

# LWV Clackson Voter



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2023



**Fall Kickoff Program:  
The Free Press and Survival of Democracy  
Speaker: Les Zaitz**

**Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm**

**Lakewood Center for the Arts**

**368 S. State St., Lake Oswego**

**Member Dinner RSVP for 6:00 pm**

**By Leslie Westphal, [program@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:program@lwvclackamas.org)  
Hilly Alexander & Betty Janes, [socials@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:socials@lwvclackamas.org)**

We are excited to welcome veteran editor and investigative reporter, Les Zaitz. He reported for the Oregonian for 25 years, owns several community newspapers and a digital news service. He is a national Society of Professional Journalists fellow, two-time Pulitzer finalist, including for a lengthy investigation of Mexican drug cartels in Oregon and a five-time winner of Oregon's top investigative reporting award. Les has investigated corrupt state legislators, fraudulent charities, and Rajneeshpuram, to name just a few. He has been active in reforming the state's public records law and was appointed by Governor Brown to the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council. Les was a featured speaker at the League of Women Voters of Oregon Convention in June 2023. Please join us for the riveting 7:00pm presentation on the importance of a vibrant free press in the preservation of a democracy. Bring your friends and questions for lively Q&A!

**RSVP FOR THE 6:00pm MEMBER AND GUEST DINNER BY SEPTEMBER 9th, 2023**

to [socials@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:socials@lwvclackamas.org) or call Betty Janes at 970-560-2364: Doors open at 5:30pm to pay \$20 at the door; cash or check (membership dues to renew are always welcome!).

*Need a Ride? Transportation is always available via our League volunteers! Call Diana DeMaria at 503-319-8601 to arrange.*



### **Member Spotlight on Carolyn Robb**

**By Diana DeMaria, [membership@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:membership@lwvclackamas.org)**

Carolyn Atlee was born in Dallas, Texas, the oldest of three. She met Hank Robb in a study hall at Highland Park High School, where he left his books on her desk. She was one grade ahead due to birthdays, but he was so sweet AND drove a Cadillac, she accepted his offer of a ride. They dated through college, and Carolyn earned her BA in Psychology from Austin College, named after

Steven F. Austin, a founder of the Republic of Texas. The campus is located near the Oklahoma border so thirsty students with cars could cross the state line to buy beer (their county was dry). Adventurous souls would ride the slowly moving arms of nearby rural drill rigs.

While Hank finished at Westminster College with plans for graduate school in Missouri, Carolyn entered a social work program at University of Texas and in October of 1968, they married and returned home from the ceremony to find his draft notice the same day. He left immediately for boot camp and trained as a Navy Corpsman while she received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland in 1970. The Navy ran out of money before his ship date so he stayed in Long Beach for two years where Carolyn joined him. Carolyn worked in many settings following Hank to various Naval Stations, graduate school and then his first job at Lewis & Clark State College, Long Beach with Catholic Social Services, Lincoln in the Nebraska State Hospital, Lewiston in the Adult Child Development Center, and Oregon, where she worked at both Parrott Creek and Amedisys, a home health agency where she drove through the lovely rural roads of Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties to see patients.

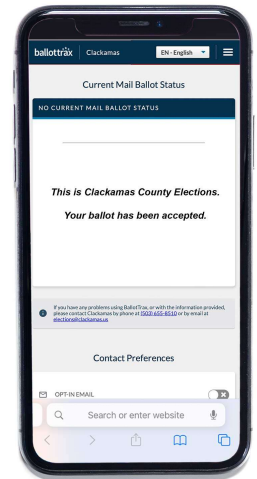
While in Lewiston, Carolyn became a member of League of Women Voters in the summer of 1978. She was eager to join the organization that presented the first presidential debates (which she thought was genius). Still working, she tired of variations on a clinical MSW theme and became interested in investments so she decided to get her MBA from Washington State University and graduated in December 1985. She served as League secretary, chaired membership and fundraising, and was editor of the newsletter. She remembers lots of fun talk while registering voters seated at a card table outside the Lake Oswego Safeway. She had to decline the position of President in both Leagues as raising children, going to school, and working at various times kept her busy, especially when she coordinated graduation events and chaired fundraising auctions for Lake Oswego schools. Her hobbies include art, travel, petit point, gardening, reading, and baking. Carolyn really appreciates the interesting people she

meets in League, enjoying the projects that always bring good conversation, and is celebrating her **45th** year with League of Women Voters in 2023.

