

## President's Letter

*By MJ LaBelle, LWV Curry County President*

### *Greetings and Happy New Year!*

This newsletter goes to press on the day after the Georgia Senate re-election and the morning of the Joint House and Senate electoral college approvals.



I have learned much about our Democracy at this time and am currently in horror of the Trump-supporter riot at the Washington DC Capitol building.

**Thank goodness our Democracy is built on a strong foundation.**

We have come to the end of an over-challenging year and are on the plateau of a new one with all its hopes for healing and new vistas. It was also the year of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a very busy one it was. Voter turnout was unprecedented, and the optimism of the League's future was as high as we've ever seen it. Unfortunately, Oregon's redistricting initiative, IP 57, did not make it to the ballot, due in part to difficulty obtaining signatures during the COVID pandemic as well as legal challenges.



*Here's to a Happier  
2021!*

You will be hearing more from us about this because the Redistricting Reform in Oregon will continue to work to get on the next ballot. Redistricting is also a LWVUS goal.

Our Board of Directors: myself, Alyce Prudden, Colleen Bunn, Charlie Alexander, Karol Simas and Louise Abbott --have worked tirelessly to support the League Goals. You saw us and other members on Zoom at our annual membership meeting; at the Libraries working with the Census Bureau; at Rays, McKays and the Chetco Library registering voters; at our Zoom Consensus meeting for the Cyber Security study; at our three Zoom Candidate Forums and finally, at our Zoom Holiday Party.

As with everyone and every other organization, we have had to accommodate for pandemic restrictions per Governor Kate Brown's regulations. I believe that we have done an exemplary job in maintaining as much contact as we could with our members and the public through letters, press releases and Zoom conferences. In 2020, LWVCC was acknowledged by the Board of Commissioners as one of the many volunteer organizations that make a difference in the quality of life in Curry County. This is your newsletter and your organization and the LWVCC Board of Directors thanks YOU for making the League strong, viable and meaningful.

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*Thank  
you*

*Onward  
Together  
to 2021!*





## Board Meeting Summary

*Respectfully submitted By Alyce Prudden, Secretary*

Thanks to a member's suggestion, Coastlines will include a summary of the latest LWVCC board meeting. Here is a brief report on the meeting held November 16, 2020.

### The following formal board actions were taken:

- ☑ Actions related to officer resignation: The Board accepted the resignation of Anne Tlaker Hall as President of LWVCC. Under Bylaws Article IV, section 2, and with the Board's approval, Vice President Mary Jane LaBelle assumed the LWVCC presidency for the remainder of the current term, through June 30, 2021.
- ☑ Approval of financial statements: The Board approved the financial reports for October as presented by Treasurer Colleen Bunn.
- ☑ Approval of prior meeting minutes: With one correction, the Board approved the October meeting minutes as submitted by Secretary Alyce Prudden.
- ☑ Approval of proposed policy: With one addition, the Board approved the draft Record Retention & Disposal Policy, as submitted by Alyce Prudden.

### Other actions taken at the meeting included:

- ☑ Decision to hold the annual LWVCC Holiday Party virtually with a "wine & art" theme.
- ☑ Reports on interactions with LWVOR and the Local League Leaders group.
- ☑ Discussion of the need for new board members.
- ☑ Discussion of the need to reactivate the Observer Corps.
- ☑ Discussion of the need for youth outreach and civics education.
- ☑ Submission of a comprehensive written Voter Services protocol, by outgoing co-chairs Charlie Alexander and MJ LaBelle.
- ☑ Decision to update the Directory of Public Officials.
- ☑ Decision to propose a Climate Emergency Proclamation to local governments in early 2021.
- ☑ Decision to hold a board retreat in January 2021.

### LWVOR Convention

*By MJ LaBelle*



- ☑ LWVOR Virtual Convention is May 14-16, 2021
- ☑ Please notify MJ LaBelle (info in back) if you're interested in attending.
- ☑ There is usually a cost paid for by the attendee.
- ☑ If you have nominations for the LWVOR Board, the deadline is Feb. 15, 2021.
- ☑ If you have suggestions for bylaw changes, the deadline is Feb. 1, 2021

## Membership News *By Alyce Prudden, Membership Chair*

As we begin a new year full of promise, my focus for membership remains as before: more engagement with our amazing LWVCC members. Our objective is strengthening connections and improving members' league experiences, and we're employing several approaches to do so.



**Member Surveys** - In late November 2020, we mailed interest surveys to our 39 current LWVCC members; ten have been returned.

