

CoastLines



Hello members of the League of Women Voters of Curry County, Happy New Year! I hope every had a wonderful Christmas. It is now 2024 and we can all hope for a good year. Someone from the board will be contacting members to see what you might be able to help with in 2024.

Here is the list of our committees and subgroups:

- Voter services
- Membership
- Unit meetings:
 - * South County needs some guidance.
 - * Central County (Central County has been having Unit meetings).
 - * North County (North County has been having Unit meetings).
- Fundraising
- Coastlines Newsletter
- Issues of Emphasis and Studies



- * The most important events will be the candidate forums that will happen in 2024. We will need 6 to 8 people in each town to help with the forums, since we will be holding a candidate forum in each part of the county, Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings.
- * **Fundraising** - we need to know if anyone is interested in helping with this task.
- * **Coastlines** - if anyone wants to put an article into the newsletter be sure to let me know.

Thank you very much!
Respectfully, Louise Abbott
President, LWVCC



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December Board Meeting

Summary of the December LWVCC Board meeting.

December 11, 2023, via Zoom.

Board members attending:

- Louise Abbott
- Susan Barke
- Karen Cunningham
- Debra Worth
- Alyce Prudden
- Renee Kolen



The next LWVCC board meeting will be January 8th from 12-2pm via zoom.

- * The minutes of the November 13, 2023 board meeting were approved.
- * The financial report for November 2023 was approved.
- * Previously, a LWVCC member proposed holding a series of all-unit meeting that would be brown bag lunches to discuss civics and presented by the Mayor of Gold Beach.
- * The board will pursue this idea for the spring.
- * Beth Barker-Hidalgo suggested to have a panel to discuss situations concerning the unhoused and food insecure in Curry County.
- * The board decided to hold such a panel discussion on March 7 at the Gold Beach Library. Individuals involved with services provided to the unhoused and food insecure in different parts of the county also will be invited to participate in the panel.
- * The Program Planning Process for LWV-OR was discussed. The options for position recommendations were discussed.
- * Here are the links to the LWVOR website on these issues.
 - [2025 LWVOR Program Planning: Proposing New Studies](#)
 - [2025 LWVOR Program Planning Review and Updates](#)



Let
Freedom
Ring



We Gathered, by Becky Flake

We gathered her from the worldwide
strength found in standing side by side
our freedom rings on this hallowed ground
where the rights for one and all are found
when freedom calls it calls for all
if one is lost then all will fall



- ✓ In last month's CoastLines, we excerpted a portion of the state league's All Members Newsletter. This month, we're excerpting other highlights from that newsletter that address initiative petitions in the works.
- ❄️ "We have two League-sponsored initiative petitions gathering signatures for November 2024 ballots. It's easy to collect a few signatures and send them in and everyone counts. Ask your family, neighbors, and friends to sign in favor of putting these good-government measures on the ballot. Copies of the petitions will be available at our public meetings, or you can download your own copies to collect signatures. Simply download a petition, sign it, and mail it in, or download a bunch and get your friends and neighbors to sign! Monetary donations are also needed.

Campaign Finance Reform, IP 9

- ✓ Initiative Petition 9 would reform campaign finance in Oregon, one of 5 states with NO LIMITS on political campaign contributions. The Honest Elections PAC is working to get Big Money out of politics by limiting campaign donations and requiring improved donation disclosure. More campaign finance information would be in voter pamphlets, candidates could not carry over funds from one election cycle to the next, and violation penalties would be increased. For-profit corporations could not contribute to Oregon's political campaigns. IP 9 signature gathering is well underway. Volunteers can process signature sheets and collect more signatures.

Redistricting, IP 14

- ✓ Initiative Petition 14 would create an independent commission to draw Oregon's legislative district boundaries, replacing the current political process in the state legislature. People Not Politicians PAC is a broad coalition including LWVOR, Common Cause, Forward Oregon, business groups, and many everyday Oregonians."



If you'd like to help, there are links within the newsletter to donate, and/or to get petition sheets, emails, and further information. The newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.lwvor.org/post/all-members-newsletter-december-2023>



The national league offered this year-end assessment of 2023:

- ➡ "As we reflect on this past year, I want to take a moment to celebrate your impact: Leagues reached over one million voters through textbanks and friendbanks on League In Action and over two million voters on VOTE411, the most ever for a non-federal election cycle. State leaders came together in Las Vegas, NV, for our 2023 National Council, where we focused on our Transformation Journey, the future of the League, and our "moonshot" goal of abolishing the Electoral College. We celebrated litigation and Supreme Court victories for fair maps and voter protection, and we continued our second year of Power the South, our campaign to strengthen people power across the South
- ➡ "This is just a fraction of all of our achievements this year. **Celebrate your success and learn more about the League's 2023 impact in our blog**" at <https://www.lwv.org/blog/our-greatest-achievements-2023>.



Women At War: Revolutionary War

by Susan Barke



Deborah Sampson (b.12-27-1760 d.4-29-1827)

Army Private

"The first known woman American woman to impersonate a man in order to join the Army & fight in combat."



