

CoastLines



Hello members of the League of Women Voters of Curry County, Spring has started although it is still pretty windy and rainy up here on the mountain.

- ✦ The March 7 panel discussion on Homelessness in Curry County at the library in Gold Beach was well attended and very informative.
- ✦ We heard from the Curry Homeless Coalition and Brookings CORE Response.
 - ✦ See the summary article later in this issue.
- ✦ We have set the days and times for our candidate forums this spring.
- ✦ Someone from the board will be contacting you to see how you can help with these forums.
- ✦ There are many tasks to accomplish so we will need volunteers in each part of the county, Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings.

✦ **We have dates set for forums:**

- ✦ **Gold Beach - May 2**
- ✦ **Port Orford - May 6**
- ✦ **Brookings - May 7**



- ✦ The following article provides all needed information for these forums as well as a forum that will happen in Coos Bay.

I hope to see many of you as we hold our forums and attend other activities associated with the election process.

Respectfully, Louise Abbott
President, LWVCC

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- ★ The Coos County League is holding back-to-back forums for:
 - ★ Oregon State Senate District 1
 - ★ Oregon State House District 1
- ★ All candidates (4 Republicans for Senate, 1 Republican and 1 Democrat for House) have agreed to participate.

↪ **WHERE:** Bandon Community House (“The Barn”)
1200 11th Street SW, Bandon

↪ **WHEN:** **Wednesday, April 24, 2024**
Senate: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
House: 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

★ LWVCC Candidate Forums:

↪ **May 2, 2024:** Curry Public Library in Gold Beach
94341 3rd Street: 7:00 pm.

↪ **May 6, 2024:** City Council Chambers, City Hall in Port Orford
55 20th Street: 7:00 pm.

↪ **May 7, 2024:** Chetco Public Library in Brookings
405 Alder Street: 5:30 pm.



Summary of LWVCC Board meeting - March 11, 2024, via Zoom.

- ⇒ Board members attending: Louise Abbott, Susan Barke, Debra Worth, Karen Cunningham, and Alyce Prudden.
- ⇒ The minutes of the February 12, 2024, board meeting were approved.
- ⇒ The financial report for February was approved.
- ⇒ The proposed Budget for LWVCC for 2024-25 was discussed.
- ⇒ The three forums that will be held in Curry County were discussed.
- ⇒ The location for the annual meeting which will be May 18, 10:00 am to noon was discussed.
- ⇒ We hope to meet at the library in Gold Beach, but the time may need to be changed.
- ⇒ The next meeting will continue to focus on candidate forum planning.
- ⇒ The next LWVCC board meeting will be April 8th from 12-2pm via zoom.

LWVOR Council 2024 is coming soon.

- ✂ This biennial event will be held from May 17-19, at the Elks Lodge in Newport, Oregon.
- ✂ It brings together League members from across the state to network, brainstorm, attend workshops, and vote on State League business.
- ✂ It's an opportunity to help shape the future of our state League.
- ✂ LWVCC is allowed two delegates and observers also are encouraged to participate.
- ✂ The link for registration is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvor-council-tickets-861665012247>



As usual, it's busy at LWVUS.
Here are some highlights.

National Convention

- ✂ Registration is open now for the 56th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention in Washington, DC, and online, June 27 – 30.
- ✂ The link for registration (and other information) is: <https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/regPage:fc9a5c5a-47d4-4ab8-826a-b4a1b6006aad>.

Voter Protection

- ✂ In New Hampshire, LWVUS joined with LWV of New Hampshire and individual state residents in filing a federal lawsuit against people who used illegal, AI-generated robocalls to discourage voting in the state's primary.
- ✂ In New Jersey, the state LWV and others filed an amicus brief challenging New Jersey's primary ballot design, which they claim disproportionately harms voters and candidates of color.
- ✂ In Alabama, LWV responded to Governor Ivey signing SB1, a law criminalizing voter assistance.

