



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 30, Issue 8

[www.lwvcurry.org](http://www.lwvcurry.org)

April 2014

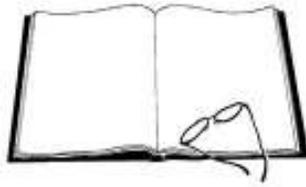
## **ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 14 AT 9:30 COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS GOLD BEACH**

The League of Women Voters of Curry County will hold its Annual Meeting at Docia Sweet Hall at the Fairgrounds in Gold Beach on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a social time from 9:30AM-10AM to meet and greet your fellow members! At 10:00 AM the business meeting will convene which includes a number of items, budget, bylaw proposals and elections. Lunch will be served around noon. There is a choice of Vegetarian or Quiche Lorraine for \$12 including; salad bar, dessert and beverage.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Jake Conde, Assistant District Attorney of Curry County. He will be discussing a serious situation that we should all be aware of. About 30% of the jail inmates are mental health clients who have gone off their medications and committed crimes. Sheriff Bishop confirms this proportion, which matches the statewide average. This important topic is one which all League members should be interested in because it is likely to be a major Public Safety issue in the months ahead. Educating our fellow citizens might be an important role for the League. Please come hear this important message so you can help guide our future.

For lunch reservations and a choice of what you want to eat, email Lucie La Bonté – [labontelucie2@gmail.com](mailto:labontelucie2@gmail.com) by June 5<sup>th</sup>. Guests are welcome!





Dear Members and Friends,

I write this letter in the days immediately after our Voter Forums. What a great time it is to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Curry County!! Numerous people have stopped me on the street in Brookings and congratulated us on the fine job we did running these Forums.

In every city we had numerous members turn out, not just to attend the Forum, but to help get things organized and cleaned up. The people who picked up the questions from the attendees and delivered them to the screeners are a vital part of putting on a Forum that is perceived as well run and fair to all. Along with the timers, screeners and moderators we continually enhance our reputation as the source for unbiased, nonpartisan election information in Curry County.

Consider that we were dealing with highly divisive issues. Both the Home Rule Charter and the County Commissioner elections have highly motivated supporters and detractors. Yet we were able to conduct three Forums that showed respect for all views. We showed that people can disagree without being disagreeable.

Thanks to all of you who helped, particularly our new Voter Service Chair, Charlie Alexander and her predecessor, Shirley Nelson. We have a General Election coming up in November. Please step forward again when the time comes.

On an equally pleasant note I want to direct your attention to the May Unit Meetings described on Page 5. National Popular Vote is a great opportunity and it is going to come before the Oregon Legislature again in 2015. Please come to a Unit Meeting so that you can learn about it and support it.

Finally, please come to the Annual Meeting on June 14 as described on the Front Page. Not only do we have elections and some other important business to transact, we have a very interesting speaker addressing a vitally important subject.

Thanks everyone for showing once again that League does make a difference!!

Al Wilson

## The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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### *Coast Lines*

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of Women Voters ® of Curry  
County*

*Coast Lines is produced 11  
times a year by the League of  
Women Voters of Curry County.  
We welcome your comments,  
suggestions, story ideas and  
submissions. Submissions  
must be received no later than  
the day of the board meeting  
each month. That date is  
available on our web site.*

Web site: [lwvcurry.org](http://lwvcurry.org)  
Email: [league@lwvcurry.org](mailto:league@lwvcurry.org)  
Election Info: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)

# **VOTER FORUMS STANDING ROOM ONLY CHALLENGING QUESTIONS**



**Brookings Moderator Al Wilson with Circuit Court Judicial candidates Beaman and McKenzie-Kudlac and Commissioner candidates Itzen, Dowler, Relaford and Huxley.**



**Gold Beach Forum Moderator Shirley Nelson with Commissioner candidates Relaford, Itzen, Dowler and Huxley and Circuit Court Judicial candidates Beaman and McKenzie-Kudlac.**

The League of Women Voters of Curry County presented Voter Forums in Port Orford, Brookings and Gold Beach on April 22, 23 and 24. Attendance was "standing room only" in Port Orford and Brookings and the City Council Meeting Room in Gold Beach was almost full. There were 60 guests in Port Orford and Gold Beach and about 90 in Brookings.

