

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CURRY COUNTY

CoastLines



*Greetings Members,
Friends and Sponsors!
Oh, the sunshine does
wonders for the spirit!
Happy Spring.*

President's Letter

By MJ LaBelle

First off, the Voter Service Team ("VST") of Charlie Alexander, Dennis Triglia and I have been busy getting ready for the Candidate Forums to be held and recorded on April 19 and 20, 2021 for the May Special District Elections. There is an article in this edition, so please check it out.

The Board is preparing for the Annual Membership Meeting to be held June 5, 2021. You will be hearing more about that shortly. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we must hold it again on Zoom and hope that the next one will be in person. It's just so much nicer to see one another in the flesh! This is the meeting where the new Board is elected and appointed and is very important to have the membership attend.

In lieu of individual Unit meetings, we have been holding monthly all-county Unit meetings on Zoom, and they have been wonderful.

*Hoping many of you
have been vaccinated
& that you are well, be
happy & safe.*



Please see the article about our March 18th Unit meeting where we learned about current Governance issues from Norman Turrill, past-President of LWVOR and chairperson of the LWVOR Governance Committee.

Our next meeting will be April 15, 5pm to 6pm on Zoom, the topic will be "Civics Education and Legislation" presented by Phoebe Skinner, Civics high school teacher and LWVCC member. **Join us!**

There is an article in this edition. All Unit meetings are being recorded and are available for viewing at www.lwvcurry.org.

The LWVOR Action and Legislative Committees have been exceptionally busy interviewing our elected officials so we can anticipate what they will be thinking when they vote on issues like Election Reform and Redistricting. It is likely that Redistricting will be a ballot measure again this year.

Anne Tlaker, our fundraising chair, is beginning to see the light at the end of the Pandemic tunnel. More on that later.



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If you're interested in checking out the current bylaws yourself, they can be found under the "About" tab on our website, lwvcurry.org.



Three proposals for bylaw changes will be on the annual meeting agenda.

The first two proposals concern LWVCC's "program." (Program refers to issues related to local government that are selected for study and action by the membership, as a means to implement League principles.) The first proposal relates to program adoption; the second, to program changes. The third proposal addresses the form in which records are maintained.

1. The first proposal would change Article VIII, Section 2, of the Bylaws, which sets forth the procedure for adopting LWVCC's program. As currently drafted, this provision uses different terminology from that of the national league (LWVUS). Furthermore, in its current form, it does not specify that the majority required for program is a majority of members present and voting at the annual meeting, as opposed to a majority of all members. The proposed revision would address both of those shortcomings.
2. The second proposal would affect Article VIII, Section 3, of the Bylaws, which concerns changes to program once adopted. This proposal again addresses two parts of the current bylaw. First, it would clarify the process for limiting the scope and focus of a program that's been adopted, by providing greater specificity. Second, with respect to member meetings to consider program changes, the advance notice time would be reduced from two weeks to one; that shorter notice period mirrors the one-week notice provided for all other general membership meetings (except the annual meeting), under Article VI, Section 3.
3. The third and final bylaw change proposal would affect Article IX, Section 4, which concerns records. Currently, that bylaw states that a "paper copy" of specified records "shall be retained" by the LWVCC officer who's the designated guardian of those records. The proposed change would permit the retention of the specified documents in electronic form as well; that is permitted under Oregon Law, so long as the electronic form is "capable of conversion into written form within a reasonable time." [ORS §65.771 (4)].

Rep. David
Brock Smith &

Campaign Finance Reform

On March 5, 2021, Norman Turrill, LWVOR Governance Chair, James Ofsink, LWVPDX and MJ LaBelle, LWV Curry County President met virtually with Representative David Brock-Smith regarding Oregon [House Bill 334](#); and other bills on campaign finance limits. Representative Brock-Smith was concerned that Unions and other Democratic based organizations would be treated like every other PAC.



He also stated that he felt that Redistricting and Campaign Finance reform go hand-in-hand. Fairness was his concern and Norman Turrill and James Ofsink felt assured that the proposed rules would hold for all organizations equally. The proposed small donor committees could contribute to a candidate only if each donation to the committee was tied to a specific person and each donation did not exceed \$100. Representative Brock-Smith said that he would take this subject to his caucus on Monday for discussion and debate.

On April 17, the Oregon Local League Leaders held its month meeting on Zoom with President Becky Gladstone presiding and Norman Turrill, Governance Director, attending. Many topics were covered.

