



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters® of Curry County

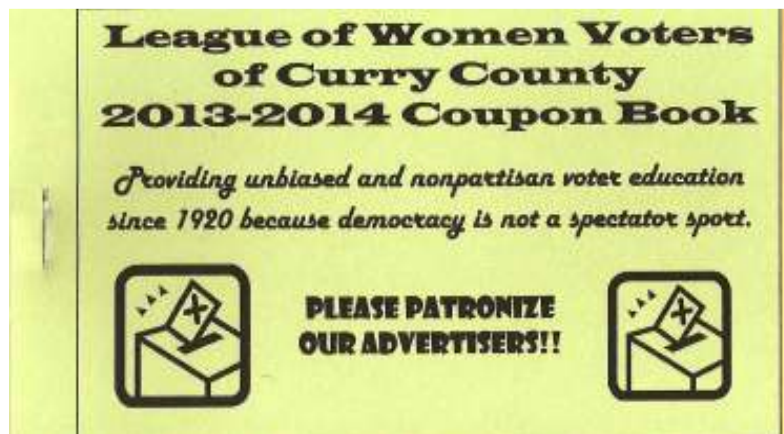
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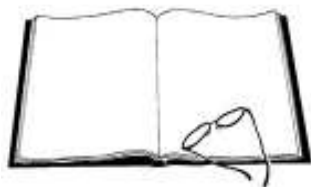
HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 7 AT 1 PM

Come join in the fun with a Holiday celebration on December 7th at 1PM at Mangia Buffs at the Goldrush Building, downtown Gold Beach. If you haven't eaten there you are in for a treat. Choices will be: Penne Pomo Doro (a Vegan all vegetable pasta), Pasta Alfredo with chicken or 3 cheese ravioli with meat sauce. Side dishes include grilled garden vegetables, a choice of Cesar or Garden Vegetable salad and bread. Also included are a dish of Spumoni and a choice of ice-tea or lemonade. Wine and beer are available at your expense. The cost is \$12 per person, paid at the door, which covers all that great food and the gratuity. Bring a guest, friend and or spouse for this great meal and social event. For reservations email Lucie LaBonté with your meal choice at: labontelucie2@gmail.com or leave a message at 541-247-0935. **The deadline was November 25 but it has been pushed back to December 2!! So call Lucie right away!!** *Please Note: While Mangia Buffs has a coupon in our coupon book, it will not be accepted for this meal since it is a special event.*



COUPON BOOKS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Coupon Books are a great present to show your appreciation. They contain hundreds of dollars in savings for only \$25.00 for the first book and \$20.00 for each additional book. What a great gift! All coupons are valid through December 2014! We have Realtors buying them to give to new residents of the County as an introduction to the many fine businesses we have here in Curry County. Get yours today! The person receiving the book will enjoy it and you will be doing your part in helping our League balance its budget. Please call Charlie 541-332-0386 in Port Orford to get your books today.



Dear Members and Friends,

Elections are over and League activities slow down a bit for the Holidays. It is time to have some fun and gather with your fellow members for our annual Holiday Party. This year's party is being held at one of the fine new restaurants in Curry County: Mangia Buffs in Gold Beach. Many members have already reserved their places and the reservation deadline has passed but that does not mean that you cannot attend. If you call Lucie at 541-247-0935 she can probably find a spot for you. Come join us for a fun afternoon.

I want to draw your attention to the article on Page 5 dealing with our January Unit Meetings. One of the most important actions that our League takes is the efforts we make for good governance. All of these are based on position we have taken at the local League, State or National level. Annually our League reviews these positions to make sure that they are still relevant and up to date. If we want to make changes, they start at these Unit Meetings in January. Please plan to attend the meeting in your Unit so that you can have a voice.

I want to pass along my personal greetings for the holiday season. I hope that you and your family have a healthy and happy 2014.

We are going to have a busy 2014. It is an election year, after all. Your participation will be important.

