



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 29, Issue 7

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

February 2013

## **SHERIFF JOHN BISHOP SPEAKING AT MARCH UNIT MEETINGS**



**Sheriff John Bishop**

Curry County Sheriff John Bishop will be speaking at our March Unit Meetings. He will be in the Freedom of Speech Room of the Port Orford Public Library at 1:00 PM on March 12 and in Brookings at the Chetco Community Public Library Annex meeting room at 2:00 PM on March 18 and on March 20 at 5:15 PM in Gold Beach at the Gold Beach City Hall meeting room.

Sheriff Bishop met with our units in February 2011 to discuss the Public Safety challenges facing Curry County at the time. The situation was challenging then and it remains so today. The purpose of the meetings is to allow Sheriff Bishop to

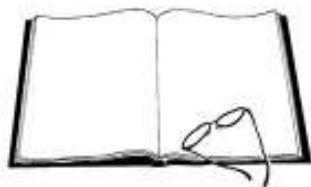
update us. Following that, Sheriff Bishop will answer questions from the audience. Please give some thought to the question or questions that you would like to ask.

These meetings are a continuation of a series that the League of Women Voters of Curry County started some years ago. We devote several Unit Meetings each year to dialogs with various government officials within the County. The objective is to enable each of us to become better informed citizens. The Public Safety issues that Sheriff Bishop is facing affect all of us. These are difficult days with difficult choices. We urge you to attend one of these Unit Meetings.

These meetings provide far more than an opportunity to become better informed. **They are an excellent way to recruit new members.** If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League please invite them to accompany you to the Unit Meeting in your area. They will see an excellent example of how the League of Women Voters works for the benefit of our entire community.

## **OUR SCRAP BOOK IS MISSING**

The League of Women Voters of Curry County had a scrap book with pictures, newspaper articles and other memorabilia going back to its founding. We cannot seem to locate it. If you know where it is, please contact Shirley Nelson at 541-332-9002 or [mas770@charter.net](mailto:mas770@charter.net).



Dear Members and Friends,

With the National and State elections behind us, the focus of our League's activities over the next few months are local issues. With two new County commissioners taking office in January and with our County's continuing fiscal problems it is important that we learn as much as we can about what is going on in Curry County and in our cities.

Our March, April and May Unit Meetings are intended to make each of us better informed citizens by helping us learn more about some of the issues facing us. The March Unit Meetings will feature County Sheriff John Bishop. Those of you who attended our meetings with Sheriff Bishop in 2011 know how informative they were. Issues of Public Safety affect all of us, both directly and indirectly. Please come to the meeting in your area and bring one or two fellow-citizens.

Our April Unit Meetings will be devoted to Health Care Management in Curry County. Bob Horel is one of the leaders of the nonprofit organization that has assumed leadership of these services from Curry County. Public Health is another issue that affects all of us. The Port Orford Meeting is on April 9 at 1:00 PM. Check next month's *CoastLines* for the location. The Brookings Meeting is in the Chetco Community Public Library Annex at 2:00 PM on April 10. Please plan to attend.

Our May Unit Meetings will be devoted to City governance. The mayors of Port Orford and Brookings will be attending the meetings in their respective cities. The Port Orford meeting is scheduled for May 14 and the Brookings meeting is scheduled for May 15. Come learn more about what your city is planning!!

League does make a difference!!

Al Wilson

## The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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### *Coast Lines*

*A publication of the League  
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.*

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Email: [league@lwvcurry.org](mailto:league@lwvcurry.org)  
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## **Wave Energy Oregon Territorial Sea Plan**

Wave energy planning and approval has reached a new decision level in the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan, a planning document to manage the two miles off-shore times the length of the state. The state Land Conservation and Development Commission appointed by the Governor to deal with plans, public hearings and standards since 2008, has decided to approve four areas for initiating experimentation in the development of wave energy. Land use planning standards and Goal 19 of that process were used in setting criteria and standards. Subsidiary public committees and work by state planning staff have resulted in this document.

The League of Women Voters of Curry County is watching this set of decisions with care, as we recently concluded our consensus statement on the State League study of coastal issues. We urged the State committee to insist on wave energy trials and data gathering only, stopping short of outright permitting of projects that would go on line in the electric grid in the near term. The state League committee has yet to issue its conclusions.

None of the four areas recommended so far is south of Reedsport. A site near Langlois in Curry County was considered as well as Gold Beach reef. Langlois has been removed from consideration. The Gold Beach site has been assigned as a study area for future consideration. Competing current uses were carefully explored, including fishing grounds, protection of estuaries, availability of electric grid installations to accept the power generated, and nearness of deep water ports to support the installation and management of the technology. Astoria, Newport and Coos Bay are the only deep water ports in Oregon. Each of the deep water ports is intended to support about one third of the energy development going forward. After the other criteria were evaluated, possible negative effects on scenic values and recreational uses were applied.

The four areas slated for experimentation and possible development in the next one to seven years are: 1) Camp Rilea south of Astoria, accepted in spite of some negative factors because, as a military base, its mission includes supplying alternative power in a major emergency; 2) Nestucca River, accepted after revision to keep any project away from the mouth of the river and affording protection for high usage fishing grounds; 3) Reedsport, which has already received a permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and 4) a Reedsport/Lakeside site, proposed by the Port of Coos Bay. FERC has been driving the move to use Oregon as a fertile area of the ocean for wave energy.