We asked you about occupation, experience, and skills, and your responses are truly impressive. Occupations, current and former, include education, business, scientific research, law – even a “retired moonshiner!” Experience and skills likewise are wide-ranging, from gardening and science to public and community service.

We asked about your history with the league, which ranges from months to decades. Your reasons for joining run the gamut, from candidate forums, to specific local issues, to personal growth and involvement. We asked about what specific league activities would interest you, and again, your responses covered the board.

Thank you so much to all who participated! The information you've provided is invaluable.

For those who haven't responded, it's not too late. If your survey got buried in the holiday hubbub, we humbly ask you to complete and return it. If you need another copy, let me know.

Please know that your input is always welcome, by survey response or any other means.

**Idea Bank** - Speaking of member input, this is a reminder about our “Idea Bank,” which we see as another way to learn what our members want from their local league. What topics would interest you for member meetings? Beyond meetings, do you have other ideas for connecting with other members? Please “deposit” any suggestions to the Idea Bank, anytime, using the contact information listed below.

**Unit Meetings** - Ordinarily, unit meetings are the foundation on which local leagues are built. Whether held in members' homes or elsewhere, they provide a space for members of a specific geographic area to meet, explore topics of interest, and stay connected to league activities.

But sadly, the pandemic still constrains such face-to-face meetings. So, the LWVCC Board has decided on a different approach for now: a single, monthly, county-wide unit meeting, via Zoom, with a specific topic and a featured speaker.

The meetings will be scheduled for the Third Thursday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, starting in February. Topic suggestions welcome!

Despite our inability to see you in person, we extend our sincere thanks for your continued support and our best wishes for a bright 2021.

Please contact Alyce by phone  
**541-412-0292** or email  
[aeprudden@aol.com](mailto:aeprudden@aol.com)







Betsy reported that we had 88,000 hits on the site from every county except Wheeler. In Curry County, 93 users accessed VOTE411 in the primary election; 144 users accessed in the general election. Of the 237 total users, 232 were new.

The Curry County Voter Service team led by Charlie Alexander distributed 180 Voters' Guides (30 Spanish, 150 English) and sent out 140 GOTV Postcards. We participated with National Voter Registration Day in September. Additionally, we worked with the VOTE411 team to document all candidates running for office as well as the single local measure in Port Orford. Filming and distributing four Candidate Forums on Zoom took much time and planning. We are grateful to the Umpqua Valley League for collaborating with us in filming state candidates whose districts overlap our two leagues.

*Much gratitude goes out to all who worked with Charlie in this huge push to register and educate our voters.*

*Gratitude*

Betsy Pratt, LWVOR Chairperson, has met with the Oregon voter services chairs from all counties. These meetings have been essential in getting the work accomplished, and 2020's November General Election was a huge stretch for every local League.

VOTE411.org has taken off this year. Over 1200 candidates from across Oregon were invited to submit their material for inclusion into the League's database. Over 33% of those invited participated. Peggy Bengry (LWVOR) activated Vote411 on September 27, 2020. She posted ballot measure information and online links to candidate forums. The site was complete, except for those candidates who did not participate. I have a feeling that more will enter information for the next election.



THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU HEREBY RECOGNIZES

as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program. We appreciate the efforts you made in making the Partnership Program a success and helping achieve a successful 2020 Census.

*Steven D. Dillingham*  
Dr. Steven D. Dillingham, Director  
U.S. Census Bureau





## Member Zoom Meeting Report

- Report on LWVCC member Post Election Roundup Zoom Meeting held on November 12, 2020, from 5 to 6 pm.
- Colleen Bunn hosted the meeting, and Louise Abbott moderated.
- Thanks to Colleen for sending out the notices and doing an excellent job with hosting.

