



CASCADE ECHOES

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2017

FEBRUARY

2 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the topic is Planned Parenthood, speaker Liliana Cabrera, Community Education Outreach Coordinator . At Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

9 Board Meeting, 10am at the County Building. All members welcome

16 Postsecondary Education Meeting, 10AM in the DeArmond room at the County building. Details pages 3 & 4.

18 AAUW Meeting at 9:30 AM at Touchmark. The meeting includes a brunch for \$15 or coffee/juice for \$5. Reservations are required and the deadline is noon of the Wednesday before. You may phone Carol for your reservation-- 541-385-8144

MARCH

2 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the topic is tba. At Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

9 Board Meeting, 10am at the County Building. All members welcome

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

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<i>Special Events</i>	Carol Cavoretto.....	541-385-8144



League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy



WEB SITES

Local

www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm

State

www.lwv.or.org

National

www.lwv.org

Nationwide Election Information

www.VOTE411.org

President's Message

The League was in the forefront of Democracy this last week with our participation in the Woman's March in Bend, Portland, Washington DC and many other cities across the US.

A big thank you goes out to Geri Hauser for organizing our local league's participation in the Bend march.

We are at a time when we need to be more active than ever in "Making Democracy Work". We do this by our participation in local and national issues that we have committed to support. Some of these positions are; Environmental Issues including Climate Change, Healthcare Availability, Affordable Housing, Children's support issues and Voter Access. If you would like to look at the League's positions, a great resource is at lwv.or.org Issues for Action 2016-2017.

We have two Consensus Meetings over the next month: January 26th meeting is on 'Election Methods' and is very timely due to the Bend City Council looking into possibly changing their elections. You can see more on this in the December Echo's. The second is on the 'Post Secondary Education Update' on February 16th. See this Echo for more information.

Both of these Consensus meetings will be in the De Armond room at the Deschutes Services Building (1300 Wall Street Bend, OR) at 10 am. These are open to all League of Women Voters members. We hope everyone will be able to make these education meetings and let your voice be heard.

To help us with local legislative matters, we are looking for someone that would like to sit in on our Bend City Council sessions or watch them on TV and report back to the board anything that is actionable or relevant to our league. Please let me or a board member know if this is something that sounds interesting to you.

We are beginning to look at filling the slate of board members for the coming year. If you are interested in filing a seat on the Board, please contact Diane Beathe dianebeate@gmail.com and let her know of your interest. The slate is voted on at the Annual Meeting in April.

Yours in League,
Kim Smith, President League of Women Voters of Deschutes County

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON TOPIC AND SPEAKER

Liliana Cabrera, Community Education Outreach Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette comes to Central Oregon from the Central Coast of California. Prior to moving to Redmond, Liliana worked as a Community Health Educator for Planned Parenthood in Monterey County. Her work as a Community Educator has allowed her to follow her passion to work in the field of social justice and given her the opportunity to do so in Central Oregon.

AAUW of Central Oregon Meeting Announcement

AAUW speaker--meeting date is Feb. 18th. Speaker is Carolyn Egan, City of Bend Economic Development Director. Topic is while Bend's economy is currently characterized as being in the "sweet spot" analysts warn we are very tightly tied to the Bay Area's economy. Are we too tied to California? How will our changing economy effect our city and our lives? Where are all the people working that move here?

Place and time is the same every month.

AAUW of Central Oregon meets on the 3rd Saturday at at 9:30 AM at Touchmark. The meeting includes a brunch for \$15 or coffee/juice for \$5. Reservations are required and the deadline is noon of the Wednesday before. You may phone me your reservation--Carol @ 541-385-8144

CONSENSUS MEETING: POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

All of you League members are invited to join us on **FEBRUARY 16TH, THURSDAY MORNING AT 10:00 AM** at the **County Building, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, DeArmond room.**

We will be discussing the consensus questions raised by the LWVOR as we come to agreement on the updated position we should have. This will allow us to lobby on behalf of important issues involved in this important topic.

Background

In 2013, members of the League of Women Voters of Oregon voted to update our position on Postsecondary Education in Oregon. The study that all members received in the mail last month provides information on the current organization of education in Oregon. Today, three-quarters of the fastest-growing occupations require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Yet nearly half the students who begin college in this country don't finish within six years. And tuition continues to rise, putting college out of reach for the very families that need it most to join the middle class.

Oregon has seven public universities and two centers and affiliates. In addition, Oregon has 17 separate community college districts with independent governing boards and with campuses throughout the state. The state also has many private universities and over 208 private career schools. Since 2011, in recognition of the need for more advanced education for future employment and community well-being, the Oregon legislature has set educational goals and reorganized the higher education landscape. **In 2011, the 40-40-20 goal (SB 252) called for a population in 2025 of which 40% of Oregonians achieve a bachelor's degree or higher, 40% achieve an associate's degree, technical degree or certificate, and the remaining 20% have a high school diploma.** Many see the goal as aspirational. Others emphasize that that the goal drives the push to improve access to higher education and provide support for successful completion.

SB 242 established the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), consisting of 14 volunteer members appointed by the Governor. Currently HECC is an independent education unit answering directly to the governor and legislature, coordinating with other state education units. Legislative action transferred administrative authority of the Oregon Student Access Committee to the Office of Student Access and Completion under HECC, and moved authority over community colleges (Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Development) from the Department of Education to HECC.

Questions will address following topics:

[material is available in the booklet you received A Time of Change, etc.]

- Is 40-40-20 a realistic or an aspirational goal?
- The scope of responsibilities of Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC). HECC oversees all public higher education in Oregon, as well as licensing of private career schools, workforce development, state funding recommendations, and other higher education related activities.
- Over recent years, state funding for higher education across the country has decreased. Public higher education institutions must seek funding elsewhere, primarily through tuition increases and additional private funding.
- The importance of research, outreach, and athletics, as considerations of the mission and financial status of public institutions.

- By 2015 all the public universities in Oregon had independent boards with responsibilities for most university actions. HECC supports and works with these boards.
- The Office of Student Access and Completion administers several state funded student aid programs for Oregon residents. The major programs include the Oregon Opportunity Grant, which can be used in any Oregon community college, public university or private college, and the new Oregon Promise program, which provides “free” tuition in Oregon community colleges for recent high school graduates.
- Is Oregon Promise a good model?
- Should the state develop additional ways to provide financial aid to Oregon Students? In what form?
- Alternative paths to college credit. High school students are offered a variety of opportunities to earn college credits in high school through Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs and other state programs. At the same time, many higher education institutions are reporting that new students are not adequately prepared.
- Adequate counseling and mentoring are seen as important factors in achieving improved student success and reaching out to underserved communities.

NOTE: If you have not received the mailed ‘hard’ copy of the LWVOR publication A Time of Change: Public Postsecondary Education in Oregon and wish to have this material, I can email you a .pdf copy. You may also prefer to have the 4-page executive summary of the material. If so, I can email you a .pdf version of that.

Email: Marie Gibson at jgmg@gmail.com



LWV
124 NW Utica Ave.
Bend, OR 97703

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

With speaker

**Lilliana Cabrera, Community Education Outreach
Coordinator of Planned Parenthood of the Columbia
Willamette**

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

at Black Bear Diner, on the corner of 3rd and Olney Streets in Bend.

**There is a separate dining room for our use. There is no cost to hear the speakers;
however those wanting lunch should arrive about 11:00 a.m. and order off the menu.**

The speakers will begin at noon and allow time for questions from the audience.

No reservations are needed.

This event is open to the general public.