The 17 page document detailing the LCDC process and conclusions is available to be sent to any Curry County League member who would like to review it. Please contact Milt Nelson at 541-332-9002 or [mas770@charter.net](mailto:mas770@charter.net) to receive a copy. Curry League Board has been supportive of a public forum on these issues.

## Four New Advertisers

Please take a look at Pages 6 and 7. You will see advertisements placed by four new advertisers:

- Jeanette McVay of Blue Pacific Realty
- Shabby to Chic Boutique
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These advertisements help our League pay for the important things that we do. They help us avoid increasing our dues. Our Voter Forums cost money. So does publishing *CoastLines* each month. All of our advertisers are supporting good government by helping to pay for the important work that we do.

**We need to show our gratitude to those who support us.** We can do that in a couple of ways. One way is to call the advertiser, ask to speak to the owner or manager and thank them for their support. The most important way to say "Thank You" is to patronize them. When you do that, make sure you ask to speak to the owner or manager and tell them how much you appreciate the advertisement in *CoastLines*. When an advertiser knows that their ad in *CoastLines* gets noticed and makes a difference they know that their advertising dollars were well spent. Please do not wait for someone else to make that call. It is a small but important thing that **you** can do to support our League.



## Help us be better informed!!

Oregon has an Open Meetings law. It applies to all government bodies, not just the State Legislature. When our County Commissioners, City Council or School Board approve a budget, pass an ordinance or apply for a grant they must do so in a meeting that is open to the public. The objective is that the voters will know what their elected leaders are doing, thereby making those leaders more responsive to the will of those who elected them. That objective will be met only when the voters are paying attention. **That is where you come in!!**

No one has the time to go to all of these meetings. Our local newspapers do not have the staff to assign reporters to all of these meetings. But if you pick one governing body that you want to follow, go to their meetings and report what they did to the *CoastLines* editor, those reports will be published each month in *CoastLines*. Imagine if we had one person following the County Commissioners and others following each City Council and School Board. Each month our members and other readers could open *CoastLines* and learn what their elected leaders are doing.

We are not asking that you take an active role in the meeting. In fact, we are asking just the opposite. We are asking that you be a reporter. Just tell us in a paragraph or two what took place, what decisions were made. Your *CoastLines* editor will make sure that all of the members get your message. If you are interested, please contact Al Wilson at [al@ruffandsluff.com](mailto:al@ruffandsluff.com) or 541-661-1192.



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Drawing will be held May 18, 2013, 8 pm at The Mill Casino, North Bend, OR. Ticket holders need not be present to win. Maximum number of tickets to be sold: 2000

## **OBSERVE "SUNSHINE WEEK"**

Concerned citizens in 2005 started Sunshine Week, to be observed annually around James Madison's birthday, March 15. This year's dates are March 10 – 16. Purpose of the week is to focus our attention on letting sunshine into the meetings of our governing bodies. Transparency is another word often used. They should not make decisions in secret that affect us.

Our unit meetings when we hear Sheriff John Bishop will take place in Sunshine Week or shortly thereafter. Come, listen, and ask questions. Another way to observe the intent, even if the meeting is not during that week, is to attend a session of your City Council or our County Commissioners.

# Everett Dial Speaks at January Unit Meetings



### District Attorney Everett Dial Speaking to Brookings Unit Meeting

Curry County District Attorney Everett Dial spoke to sixteen people in Port Orford and ten people in Brookings for our February Unit Meetings on February 19 and 20. Both meetings included members of the general public, some of whom are prospects for our organization.

Among the points Dial made were that our mental health system in Oregon is not working well for people in that population who are arrested. The department processes 800 to 900 criminal cases per year, including all child welfare and juvenile delinquent cases, plus reviewing public records requests. Many cases are drug-related, especially methamphetamine. The D.A. is the one who oversees death investigation and gives permission for the body to be taken to a mortuary.

Primary investigations are done by police; the D.A.'s office reviews the cases to determine sufficient evidence to file charges. This must be done within 36 hours of arrest. Citations are often issued in place of trials. In Curry County 90% of cases are referred to public defenders. The D.A. makes plea offers to help reduce the number of cases. Plea offers are based on State guidelines. Measure 11, passed by Voters in 1994, applies enhanced penalties for violent crimes with mandatory minimum sentencing.

Trial preparation takes many days, including interviews, evidence collection and research. In addition to the District Attorney, the department has two deputy D.A.'s, secretary, office manager, and victim advocate. All salaries come from the County General Fund. If the proposed property tax measure on the May 21 ballot fails, he would lose one deputy; the jail would close May 22. Curry County would have to choose their three most dangerous inmates and rent space at Coos County Jail. The other prisoners (currently 43) would be released.

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*Coast Lines*  
 League of Women Voters of Curry County  
 P O Box 8039  
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March and April 2013		
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Mar 12; 1- 3 PM	Port Orford Public Library
Brookings Unit Meeting	Mar 18; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
LWVCC Board Meeting	Mar 20; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
Gold Beach Unit Meeting	Mar 20; 5:15 PM	Gold Beach City Hall
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Apr 9; 1- 3 PM	To Be Announced
Brookings Unit Meeting	Apr 10; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
LWVCC Board Meeting	Apr 17; 12 - 2 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
Gold Beach Voter Forum	Apr 29; 7 PM	If needed; see March <i>Coast Lines</i>
Port Orford Voter Forum	Apr 30; 7 PM	If needed; see March <i>Coast Lines</i>
Brookings Voter Forum	May 1; 7 PM	If needed; see March <i>Coast Lines</i>

# Membership Invitation

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

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\_\_\_\_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

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