Convention:

The "First Call to Convention was discussed and there will be more information to follow. The title is "Reset, Reboot, Reconnect" and will be held on ZOOM May 10-16 for a maximum of 4 hours /day so that we aren't all sitting for three days.

Becky announced that they will ask the Local Leagues to make a short video that will be combined with all the Leagues into a video that will be played off and on during the whole convention. This will be fun and I look forward to figuring out how to manage this!

Becky announced that there are 1300 members in Oregon, and they fall into 15 categories. Some of those are student categories, which our Alyce Prudden has been working on. Bravo Alyce!

The Action Committee is busy, and you heard at the Zoom Unit meeting when Norman Turrill spoke to us on Governance. April 29 is the Nation League's Day of Action. There will be a Redistricting Movie produced. I cannot tell you what that means for us at this time.

Speaking of which, Norman announced that in 2.5 months, the Oregon Supreme Court will be discussing redistricting w/Census data or its own non-census data. On April 30, we will know if Oregon will move from 5 to 6 Districts due to the increasing Census data. How those districts will be apportioned is the question. We are likely to see a new initiative filed for Redistricting.



The LWVOR Nominating Committee is calling for nominations to the following seats:

- ✓ **2 State Board Directors**
- ✓ **2 Nominating Committee members**
- ✓ **Budget Committee Chair**

Becky asked that you consider nominating yourself Voter Service: for some Leagues Candidate Forums there will be live translations in Spanish. At this stage, Curry will not be offering that.

There was a discussion on Insurances. Most Boards have D&O (directors and officers) insurance. The question was for those Leagues who purchase Liability coverage for when they hold meetings at large sites. We at Curry don't need that because our sites have their own coverage. Additionally, the Anti-slap suit law prevents frivolous lawsuits to Non-Profit organization. This is another good reason that we have become a 501 c-3. Thank you Alyce and Lucie.

New Studies: Carol Loesche reported that they are working on an Affordable Housing Study.

Interviews on State Legislators continue to happen. Curry finished our interview w/Representative Brock-Smith. Senator Dallas Heard did not respond to the invitation for interview.



"Our COVID year of reflection has turned into a resurgent year of civic energy, civic engagement and civic enlightenment. We heard that democracy is not a value we've inherited; it's a value we need to earn – generation after generation. For it's a fragile thing. It can so easily be taken away. We heard that we all need to do our part."

Cheryl Graeve, National Institute for Civil Discourse

- 🇺🇸 **Report on LWVCC all unit member March Zoom Meeting held on March 18, 2021, from 5 to 6 pm.**
- 🇺🇸 **Mary Jane LaBelle hosted the meeting, and Louise Abbott moderated.**
- 🇺🇸 **Thanks to Colleen and Mary Jane for sending out the notices.**

The topic for the March meeting was Current Governance Issues in Oregon. Our speaker was Norman Turrill, a member of the Board of Directors for the LWV-Oregon. Mr. Turrill has been active in the Portland OR LWV, and he previously served on the LWV-US Board of Directors from 2008 to 2014. Mr. Turrill is an expert on redistricting reform and is the current President of the LWV of Oregon Advocacy Fund and Chair of the organization, People not Politicians, which aims to end gerrymandering in Oregon. Mr. Turrill covered five topics during our Unit meeting.