Ongoing Remembrance of Dr. Turner

- ✂ LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner passed away suddenly in late January 2024 at the age of 75.
- ✂ A fearless advocate for voting and women's rights, she devoted her life to empowering voters across the nation.
- ✂ As a gynecologist, teacher, associate medical director for Planned Parenthood of the North Central States, and the 20th president of LWVUS, Dr. Turner fought for a more compassionate, representative, and equitable union.
- ✂ For more information, visit: <https://www.lwv.org/remembering-dr-deborah-ann-turner>.



"The greater the voter participation, the more power we have to elect lawmakers that accurately reflect our communities."



Quote from Deborah Ann Turner, 1950-2024

MARCH MEETING

All-Member Meeting



- ◆ On March 7, 2024, [LWVCC](#) hosted a panel discussion entitled “Update on Homelessness in Curry County.” The discussion took place at the Curry Public Library in Gold Beach, from 2 to 3:30 pm.
- ◆ It was open to the public as well as all league members.
- ◆ The meeting was lively, informative, and well-received. A total of about twenty people were in attendance and there was a great deal of audience participation.
- ◆ The event featured speakers from two participating organizations:
 - Beth Barker-Hidalgo, Executive Director of the Curry Homeless Coalition in Gold Beach
 - David Hubbard, Housing Programs Manager of Brookings CORE Response.
 - (No representative was available from Port Orford’s organization, Neighbor2Neighbor.)
- ◆ Working with each other and other community partners, these local organizations provide a county-wide network of services to decrease instances of homelessness and to reduce the financial strain on the communities.
- ◆ Ms. Barker-Hidalgo began with a structural overview of the funding sources for homeless services.
- ◆ Many agencies are involved in providing money and services to address homelessness, including:
 - **HUD** (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
 - **CAPO** (Community Action Partnership of Oregon)
 - **ROCC** (Rural Oregon Continuum of Care)
 - **OEM** (Oregon Department of Emergency Management)
 - **OHCS** (Oregon Housing and Community Services)
 - Our regional **HUD** counterpart, authority, North Bend City/Coos-Curry Housing Authorities.
- ◆ Funding for homeless services got a boost from Governor Kotek’s Executive Order 24-02, which confirmed the state’s need to maintain added capacity to the state’s shelter system; to rehouse people experiencing homelessness; and to prevent homelessness.
- ◆ The Oregon Legislature approved \$26 million to address homelessness in counties – like Curry – that did not meet the threshold requirements in the Governor’s initial 2023 emergency order.
- ◆ Curry County has received about \$600,000, with \$360,000 earmarked for direct services, to be split between:
 - Curry Homeless Coalition (Gold Beach)
 - Brookings CORE Response (Brookings)
 - Neighbor2Neighbor (Port Orford).
- ◆ A formal body – the Curry County Homeless Task Force – is now functioning as a local work group, which will be better positioned to receive equitable funding and autonomy for local service providers.
- ◆ As Ms. Barker-Hidalgo remarked, Curry County is now on the funding map.
- ◆ Mr. Hubbard of Brookings CORE Response spoke next.
- ◆ He started by identifying challenges, which include unaffordable local rents; the need for transitional housing; finding places for the unsheltered homeless population; and serving those who are voluntarily unhoused and/or mentally ill.
- ◆ The challenges are many and complex, but there are solutions and successes, too.



MARCH MEETING

All-Member Meeting - continued



- ▶ In late January 2024, Brookings CORE Response began a 100-Day Challenge to get 50 people into case management and to house 10 people.
- ▶ Both goals have already been exceeded, with 53 connected to services and 27 people housed, including 11 children.
- ▶ Brookings CORE Response provides a wide range of services: walk-in services including coffee, restrooms, lockers, a clothing and hygiene closet, WI-FI and charging, and Narcan/Naloxone; a street outreach program designed to engage potential program recipients and provide basic resources and referrals; housing-focused case management services; rapid rehousing; and a resources navigation center.
- ▶ Similar services are offered in Gold Beach by the Curry Homeless Coalition, including a housing navigation center, street outreach, winter shelter, access to social service providers, peer support, mail services, and meals.
- ▶ There is also a Homeward Bound program, which provides transportation and support for homeless individuals from out of the area who wish to return home.