The first half of the program was devoted to the candidates for County Commissioner and Circuit Court Judge while the second half was dedicated to spokespersons for and against the Home Rule Charter initiative 8-76. Penetrating questions from the audience were presented by moderators Shirley Nelson in Port Orford and Gold Beach and Al Wilson in Brookings.

A total of thirteen League members helped with setup and cleanup as well conducting the Forums. Congratulations and thanks go to everyone!! These events are the most visible things our League does and the quality of our work on behalf of our fellow citizens enhances our reputation for good citizenship.

Special thanks go to our new Voter Service Chair, Charlie Alexander, and to Milt and Shirley Nelson.



**A packed house in Brookings.**



**Port Orford Forum Moderator Shirley Nelson with Circuit Court Judicial candidates Beaman and McKenzie-Kudlac.**



**Gold Beach Forum Moderator Shirley Nelson with Home Rule speakers Carl King (pro) and Philip Dickson (con).**

## **LWVUS AGRICULTURE RESTUDY LWVCC CONSENSUS**

The League of Women Voters of the United States is completing a restudy of the national position on agriculture, recognizing that there have been many technical changes since the original study was completed. An important part of every League study is getting feedback from League members in the form of answers to consensus questions prepared by the study committee. The Curry County League's March Unit meetings were devoted to achieving consensus within our League on the questions presented. What follows is our report to LWVUS.

1. Brookings/Gold Beach unit marked yes on all parts; Port Orford said no to government financial support for d) crop insurance, g) commodity crop programs such as corn, soybeans, etc., h) commodity livestock program, and i) commodity dairy program.
2. Agree on all points except for 2.a): The Brookings/Gold Beach Unit said not to eliminate direct payment to farm operators. It's a moot point because those of us who looked up the recently passed Farm Bill noted that the direct payments were removed in that legislation.
3. Agree except for 3. a): Port Orford said not to extend crop insurance to more crops.
4. Agree on all points
5. Agree on all points
6. Agree on all points
7. Both groups had trouble with f) which reads *Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research.*

Port Orford checked both yes and no columns for the two parts of the question and made the comment that there should have been two questions. Brookings/Gold Beach checked yes and commented that there should be a balance between reporting and protection. The Port Orford group felt that as this research deals with the health and safety of millions of people, it should be completely transparent for all findings.

Port Orford had no consensus on a) basic research

8. Agree on all points.
9. Port Orford checked "Insufficient" on all aspects of food labeling; Brookings/Gold Beach said a) Nutrition Facts on food labels is "Sufficient." Agreement on other three items.
10. Port Orford marked yes on all three items; Brookings/Gold Beach said no to b): Regulate use of images or other sensory advertising.
11. Both units said a) and c) would be mandatory; Port Orford said b) should be mandatory stating that the product does **not** contain ingredients developed using any new technology. Brookings/Gold Beach said that should be voluntary.

## **MAY UNIT MEETINGS NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

The Unit Meetings in May will be on May 13 at the Port Orford Library from 1 to 3 PM, on May 14 at the Chetco Community Public Library Annex in Brookings from 2 to 4 PM and on May 15 at the Gold Beach City Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. The subject of the meetings will be National Popular Vote NPV), a proposal that is being strongly supported by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). The purpose of these meetings is make sure that all Curry County League members understand the proposal.

The proposal was made in reaction to the 2000 Presidential election when the candidate receiving the most votes was not elected as President. The problem arises because most states follow a winner-take-all approach where the candidate winning that state receives all of that state's electoral votes regardless of the size of the plurality. Winner-take-all is not in the Constitution, and it has permitted candidates four times to win the presidency when they did not win the popular vote.

One alternative is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution replacing the Electoral College with the popular vote. That was viewed as politically unattainable. The National Popular Vote proposal, also called the Interstate Compact, was created to obtain the same result without having to amend the Constitution.

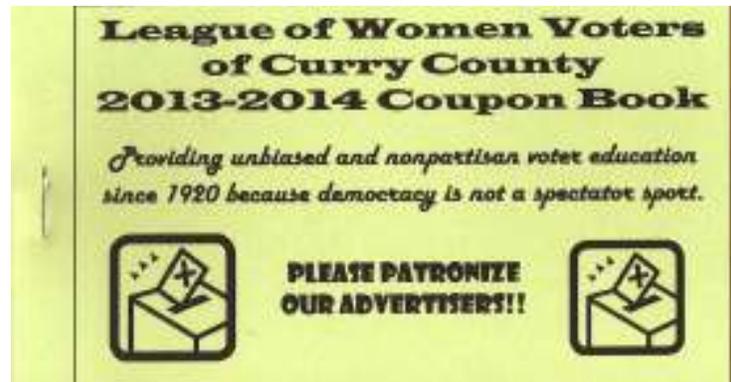
The objective is that every vote in every state should be equal. NPV will guarantee that happens, because every vote for the President will be counted across the 50 states, and the candidate with the most votes will win the election. The LWVUS position on electing the President includes NPV as a way to reach a direct popular vote for the President.