1. **Campaign Finance Reform** - Mr. Turrill discussed Measure107, a legislatively referred constitutional amendment, which the voters passed in the last 2020 election by a large margin. It authorizes legislative action in three areas of campaign finance reform. Several of the points addressed were contribution limits, "dark" money, and contributions from foreign nationals. The cost of contested campaigns for legislature positions can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and are typically covered by special interest groups. Costs for running political campaigns need to be returned to the people. Rep. David Brock Smith mentioned in a meeting with Mr. Turrill that he was interested in combining two issues, redistricting and campaign contribution limitations. The process by which bills are introduced was discussed briefly.
2. **Redistricting** - The data from the census that was completed in 2020 will be delayed in getting to the states. The necessary data needed by Oregon for redistricting may not be in hand in time for the July 1, 2021 legislative deadline. Several alternatives for getting other data or postponing parts of the redistricting process are being considered. It is possible that Oregon could gain a sixth congressional district. Gerrymandering by the legislators controlling the process is a possibility. What was meant by gerrymandering was discussed briefly. Mr. Turrill noted that ten hearings are required by law concerning redistricting, with two per current district. This allows legislators to listen to the needs and desires of voters. The next hearing for our district is April 10 from 12 to 2 PM.
3. **Preventing Party walkouts** - Both parties have engaged in walkouts to avoid a quorum to prevent bills from being considered by the Oregon legislature. Several possible solutions are being considered, including levying fines or withholding pay from those who walk out.
4. **Public Records & Public Hearings**- Mr. Turrill noted that the public records advocate is currently a legislative post. Proposals are afoot to make it an independent post in the executive branch. Legislative sessions are recorded and available to the public. It has been proposed that all public governmental meetings should be recorded and available to the public. This would involve significant logistical and economic challenges.
5. **Elections & Voting Methods** - Several bills are in various stages of development would alter our current voting system. Some relate to registration and voter eligibility. Others concern voting methods. Currently, Oregon uses a plurality system for voting. Other methods involve Rank Choice; Score; Score and then Rank Choice; and others. The LWV has studied the various voting methods and determined that the plurality system is the worst one available to use, and Rank Choice voting would be the most equitable, all things being equal. However, each system has its plusses and minuses.

NOTE

Several questions came up, and the discussion was quite interesting. The Unit meeting was recorded, and you can access the recording at the LWV-Curry County Website, <https://lwvcurry.org/> and click on the 2021 LWVCC Unit Zoom Meetings tab.



**The April Zoom meeting will be on
April 15, 2021, from 5 to 6 pm.
We hope to see you there.**



Here is a summary of the latest LWVCC board meeting, held March 15,

The following formal board actions were taken:

- Approval of financial statements: The Board approved the financial reports for February 2021 as submitted by Treasurer Colleen Bunn.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes: The Board approved the February 2021 meeting minutes as submitted by Secretary Alyce Prudden, with one correction.
- Approval of policy: The Board approved the recommendations contained in the Proposal for Records Disposition (Revision #1), as submitted by Alyce Prudden.
- Approval of bylaw proposals for annual meeting: The Board approved three proposed bylaw changes to be presented for adoption by the membership, at the annual meeting; two concern Program and one concerns Records.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

- Charlie Alexander reported on the upcoming Special District races. Since the LWVCC board met before the county's filing deadline, it was not clear how many races will be contested. In the event of contested races, LWVCC will conduct candidate forums in April via Zoom. In that event, press releases will be sent before the forum(s) and forum recordings will be posted on our website afterward.
- The county-wide unit meetings remain scheduled for every third Thursday, via Zoom. March's new speaker and topic: Norman Turrill, speaking on Current Governance Issues at LWVOR.
- The Board undertook its monthly *Coastlines* review, including plans for this April issue.
- Immediately following the board meeting, the Budget Committee met to draft a proposed budget for 2021-2022, for submission to the board and then the membership. Committee members are Colleen Bunn, Karol Simas, and Louise Abbott.

Annual Meeting Preview

Nominations

by Alyce Prudden



- ★ Looking ahead to the annual meeting in early June, one crucial item of business is the election of officers and directors. With that in mind, here's a reminder of how nominations work.
- ★ The Nominating Committee: Under LWVCC Bylaws, the nominating committee consists of five members. That includes the chair and two off-board members, who are elected in even-numbered years, at the annual meeting, for two-year terms. The remaining two members come from the board, which appoints them immediately after the annual meeting, for one-year terms. (Art. VII, §1.)
- ★ The Proposed Slate: The nominating committee's report is sent to LWVCC members a month before the annual meeting as a slate of proposed officers and directors, and it's presented for a vote at that meeting. (Art. VII, §2.)
- ★ Floor Nominations: Immediately after the election slate is presented at the annual meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor. However, prior consent of the nominee must be obtained. (Art. VII, §2.)
- ★ If you're interested in serving on the LWVCC Board of Directors – or know a member who is – a floor nomination at the annual meeting will serve, but consideration by the nominating committee would be even better. As an appointed committee member this year (and volunteer contact point), I invite you to contact me at (541)412-0292 or aeprudden@aol.com. I'll pass your ideas along to the full committee.

Membership News

by Alyce Prudden, Membership Chair

April 2021 Volume 37 Issue 7

Spring has arrived, with the promise of sunnier days ahead. Another harbinger of hope is the steady progress in controlling the pandemic through vaccination and other safety measures. For now, though, the virtual world remains our safest means for connection. Even so, LWVCC is dedicated to staying connected, both with our members and with the broader community.

