



Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

JANUARY 2023

Join us for our January General Meeting

When: January 17, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting will have two parts:

7:00-7:30: Program Planning: What's ahead for our League in 2023?

We want to briefly share some of our ideas and get your input on which issues you care about and the program formats you prefer. See article on interest groups on page 2.

7:30-8:15: An Update on Clackamas County's Hamlet and Village Program

Our speaker will be former LWVCC member Chris Roth, who helped the county set up the Hamlet and Village Program. The program was originally created in 2006 to allow residents of unincorporated communities to support each other and become more involved with county government. Click [here](#) to see the latest version of the Clackamas County Hamlets and Villages Ordinance.

RSVP to Nancy Murray, n.murray.01@hotmail.com. The Zoom link will be sent to you the morning of January 17.

Website & Technology

- In this New Year, you might wonder what our League is doing to keep democracy strong. Check out our website for the latest events and activities!
- Looking for a member phone number or address? You can find the most up-to-date Member Roster on our website under the Member tab on the black navigation bar.



We are excited to announce that our League has been approved to participate in the Google for Non-profits platform. It will give us greater flexibility and better tools to keep you all informed and to provide better outreach to the voters of Clackamas County.

Happy Birthday League!

Save the date, Saturday, February 11, for our celebration of the League of Women Voter's 103rd Birthday. Details will be sent later.

LWVCC Leaders

Executive Committee:

Marge Easley
Karan Kuntz
Linda Rinnan

Secretary:

Leslie Westphal

Treasurer: Nancy
Murray

Directors:

Action: Marge Easley and
Maureen Mader

Clackson: Karan Kuntz

Membership: Diana
DeMaria

Voter Service: Maureen
Mader

Website: Lynette Pierson

Linda Rinnan:
Communication

Sonja Kollias:
Administration

Off Board:

Nominating Committee:
Robina Ingram-Rich
Hilly Alexander

Unit Leaders:

Monday: Betty Barber
Wednesday: Mary O'Reilly
Thursday: Katie Lu
Friday: Lea Wells

<https://my.lwv.org/oregon/clackamas-county>

Interest Groups to Form

All of us who joined League have at least one issue and probably several that we care about. In all likelihood, League has a position on the topic. At this time between major elections, the Oregon Legislature meets for a long session, and Clackamas County continues its work with a newly comprised Board of Commissioners. This is an ideal time for League members to take advantage of the easy online accessibility of both state and county meetings and to get up to speed on an issue of your interest along with League colleagues.

Here are some possible state-level areas to observe and study:

- Strengthening democracy: campaign finance reform; voting methods; election security
- Natural Resources: climate action; forestry; resilient buildings; fossil fuel infrastructure; agriculture; land use; water
- Social Policy: Health care; women's issues; housing; homelessness; education; behavioral health services; immigration; criminal justice; gun safety
- Tax and Revenue Policy: infrastructure funding; funding for state or county services; transportation funding

Examples of county-level issues include:

- Behavioral and physical health
- Housing
- Land Use Planning
- Disaster Management
- Transportation

We are encouraging interest groups to form around a general topic and from there decide what they want to accomplish, and when and how to meet. Groups are free to pursue their interests as they choose. We hope this will lead to more visible engagement with and service to our community, a closer observation of our decisionmakers, and perhaps more formal advocacy by our local League in the future.

Our January 17 general meeting by Zoom will discuss these possibilities. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to voice your interest by contacting a board member (listed in your member directory) or by sending an email to LWVClackamas@LWVClackamas.org.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee will be reaching out to members in the next few weeks before they send their committee report to the Board in February.

Getting Ready for the 2023 Legislative Session

The LWVOR Action Committee has been hard at work getting ready for the upcoming session, which starts on January 17. Many of the Legislative Concepts (LCs) introduced during Legislative Committee Days in December will now take the form of bills and be assigned to various committees. The latest [LWVOR Legislative Report](#) gives an excellent summary of the December committee discussions in the areas of Climate Emergency, Education, Governance, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. If you didn't receive a copy of the Legislative Report in your inbox, now is the time to [subscribe](#). Also included in this issue of the Clackson is the two-page 2023 LWVOR Action Team Session Priorities.

