

L-COG links county, city

The Lane Council of Governments (L-COG), the areawide planning agency, was formed in November, 1945. The L-COG Board of elected officials is made up of a member from every city council in Lane County, a county commissioner, and officials who have been elected to local special districts boards. It is one of the few of more than 600 areawide long-range planning councils in the United States that has an adopted policy of permitting only locally elected officials to act as board members. Many other COG's allow non-elected staff members of state and local agencies and citizens to serve in Board positions.

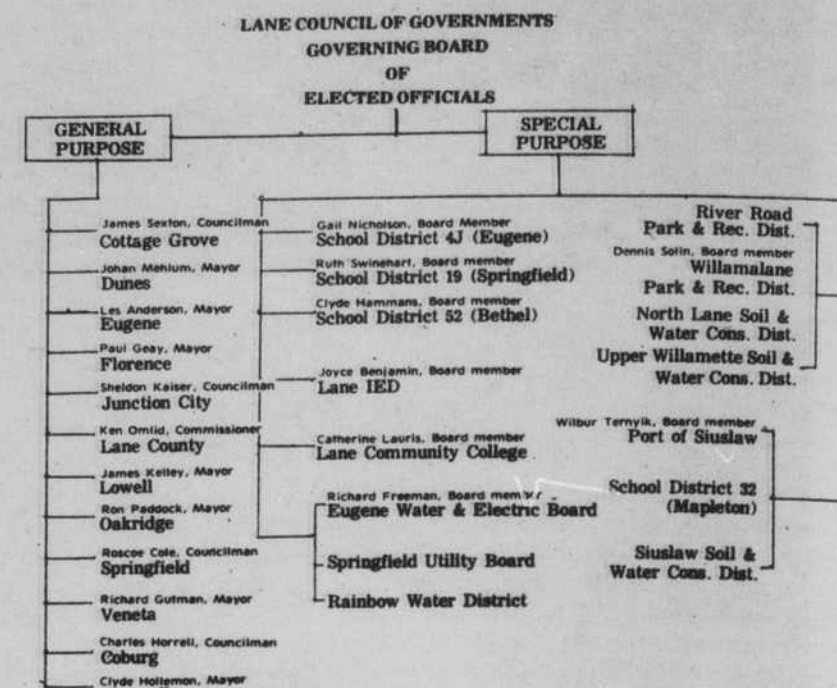
The L-COG Board believes that in order to have a truly representative, responsive, and responsible governing board it must be composed completely of people who have been elected by the voters to local government offices. Today, the Board represents 27 general and special purpose local governments who have voluntarily joined together in L-COG to do long-range planning and address problems of mutual concern.

The L-COG staff carries out a Board-approved comprehensive long-range planning program. The program includes long-range planning in areas such as aging, children's services, criminal justice, economic development, education, health, housing, manpower, natural resources, social services, and transportation. The L-COG staff of specialists in these areas act as resource people for member agencies and for the 15 citizens and technical standing committees and several ad hoc committees which are advisory to the L-COG Board.

Representation on the standing committees alone is provided by more than 300 citizens from throughout Lane County. Several students serve on these committees. The committees help develop and recommend to the Board various proposals and plans regarding areawide concerns.

One area of special interest to married students is the planning work being carried out in children's services. In Lane County there are more than 110 private and public agencies and quasi-public organizations that provide services to families with children. Many of these organizations require public funds. For most, the services are fragmented and single mission oriented.

The planning effort has resulted in categorization of these



agencies with a description of their services. This information makes up part of the listings of more than 400 community service organizations that are contained in the "Community Services Directory" which was recently published by L-COG. In addition to this effort, surveys are being conducted to identify the actual need for

various children's services in Lane County and to establish those vital programs where resources and coordination efforts should be concentrated.

In the area of transportation, a committee of technical specialists are developing methods to reduce traffic congestion and parking problems in the University area. Harry Van Oudenallen, University planner, represents the University in this 16-month study. The campus planning committee, chaired by Charles Wright, professor of mathematics, has developed a set of goals, policy statements, and recommendations which will be used by the technical specialists in completing a traffic and parking plan.

An L-COG spokesman said that possible options being explored include increased mass transit schedules, reduced bus fees, and alternate parking areas with shuttle bus provisions.

