



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 29, Issue 5

www.lwvcurry.org

December 2012

Peggy Lynch speaks at Holiday Luncheon



**Lucie La Bonté, Don and Kay Jenson,
Dot Matthews and Lauren Spector**



Peggy Lynch



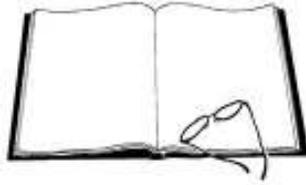
**Linda Valet, Judy Fladger, Debbie
McNeil, Leesa Cobb, Jim Auburn and
Milt Nelson**

Sixteen people heard Peggy Lynch of League of Women Voters of Oregon Action Committee speak at our annual Holiday Luncheon in Port Orford on Saturday December 8. Peggy has years of experience working with Oregon State Legislature on issues including public education. Her current area of emphasis with the League is Natural Resources.

She gave a detailed account of the makeup of the 2013 Legislature and the issues LWVOR will be following. One issue will be National Popular Vote. To take effect, National Popular Vote must be approved by a sufficient number of states to provide a majority of the electoral votes for the Presidential candidate who receives a majority of the popular vote. The Oregon Legislature will consider joining this compact in 2013. A number of environmental issues will be considered and copies of our current State Study, *Coastal and Nearshore Oregon* will be distributed to all Legislators.

Our State Action Committee works from our State positions. These positions are decided by us, the grassroots local League members. They are the subject of our Local positions in odd numbered years. We work on local Positions every year. The Unit Meetings in January are therefore most important if you want to have your input into the positions taken by our State League's action committee.

Some members of the general public who joined us for the meeting were impressed, as were our own members, at the wealth of knowledge and ability possessed by Peggy Lynch.



Dear Members and Friends,

It was with deep regret that the Board of Directors accepted the resignations of Jan Krick and Warren Krick. Sadly, any volunteer organization has to compete with the many and varied interests that their members have. Each of us limited time and energy that we can devote to any organization.

Your Board will be meeting in early January to make plans for the future – not just the rest of our year, which ends in June, but for all of 2013-2014. Your League is a vitally important organization in Curry County.

We all know that Curry County is facing many difficult decisions in the months and years ahead. Our fellow citizens are going to need an organization that knows how to provide a venue for the important discussions that need to take place.

This past fall we demonstrated yet again the important role that our League can play. We were faced with two vitally important contests for County Commissioner and an important election for city offices in Port Orford. We provided forums that were well attended and well conducted. These forums allowed the candidates to present their views of the future so that citizens could make an informed decision.

We are going to have interesting speakers at our Unit Meetings and at our Annual Meeting in June. Please plan to come and learn as much as you can so that you can be well informed.

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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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
Email: league@lwvcurry.org
Election Info: vote411.org

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS REVIEW LOCAL AND STATE POSITIONS

January Unit Meetings for League of Women Voters of Curry County will be devoted to Program Planning. The meetings will be January 8 in Port Orford and January 9 in Brookings. We will review our six **local positions** based on studies done by LWVCC. This is the year we look at our **state positions** based on studies in which we have participated. To review these positions go to www.lwvor.org. There are 3 columns at the bottom of the page. Click on "Positions." Then click on "LWVOR Advocacy Positions 2012-2013." For all positions we will be asked to decide whether to retain the position, drop it (if we did, we could no longer take any action based on such a position) or restudy it.

Any suggested changes in local positions or keeping the positions as they are will be approved at our Annual Meeting in June. Any changes or keeping state positions will be sent on to League of Women Voters of Oregon and approved by the Convention to be held in Coos Bay in May 2013. New topics for study can be suggested, as well. LWVOR suggests these criteria when considering a new study:

- What issues of statewide importance are most critical in our community?
- How could LWVOR, along with our local League, have greater visibility and credibility?
- What important statewide issues will stir imagination of our members and attract potential members?
- What studies would help our League link with individuals and organizations representing different viewpoints, ages, racial or ethnic identities, or other diverse groups?

Our existing local League Positions are presented here. Please review them prior to the Unit Meeting.

* Planning, 1989

* Recycling, 1990

* Conditional Use Permits, 1992

* Water Sources and Uses in Curry County, 1993

* Family Violence in Curry County, 1995

* How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County, 1999

The positions included here are based on local studies conducted by the League of Women Voters of Curry County.

Planning

Statement of Position, adopted April 1989

Water and Sewers

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters believe that Curry County should consistently follow the regulations which guarantee the highest quality and protection of ground, surface, and ocean waters.

