

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
ASHLAND  
ADVOCATE eNews  
JANUARY 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
MEMBERSHIP DUES  
LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING  
LEGISLATOR INTERVIEWS  
THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN ASHLAND  
FUNDRAISERS  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
CALENDAR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Year begins! As I look out my window onto the snow covered hills, I am once again so grateful to live in the Ashland and the Rogue Valley. I know I am lucky to live in a community where people support civic engagement in public policy and hold their officials accountable. Since moving to Ashland I have been lucky enough to have the time to serve my community in ways that I never imagined. I have greatly enjoy the work I do with the League; trips to Salem for Legislative Process Day, trips to workshops in Eugene learning about how our League works, moderating Election Forums and getting to know people from our community who have made the decision to run for elected office, trips to state Conventions and Councils to vote for changes at the state League level, getting to know members of Ashland's and Rogue Valley's Leagues and understanding what their civic priorities are and how they want to get involved, and more.

This coming year you will have many opportunities to get involved. Read below about some of the activities our League will be sponsoring.

Regina Ayars  
President  
League of Women Voters  
Ashland

**MEMBERSHIP DUES - We need your support**

Remember that our membership dues cover the period of May 2010 through April 2011. Our League payments to LWVOR and LWVUS are based on the number of members we have as of December 31. If you have not paid your dues yet you will be receiving a call from either Judith Benjamin or Regina Ayars. The League needs your support.

Single Membership	Family Membership	Student Membership
\$65.00	\$97.50	\$32.50

Scholarships based on financial need are available. We are especially interested in young people who want to develop their civic engagement with our community but can't afford our membership

dues. Just give Regina Ayars a call at 541-482-5019.

### LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY - January 13th

Join the state League and AAUW to hear from elected officials and actions leaders to learn about these important issues:

1. What is Oregon's legislative process?
2. What will our first official "annual session" look like?
3. What does the new leadership look like?
4. How will the historic 30/30 tie in the House affect redistricting and the budgeting process?
5. How can the League and AAUW members have an impact on the budgetary decisions?

Last day to register is January 7th for just \$18 including lunch or \$11 without lunch.

### LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING - January 20th

Once a year, each local League gets the opportunity to review the state League's current programs and the chance to propose new studies. When reviewing current studies members can make the recommendation to retain, drop, update, or restudy programs. When proposing new studies, the following things should be kept in mind:

1. What are issues of statewide importance that are most critical in our community?
2. How can the LWVOR, along with our local League have greater visibility and credibility?
3. What issues of statewide importance will stir the imagination of our members and attract potential members?
4. What studies and education/advocacy projects would help our League to link with individuals and organizations representing different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities or other diverse groups that are underrepresented in the League?

This is a meeting that is open to ALL members and ALL members are encouraged to attend.

### LEGISLATOR INTERVIEWS

As the 2011 Legislative Session begins, it's time once again to interview our local legislators; Peter Buckley and Alan Bates. The purpose of these interviews is two-fold. First, it gives you a valuable opportunity to personally meet with your legislators, develop relationships, and remind them of the League's interest in dealing with important local and statewide issues. In addition, these responses give the LWVOR Action Committee an initial idea of the legislator's thinking as they head in the session which better prepares us for our subsequent advocacy efforts.

Here are the four questions.

1. The Revenue Forecast has predicted a \$3.4 billion decrease in funds available for the 2011-2013 Legislative Budget. State agencies have slashed budgets in the current biennium to adjust for declining revenue during 2009-2011. What are your priorities? Where would you cut services in the state agencies? Would you support additional revenue sources? Would you favor sunsets of current tax credits?
2. The Governor has recommended a reset of priorities for state funded services. Which of the recommendations made by the Governor's Reset Cabinet would you support? Would you eliminate or restructure any of the state commissioners or

- departments?
3. How should redistricting be accomplished during this legislative session? Are you satisfied with the current process for redistricting?
  4. What do you see as the biggest concerns of your constituents this session? What are your plans for helping to resolve these issues?

We will be doing these interviews jointly with the Rogue Valley League. Call Regina Ayars if you want to participate.

#### THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN ASHLAND - February 17th

The Ashland League will be hosting a panel discussion on The State of Education in Ashland. We have invited key educational professionals to participate. Many of you may have seen the movie "Waiting for Superman" about the state of the educational system in the United States. We are fortunate in Ashland to have a community willing to support its children and their education but we still have limited resources. Come with your issues, concerns, and suggestions. Have lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Elks and stay for the panel discussion.

#### FUNDRAISERS

Our last two fundraisers for 2010 were tremendous successes. I am enjoying my oranges and grapefruits as I am sure the rest of you are. Also Carolyn Wilhite and I had a fun time at the Bill of Rights Day event on plaza on December 15th. I hope we decide to do it next year.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year we will be needing new officers; President, Treasurer, Secretary, Voter Services. Without new leadership with new ideas and energy, our League will not grow and serve our community. Contact Carol Voisin, committee chair, with your ideas about who among our members or in our community could make a difference by offering their leadership skills.

#### CALENDAR

Date	Time	Topic	Location
January 13	9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.	Legislative Process Day	Salem
January 20	10a.m.-12noon	Program Planning	Ashland Library
January 21	10a.m.-12noon	Board Meeting	Regina Ayars' home
February 17	11:30a.m.-1p.m.	Education Panel	Elks Club on Main Street
February 18	10a.m.-12noon	Board Meeting	Carolyn Wilhite's home