The L-COG staff also works very closely with the University Bureau of Governmental Research and Service which is headed by Ken Tollenar. Recently the bureau completed a Regional Improvement Plan pilot study for L-COG. This study, along with four others from across the nation, is being used by the federal government to develop guidelines and procedures for future regional improvement plan programs.

Of interest to majors in political science, public affairs, and other government courses is the recent L-COG publication entitled "The Challenge of Reorganization." This 66-page document sets out very clearly the plan of the Nixon administration to structurally and fiscally reorganize the federal government. The publication also provides an overview of how federal reorganization is affecting state and local government responsibilities for support of social service programs. Copies are available at the L-COG office.

L-COG provides work experience for University students, too. Students from the School of Community Service and Public Affairs are assigned field placements to work at L-COG for a full quarter. Some will be working there this summer. Also, five graduate students will be provided with stipends for academic year assignments at L-COG starting this fall.

Jerry O'Brien

Voting rules listed

This country has a miserable record of voter participation. Even in presidential elections, a 60 percent turnout of eligible voters would be considered a record showing.

One reason given for the average American's apathy towards the election process is the difficult registration process: what is meant by that is you actually have to make an effort to become a registered voter and that effort is just too much for many people.

What effort is involved? You simply sign your name on a card and fill in your address. You are then a certified, registered voter in the state of Oregon, eligible to vote in local, state, and national elections.

The only requirement is that you be 18. You can register the moment you arrive in Oregon as there are no longer any residency requirements.

You can fill out this card at the following places: the Lane County Court House, at any city fire station up to 8 p.m., any Eugene, Bethel, or Springfield school, all branches of the U.S. National Bank, the Portland Federal Savings and Loan Office, the Saturday Market, Lane Community College, and at the University.

The League of Women Voters conducts a registration drive now and then and you'll probably notice booths in the EMU or in the Co-op on occasion.

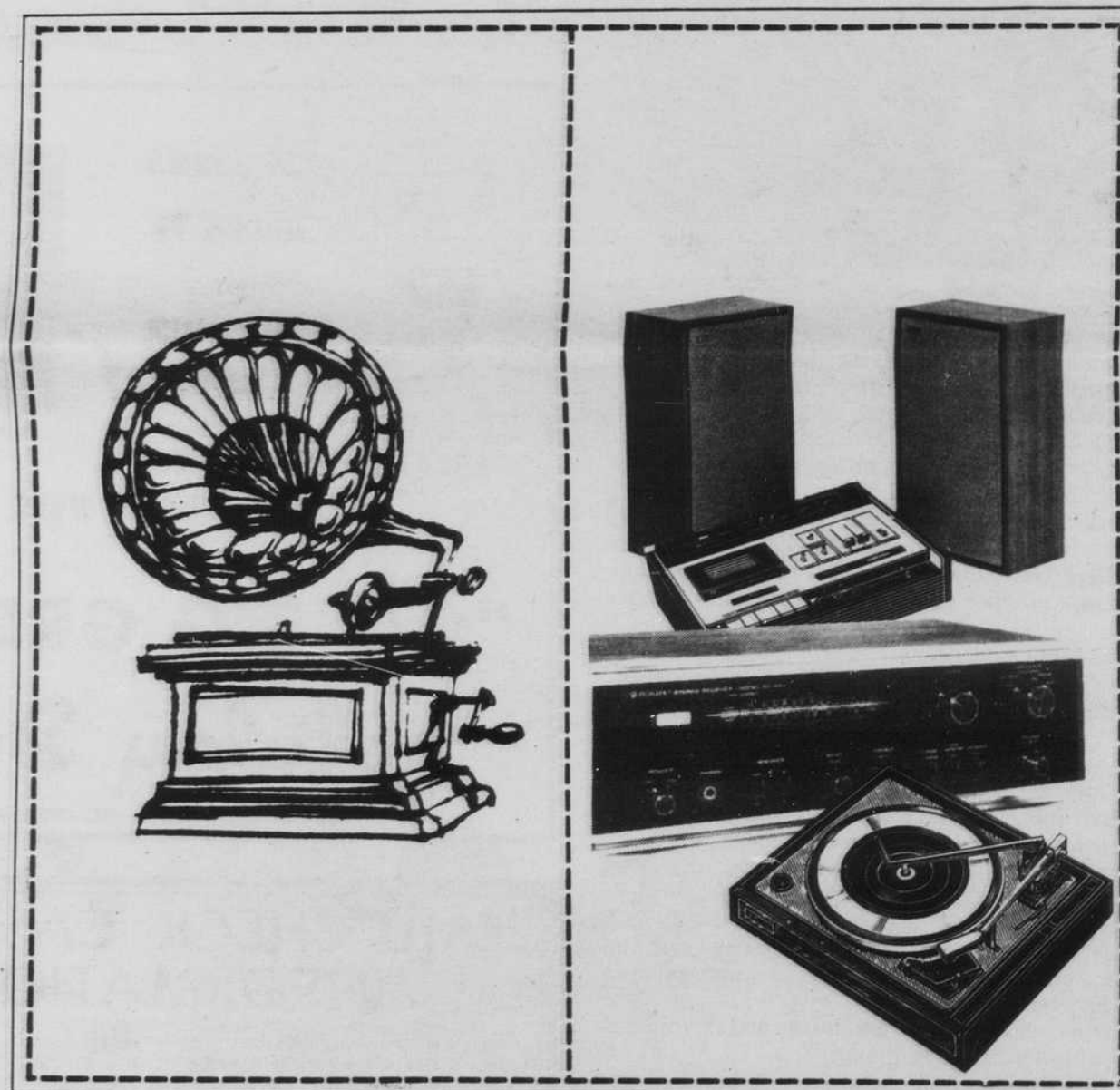
In other words, you don't have to go very far out of your way to register.

