



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

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www.lwvcurry.org

September 2011

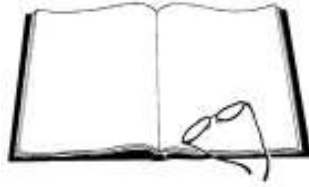
Your Property Tax Statement Explained

One thing that appears in our mail box each October is our property tax statement. It shows how much we owe Curry County for the coming year. We all know how to figure out how much we need to pay and when, but how many of us understand what all of those columns of figures mean? Do we know how those numbers are computed or how the tax rates and assessments are set? Or how is all of that money distributed? Our October Unit Meetings will present you with answers to these and other questions about your property taxes. The Brookings Unit meeting is on Wednesday October 12 at 2PM in the Chetco Community Library small meeting room. The Port Orford Unit Meeting is on Monday October 17 at 1PM at the Nelson's house. Our guest at each meeting will be Jim Kolen, Curry County Assessor.

Jim was born and raised in Gold Beach, attended Oregon State University then moved on to real estate in the early 1980's where he met his wife Reneé, who is from Albany, OR. Jim and Reneé returned to Gold Beach in September 1983 when he began work at the Curry County Assessor's Office. Their first son, Arend, was born December that year. The Kolens' second son Nick was born in May 1987.

Jim was elected as Curry County's Assessor in 1988 and is currently in his sixth term. Due to budget difficulties in May of 2011 the Curry County Commissioners transferred responsibility for tax collection from the County Treasurer to the Assessor to reduce costs.

Jim asks that each of us bring a copy of our property tax bill with us – the new one you will have just received or last year's if this year's statement has not arrived. What he intends to do is to explain what is in that statement and to answer any questions that you have. He intends to include in his discussion who sets the tax rates for each line item and who controls how the money is distributed and spent. This figures to be a very informative meeting. Please come!!



Dear League Members and Friends,

Thanks to our membership drive efforts and the response from those locally who support our mission, the League of Women Voters of Curry County is growing. I am grateful for your commitment and to those who were able to attend September's unit meeting. If you missed it, you may want to explore the LWVOR.org webpage, or call me or another board member if you have questions about League and how it works. Our membership drive will continue through this calendar year.

Inside this issue of Coast Lines, you will find a copy of the letter drafted by LWVCC members and sent to the Oregon State Parks Commission expressing our concerns regarding the proposed Floras Lake Golf Course. Thanks to objections from many concerned individuals and groups, the proposal is facing serious opposition.

October's Unit Meeting topic is timely: County Assessor Jim Kolen will speak in Pt Orford and in Brookings about our county property tax structure; specifically, how our taxes are collected and how they are disbursed. Members are encouraged to bring recent property tax statements (this year's or last) for the discussion. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Thank you for your continued involvement in LWVCC. Our efforts to shape the actions of our government, local, state and national, defines what League does.

Jan

**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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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

Destination Resort At Floras Lake Our League's Position

Much has been in the news recently about a proposed destination resort near Floras Lake that would include a golf course, hotels and restaurants. The Curry County Commissioners are proposing to exchange land owned by the County for land owned by the State of Oregon and administered by Oregon State Parks. Recently the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Curry County reviewed this proposal in light of our existing positions. The following letter to the State Parks and Recreation Commission summarizes our position.

September 26, 2011

State Parks and Recreation Commission
725 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Attn: Chris Havel

The Curry County Commissioners, led by George Rhodes, are expected to present a proposal for your consideration in the near future. The proposal would exchange some of the land currently owned by Curry County for some of the Oregon State Parks land at Floras Lake. A destination resort development is being suggested for that property.

As members of the League of Women Voters of Oregon, we participated in a statewide study of Oregon State Parks in 1998-99. We believe that your mission statement would not be fulfilled by granting this exchange of land. From the position adopted by LWVOR following our study, three statements are relevant:

“The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that a parks system is an appropriate function of state government and should provide the following services:

1. Acquire, protect and preserve natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and wildlife sites and other resources ...”

PROGRAM

“The LWVOR believes that to be effective the Oregon parks system must have:

2. Consideration of local concerns when consistent with statewide public interest ...”

PLANNING

“The LWVOR believes that the Oregon parks system requires a long-range strategic plan that includes periodic evaluation and is adequately funded. Such a plan should give high priority to:

3. Preservation and maintenance of existing parks ...”

We feel that the exchange of land would not be in the best interests of Oregon State Parks or the people of Curry County.

Very truly yours,

Jan Krick, President
League of Women Voters of Curry County

Consensus for LWVUS Study: Role of Federal Government in Education

The League of Women Voters of the United States is nearing completion of a two year study of the role of the federal government in Education. It is a vitally important part of any League study, whether local, state or national, to gather feedback from League members regarding the findings of the study. At the end of each study questions are submitted by the study committee to League members to create a consensus of their opinions regarding the study's findings. Our November Unit Meetings – November 8 in Port Orford and November 9 in Brookings – will be devoted to generating the Curry County League's answers to those questions. Before we can provide meaningful answers to those questions we need to review carefully the material that the study committee has gathered.