Applying this principle, the League supports: (1) Cooperative interaction between municipal government, county government, and appropriate agencies; (2) Strict regulatory laws governing the placement and maintenance of wells and septic systems taking into consideration the effect of neighboring wells and septic systems, as well as the overall community; (3) Routine inspection of all septic systems; (4) Attention paid to the overflow of drainage systems during peak seasonal rain fall.

Urban Growth Boundaries

The Curry County League supports the Oregon State League of Women Voters position which recognizes certain principles of good local government. These are: (1) Democratic representation and control; (2) Basic simplicity with power to plan for future growth or change; (3) Provisions of services and functions of overall concern with equitable quality and distribution to the entire integrated area.

League believes Curry County should have an orderly and comprehensive transition in the urban growth boundary plan: (1) With adequate cooperation and coordination between our three cities and the county; (2) Without conflict of interest in the development of the urban growth boundaries (a) in the cities (b) in the rural communities and (c) in the rural exception areas.

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Planning and Building Department

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters support a County Planning and Building Department with a sufficient number of qualified staff to meet the county's increasing growth. League members favor (1) an impartial geologist hired by the Planning Department with cost borne by the applicant; (2) a fully researched engineering report when deemed necessary; (3) Consistently uniform and impartial inspections on all new construction; (4) Current specifications and code changes furnished to the applicant when applying for a permit.

Planning Commission and Zoning Ordinances

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters support consistent and impartial land use decisions made by a County Planning Commission whose members have been appointed impartially, are without conflict of interest, and have adequate qualifications and orientation. The League recognizes the need for (1) County Planning Commission members to have access to and knowledge of all pertinent information prior to rendering decisions; (2) On-site inspections by a Planning Commission member prior to granting a permit; (3) A Curry County inspector to assist in the enforcement of the Planning Commission's decisions.

The League supports: (1) A governmental structure so organized that the responsibility for the enforcement of land use decisions is easily assigned, with no overlapping of authority; (2) Enforcement bodies which have sufficient strength and courage to withstand pressures from special interests; (3) Granting of conditional uses by the Planning Commission only when compatible with outright uses of the zone and with existing community and regulatory standards.

Recycling

Statement of Position, adopted January 1990, Updated June 2012

Curry County League of Women voters believes recycling issues should not be based solely on economic considerations. (1) Recycling reduces the volume of solid waste. (2) Recycling reduces the need for raw materials in manufacturing. (3) We believe recycling should become mandatory, regulated by state law that mandatory recycling will provide impetus to industry as well as individuals. (4) It is expected that, short term, Curry County may have to provide county subsidy beyond what can be covered by user fees and income from the sale of recyclables. (5) League research indicates that in the future the recycling of products such as glass, metals, paper and others will be determined to be profitable and county subsidies may not be necessary. (6) League supports recycling education and encourages full citizen participation in recycling efforts. We urge the reduction of consumption of natural resources by buying items with less or no packaging, by reusing containers, and by composting.

Conditional Use Permits

Statement of Position, adopted April 1992

In accordance with the 1989 position on planning of the Curry County League of Women Voters, the League supports the granting of conditional uses by the Planning Commission only when compatible with outright uses of the zone and with existing community and regulatory standards. (1) The League believes (a) Conditional use permits should not change the character of the zone to the detriment of established neighborhoods; (b) Conditional use permits should not depreciate the value of surrounding properties; (c) Community comments should be a major influence when considering the conditional use permit compatibility with outright uses. (2) The League supports the cities and the county: (a) Following the same criteria for granting conditional use permits; (b) Following the same procedure for processing conditional use permits. (3) The League endorses the de novo process of appeals. (4) The League recommends the frequent review and revision of the county and cities zoning ordinances. (5) The League believes that in areas where site review plan committees are used, affected parties should be given written notice of the committee's decision and fifteen days to appeal.

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Continued from Page 4 – Curry County League Positions

Water Sources and uses in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted 1993, reviewed 2006, Revised May 1997 and June 2012

The members of the Curry County League of Women Voters recognize that watersheds are a part of the earth's hydrological cycle and are, therefore, affected by rainfall shortages. Applying this principle, the League supports: (1) Maintaining a healthy balance between the water requirements for population growth and the water requirements of anadromous fish runs and other life forms; (2) Consideration of water availability should be a prime factor when making land use decisions; (3) Research of ecologically safe water storage and of sound water conservation methods in the county; (4) Identification and regulation of areas of critical concern such as watersheds, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas. The League believes that accurate information about the amount of water available is essential before long-range plans can be developed. The League supports taking routine measurements at various strategic locations on the rivers and their tributaries.