The Interstate Compact states that when the number of electoral votes in all of the states passing the Compact reaches the 270 Electoral College votes necessary to elect a President, the Compact will be in effect starting with the next Presidential election. Each state's Interstate Compact law will require the electors of that state to vote for the winner of the popular vote across all 50 states, regardless of which candidate has the most votes in that state. According to the Constitution, each state is in charge of its elections and how their Electoral College electors are chosen. Additionally, states are allowed to enter into interstate compacts.

The Oregon legislature has considered the compact several times, most recently at the 2014 session where it was passed overwhelmingly by the House but was prevented from coming to a vote in the Senate. It will certainly be brought up again in the 2015 legislative session.

Currently voters in solidly blue or red states know that their vote for a candidate of another party is essentially wasted. With winner-take-all, their vote will have no effect on the Electoral College. With NPV in place voters will know that, even if they are in the minority in their state their vote will be added to the votes of their preferred candidate from other states. Truly, a vote in Oregon will count exactly the same as a vote in Kansas, Florida or Maine.

Winner-take-all causes candidates to ignore states that are solidly for or against them. There are a handful of toss-up states and they receive all of the attention. One major benefit of the Compact is that all states will have to be considered by candidates instead of only a few battleground states. In previous elections, Oregon has been essentially ignored, as have approximately 35 other states. NPV can change that.



## COUPON BOOK PRICE REDUCTION

The Coupon Book project has been a great success. We are showing a profit of well over \$1,000. That has helped your League to offset increasing costs without digging into our minimal cash reserves. We still have a supply of books available for sale and all of the coupons are valid through December 31. We have reduced the price to \$20 per book. Buy one for yourself or for a friend or neighbor with an upcoming birthday. We are working hard to strengthen our League's financial strength and you can help by buying a Coupon Book or two. Please contact Charlie Alexander at [lwvcharlie@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvcharlie@yahoo.com) or 541-332-0386.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Happy News!!! We have quite a few new members. They have already become directly involved in our Voter Forums and voter registration drives. Please come to your city's Unit Meeting in May and the Annual Meeting on June 14 so that you can meet these fine people. All of them are from Brookings. We welcome Alyssa Babin, Jessica Bergman and Connie Hunter.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Port Orford (541) 332-3931</li> <li>▪ Coquille (541) 396-3118</li> <li>▪ Gold Beach (541) 247-6638</li> <li>▪ Brookings (541) 469-2103</li> <li>▪ After Hours (866) 352-9044</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.ccec.coop">www.ccec.coop</a></p>	
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 League of Women Voters of Curry County  
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 Brookings, OR 97415

May and June 2014		
Port Orford Unit Meeting	May 13; 1 to 3 PM	Port Orford Library
Brookings Unit Meeting	May 14; 2 to 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
Gold Beach Unit Meeting	May 15; 5:30 - 7 PM	Gold Beach City Hall
LWVCC Board Meeting	May 20; 1 to 3 PM	Finish Line Office Svcs. Gold Beach
LWVCC Annual Meeting	Jun 14; 9:30 AM	Curry Cty Fairgrounds, Gold Beach

# Membership Invitation

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

JOIN NOW!

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\_\_\_\_\$60 ONE-YEAR individual membership is due on July 1 of the current year.

\_\_\_\_\$90 HOUSEHOLD (for one-year membership for the current year) for two members who share an address

\_\_\_\_YES, I would like to receive *CoastLines* by email, saving LWVCC over \$10 a year in postage and printing.

Please make your dues checks payable LWVCC, listing the year (2013-2014) on your check, and return with this application form to: LWVCC Treasurer; 36858 Highway 101; Port Orford, OR 97465

Additional contributions - checks made out to League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund (LWVOREF) and mailed to the LWVCC Treasurer are tax deductible.