- ▶ Many local homeless individuals are Curry County natives.
- ▶ Gold Beach has designated two official areas for unsheltered homeless individuals to put up tents or park a vehicle; neither Brookings nor Port Orford has a similar official site.
- ▶ “One Bag at a Time” provides homeless individuals in central county with garbage bags, which the volunteer group collects weekly and takes to the dump.

- ▶ There was consensus that effectively addressing local homelessness requires communication and cooperation among government agencies and officials, nonprofit and community organizations, and the faith community.

- ▶ More information about the three local service providers can be found at these links.
 - <https://curryhomelesscoalition.org/>
 - <https://brookingscoreresponse.org/>
 - <https://www.n2npo.org/about;https://www.facebook.com/p/Neighbor2Neighbor-100087803509835/?paipv=0&eav=AfYUsWgTYHHmSE3kRA-6NH5AKYPZB8cuSQZAIMMLEMvyD7xN5NG8YhJjsoe6EZXAxgk&rdr>



Volunteers Needed!



Senior to Senior Voter Registration Drive in Curry County Call for Volunteers

- ✿ With this election cycle being so critical to our democracy, the term getting out the vote couldn't be more relevant in terms of ensuring everyone eligible to vote does so.
- ✿ That's why a few local "seniors" are taking the lead to visit classrooms in all three high schools within Curry County to talk about the voting process to senior high school students at the end of April, discussing how important their vote is, for their future.
- ✿ Thanks to the motor voter program in the State of Oregon, many of the students have already registered, however this primary will be the first opportunity for them to vote.
- ✿ The intent is to ensure that they understand what to expect, how to research candidates and proposed legislative issues to be an informed voter.
- ✿ We are merely planting seeds with hope some will embrace the process and the values of our democracy...while realizing that their vote does count.
- ✿ Having a League of Women's representative, with the knowledge and information on the local races would add much to this effort.
- ✿ Therefore, a volunteer request is being made to the League of Women members for three volunteers, one for each school, who would join the teams.
- ✿ The dates and times are currently being coordinated with the administration offices and teachers at Brookings-Harbor High School, Gold Beach High School, and Pacific High School in Langlois, and should be fully booked by April 5th.
- ✿ Each school is requesting a background check and paperwork filled out for individuals who will be entering into the school and interacting with the students.
- ✿ Forms will be sent to each volunteer to fill out with a request to return ASAP as the vetting process takes approximately 4-5 days.
- ✿ Here's a statistic from The Civic Center that reinforces the importance of young voter registration. In 2022, 77.9 percent of people aged between 65 and 74 years old were registered to vote in the United States - the highest share of any age group.
- ✿ In comparison, 49.1 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds were registered to vote in that year.
- ✿ Youth voters are the lowest demographic of registered voters.



- ✿ If you are interested in volunteering,
- ✿ please contact Pamela Thorsch at 619-988-0251 or pthorsch@att.net by April 9th, to discuss in more details.
- ✿ Thank you for your consideration.



The 2024 Oregon Primary Election includes both partisan and nonpartisan races. Each type of race has specific features, and there are important differences between the two.

Partisan Offices

- A partisan election is one in which a candidate for public office is required to declare his or her political party allegiance.
- Partisan offices include the President of the United States; Oregon’s Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Treasurer; plus, legislators (representatives and senators) for both state and national office.

In the Oregon Legislature, Curry County is part of the First District. State senators serve four-year terms; state representatives’ terms are two years. Curry County is represented by State Senator David Brock Smith, who faces three Republican primary challengers in May, and by State Representative Court Boice, who is unopposed in the 2024 primary but will face Bret Cecil the November general election.

In the United States Congress, the Oregon delegation consists of two senators, who serve six-year terms, and six congresspersons, who serve two-year terms. Oregon’s US Senators are Ron Wyden (reelected in 2022) and Jeff Merkley (reelected in 2020). In the House, Curry County is represented by 4th District US Representative Val Hoyle, who has no primary opponent; there are two Republican contenders for the seat, who will face each other in the 2024 primary.