- ✎ At the age of 10, Deborah Sampson became an indentured servant in the household of Jeremiah Thomas of Middleborough, Massachusetts. As a field hand she had a strong physique which assisted her disguise as a man to fight in the Continental Army. Rumors spread about her dressing as a man and as a result she was excommunicated from the First Baptist Church of Middleborough.
- ✎ On May 20, 1782, at the age of 21, Sampson enlisted in the light infantry Company of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment at Bellingham, under the command of Capt. George Webb. The company consisted of about 60 men. She fought under the alias of Robert Shurtliff, the name of her deceased brother.
- ✎ On July 3, 1782 outside Tarrytown, NY, she sustained wounds to her thigh and forehead. She permitted physicians to treat her head wound and then slipped out of the field hospital unnoticed, where she extracted one of the bullets from her thigh with a penknife and sewing needle. The other bullet was lodged too deep, and her leg never fully healed.
- ✎ On June 24, 1783, the President of Congress ordered George Washington to send soldiers to Philadelphia, PA, to fight in a rebellion of several American officers. During this rebellion Sampson came down with a malignant fever and was cared for by Dr. Barnabas Binney. Though he discovered her gender he kept her secret. He removed her from the field and took her to his own home where his wife and daughters cared for her.
- ✎ In September, after her recovery she returned to the Army, where soon her true identity was revealed. Shortly after her return the Treaty of Paris was signed, and on October 25, 1783 she was given an honorable discharge from the army by Henry Knox.
- ✎ In January 1792, Sampson petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature for the pay withheld after they discovered she was a woman. The General Court of Massachusetts verified her service and wrote that she "exhibited extraordinary instance of female heroism by discharging the duties of a faithful gallant soldier, and at the same time preserving the virtue and chastity of her gender unsuspected and unblemished."
- ✎ She married and had three children settling down in Sharon, Massachusetts. She often gave public lectures about her wartime service. Like other veterans of the Continental Army, she was continually petitioning the state and federal government for her service pension. Sampson fought to receive the same benefits as her male comrades received and dedicated her life to bridging gender gaps for veterans and advocating for women who fought for their country. Eventually she was collecting minimal pensions for her service from Massachusetts and the federal government.

Sources: *The American Battlefield Trust and Fairchild Air Force Base Article by Staff Sgt. Ransier*





❁ **Sister Cora L. Rose** is a member of the LWV-Curry County, and she was recognized by the Oregon Bar Association in November 2023 with a New Lawyer Public Service Award. Sister Cora is a Brookings native who has excelled from an early age.

❁ She was a National Merit Scholar in High School and went on to the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, where she graduated in 2012. After graduation from Law School, she began working with legal aid organizations in San Francisco. She returned to Brookings in 2019 and became a member of the Oregon State Bar in 2019.

- ❁ Sister Cora also attended the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, graduating in 2020.
- ❁ She went on to become a sister in the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- ❁ Her full title is Rev. Sister Cora Lea Rose, Esq. and she is a member of the Advocacy team working at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Brookings which she joined in 2022 when Reverend Bernie Lindley of St. Timothy Episcopal Church invited her to create their legal aid ministry.
- ❁ For Sister Cora's work helping prevent people from becoming unhoused or helping them achieve stability so they can become housed, the Oregon Bar Association's Oregon New Lawyers Division presented her with their 2023 Public Service Award on November 3, 2023.
- ❁ "What I offer is a little bit different than what the Oregon Law Center provides," Rose said.
- ❁ "I focus on assisting people with regaining stability in their lives.
- ❁ Driver's license reinstatements, I'll assist with fines and fees and (whether) they're being correctly calculated.
- ❁ I do a lot of work with people trying to get their property back.
- ❁ If their camp site was swept and people lost their backpack or bike or wallet that has an ID and birth certificate, that can derail someone's progress toward gaining more stability in their life."
- ❁ "My work through the legal advocacy ministry at St. Timothy's focuses on hope and human rights," she said.
- ❁ "(Including) basic access to enough food, hygiene, shelter and a way out of snowballing poverty fees and fines.
- ❁ (I'm) accompanying people in navigating resources and public benefits and finding a way forward to achieve goals and a stronger sense of belonging."
- ❁ "My faith tradition puts high importance on the imago dei, or image of God, in each person and the goal of healthy, thriving communities where people's God-given spark can flourish," she said.
- ❁ "It means we must work for the dignity of every person and uphold human rights."