The cost of making printed copies of this material available to all League members is prohibitive. Shirley Nelson has sent an email to all League members who have provided the League with an email address. These include downloads of the most important documents. Those of you who do not have email and want to have these materials to review should contact either Shirley (for Port Orford members) or Al Wilson (for Brookings members). We will find a way to make this information available to you.

Here is a summary of what we will be working on at the November Unit Meetings. Please make plans to attend so that your views can be included in our report to the state League and then to National.

The United States government has been involved in education on all levels since our country was formed and the Constitution was written. One consensus question will be: is the federal involvement too much, too little, or just right? In the study material you will learn about the history of that involvement, what has been done for early childhood education and disadvantaged students, issues of equity (not necessarily "equality"), funding, and common core standards.

This study is rich with information and anyone can learn much just by reading the material. We hope as many Curry County League members as possible will read it and participate in the November unit meetings in Brookings and Port Orford.

LWVOR Fall Workshop

Saturday, Oct 22, Phoenix Inn, 850 Franklin Blvd., Eugene, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Registration deadline: Oct. 13, 2011

Gather New Information:

Action Committee Hot Topics

Update on Oregon's 10-Year Budget Plan with Michael Jordan, Oregon's Chief Operating Officer (or Sarah Miller)

Children at Risk, Privatization, & Education Study Updates

Special Guest Susan Wilson, LWVUS Liaison

Vote411 – How the League of Women Voters is getting election information onto the Web

More information at www.lwvor.org. The Nelsons and Kricks are planning to attend. Carpools are possible. Contact one of them to make arrangements.

Wild and Scenic Chetco River

Those who attended our Holiday Party in 2010 heard a wonderful presentation by the Rogue Riverkeeper, Lesley Adams. Since it is part of the same watershed Lesley is also involved in efforts to protect the Chetco from damage caused by proposed gold mining activity on the Chetco. Our U.S. Senators and Representative have sponsored legislation that would strengthen protection of the Chetco. Lesley has sent us an announcement of hearings regarding this issue.

Hello dear friends of the Chetco,

The Dept. of Interior finally published a new Federal Register Notice with the correct dates, times and locations for public commenting on the proposed mineral withdrawal for the Wild and Scenic Chetco River <<http://saveourchetco.blogspot.com/p/about.html>>.

Comments must be received by November 30, 2011. Stay tuned for a sample letter, talking points and more to help you provide comments on behalf of the Chetco, its water quality and fish.

The new public hearing date is Wednesday, October 26, 2011, from 1pm to 3pm and from 6pm to 8pm at the Best Western Beachfront Inn, 16008 Boat Basin Road in Brookings. It is very important to have a strong showing of support at this hearing! Stay tuned for more info, and again, talking points for you to use to formulate your own comments to give at the hearing. Please mark your calendars now and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to join us on October 26. We do think it's best to not publicize the hearing date widely, but invite and encourage folks directly.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will be sending you more information soon on this effort to protect the Wild and Scenic Chetco from gold mining development. Thank you!

All the best,

lesley.

--

Lesley Adams, Program Director*

**Rogue Riverkeeper*

PO Box 102

Ashland, Oregon 97520

541.488.5789

www.rogueriverkeeper.org <<http://www.kswild.org/rogueriverkeeper>>

Another New Member!!!

At our Annual Meeting in June the members voted to make increasing our membership our local Program for 2011-2012. *Coast Lines* is happy to report further success. Genevieve Leary has joined as a household member. She is moving to Brookings in October and looks forward to helping with the activities that we have planned. She will be at the October Unit Meeting in Brookings. Please come and introduce yourself.

We have already increased our member count from last year but we cannot rest now. If you know someone who might be interested in joining the League please ask them if they would like to come to the October Unit meeting in your area. It will be a great introduction to what the League does, both for ourselves and for our community.

Holiday Party Update

Please mark your calendars for our annual holiday party. Not only will the food be good and the company warm and welcoming but we will have a speaker who will be of interest to us all. The party will be Saturday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m. at Port Orford Senior Center, 1536 Jackson Street in Port Orford. Sonja Mason, who has cooked for us before, will cater. Bill McMillan, CEO of Curry Health District, will speak. There will be more details in the October issue of *Coast Lines*.



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 - Gold Beach (541) 247-6638
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funzone@harborside.com



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

October and November 2011		
Brookings Unit Meeting	Oct 12; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Oct 17; 1PM	Nelsons' House
LWVCC Board Meeting	Oct 19; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Nov 8; 1PM	Location TBA
Brookings Unit Meeting	Nov 9; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
LWVCC Board Meeting	Nov 16; 2PM	Nelsons' House

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.