



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

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www.lwvcurry.org

March 2012

MARCH UNIT MEETINGS PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC ENTITIES

The February unit meetings in Brookings and Port Orford offered league members the opportunity to examine the issues surrounding Privatization of Public Entities and the national positions scripted by the League.

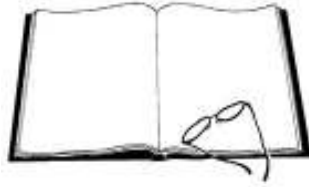
In March we will meet again to complete the consensus procedure that allows us to take an active role, at the grassroots level, in the direction taken on national League positions. We, as members of LWVCC, may confirm the League's positions, or disagree and redirect their impact. Consensus findings will be compiled by the Curry County League's Board of Directors and forwarded to LWVUS.

The chance to affect government policy at the grassroots level is one of the benefits of membership in the League of Women Voters. Please join us if you can at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13 in Port Orford at the Nelsons' home or on Wednesday, March 14 at 2 p.m. at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings.

VOTER FORUMS APRIL 17, 18 & 19

Voter Service activities will increase in this election year. Three candidate forums have been scheduled for: Tuesday, April 17 in the Gold Beach City Council Meeting Room; Wednesday, April 18 at the Port Orford Library; and Thursday, April 19 at the Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings. All forums will take place between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. We know there are several candidates for each of the two open County Commissioner positions, all running on a nonpartisan basis. After the March 6 filing deadline we will know which other offices, if any, will have opposing candidates. Look for further information in the April *Coast Lines*.

Please put one of these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. These forums are one of the most visible things that our League does and they demonstrate how League membership benefits the entire community. We need League members to help with setup and cleanup. We also need members who will help collect the questions from the audience. Please plan to attend and offer your help. It means so much!!



Dear League Members and Friends,

It is the beginning of a very busy political season! Throughout the country, the League of Women Voters is making it possible for voters to be informed and involved in the governance of our land.

Currently, LWVCC is involved in the national consensus study on the issue of the privatization of public entities (see the Front Page). We are also engaged in a three-year information gathering process in Curry County on the topic of work force housing; the committee compiling the data is nearly ready to present a final report on the availability of worker housing and its impact on the local work force. In addition, it was suggested by a member of our local League that we propose a national study on congressional lobbying. Please see more information about that proposal on page 3.

The highlight of the political season is the LWVCC Voter Forums that take place in mid-April in all of our three communities. Please volunteer to lend a hand if you can. Also be aware that information on the local election will be available through LWV's online resource to candidates and issues called **Vote411**; our printed handout will continue to be useful to those of you not online.

Looking for a very quick and easy way to volunteer? We plan to undertake a local voter registration campaign in the spring. If you are able to take a small role, please call me at a 541-469-4230.

It is a busy time of year for League as you will discover in this month's *Coast Lines*. Enjoy! And please get involved where and when you can.

Jan

The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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541-469-5805
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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

STUDY OF LOBBYING PROPOSED TO LWVUS

The Curry County League's Board of Directors approved a proposal for a national study on lobbying and submitted it to LWVUS. The text of the proposal follows:

The League of Women Voters of Curry County Oregon proposes a national study on lobbying as it applies to members of the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States Congress. The scope would include the history of lobbying in the United States: how it began, how it has grown; how lobbying affects decision making; the connection between money and other gifts to legislators and legislative outcomes; public interest lobbying versus private corporate lobbying. Are there rules or constraints on lobbying and lobbyists or could there be? What do the Constitution, Federal statues and Federal court decisions say about lobbying? Has lobbying produced any good results? What are the positive and negative effects of lobbying?

VOTE411 IS COMING

Vote411 is a major development from LWVUS, supported by LWVOR and all of the local Leagues in Oregon. By using Vote411 on the Internet citizens will be able to gather unbiased election information on all elections from President of the United States to local contests. All the information will be at a single source. Users will be directed to the elections relevant to them by supplying their Zip Code. This information will be in addition to the printed Voters Guides that the League is well known and respected for.

The plans and implementation for Vote 411 in Oregon are well underway. Mary Sinclair and Heather Drake, for the State League, are spending many hours getting things ready and making sure those of us in local Leagues learn how to handle all aspects of the program. Our LWVCC Board just approved the three questions we will ask each of our candidates. Candidates will be able to supply a brief biography and statement along with answers to these questions.

Al Wilson and Shirley Nelson will handle the details for the Curry County League. We will be ordering fewer paper Voter's Guides this year, so if you have a computer and are able to use it, we hope you will get your Primary Election information at Vote 411. More details will be available in the April *Coast Lines*.

Two Noteworthy Days

Milt and Shirley Nelson had two interesting experiences recently. On January 27 they attended the Open House at the beautiful Brookings campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. Among the dignitaries who spoke briefly were State Rep. Wayne Krieger, who was instrumental in getting funding, SWOCC President Dr. Patty Scott, and Curry County Dean Janet Pretti of Port Orford. There was such a feeling of joy and accomplishment in the air. It was truly a great day for Curry County. Other Curry League members we noticed were Phyllis Cottingham and Georgia Nowlin.

On February 11 they attended the premier of the film *Ocean Frontiers* in Port Orford. Four major projects that enhance the environment are profiled in the beautiful photography: one in Iowa, one in Boston, and one in the Florida Keys. Port Orford's marine reserve project starts and ends the film. At the reception afterward Governor John Kitzhaber came to our table to sign some posters. Knowing that the Governor's mother Annabelle Kitzhaber was active in the League in Oregon, Milt and I introduced ourselves as members of League of Women Voters of Curry County. Kitzhaber raised his right hand in the air and said, "Yes! I was weaned on the League of Women Voters."

Work Force Housing Report

Several years ago several members of our League joined forces to examine the state of Work Force Housing in Curry County. A great deal of effort included drafting a set of questions, presenting those questions and recording answers from a cross-section of citizens located in all three cities in Curry County. After collating those responses the group's work is nearing an end. The hope is that a report will be published and included in the April issue of *Coast Lines*.

HELP OUR LEAGUE GROW!!

ASK A FRIEND TO COME WITH YOU TO A MEETING.



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

March and April 2012		
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Mar 13; 1PM	Nelsons' Home
Brookings Unit Meeting	Mar 14; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
LWVCC Board Meeting	Mar 21; Noon	Nelsons' Home
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Apr 10; 1PM	Location TBA
Brookings Unit Meeting	Apr 11; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
Gold Beach Voters Forum	Apr 17; 7-9 PM	Gold Beach City Council Room
LWVCC Board Meeting	Apr 18; 2 PM	Chetco Community Public Library
Port Orford Voters Forum	Apr 18; 7-9 PM	Port Orford Public Library
Brookings Voters Forum	Apr 19; 7-9 PM	Chetco Community Public Library

Membership Application

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.