One catch is that you have to register 31 days before a scheduled election to vote in that election. This information is for those who may be moved by a particular issue only to find it is too late to register.

You also must re-register if you move, change your name, or your party. All you have to do is phone the Lane County Election office and they will mail you a card which you simply fill out and mail back. You don't have to appear in person unless you change parties.

That's it. It's a very simple, uncomplicated process...but it does take some effort. You have to pick up a pen and sign your name.

Kathleen Glanville



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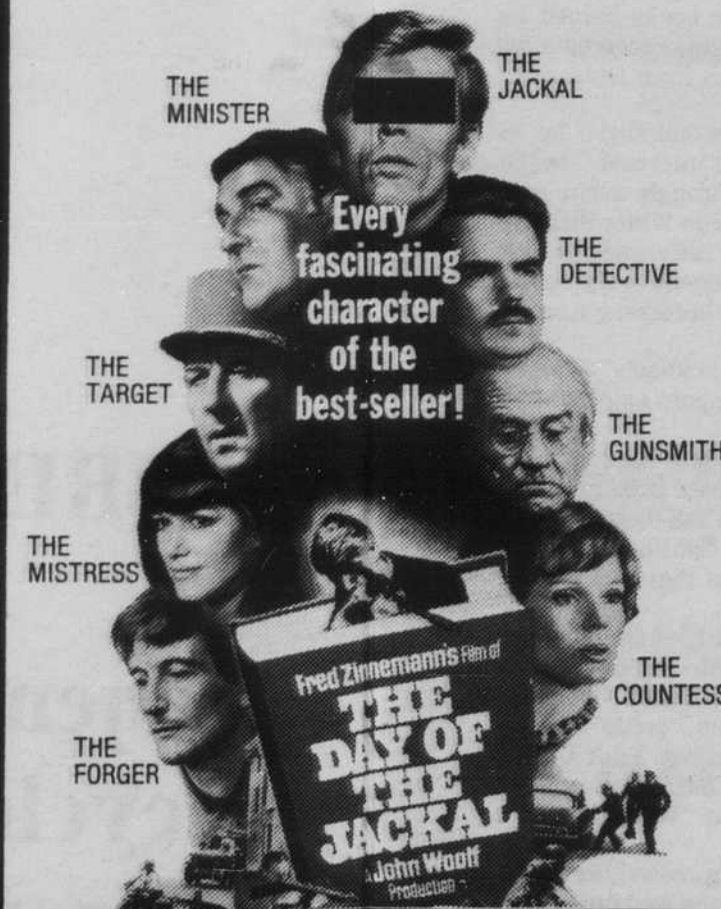
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