Family Violence in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted March 1995

The League of Women Voters of Curry County supports: (1) Programs to educate individuals, organizations and institutions as to all aspects of family violence, and to promote abuse-free family units as those units are defined under all applicable laws and regulations; (2) An integrated agencies system to provide family violence intervention and prevention programs; (3) Development of programs to promote equal economic rights between marriage partners; (4) The implementation of programs to teach interpersonal relationship skills; (5) Development of centralized community facilities and methods to provide services and program supporting families; (6) Development and promotion of programs establishing a framework necessary to encourage and foster healthy physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development of individuals within the family unit; (7) The development and dissemination of effective, comprehensive and detailed programs to gather statistics on all aspects of family violence; (8) The development of programs designed to counter and decrease the pervasive depiction and promotion of violence.

How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County

Statement of Position, adopted 1999

The League of Women Voters of Curry County supports a County government led by three duly elected Commissioners who follow State laws on budget and County rules on personnel evaluation. Alternative sources of funding should be explored. Efforts should be made to streamline advisory bodies as to function, membership and training. (1) The League of Women Voters of Curry County believes the Board of Commissioners and all other appointing powers should follow the adopted personnel rules and report to the people that the evaluation has been completed. A program evaluation procedure should be adopted and implemented on an annual basis. We recommend that the Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall make a State of the County report to the people at the beginning of each calendar year; (2) The LWVCC stresses the importance of adherence to the State balanced budget law. County fees for services should reflect the true cost; (3) LWVCC supports combining advisory bodies with similar focus, actively recruiting members and providing training for them; (4) LWVCC believes all elected County officials should be nonpartisan.

What is MLD?

The Membership Leadership Development (MLD) program is a national League of Women Voters program which has been used successfully by many Local Leagues throughout the country with success. The main purposes are to teach and encourage local members how to ENROLL MORE MEMBERS for the League and to train new and existing members to take leadership positions.

You will see some results of our MLD work during 2013. Meanwhile, WHAT CAN YOU DO? The most important thing any member of LWVCC can do, right now, is to INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN OUR LOCAL LEAGUE. We have changed our membership brochures slightly, in two ways: indicating that men are welcome to join and adding a statement at the bottom from one of our members on why they joined the League of Women Voters. Shirley or Milt Nelson can send you a copy of the membership brochure to your computer so you can print it to use. We are advised to always carry some brochures with us, to the grocery store, other meetings, etc. If that doesn't work for you, call Milt and Shirley at 541-332-9002 and ask us to mail some to you through the Postal Service.

February Unit Meetings

February Unit Meetings are scheduled for Port Orford on the 12th and for Brookings on the 13th. Final details are still being worked out but the plan is to have a representative of the Curry County District Attorney's office present to discuss the state of that office in the light of the budget constraints being imposed on County government. These discussions figure to be very informative. Please circle the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Port Orford (541) 332-3931 ▪ Coquille (541) 396-3118 ▪ Gold Beach (541) 247-6638 ▪ Brookings (541) 469-2103 ▪ After Hours (866) 352-9044 <p style="text-align: center;">www.ccec.coop</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Curry Transfer and Recycling</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Servicing Curry County for over 40 years. Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ph 1-800-826-9801 Fax 541-469-1048 P.O. Box 4008 17498 Carpenterville Road Brookings, Oregon 97415</p> 
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Invite a friend to a Unit Meeting. New members join when they see what we do!!!



Coast Lines
 League of Women Voters of Curry County
 P O Box 8039
 Brookings, OR 97415

January and February 2013		
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Jan 8; 1- 3 PM	Milt & Shirley Nelson's Home
Brookings Unit Meeting	Jan 9; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
LWVCC Board Meeting	Jan 16; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Feb 12; 1- 3 PM	Location TBA
Brookings Unit Meeting	Feb 13; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
LWVCC Board Meeting	Feb 20; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex

Membership Invitation

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

JOIN NOW!

Name/Names _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ \$55 ONE-YEAR individual membership due on Sept. 1st of the current year.

_____ \$82.50 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 (2011-2012) on your check, and return with an application form to: LWVCC Treasurer

P O Box 1471
 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.