through a fun small group process the Board built consensus around a Mission Statement to move the League toward the 2024 election cycle. They kept it sweet and simple and will be working hard to fulfill the mission ***“to inform voters and inspire people to vote.”***

The Board also developed a theme for the year to help inform programming and provide leadership direction. The Theme's intent is to enthuse members *and* the community to find ways to work together better and enhance civic life in Douglas County.

The Board also discussed a decision-making process for the new executive committee leadership structure and worked through other essential housekeeping matters.



Projects and topics for study and programming included development of a signature event, living room conversations – Let's Talk, voter registration, membership development, the garden tour, civic education, youth outreach, redistricting, ranked choice voting, houseless and homeless issues, and education around the Winchester Dam controversy. The second half of the retreat/planning meeting will be held in December with a focus on fundraising, budgeting, and committee succession planning.

The Board agreed to continue meeting monthly via Zoom with occasional meetings in person. The Board meetings will be held on the Second Thursday of each month beginning at 11:00, ending at 12:30. General membership meetings will be held on the Third Tuesday with meeting topics, times, and locations to be announced in advance of the meeting.

From left to right: Ann Fasig, Dori Jacob, Robin Wisdom, Nancy Farris, Jenny Carloni, Julee Wright, Stacey McLaughlin, Connie Page, Sherry Couron and Elaine Brady\*.



\*Elaine Brady has since resigned From the Board of Directors.

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## **Our Sept. 19, 2023 LWVUV General Meeting was held at the Roseburg Public Library in the South Umpqua Room.**

Jared Cordon, RPS Superintendent, gave an excellent presentation. And we gained a new member, Anne Kubisch. If you don't know Anne, here's a link you may enjoy, <https://www.tfff.org/anne-kubisch-to-retire-from-the-ford-family-foundation/>. Also, I read online that she holds degrees from both Tufts and Princeton. How can we find a good niche for her and benefit from her many talents?

We received donations of \$40, (thanks, Ann) and sold one mug for \$5. Only about 12 people attended, several of them our board members.

Submitted by Jenny Carloni

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## **Looking Forward – Live, In-Person, Upcoming LWVOR Events (some will have hybrid, virtual options, too)**

### **October 7, Fall Workshop**

Be inspired by League members from around the state!

Discover an amazing tool for civic engagement called Outreach Circle.

Learn tips from LWVOR's Youth Council about Youth Voter Outreach.

Attend the **LWVOR's Fall Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10:00-2:00 in Eugene** at Campbell

Community Center, 155 High Street. Theme: “Preparing for the 2024 Elections.” Lunch is provided, carpooling is an option, and our League will pay your admission cost. Call Jenny Carloni soon at 541-672-1914 if you’d like to attend.

### **November 7, Legislative Process Day –**

In Salem at the State Library 250 Winter St NE, Salem, OR 97301, USA - 10AM TO 1PM

### **January 19, 2024 Youth Voter Summit –**

A virtual event - This hybrid event will take place in Salem and online on January 19, 2024 at 10AM. Event details TBD.

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## **Oregon 2024 Ballot Measures (source: Ballotpedia)**

As of September 24, 2023, **three statewide ballot measures** were certified for the [2024 ballot](#) in the state of [Oregon](#).

### **Highlights**

- Oregon will be the fifth state to decide on a [ranked-choice voting](#) ballot measure after the state legislature voted to refer an amendment authorizing its use to the ballot.
- Oregon has the only state legislature that cannot impeach state executive officials. The [state legislature](#) voted to send an amendment to voters that would authorize the impeachment process during the 2023 legislative session.
- The legislature voted to send a constitutional amendment to the ballot to establish an Independent Public Service Compensation Commission to determine certain public officials' salaries.

### **On the ballot**

Type	Title	Description
<a href="#">LRCA</a>	<a href="#">Impeachment of Elected State Executives Amendment</a>	Allow the Legislature to impeach elected state executives
<a href="#">LRCA</a>	<a href="#">Independent Public Service Compensation Commission Amendment</a>	Establish the Independent Public Service Compensation Commission to determine certain public officials' salaries
<a href="#">LRSS</a>	<a href="#">Ranked-Choice Voting for Federal and State Elections Measure</a>	Establish ranked-choice voting for federal and state offices

At least 45 other potential ballot measures are in the signature gathering phase. LWV of Oregon has come out in support of two, IP 9 and IP 14. Remember, the League does advise you to “Think Before You Ink”. If you decide that you are in support of these two measures, go to LWVOR’s website to find out how you can sign the petitions. The process will require you to download a form, print it and sign it, and mail it in.