Hank continues a small active practice as a psychologist, daughter Katherine is a former attorney and now a published writer in New York City and daughter Elizabeth is a doctor practicing family medicine in Corvallis.

## Clackamas County Corner

Sign up online for **Track Your Ballot**, a new service free for the voter. Trust your votes count with simple and secure mailed ballot tracking! Know where your ballot is in the voting process - from mailed to accepted. As a Clackamas County voter, you can sign up to receive alerts via text, phone or email. Know when your ballot is mailed out, and be alerted when it has been accepted for counting. Your vote remains anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please call Clackamas County Elections at 503-655-8510 or email [elections@clackamas.us](mailto:elections@clackamas.us).



**Clackamas County Town Hall**  
**West Linn Public Library Community Room**  
**1595 Burns Street, West Linn, OR 97068**

**Wednesday, September 20th, 2023**  
**5:00 - 6:00 pm**

**District 19 and Oregon Senate President Rob Wagner**  
**District 37 Representative Jules Walters**  
**Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck**  
**West Linn Mayor Rory Bialostosky**

## #ClackCo PublicAlerts

### Wildfire Preparation/Prevention Town Hall

By Diana DeMaria, Vice President

In the first virtual Town Hall event of 2023 on August 1st, Clackamas County residents were invited to learn about wildfire prevention and preparation. **Speakers included Clackamas County Disaster Management Interim Director Daniel Nibouar and the Board of County Commissioners. They discussed how our county has changed in the last three years as a region, what the county is doing in preparation for disaster and what residents can do.** View the recorded Virtual Town Hall at <https://youtu.be/higaL9SnKjU>, and see your evacuation map, Clackamas County resources, and sign up for Public Alerts at <https://www.clackamas.us/wildfires>.

## Sonja Kollias and Karan Kuntz 2023 Carrie Chapman Catt Awards

By Marge Easley, [action@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:action@lwvclackamas.org)  
and Nancy Murray, [treasurer@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvclackamas.org)

It took 52 years of struggle to pass the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which made it illegal to deny a person the right to vote based on gender. Carrie Chapman Catt is known for her dedication to this cause. Her brilliant organization skills and tireless writing and speaking efforts for more than 30 years of her 50-year public service career as “the brains of the woman suffrage movement” contributed to women all over America becoming eligible to cast a vote for the first time.



The League of Women Voters of Clackamas County bestows the Carrie Chapman Catt Award when a longtime member has made extraordinary and significant contributions to our League and their community, and in 2023, we had the honor of bestowing two!

**Karan Kuntz** served as our Clackson Voter newsletter editor for 17 years, 2006-2023, with many, many years of dedicated board service. She launched and managed our League website from 2003-2021. In addition, Karan edited the state League newsletter for several years before joining the state board for eight years. There she also served as their program director as well as member of the Judiciary, Coastal, and Higher Education study committees. She edited every member material and advocated for printed copies for League members to increase participation.

**Sonja Kollias** has been one of the mainstays of our local League since 1977. Over the years she’s done just about every job the League has to offer: unit leader, study committee member, secretary, observer corps chair, program chair, voter service chair. She coordinated an ABCs of Campaigning Workshop, led our grapefruit sales, served on three nominating committees and a bylaws committee, and headed a 6-member team to create library displays for our League’s centennial celebration. In addition to creating our Annual Meeting booklets and being guardian of our League’s historical documents, she is singularly responsible for the successful application to the IRS for our League’s nonprofit status.

## FISCAL YEAR BEGAN JULY 1: RENEW ANNUAL DUES

By Diana DeMaria, [membership@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:membership@lwvclackamas.org)



Join us for an exciting year educating and informing voters ahead of the spring 2024 Primary Election and the fall 2024 General Election! Every dollar of your dues and donations are tax-deductible and support League priorities. [RENEW](#) and [DONATE](#) online at [www.lwvclackamas.org](http://www.lwvclackamas.org), send in the form on the back page of this newsletter, or better yet, bring to Fall Kickoff in person. **We thank you for your involvement making a real difference to serve Clackamas County as a trusted nonpartisan resource.**

## Recall Study Team for Interested Members

**Marge Easley, [action@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:action@lwvclackamas.org) and Mary Jensen, [localaction@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:localaction@lwvclackamas.org)**

2023 LWVOR Convention delegates voted to undertake a study on recall elections. LWV of Lane County proposed the two-year project, and now works with LWVOR support and resources.