In Memory of Sylvia Smith

Judy Umaki

Sadly, our 49-year long League member, Sylvia Smith, 89, passed away on December 5 after suffering a debilitating stroke several days earlier. Many of us had been at her home for a unit meeting just six weeks earlier, where she had graciously hosted us for years.

Sylvia served on our Board for many years in numerous capacities, especially Membership, and in those roles was wise, dignified and dependable. She was awarded the Carrie Chapman Catt Award in 2012 for her exceptional service to LWVCC. Her love of her large family and cheerful and optimistic spirit are what I will always remember.

Several of us attended Sylvia's memorial service where we had the pleasure of talking with her four (of 5) surviving children and grandson Jacob who lived with her and was such a help in her last years. They are a special group of interesting people, a tribute to Sylvia.

A Very Special Occasion When New Citizens Register to Vote

Laurie Davis

Nine hundred people from 80 different countries took the oath of citizenship and streamed out of the Oregon Convention Center auditorium on a blustery day in mid-December. Two of our members, Laurie Davis and Diana DeMaria were there to greet them. Surrounded by the bright eyes and laughter of new Americans, they worked closely with League members from Portland and Clark County to help these new citizens register to vote in Oregon and Washington.



Engaging new voters on the path to lifelong involvement in our democracy is our goal, and naturalization ceremonies provide key opportunities to get new citizens involved. The League's mission rests on the premise that civic participation is central to improving our government and shaping public policy. Consequently, we encourage all eligible citizens to register to vote.

Registering new voters can be both exciting and rewarding. LWVCC Members who would like to learn or participate in 2023 Voter Registration opportunities, please email Diana DeMaria at lwwccmembership@gmail.com.

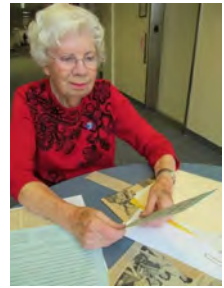
Fiscal year 2022 saw the third-highest annual tally of naturalized citizens in recorded U.S. history, and the Progress Report is a fascinating glimpse into the naturalization process. Click these links for more details:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-us-citizens-naturalizations-2022/>

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/reports/OPA_ProgressReport.pdf

LWVCC Member Spotlight: June Routson

Our very own June Routson, 95, just celebrated 60 years of membership in the League in 2022! Among the offices she held in the Milwaukie /East Clackamas League (known as MECCA) during the 1960s were board director, public relations chair, vice president and president from 1965 to 1967.



While a member of MECCA, she was responsible for helping to organize and host a series of town meetings and helped organize events such as the candidate's fair, including a particularly memorable year when Bob Straub and Tom McCall were both running for governor. She remained a staunch League member throughout the subsequent decades and helped guide the merger of MECCA with LWV West Clackamas County to form our current county-wide League.

In 2015, June was honored with the Carrie Chapman-Catt Award for outstanding service by the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County. This award was named in honor of Carrie Chapman-Catt, who founded the League in 1920, approximately six months before the passage of the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Today June keeps the award certificate on her shelf at the memory care facility where she resides, having suffered a stroke and ill health in the summer of 2020.

Most recently she lived in the Lewelling neighborhood of Milwaukie after moving from the Redland area, where she served on the school board. Previously the family lived on Guilford Drive off Oatfield Road in Milwaukie for many years.

June made a difference in many communities in addition to her League service. She was chairman (also in the 1960s) of the Milwaukie Citizens Committee on Parks and Beautification; was active in the Ledding Friends of the Library; worked at the Pond House Used Bookstore; and worked with the Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program, a member-led club in Clackamas County that provided educational experiences. In more recent times, she was a 35-year member of the citizen Parks Advisory Board for Clackamas County and she helped raise funds for the Clackamas Community College Community Foundation, which still provides scholarships to students.

June was married to James J. Routson, an architect, for 48 years until his death in 1997, and raised three children in Milwaukie schools, where she was a dedicated PTA member: Joyce, Jerald and Jonathan Routson. Joyce has returned to Milwaukie to care for June after many years in the Bay Area, and if you would like to reach out to June, please email lwvccmembership@gmail.com for her contact information.