[Quotes provided By Jessica Cejnar Andrews / Community, Oregon / Wild Rivers Outpost Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023]



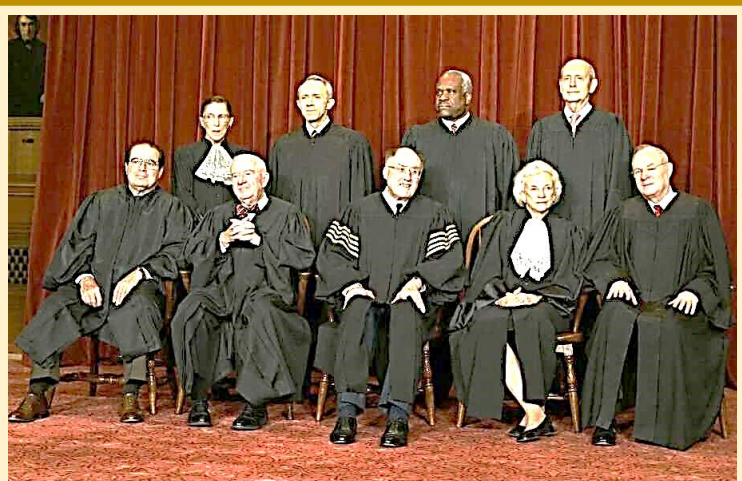


Sandra Day O'Connor passed away on December 1, 2023. She was an Associate Justice of the United Supreme Court, the first of her gender.

O'Connor was born in 1930, in El Paso, Texas. She grew up on her family's 198,000-acre cattle ranch, the Lazy B. Her home was nine miles from the nearest paved road; it did not have running water or electricity during her early childhood. As a youth she owned a .22-caliber rifle, which she used to shoot coyotes and jackrabbits. She began driving as soon as she could see over the dashboard.

O'Connor excelled in school, enrolling at Stanford University at age 16. She graduated from Stanford Law School in 1952, finishing near the top of her class. Even so, she couldn't get a job practicing law, as one firm after another told her that they did not hire women. She worked in the public sector and raised three sons, then got involved in Arizona politics. She served that state as assistant state attorney general and later as a state senator.

In 1981, O'Connor became the first woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court. She was nominated to the post by President Ronald Reagan; preceded by Justice Stewart Potter; and succeeded by Justice Samuel Alito. In her role as judicial pioneer, she inspired generations of female lawyers at a time of overt sexism. A moderate conservative, O'Connor was known for her precisely researched opinions. She retired in 2006 to care for her husband, who had dementia. In O'Connor's words, "In terms of having the American people look at the court and think of it as being fair, it helps to have women, plural, on the court."






19th Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.


Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.




LWVUS statement on Voting Rights <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights>

-  “The right to vote is one of the most basic promises of our democracy. In a democratic government, every person is considered equal and is empowered to both participate in their government and speak on the issues that impact their daily lives. Through our votes, we’re able to express our values around concerns like health care, climate change, criminal justice, taxes, and so much more.
-  And yet our voting rights are under attack. Bills that make voting harder for women and Black and brown Americans, wealthy special interest groups that influence elections, and district maps that don’t reflect our communities – these obstacles threaten our democracy. That’s where the League’s work comes in.
-  For more than 100 years, the League has fought to protect the rights of voters and expand access for those who’ve been left out of our democratic process. We do so through a combination of advocacy, litigation, education, partnerships, and grassroots efforts.


VOTE411

-  Our free, digital election resource provides state-by-state voter guides, registration information, candidate positions on issues, and more in both English and Spanish. In 2020, over 6 million people used VOTE411 to find information on over 22,000 different races.


Voter Registration

-  Hundreds of Leagues across the country work within their communities to register voters, particularly those who’ve been historically disempowered in our democracy. At a national level, we’ve partnered with nonprofits like the American Library Association and companies like Target and Nando’s to raise awareness around voting rules and resources.

Litigation

-  We’re at the forefront of some of our nation’s most consequential voting rights legal cases. In the courts, we work to secure and protect the right to early and mail-in voting, fight for fair representation in district maps, and push back against discriminatory laws and practices. In 2020, we protected over 25 million voters through litigation alone.”

Advocacy

-  LWV supports grassroots efforts to empower voters across the country. From expanding voter education to passing pro-voter laws, we raise our voices and use our influence to strengthen the freedom to vote and build a fairer democracy.





League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2024

MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
January	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon-2pm
January	18	South County Unit Meeting <i>Discussion with Sister Cora Rose about legal aid issues for low income/unhoused individuals in Curry County</i>	Public Library, Brookings Zoom & in-person	2-3:30 pm
January	26	Central County Unit Meeting	The Landing, Gold Beach	4-5 pm
February	1	Documentary film - <i>Oregon's land use planning system co-sponsored by the LWVCC, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society and Curry Public library.</i>	Curry Public Library, Gold Beach	5 pm
February	12	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon-2 pm
March	7	All Unit Meeting -open to the public <i>Panel Discussion on Services provided to Unhoused & Food Insecure Individuals in Curry County</i>	Curry Public Library, Gold Beach	2:00-3:30 pm
March	11	LWVC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon 2pm

happy new year





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Brookings Harbor
*South Coastal residents collaborating to
promote climate action.*

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

CoastLines

League of Women Voters of Curry County

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2023-2024

Board Officers & Directors

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- Louise Abbott

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- Susan Barke

Treasurer

- Alyce Prudden

Board Directors

- Renee Kolen
- Debra Worth
- Karen Pringle Cunningham

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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Website Information: lwvcurry.org

Election Information: vote411.org



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