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*

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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

Editor's Note: In March 2014 our League will be responding to consensus questions regarding the restudy of the League's national position on Agriculture. In order to become familiar with issues facing local farmers two presentations were arranged for the October Unit Meetings. They are summarized here.

Gold Beach and Brookings Unit Report Organic Sheep Ranching

The Gold Beach and Brookings Unit members and guests learned from Organic Sheep Rancher Elaine Pommarane in November. Elaine raised concerns about small farmers and ranchers being under the same rules and laws as big corporate farmers and ranchers severely restricting operations. Problems such as removing small amounts of manure within the watershed and the federal laws guiding them are a concern. If that could be addressed, life for the small rancher/farmer would be easier. A local concern she brought up is reductions at the Sheriff office beginning in January. Years ago the County eliminated funding for the Predator Control Officer. Ranchers like Pommarane and timber companies such as South Coast Lumber are now funding the position. Predators include coyotes, cougar and bobcats. Her biggest drawback is having help in doing chores like mending fences. Flooding and land erosion caused by restoration projects that have failed and are not being dealt with by agencies is another problem.

Elaine is known for her high success rate with her lambing due to the fact she stays with them during the lambing and brings them in so that the sheep care for them. Her wool is also very special and known throughout the area by spinners. What are the advantages to being a rancher? It gives her time to volunteer for the Snack Pack program that feeds children and assures that all children have a good meal. She also loves the lifestyle.

Port Orford Unit Report Presentations from Two Local Farmers

Two local farmers spoke to Port Orford Unit members Tuesday, November 12 at Port Orford Library. Scott McKenzie, one in a long line of McKenzie farmers, grows cranberries, sheep, cattle, and timber. Mary Margaret Smith and her husband David have one acre of organic cranberries.

McKenzie described his operations and mentioned the difficulty of getting dependable workers when he needs extra help. He is involved in riparian improvement projects in cooperation with the local watershed council and other community-oriented activities. Oregon exports many agricultural products. Coos and Curry counties grow cranberries. We are one of several states which grow them, Wisconsin producing the most; local fruit has the reputation of better flavor and sweetness.

McKenzie mentioned that cranberries are now being made into a pill to treat urinary tract infections. He uses the wet method of harvest: bogs are flooded and a person-operated machine lifts berries from the vines to float on top.

Smith said two problems they have are pests: the cranberry girdler and black-headed fireworm. Organic farmers are limited in what they can use to deal with them. Another difficulty is that the federal government no longer helps farmers renew their organic certification which involves several hundred dollars yearly. The Smiths use the dry method of harvest with a person-powered machine which goes through the fields and removes the berries and prunes the vines at the same time. Neither McKenzie nor Smith market locally. Both speakers said they have younger family members who are interested in continuing the farming business.

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT PORT ORFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission meeting of Nov. 12, 2013 started at 6:02pm as Gary Robinson was not in attendance and Karen Auburn presided. The members seemed more attentive this week and all seemed to have done their homework regarding the agenda items. Patty Clark seemed a little put out by Pat Rice passing out maps during the meeting but the visitors were treated with a little more respect.

Karen Auburn was a little timid about conducting the meeting but did a fine job. The agenda was available to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and the agenda items were clearly described and discussed during the meeting. Nothing seemed to be discussed in a closed session.

There was ample opportunity for the public to speak but no one chose to. Pat Rice arrived late and had no opportunity to speak. When she attempted to do so during the meeting, it was explained to her that the time for public input had passed prior to her arrival. She questioned that it was an open meeting and wanted to talk.

The night's agenda and minutes for the prior meeting were available to the public along with the City of Port Orford's comprehensive plan and land use ordinances dated 1989, which were discussed for updating as were the sign ordinances for Port Orford.

The meeting room was adequate and the press was not in attendance.