• Member Engagement

LWVCC is starting to implement a plan for periodic contact with all current members, on an informal, personal basis, just to stay in touch. As we go forward, please let us know how you feel about this idea.

• Unit Meetings

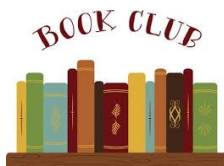
As you know, we've switched from in-person unit meetings to all-member Zoom meetings during the pandemic. The meetings are scheduled for the Third Thursday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

• Outreach

As noted in earlier *Coastlines* issues, LWVCC is making efforts to reach out to high school students. We contacted all three local high schools, hoping to connect with students through their teachers, with a focus on civics, history, and government classes. We began with an invitation to attend our March all-member Zoom meeting.

Book Club

By Karol Simas



A reminder, May's unit meeting will be a book discussion. I just finished the book **"On Tyranny, Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century" by Timothy Snyder**. He is a history professor who has authored much on European fascism, nazism, and communism. What struck me about this short yet insightful book, is it was published in 2017, well before the January 6th 2021 assault on the capital. After reading his lessons, I don't think he would have been surprised by the insurrection. Snyder points out "History does not repeat but it does instruct." His 20 lessons use Europe's collapsed democracies to warn us that Americans are not immune from a democratic collapse. Our institutions, our elections, our responsibility to be informed citizens, our professional ethics and rule of law, are values in need of vigilance. Each lesson he proposes is backed by easily understood historical examples. One lesson reads "Make an effort to separate yourself from the internet. Read books."

I hope you take the time to read this one & join us in a lively discussion, May 20th.

As always, I'm open to
your ideas for
membership. Meanwhile,
Happy Spring!

In response, I got a welcome invitation from Phoebe Skinner, an LWVCC member and a teacher at Pacific High School in Langlois. Phoebe invited me to meet and speak with students in two of her classes, History and Economics. For me, it was a great experience.

I had the opportunity to talk about League and the importance of civic education and engagement, and to learn about their priorities and interests. The students were attentive and asked intelligent questions.

Although no students were in attendance at the March meeting – which took place on the eve of Spring Break – we're looking forward to their future participation. And as the program grows, we will explore other ideas for outreach to these students, who are our future voters.

This month's meeting will feature County Clerk Renee Kolen, and her chief deputy Shelley Denney, who will speak on Election Security. We hope you will attend.



2021 Calendar

| MONTH | DAY | EVENTS | PLACE | TIME |
|-------|-------|--|-------|-------------|
| April | 12 | LWVCC Board Meeting | ZOOM | 12 noon |
| | 15 | All Units Meeting “Civics Education & Legislation” Presented by Phoebe Skinner | ZOOM | 5-6 pm |
| | 19-20 | Candidate Forum Recording | ZOOM | Various |
| May | 17 | LWVCC Board Meeting | TBA | 12 noon |
| | 20 | All Units Meeting (Book Club: “On Tyranny”) | ZOOM | 5-6 pm |
| June | 5 | LWVCC Annual Meeting New / Old Board Meeting | TBA | 9:30am-1 pm |



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April 2021 Volume 37 Issue 7

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KCIW.org
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MaryJane LaBelle



Colleen Bunn



Charlie Alexander



Alyce Prudden

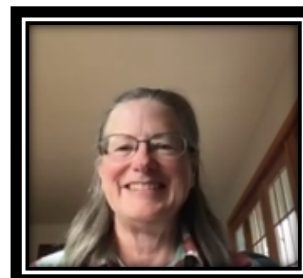
The League of Women Voters of Curry County

CoastLines – A publication of the League of Women Voters® of Curry County
CoastLines is produced 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Curry County

Website Information: lwvcurry.org
Election Information: vote411.org

2020-2021 Board Officers & Directors

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ★ | President | MaryJane LaBelle |
| ★ | Vice President | (open) |
| ★ | Secretary | Alyce Prudden |
| ★ | Treasurer | Colleen Bunn |
| ★ | Board Directors | Charlie Alexander |
| | | Louise Abbott |
| | | Karol Simas |



Louise Abbott



Karol Simas

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Individual Membership \$65.00 __ Household Membership (2 adults in household) \$97.50 ____

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