- Fourteen members attended the Zoom meeting. We started the meeting by introducing ourselves.
- We then discussed how the recent election impacted us as the LWV. Louise and Mary Jane LaBelle reported on the voter turnout, which was the highest ever locally (and elsewhere).
- Much of the discussion centered on voter registration and how we had a big push this year on national voter registration day to register new voters and voters who had recently moved.
- Several members offered ideas on why some people decline to register (religion, lack of interest in politics, desire to avoid jury duty, privacy concerns).
- A question was raised about how public was voter registration information. Who can access the information? Alyce Prudden volunteered to contact Renee Kolen to find out what information she can provide to us. She will gather the board's input as to questions for Renee.
- The board members present at the meeting agreed that we should put a report in the Coastlines to inform the general LWVCC members about this issue.
- We also spent time discussing how we start to address and heal the divisions that have widened among the citizens in our county? We need to try to work together more again. We need more information on critical thinking and recognizing and dealing with misinformation to get beyond the fear that is currently affecting us.
- The importance of the League's mission to have observers at the public city council and county commissioners' meetings was raised. It would be best to have two observers at each meeting.
- Could we have a town hall meeting that would focus on reconciliation? The work of the National Institute for Civil Discourse was raised. The League needs to focus on nonpartisan issues that could include talking across the divide, providing information on specific issues of general interest in the county.
- We could invite different people to provide needed information. Georgia Nowlin suggested that Alyce consider moderating a community session on "fake news."
- In addition to civil discourse and healing, members suggested Protecting Democracy and Climate emergence as league priorities.

*At the end of the roundup....*

- Mary Jane LaBelle mentioned that there are three open director seats on the LWVCC board and made a general invitation for members to consider joining the board to fill those seats.
- In summary, the discussion was lively, interesting, and reflected the concern of the LWVCC to help keep our democracy strong.

### The Curry County League needs Observers for the following:

- ★ Brookings City Council
- ★ Gold Beach City Council
- ★ Port Orford City Council
- ★ Curry County Board of Commissioners

Contact [maryjanelabelle@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanelabelle@gmail.com) if you are able to assist



To be an observer, you would attend the scheduled meetings (or as many as you could manage), and report in writing to the Board. There is a format for you to use. Please consider helping us keep informed of what is happening at our local level.

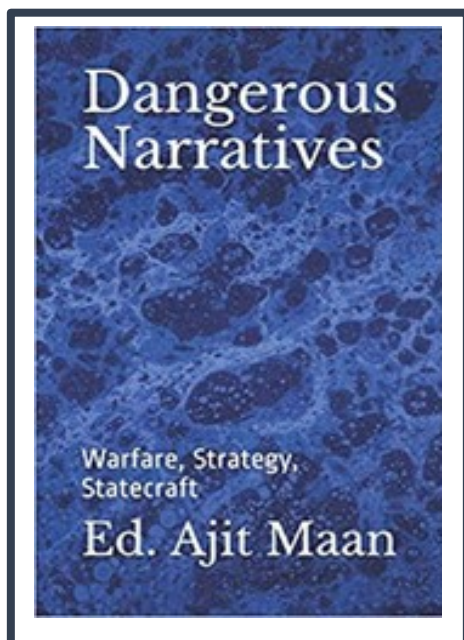
### The Oregon Legislature 2021 *By MJ LaBelle*

The 2021 long biennial Legislative Assembly convenes January 19, 2021, but the Legislature begins its "Organizational Days" in Salem from January 11 to 15. This is when members-elect are sworn in as legislators, committee memberships are announced, and bills are introduced.

LWVCC has contacted Senator Dallas Heard and Representative David Brock-Smith for an interview to ask what their focus will be during this Legislative Assembly.

The information will be communicated to the LWVOR Action Committee.

Per Alice LaViolette, LWV Marion & Polk Counties, "The Oregon Legislative Website and the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) have made it very easy to keep up-to-date with bills, committee hearings and individual legislators. These sites are important tools for staying informed and can also be used to submit your feedback on proposed legislation".



### January Suggested Reading From



This month's feature is a collection of essays on Narrative Warfare. I chose this for relevance to misleading information in ongoing partisan politics and civil discourse in general.

I will be starting with these essays: Re-writing the Narrative: The Path Forward for Policing, and Rethinking Strategy and Statecraft for the Information Age: Whose Wins.

The authors are academics, diplomatic and military experts. This is a book for you if you wonder about the future of national defense, beyond building border walls.

Update

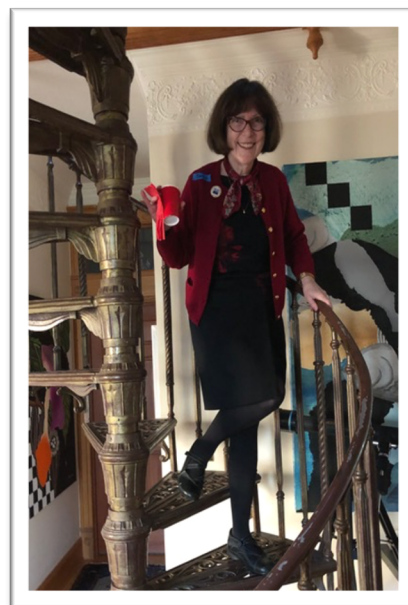
**Lucie Challenge Update:**  
**Donations are at \$605.21 on the way**  
**to Lucie La Bonte's \$1,005.21**  
**challenge.**