Christine Rees, observer

MORE OBSERVERS NEEDED

As you can see from reading Christine's report, observers can help all of us stay informed about our governing organizations. It is our job as citizens to stay informed but we cannot be everywhere at once. One of the important things that the League of Women Voters has been doing for decades is helping our members stay informed. Observers attend meetings, everything from the County Commissioners to local school boards and port commissions. They do not participate in the meetings. They observe and write a report on what took place. They send the report to the Observer Corps chair, who forwards them to the CoastLines editor for publication.

Lucie La Bonté chairs our Observer Corps and she needs volunteers. If there is a government board or steering committee active in your area that interests you, please get in touch with Lucie at 541-247-0935. She'll give you the necessary training and introduce you to the head of the organization you will be observing.

JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS

Every January, units in the Curry County League review our positions on the local level and, in alternating years, the state and national positions. The recommendations from the units are passed on to the board at each level and, if accepted, are presented to the governing body. That's our Annual Meeting, locally, and the State or National League of Women Voters Convention. These groups have the final say on League policy.

For each position we reach consensus on whether to keep the position, restudy/update it, or drop it. We cannot lobby on any position that we drop; there must be a new study on that issue. This process maintains our grassroots approach: the members decide what to study and which positions are important. As this is the year for the convention of League of Women Voters of the United States, we will review national positions at our unit meetings, as well as our own local positions.

We hope to see everyone at the January meetings. While it is not as exciting as outside speakers or a new study, this is important League work. If you need help obtaining this background information or if you would like guidance on how to take part in this effort, please contact Shirley at mas770@charter.net or 541-332-9002.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of the achievements of the 2013 Legislative session was passage of HB 2620. This bill directs the Governor to develop a plan to align state economic and community development programs with regional and community based development programs. The bill provides that the plan must propose changes in state programs that promote regional and community based problem solving while preserving state program objectives and delivery of services. The bill further provides that the Governor must ensure that representatives of natural resource agencies participate in regional solution teams and be available at regional solution centers to maximum extent possible.

Regional meetings have been scheduled to solicit information from citizens around the state. The closest meeting to Curry County will be on December 10 in Medford. All citizens are invited to attend. The meeting runs from 7:30 to 9:30 AM with a light breakfast served at 7:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Higher Education Center (HEC), 101 South Bartlett Street, Conference Room 127/129B in Medford, OR. There are multiple pay parking lots available within a few blocks of the HEC. There is a limited amount of free three hour parking in the Middleford and Evergreen garages (corner of 6th & Riverside or 7th & Front).

New Member Profiles

S. Christine Rees (Chris) is another new member in Port Orford. After attending Unit meetings with public officials, she decided to join League to become better informed on issues. She hopes to use the information gained to make a positive contribution to her local community. She attended Van Nuys, California Community College, taking courses in Engineering, Childhood Development and Theater, among others. She has worked for Allstate Insurance Company and as a flagger, a feast or famine enterprise. She is now retired. Welcome Chris.

Help our League Grow! Invite a friend to a Unit Meeting!

You know how important good government is or you would not be a League of Women Voters member. For us to be a vital and growing organization we need an ever-growing membership. That best way for us to grow is for each member to consider themselves a recruiter. If you have a friend, male or female, who cares about good government, ask them to come to one of our meetings. When they see how much effect their efforts can have they are likely to want to become involved. Do not be bashful. People like to be asked to get involved.

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

December 2013 and January 2014		
LWVCC Holiday Party	Dec 7; 1 to 3 PM	Mangia Buffs Restaurant, Gold Beach
Brookings Unit Meeting	Jan 8; 2 to 4 PM	Chetco Library Annex
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Jan 14; 1 to 3 PM	Port Orford Library
Gold Beach Unit Meeting	Jan 16; 5:30 PM	Gold Beach City Hall
LWVCC Board Meeting	Jan 21; 3 to 5 PM	Port Orford Library

Membership Invitation

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

JOIN NOW!

Name/Names _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ \$60 ONE-YEAR individual membership due on Sept. 1st 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.