Welcome to Our New Members

A warm welcome to two new LWVCC Members: **Nancy Leavens** in Mary's Woods and **Inessa Spring** in Portland, who both joined our League in December 2022. Their email and contact information can be found in the Members Only section of our website www.lwvclackamas.org

New and Interested Member Orientation to League

7 pm on Zoom, Wednesday, January 25th

Join members of the Board for a friendly and informative League Orientation via Zoom at our orientation for new and interested members. Email Diana DeMaria, lwvccmembership@gmail.com, if you plan to attend. Expect your email link the morning of the meeting.

League of Women Voters End-of-Year Celebration of 2022

The year 2022 came to a wonderful close with a holiday-themed Champagne Brunch attended by over 50 members and their guests, including a two-year old future League member who attended with her mother and grandmother!

A lot of smiles were in the room as we heard about the incredible achievements in Voter Service, Action, amazing speaker programs attended from home by Zoom, and then when the year opened up to come together in person for Voter Registration, the June Patio Party and then a dedicated midterm election season.

The two winning 'Why Vote?' Y-ESSAY Contest winners, Abby Behrens and Nate Roland, both seniors from Colton High School, joined us, along with their families, to receive their \$500 awards in person.

Their winning entries can be read on our website or at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1njdiFVHL61Cns723GLKSdnoVFDaviI8P/view?usp=share_link

and

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OVMi34btFxxL7DxR2mba287qYHRr7Yi9/view?usp=share_link



Libby, Emily, and Rosie Abby and Nate Nancy Murray and Sonja Kollias

Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks 150th Anniversary Public Tribute

Saturday at 2 pm on January 21

January 2023 will see West Linn's Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, with heritage partners and friends, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Locks' opening with a month-long display of Locks images in the Community Room. A public tribute to the 150 years the canal has served river traffic on the Willamette will take place on Saturday, January 21, at 2pm.

The new Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks opened on New Year's Day, 1873, a long-awaited event that prompted what was probably the biggest public celebration since statehood, just 14 years before. Politicians and pundits, oligarchs and ordinary Oregonians alike applauded the navigational improvement that would greatly simplify river passage around the great falls of the Willamette at Oregon City. For more details, please contact LWVCC member Sandy Carter at sandy.carter@wordscount.biz.



The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) is a 103-year-old grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government for the common good across rural/urban and party divides. We promote respectful civil discourse. The League advocates on policy issues and never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. LWVOR Legislative Action is always based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. Please subscribe to our legislative newsletter at <https://www.lwvor.org/legislative-report>.

2023 LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM SESSION PRIORITIES

We work to protect democracy and our representative government. Our priority emphasis is on housing, health, safety, and providing safety net services to the most vulnerable. It is important to assure all workers have a safe environment with adequate pay to allow Oregon to also generate adequate revenue for essential services. Continued work on the climate emergency, on Oregon's water needs, and addressing homelessness and other underserved communities is integral to Oregon's future.

- **PROTECT DEMOCRACY** by supporting campaign finance reform statutes to implement the M 107 constitutional amendment. Advocate for an independent citizen redistricting commission as in IP 13 or 14. Expand automatic voter registration and fund up-to-date, efficient and secure election software that can support alternative voting methods.
- **SUPPORT STRATEGIES TO ASSURE HOUSING FOR ALL** by increasing investments in rental assistance, new affordable rental, and home ownership homes, permanent supportive housing, preserve existing affordable housing, and homeless shelters, navigation centers, and Project Turnkey operations.
- **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. Expand accessibility to behavioral health services focused on addiction and mental health treatment.
- **PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES** by seeking effective strategies to achieve a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system and to successfully implement gun safety laws and violence prevention programs.
- **ASSURE ADEQUATE REVENUE** for essential services while promoting equitable and progressive tax policy. Access federal funds for infrastructure and other Oregonians' needs.
- **ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY** by supporting 2017-2021 Carbon/Climate Executive Orders, net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050 while ensuring environmental justice with a just transition for workers and impacted communities.
- **SUPPORT STATEWIDE PLACE-BASED WATER PLANNING** to assure all Oregonians, aquatic creatures, agricultural economy and other businesses have abundant clean water in the future.

