Thursday February 14, 2019

11:30am-1:30pm

OEA Building 2495 S. Pacific Highway

Who has Permission to be Angry?

The League has a position on Civil Discourse, but how should we use it? With a reputation for orderly and courteous candidate forums, can the League translate that practice into other public forums? We will discuss that topic and demonstrate methods in Civil Discourse at our Valentines Day General Meeting is for members and their guests.

[See recommendations of readings from League members on this topic on p. 3.]
President’s Pen January 2019

The subject of our next general meeting will be about Civil Discourse. Perhaps since the subject has been on my mind, I am finding that almost daily this is the topic of some news segment. While online looking for definitions for civil discourse and civility endless sites pop up. TED talks, interviews, panel discussions, papers, etc. – all on civil discourse and civility. Many, many organizations formed to address the topic. There is even an institute on civil discourse. My question is – does all this information/action lead to the desired outcome? Are we missing something?

So, on Thursday, February 14th (perfect day for this topic), come prepared to discuss (respectfully!) what all this means in today’s world and are we on the right track. See you then.

—Jackie Clary

Womens March 2019 in Medford: League Members Carol Ingelson, Bonnie Johnson, Barbara Klein, Bill Walsh in the rain. Thank you for your fortitude and persistence.
January 2019  Former Democratic Oregon House candidate Michelle Blum Atkinson has a civil conversation with Republican Congressman Greg Walden about Affordable Housing. Some members of the audience booed when Rep. Walden entered the stage, before he had started speaking. No signs were allowed at the Townhall.

The question I wanted to ask Rep. Greg Walden........

I put my name in the lottery along with many others at the Townhall on Jan. 18 in Medford. I was not prepared to make a statement on behalf of the League—as Leaguers know, the League President speaks for the League unless special delegation arranged are made. But I did want to ask Representative Walden his opinion on H. R. 1 “For the People.” With 226 co-sponsors, the measure is a wish-list for the League of Women Voters. It is wholesale election reform: “To expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes.”

How could any politician be against it? What possible argument could be advanced? Well, actually there is plenty of opposition, but the National League is asking for grassroots support for this important legislative initiative. Call Representative Greg Walden (541) 776-4646 or email at https://walden.house.gov/contact-greg/email-me [copy and paste into browser] and ask for his support for H.R. 1—better yet, he could join the other three Oregon congressional representatives in sponsoring the measure!  —K. Donham

Recommendations from LWVRV members on the subject of Civil Discourse:


A Historical Role Just for YOU

Want to play an important part in the League on one hand? But don’t want to speak public on issues, chair a study, organize an event, or lead an issue? There is still a vital role for you. We are looking for Observer Corps volunteers in most areas of our League community.

This is a traditional LWV function and an amazing way to learn the ins-and-outs of your municipality (city, town, county government or even school or library boards, etc). What does it mean? What does it entail?

Wearing a League pin, you attend meetings, either alone or with a League friend, and you simply ‘observe.’ Later you report back to the League on what you observed (and it doesn’t have to be a long and detailed report). You might even do your monitoring virtually these days – from home watching legislative or citywide streamed services. [Although, truly nothing is quite like being there, being seen, and meeting officials in a comfortable situation by representing the LWV.]

That is about it In a nutshell. However, if you are uncertain, LWVRV has guidelines for Observers – how to act, what to do, what to report.

Currently, we don’t have an Observer Corps coordinator, but in the meantime, if you are interested contact Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action Chair, at drbarbaraklein@120years.com. While your main mission would be to keep Leaguers educated on local issues and happenings, it can expand from there. Observers do not speak at meetings (unless asked a specific question) but they may bring back concerns, ideas or recommendations to the League board, which may lead to further action. Consider this traditional activity in a place of your choice and maybe with a teammate just to make it more fun, or to discuss observations with over coffee. We need you – and this may be just the ticket for your role in the LWVRV.

Redistricting Reform

Although there is no bill yet in the legislature, the Redistricting Matters Coalition has completed drafting a constitutional amendment, and it will be submitted to Legislative Counsel soon. In the meantime, the League has held 15 popular educational forums throughout the state and more are scheduled in January, February and March. If the legislature does not refer an amendment to the 2020 ballot, then discussions are underway for an initiative drive. The coalition represents Common Cause, LWVOR, and City Club of Portland. Yours help is needed! If any of these areas interest you, please contact Becky Gladstone, 541.510.9387, rebecca.gladstone@gmail.com.
Update on the Jordan Cove/ LNG pipeline

Jackson County Commissioners have made their position clear. They oppose the pipeline project and wrote a compelling letter to the Oregon Dept. of State Lands outlining their rationale. In a comprehensive and lucid document available for review at http://jacksoncountyor.org/Board-of-Commissioners/Home [copy & paste into browser], the County comes out as a strong voice against the project.