## 2021 Calendar

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
January	8	Board Brain Storming Session	ZOOM	10am-2pm
	11	LWVCC Board Meeting	Louise Abbott's home GB	10am
February	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Louise Abbot's	12 noon
	18	All-Units Meeting (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)	ZOOM	5-6pm
March	15	LWVCC Board Meeting	TBA	12 noon
	18	All Units Meeting	ZOOM	5-6pm
April	12	LWVCC Board Meeting	TBA	12 noon
	15	All Units Meeting	ZOOM	5-6pm
May	17	LWVCC Annual Meeting	TBA	12 noon
	20	All Units Meeting	ZOOM	5-6pm
June	5	LWVCC Annual Meeting NewOld Board Meeting	TBA	9:30am-1pm





*With 2020 Vision, it's clear 2021 will be better than ever!*





*"LWVCC wants to thank our Sponsors for their generous contributions to our programs."*

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**Irvine, CA 92620**

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**Joseph T Wegner, PC**

**Certified Public Accountant**  
**[wegnercpa@gmail.com](mailto:wegnercpa@gmail.com)**  
**541-247-6818**

**D & J Shell**

**29619 Ellensburg Gold Beach**  
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**Port Orford Community Co-op**

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**[www.portorfordcoop.com](http://www.portorfordcoop.com)**  
**541-366-2067**

**Blue Pacific Realty**

**16289 Hwy 101 Brookings**  
**[www.blupac.com](http://www.blupac.com)**  
**888-412.8424**



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**Fely's Café**

Harbor Shopping Center  
Next to laundromat  
Open 7 days a week  
541-251-3375

**Curry Coast Community Radio**

KCIW 100.7FM  
P O Box 565  
Brookings, OR 97415  
KCIW.org  
[contact@kciw.org](mailto:contact@kciw.org)  
541-661-4098  
All-volunteer Community Radio

**Sixes Grange 856**

44556 Hwy 101  
Sixes, OR 97476  
541-655-0423  
Open daily 9am-4pm  
12+ vendors  
Bingo Wednesday's 6pm-9pm

**Wild Rivers Land Trust**

[wildriverslandtrust.org](http://wildriverslandtrust.org)  
541-366-2130  
Securing Oregon's legacy  
Clean water, Healthy  
Habitats, Working lands

**Century 21 Agate Realty**

Mary Stansell  
29642 Ellensburg Gold Beach  
[www.goldbeachcentury21.com](http://www.goldbeachcentury21.com)  
541-425-0121

**Curry Health Network**

[www.curryhealthnetwork.com](http://www.curryhealthnetwork.com)  
Gold Beach:  
Curry General Hospital  
94220 4<sup>th</sup> St  
541-247-3910

**Curry Medical Practice**

94220 4<sup>th</sup> ST  
541-247-3910

**Brookings:**

Curry Medical Center  
500 5<sup>th</sup> ST  
Primary, Specialty, Same Day  
Visit and Emergency Care  
541-412-2000

**Port Orford:**

Curry Family Medical  
5252 Madrona Street  
541-332-3861

*The City of Gold Beach appreciates the great service that the League of Women Voters provides to inform the Curry County Voters.*

# CoastLines

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P O Box 1859  
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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**Website Information:** [lwvcurry.org](http://lwvcurry.org)  
**Election Information** [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)

## 2020 - 2021 Board Officers and Directors

★ <b>President</b>	<b>MaryJane LaBelle</b>
★ <b>Vice President</b>	<b>(open)</b>
★ <b>Secretary</b>	<b>Alyce Prudden</b>
★ <b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Colleen Bunn</b>
★ <b>Board Directors</b>	<b>Charlie Alexander</b>
	<b>Louise Abbott</b>
	<b>Karol Simas</b>

## *The League of Women Voters of Curry County - -How to Join*

Yes, I want to make a difference by joining the League of Women Voters of Curry County. \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ Household Membership (2 adults in household) \$97.50 \_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to join but enclose a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Only a portion of Membership dues to the League of Women Voters of Curry County are tax deductible. Donations to the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund are tax deductible*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to work on \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your check to: League of Women Voters of Curry County  
PO Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444**

Stay informed on issues that concern you. Join with us to make your voice heard. Develop skills in networking, communication and leadership.

You will receive periodic League publications (local, state and national).