CONTACT LWVOR: Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President; Alice Bartelt, LWVOR Legislative Action Chair; Call our office at 503.581.5722; Or directly contact these portfolio chairs:

CLIMATE EMERGENCY, Claudia Keith, ca.keith@comcast.net

Volunteers include: Nancy Rosenberger, Shirley Weathers, Kathy Moyd, and Josie Koehne

Advocates year round for a variety of agency rules, policies and budgets that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. (returning to < 350 CO2 PPM and < 1.5 Degree Celsius warming by 2100). LWVOR supports the Our Children's Trust/Crag Environmental Law Center state and federal lawsuits and we oppose expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.

GOVERNANCE, PROTECTING DEMOCRACY, Norman Turrill, nturrill@mac.com

Volunteers include: Cybersecurity and E- Portal Advisory Board rep: Becky Gladstone; Redistricting: Chris Cobey; Voting Methods: Barbara Klein; Election Issues: Tom Messenger

Governance issues including ethics, efficiency, citizen participation and access, public access law, and contemporary privacy and technology issues. Election policies include laws and administrative rules, campaign finance, redistricting, and alternative voting methods.

HUMAN SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, IMMIGRATION

Many volunteers work in this area. Contact them specifically to collaborate: Housing: Nancy Donovan and Debbie Aiona (nancy.donovan@icloud.com); Criminal Justice Reform and Gun Safety: Marge Easley (marge.easley@frontier.com); Behavioral Health and related Public Safety issues: Karen Nibler (niblerk@comcast.net); Health Care: Christa Danielson, MD (chrdan@comcast.net); Women's Issues and Death Penalty Repeal: Alice Bartelt (alicebartelt@comcast.net); Immigration, Refugees, and other Basic Rights: Claudia Keith (ca.keith@comcast.net).

The broad Social Policy area includes: housing, adult corrections, judiciary, juvenile justice, public safety, gun safety, violence preventions, health care, mental health, immigration and refugees, foster care, social services, and women's issues. Actively lobbies for anti-poverty programs to help low income and at-risk people move toward financial stability.

NATURAL RESOURCES, Peggy Lynch, peggylynchor@gmail.com

Volunteers include: Air Quality, Climate Change & Clean Energy: Kathy Moyd; Columbia River Treaty: Phillip Thor Coastal Issues, Christine Moffitt; Drinking-Water Advisory Committee Representative: Amelia Nestler; Hanford Cleanup Board Representative/Nuclear Waste: Marylou Schnoes; Northwest Energy Coalition Representative: Robin Tokmakian; Radioactive Waste: Shirley Weathers; Land Use/Housing, Water and Natural Resource Agency Budgets: Peggy Lynch

Works year-round on improving air quality, combating climate change, coastal management, clean energy, proper disposal of hazardous materials and solid waste, conservation, land use, parks, clean and abundant water supply for all, wetlands protection and other resource preservation, and budgets related to Oregon's 14 natural resource agencies.

EDUCATION, Anne Nesse, annenessevolunteerlwvor@gmail.com

Follows student success, early learning, career technical programs (CTE), PK-12 and higher education. We advocate minimizing barriers impacting education for children at risk or historically underserved and underachieving youth. We advocate for best mental health practices for teachers and students in an ever- changing environment.

ACCESS, Paula Krane, kranep@peak.org

We work and advocate to make sure that the public/citizens have access to the process (at all levels).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Clackamas County
PO Box 411
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
lwwclackamas@lwwclackamas.org
www.lwwclackamas.org,
<https://my.lww.org/oregon/clackamas-county>

Join the League of Women Voters of Clackamas County!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- I am a new member!
- I am renewing my membership.
- This is a gift membership. (Please provide the recipient's contact information above.)
- I am interested in volunteering for the League. Please contact me.

Annual dues: \$70 Individual. \$105 Household. Full-time student attending an accredited institution or adult under age 25 free! Membership grants are available. Pay online (<https://my.lww.org/oregon/clackamas>) or mail this form. Please make checks payable to LWVCC, PO Box 411, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Membership dues are now tax deductible.