

CoastLines



March can be a dramatic month, especially when it comes to the weather. Here in Curry County, we had snow – lots of it! – even down to the beaches.

Beyond unpredictable weather swings, the month of March has much to offer.

March is when spring officially begins, and we turn our clocks forward for daylight savings time.

One of the month's highlights is St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. For centuries, it's been an observance of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Another special March event is International Women's Day, March 8th. It's a global celebration of women's achievements – economic, political and social. International Women's Day started in 1911, and it's been sponsored by the United Nations since 1975.

March is also Women's History Month, observed in the United States every year since 1987. It's a time to reflect on women's contributions to our nation's history and to celebrate the "leagues" of inspiring, trailblazing women who've helped forge and protect our democracy.

Locally, for officials at the Curry County Clerk's Office, March is a busy time in the run-up to special district elections in May.



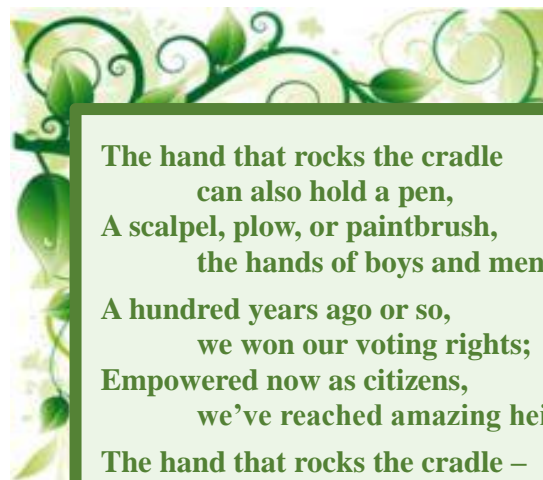
President's Message, by Alyce Prudden

As of the end of February, there were 35 races county-wide, plus one application for a ballot measure title. The filing deadline for candidates is March 16th. With all that going on – locally and around the world – my wish for everyone is best expressed by this old Irish saying, apropos of St. Paddy's Day: *May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door.*

This month's rhyme was inspired by Women's History Month. I wrote it with admiration for the amazing achievements of my gender; with gratitude for all who support women; and with apologies to William Ross Wallace (1819-1881), from whose poem I "cribbed."

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**The hand that rocks the cradle
can also hold a pen,
A scalpel, plow, or paintbrush,
the hands of boys and men.**

**A hundred years ago or so,
we won our voting rights;
Empowered now as citizens,
we've reached amazing heights.**

**The hand that rocks the cradle –
its power now unfurled –
Not only rocks the cradle,
it also rocks the world.**



Convention

- ↳ The LWVOR convention will be held in Eugene, from May 19-21.
- ↳ The Keynote Speaker will be Les Zaitz, editor of the Salem Reporter and the Malheur Enterprise.
- ↳ He will speak on "Free Press and the Survival of Democracy."

Voter Service

- ↳ The LWVOR Board has voted to sponsor state-wide access to Vote411.org, covering the \$6,000 annual subscription fee for this year.

Youth Outreach

- ↳ The Youth Outreach Committee is establishing a Youth Council, with its first project to support the Oregon Student Mock Elections (OSME).
- ↳ Chris Walker, a new member of the LWVOR Board, will serve as Youth Liaison.

Action

- ↳ The 2023 legislative session is well underway with over 2,000 bills filed. The LWVOR Action Team follows legislative sessions closely.
- ↳ As of the end of February, it had reviewed and approved almost 80 pieces of testimony submitted.
- ↳ The team reports periodically on the progress of bills and initiatives.
- ↳ You can sign up for LWVOR's Legislative Report at:
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/AkofF9n2wclWE0djZcAWpA



- ⊙ LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón submitted written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, in connection with its hearing on a joint resolution affirming the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as part of the US Constitution.
- ⊙ She explained why we must enshrine equality in the Constitution in order to address the root cause of systemic sex discrimination.
- ⊙ As noted in her remarks: "The League has fought for ratification of the ERA since it passed through Congress in the 1970s."
- ⊙ In other news, LWVUS joined nearly 650 other groups on a letter to House and Senate agriculture committee leadership urging that they protect investments in climate-smart agriculture and conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill.