*Why do we want to study recall elections?*

- A recall election enables voters to remove an elected official from office through a referendum before the official's term of office has ended. LWV Oregon supports the recall process as provided in the Oregon Constitution. However, the studies leading to our position on *Initiative, Referendum and Recall* (Adopted 1988; Revised 1996; Educational Update 2001) did not specifically examine the recall process itself. This means we are not able to weigh in on whether or not the process is working as it should.
- The state-mandated timeline for recall elections has implications for voter education and turnout, which directly ties into the League goal of protecting and expanding voting rights to ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.

*How will we work on this issue?*

There will be small tasks and larger ones, including:

- Research relevant League positions and actions in Oregon and across the country
- Research the history of recall in Oregon.
- Survey articles and research by legal and policy organizations focused on democratic processes.
- Interview election officials and topic experts.
- Discuss and learn with League colleagues. Synthesize, write, and edit results.

We hope you will consider joining the folks below, and they will help you find a right-sized task.

Becoming part of a study committee is a great way to learn about an issue, gain a better understanding of League process, and make a positive difference. Contact Keli below to join the team.

Alice LaViolette, LWV Marion/Polk, [aklaviolette@comcast.net](mailto:aklaviolette@comcast.net)

Rhonda Livesay, LWV Lane County, [technologydir@lwvlc.org](mailto:technologydir@lwvlc.org)

Linda Lynch, LWV Lane County, [lindalynch28@gmail.com](mailto:lindalynch28@gmail.com)

Keli Osborn, LWV Lane County, [kelimosborn@gmail.com](mailto:kelimosborn@gmail.com)

## LWV Clackamas First Wednesdays: League News and Resources Zoom

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**By Diana DeMaria, [membership@lwvclackamas.org](mailto:membership@lwvclackamas.org)**

Join us any first Wednesday evening at 7pm for LWV of Clackamas County members to get updated League news and events at the local, state and national level, meet Board members and Portfolio Chairs and bring all your questions to the resource and opportunity Q&A in every session! Meeting ID 892 8392 7764 Passcode HAPPY or Zoom Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89283927764?pwd=NFZCK3RubjVJbjQwQWJlc2tpM0lHQQT09>

## Making A Difference in Clackamas County and Oregon

By Maureen Mader, [voterservice@lwwvclackamas.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwvclackamas.org)

**#1** Contact Maureen at the email above if you can help Coordinate Petition Signatures for State Initiatives with training provided and NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED to collaborate for the LWVOR-endorsed:

- **INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION** on Initiative Petition 14 (IP 14) <https://www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-ip14/>
- **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM** on Initiative Petition 9 (IP 9) <https://www.honest-elections.com/>

Coordinator helpers can do any or all of the following:

- Identify county events or sites for effective signature gathering, such as fairs, markets, parades, etc.
- Navigate the websites and guide volunteers to sources of supplies for the campaign(s)
- Coordinate volunteers for petition training as needed
- Organize volunteers to recruit other signature-gatherers around our county

**#2** Voter Service at the state LWVOR level is being job shared in a team approach!

Call Susan Cobb at 541-400-8312 to discuss any questions about creating the right-size task for you.

What's involved to step up to learn these two positions? Check out these three defining documents:

### VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

- VS Chair focuses solely on a given election cycle:

### VOTER SERVICE ROLES (all report to VS Chair)

- Vote411:
- Voter Guide Lead:
- State Ballot Measures Research (SBMR) Lead:

[LWVOR VS org 232708](#)

[VS Chair Pos Desc 231002.docx](#)

Open

[VS Roles Responsibilities 231002.xlsx](#)

Open

Marianne Germond

Peggy Bengry



### In Memoriam: Norma Jean Germond 1929-2023

By Libby Medley, Secretary, [info@lwwvclackamas.org](mailto:info@lwwvclackamas.org)