- Most political parties in Oregon – including the Republican and Democratic parties – choose to hold “closed” primaries. In a closed primary, only registered party members can vote for the candidates in that party’s primary. The winners of primary contests from different parties typically face each other in the General Election.

Nonpartisan Offices

- The term nonpartisan is used to describe elections in which the candidates do not run with partisan labels.
- State-wide, Oregon’s nonpartisan offices include Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor and Industries, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and all judges.
- Here in Curry County, all local elective offices are nonpartisan.

In Curry County, there are two local contested 2024 primary races, for Sheriff (three candidates), and for Board of Commissioners, Position 2 (two candidates).

- One feature of nonpartisan primary races that sets them apart from closed partisan primaries is that all registered voters can participate, regardless of political affiliation.
- Another distinction is that some nonpartisan races can be won at the primary. This happens when there is only one primary candidate for the office; it also happens when there are two or more primary candidates for the office, and one receives a majority of the votes cast. (ORS 249.088.) But this does not apply to three specific nonpartisan “constitutional” offices – county clerk, treasurer, and sheriff – which must be decided at the general election.
- According to the Oregon Constitution, those three county officials “shall be elected ... at the time of holding general elections” (OR Const, Art. VI, § 6.) So, for those three positions, candidates will not appear on the primary ballot unless there are three or more candidates for the position, in which case they will appear on the primary ballot and the top two vote getters will move on to November.





A New League Membership System



LWVUS is rolling out a new membership system this year. Local and state leagues across the country will make the transition to the new system together, starting in January 2025. Here are the highlights.

Membership Dues

- ✎ Dues will be collected at the national level.
- ✎ Local leagues members will join and renew on the LWVUS website and make their payments there.
- ✎ The standard individual membership rate will be \$75.
- ✎ There will also be a pay-what-you-can option, with a minimum of \$20, for which local leagues will be responsible.
- ✎ Household and student memberships will no longer be offered. Lifetime memberships will remain dues-free.
- ✎ From paid memberships, LWVUS will retain 33% of dues, LWVOR will receive 47%, and local leagues like LWVCC will receive 20%.
- ✎ The national, state, and local leagues will share credit card fees based on the same allocation.

Donations

- ✎ Local leagues will retain 100% of member donations, provided the donations are not given at the same time as dues payments.
- ✎ Local leagues will need to ask new and rejoining members to separate donations from dues.

Implementation

- ✎ The changes will be implemented using ChapterSpot, the league's new membership platform.
- ✎ ChapterSpot will provide a centralized portal for people joining the league or renewing their membership, regardless of local league affiliation.
- ✎ The intent is to improve the member experience by making the joining process consistent across all leagues.
- ✎ ChapterSpot will also offer local websites and mass emailing services.
- ✎ In terms of timing, the plan is to begin the training phase in earnest after the November 2024 General





**League of Women Voters of Curry County
Calendar 2023**

MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
April	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon – 2:00 pm
	24	Coos County LWV Back-to-Back Forums for Oregon State Senate District 1 & Oregon State House District 1	Bandon Community House (“The Barn”) 1200 11 th Street SW, Bandon	Senate 7:00 - 8:00 pm House 8:00 - 9:00 pm
May	2	Candidate Forum	Curry Public Library in Gold Beach	7:00 - 9:00 pm
	6	Candidate Forum	City Council Chambers Port Orford	7:00-9:00 pm
	7	Candidate Forum	Chetco Public Library in Gold Beach	5:30 - 7:00 pm
	13	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon - 2 pm
	18	LWVCC Annual Meeting	TBD	TBD



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- Susan Barke

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LWVCC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civics organization.
Our mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government.

Membership in LWVCC is open to everyone who supports the purposes and policies of the League.

Join us! Make your voice heard. Stay informed on issues that concern you.

LWVCC is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #98-0838450).
Dues & donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual \$70.00 _____ Household (2 adults, same address) \$105.00 _____ Student \$15.00 _____

Prorated Memberships from February to June – details at lwvcurry.org/join

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interest in the League _____

Please send your check to: LWVCC, P.O. Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444