### **IP 9, Official Ballot Title**

Limits campaign contributions; political advertisements identify largest contributors; campaigns disclose true funding sources; other provisions

### **IP 14, Official Ballot Title**

Amends Constitution: Repeals legislature’s redistricting process; creates redistricting commission; equal number Democrats, Republicans, others; requires 2025 redistricting

This year is not a general election year, but each year elections happen. Ballot measures are proposed each year. You can check with the Douglas County Elections website for more information at <https://douglascountyor.gov/178/Elections>. We will ramp up our coverage in 2024.

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## **Redistricting**

[PeopleNotPoliticians](#) (PNP) is a growing, diverse coalition of Oregonians from all parties and all walks of life, who believe that politicians are letting us down. Your signature will help put Initiative Petition 14 on the November 2024 ballot, so Oregonians can stop partisan gerrymandering once and for all.

Robin Wisdom has agreed with the state League to be the point person for the collection of signatures in Douglas County so that IP14 can be included on November’s general election ballot. Robin will send out email messages regarding times and places for volunteers to meet to collect signatures. 150,000 signatures from around the state are needed. Please keep an eye out and join in to help with this important matter. Contact Robin for more information. Email her at [info@lwwv.org](mailto:info@lwwv.org) or call her at 541-672-6982 for more information.



[Link to the text of the IP14 petition.](#)

[Link to the PNP website.](#) From here you can download petition forms. Be sure to read all of the instructions before collecting signatures.

The meaning of redistricting and more on our website: <https://lwwv.org/program/redistricting-matters/>





## GARDEN TOUR UPDATE

Nancy Farris



I'm happy to report that five enthusiastic gardeners have volunteered to share their gardens with us for the 2024 garden tour! It will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024, Garden Valley area.

### What is the Garden Tour?

For new LWVUV members or those who have never attended, the tour is a one day, self-guided tour from 10AM to 5PM. The ticket includes a photo and short description of each garden, as well as a map and written directions.



### Garden Selection

We like to have tours lined up at least one year in advance. Thanks to those of you who have emailed me with ideas and recommendations of potential gardens! *Please keep them coming!*

Members of the Garden Tour Committee arrange for an initial visit to a potential garden. We take photos, make assessments, and then take this information back to the entire committee for consensus. If you have a garden suggestion, please contact me. [nfarris73@icloud.com](mailto:nfarris73@icloud.com) / 541 643 8113 (text or call)

Gardens are selected based on:

- location
- accessibility
- parking options

 All gardens are in progress  
all gardens are unique  
no garden is perfect 

Gardens need not be:

- any particular size
- any certain style
- blooming at the time of the tour



## What We're Reading

One of the interests Board Members share is what they're reading so we thought we would pass along some of the interesting and good reads with all of our members as well. If you have an attention-grabbing read and want others to know please send along a brief description to [info@lwwuv.org](mailto:info@lwwuv.org).

### Non-Fiction

**Solito** by **Javier Zamora** who was born in El Salvador in 1990. His father fled the country when he was one, and his mother when he was about to turn five. Both parents' migrations were caused by the U.S.-funded Salvadoran Civil War. When he was nine Javier migrated through Guatemala, Mexico, and the Sonoran Desert. ~ *Connie Page*

**Breath** by **James Nestor**. No matter what you eat, how much you exercise, how skinny or young or wise you are, none of it matters if you're not breathing properly. Journalist James Nestor travels the

world to figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. ~ *Stacey McLaughlin*

**The Rise of Wolf 8** by **Rick McIntyre**. Yellowstone National Park was once home to an abundance of wild wolves—but park rangers killed the last of their kind in the 1920s. Decades later, the rangers brought them back, with the first wolves arriving from Canada in 1995. This is the incredible true story of one of those wolves. ~ *Robin Wisdom*

### **Fiction**

**The Martian** by **Andy Weir**. Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he’s sure he’ll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he’s alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. ~ *Julee Wright*

**The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell** by **Robert Dugoni**. Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called “Devil Boy” or Sam “Hell” by his classmates; “God’s will” is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother’s devout faith, his father’s practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends. ~ *Sherry Couron*

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## **LWV Umpqua Valley’s Executive Committee & Board of Directors 2023-2024**

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Our new mission statement - *To inform voters and inspire people to vote.*”