LWVOR Oral History Project [https://youtu.be/IQOcCkNu0T8?si=NtrJOD0Yqk7PMw\\_I](https://youtu.be/IQOcCkNu0T8?si=NtrJOD0Yqk7PMw_I)

Norma Jean graduated magna cum laude from Montclair State Teachers College in New Jersey with a bachelor's degree in English and then taught in Ohio and NJ school systems. Looking for a way to impact the world around her, she joined and moved westward with the League of Women Voters (LWV) from Ithaca, NY through Evanston, IL to spend the rest of her life in Lake Oswego. Norma Jean built a relationship with

the League's voter education and advocacy platforms with a life-long interest in education, energy and natural resources which led to an invitation to become involved in an LWV of Oregon study to research and evaluate power sources, related air and water pollution control standards, siting of nuclear plants and the role of energy conservation. She was impressed with the knowledge and dedication of the League's members and the thoroughness of their study process, from gathering multiple viewpoints from

experts on the topic to the subsequent member presentation and consensus, eventually leading to the creation of a position from which to advocate for new laws. She joined the state Action Team to lobby the legislature, and quickly made an impression writing clear and persuasive testimony, resulting in her joining the state League board as their Environmental Quality Chair.

With the League's nonpartisan reputation, many governmental and business doors opened to her issue research, and she was appointed by Governor Tom McCall as a public representative to serve alongside the large energy producers NW Natural Gas and Pacific Power and Light, and energy users such as Georgia Pacific, on a nine-member Energy Advisory Committee to Oregon's Public Utility Commissioner. After a sudden resignation, Norma Jean was appointed to chair the committee which developed a comprehensive energy conservation plan, eventually leading to the formation of the Oregon Department of Energy. Meanwhile, Norma Jean accepted an opportunity to become more familiar with city and county issues as president of her local West Clackamas County League while she maintained her commitment to state and regional issues. In 1979, following this one local LWV term, she began the first of two terms serving as the president of the Oregon state League. The Columbia River Task Force, with two representatives from each of the state Leagues of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, was formed to address regional issues that affect the water resources of the Columbia River Basin, including the creation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, where their meetings with Senator Mark Hatfield were most fruitful. Completing participation in all League levels, Norma Jean became a Columbia River Task Force spokesperson for National League (LWVUS).

In 1980, the Electric Utilities' presented a proposal to build 20 nuclear plants in the Pacific Northwest. Norma Jean gave numerous speeches around Oregon detailing the absurd amount of energy that would be generated with this plan, when the need for energy conservation measures was apparent. The passage of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act in 1980 led to the formation of the Northwest Conservation Act Coalition with Norma Jean the first chair and given a permanent lifetime seat on this special board which later became the Northwest Energy Coalition with over 100 member organizations, including the League, and continues to address roles of ratepayers vs stockholders in the electrical energy industry.

The Oregon state League included a separate tax-deductible branch to promote the Voter Service/Education in 1981 and Norma Jean became both LWVOR President and chaired the LWVOR Education Fund Board of Trustees. In 1985, Norma Jean was elected to serve on the Portland Community College Board of Directors, and served two terms on the national board of directors of the Association of Community College Trustees before becoming Chair of the Portland Community College Board in 1996. In 1987, she was hired to become the first League of Women Voters of Oregon Legislative Coordinator and memorably stated, "Yes, the League had a significant presence at the legislature. They all know we were there. We didn't win all the time, but every legislator gave us time and listened to our point of view, for the League is a conscience. League is realistic, and we are careful, honest and reasoned. The League of Women Voters is a most wonderful organization!"

In 1988, Norma Jean was appointed as LWVOR representative to the Oregon Hanford Waste Board Legislative Advisory Committee, which developed policies, rules and regulations for transportation of radioactive wastes through Oregon to Hanford, many of which are still being applied to waste transportation throughout the country. Feeling very strongly about public awareness, she organized a multi-day conference with the University of Washington and Federal Energy Agency (which became the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board), serving 20 committed years continuing the work that brought meaning to her life.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
of Clackamas County  
PO Box 411  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
info@lwwclackamas.org  
[www.lwwclackamas.org](http://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 and donations are now tax deductible.

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_