The LWVRV has joined with other local Leagues in opposing Jordan Cove and the pipeline with a joint letter. Many thanks to Donna Breedlove for giving the testimony on behalf of the League.

Nominating: Please offer to help Judith

Please consider being part of the Nominating Committee. Do you know a League member that you think would be a good leader? The committee meets only long enough to produce a slate of leaders, then its job is done. It meets independently of the board and sets its own schedule. Contact Judith Benjamin if you think you can help.

A scholarship to the 2019 Oregon Non-profit Leaders Conference at the Ashland Hills Hotel April 15-16 to a member who joins the Nominating Committee and/or takes a position as a new board member for League.
In memoriam....... Connie Battaile

Connie Battaile of Portland was a retired librarian, botany and geology enthusiast, mother of two, and grandmother of two. She was born in 1936 in Elkins, West Virginia, to Howard Hopkins and Margaret Fowler Hopkins. She was raised in Waldport, Oregon where her father was the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger. She attended Oregon State College and the University of Oregon (BA in Psychology 1957).

She met Julian while an undergraduate. They married in 1958 and eventually settled in Ashland in 1962 where he joined the faculty of the Southern Oregon College (now SOU) Chemistry department. She became active in a variety of public service and policy organizations, serving as president of the League of Women Voters during a successful effort to update the city charter, the Ashland Citizens Budget Committee, and the Jackson County Planning Commission. She received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Hawaii in 1976 and worked as a librarian at the Medford Public Library, Southern Oregon State College (now SOU) library, and Colgate University library (Hamilton, NY), retiring from the latter.

Connie authored two books: Circulation Services in a Small Academic Library, and The Oregon Book: Information A to Z. Based on her research for The Oregon Book, she became a Chautauqua speaker for the Oregon Council for the Humanities (2007-2009). Her talk, "Outside of Ordinary Oregon", focused on little-known events in the state's history such as the Stumbo Strip and the Copperfield Affair.

During this time she became a Hospice volunteer, and subsequently developed and taught classes for the Oregon Lifelong Learning Institute at SOU on "Final Arrangements": making the legal and organizational preparations for dying. Memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon Community Foundation.

Thanks to Susan Rust and Vanya Sloan for this submission.
Announcements

- Consensus meeting Feb. 2 Saturday 1pm in Medford at Bill Mansfield’s home 3306 Edgewater St. is reviewing the Update to the Local Government Study.

- The State Convention will be in Ashland this spring May 16 -19. Call Kate Culberson if you would like to be involved in the preparations.

- A free scholarship to the excellent Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference at Ashland Hotel April 15-16 to any member who joins the nominating committee/or for a new leadership position.

Please consider being part of the Nominating Committee. Do you know a League member that you think would be a good leader? The committee meets only long enough to produce a slate of leaders, then its job is done. It meets independently of the board and sets its own schedule. Contact Judith Benjamin if you think you can help.

Contacts: Please check your directory for phone numbers and emails.

The Membership Committee is now a team of four. Use your directory to notify Lorraine Werblow, Debra Har, Judith Kurinsky, or Iris Milan for questions. Dues are collected on your anniversary dates, which we plan to print on the address label of your newsletter (if you still get a paper copy).

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, maybe you don’t need a mailed paper copy. Call the newsletter at 541-772-5044 if you would prefer not to get the newsletter by U.S. Mail, or leave a note at KDonham@gmail.com.

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_____________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00    Spouse/student—$32.50

May we publish your information in the LWVRV Directory? Y   N

Send check /application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford OR  97501

Would you like a phone call reminder about meetings? Yes No

Areas of Interest:
◊ Land Use Issues    ◊ Local Government
◊ Education    ◊ Children at Risk
◊ Election Issues    ◊ Climate Change
◊ Transportation    ◊ National Issues
◊ Observer Corps    ◊ Voters Service
◊ Healthcare Issues    ◊ Environment
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2 Consensus Mtg Medford

Who has permission to be Angry? OEA Bldg 11:30 am

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League of Women Voters