League /lēg/ *noun*
1.1.

a collection of people, countries, or groups that combine for a particular purpose, typically mutual protection or cooperation, e.g., "the League of Nations"

Love the League
Love, the League



Board Meeting

Last month's LWVCC board meeting was held via Zoom on February 13, 2023, starting at noon. Three of the five board members were present (a quorum): Alyce Prudden, Susan Barke, Debra Worth.

The following motions were presented and passed unanimously:

- ✓ Motion to approve the financial report for the period ending January 31, 2023, as submitted by the interim treasurer;
- ✓ Motion to approve the board meeting minutes for January 9, 2023, as submitted by the secretary.

The following action items were discussed and approved unanimously:

- ✓ Appoint Alyce Prudden to act as Interim Treasurer in Louise Abbott's absence;
- ✓ Appoint Budget Committee members, including Alyce and Debra;
- ✓ Approve Debra's continued board service after she filed as a candidate for the Chetco library board election;
- ✓ Confirm the date and time of the Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 3, 10 am – 1 pm

Other business included discussions of the following:

- ✓ January fundraiser review and assessment;
- ✓ Voter Service – contact person, materials, and Vote411 participation;
- ✓ All-member virtual meetings, to be scheduled approximately four times per year;
- ✓ Local unit in-person meetings, including report on February Central County meeting.

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, March 6, 2023, starting at noon.



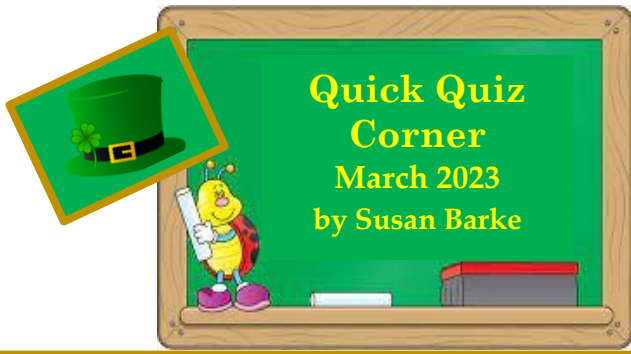
Thinking of joining or rejoining?



- Dues are prorated from February 1 through June 30 (the end of the league's fiscal year).
- As recently determined by the LWVCC Board, prorated dues are calculated by taking the number of months remaining in the league year and multiplying by \$5 for an individual (\$7.50 for a two-person household).
- During March, memberships are just \$20 per individual or \$30 per household.

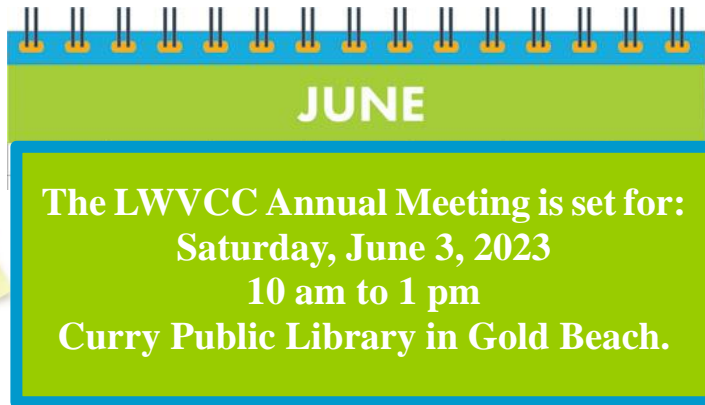


Please join us!
We'd love to have you participate at the annual meeting.



1. There are Federal Holidays in every calendar month, except these:
 - a. April and October
 - b. March and May
 - c. March, April, and August
2. The Oregon House of Representatives has how many members?
 - a. 60
 - b. 70
 - c. 50
3. The Woman Suffrage Procession, organized by Alice Paul and The Congressional Union, marched through the streets of Washington, DC, on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's presidential inauguration. The parade, the largest yet held, drew as many as half a million people to watch. The 5,000 women who were participating were attacked by mobs. They were spat upon and struck in the face as a near riot ensued. Boy Scouts provided some protection and first aid to some of the hundreds of women who were injured. No arrests were made. When did this happen?
 - a. March 10, 1910
 - b. March 3, 1913
 - c. March 17, 1918

Answers: 1. C 2. A 3. B



When the United Nations General Assembly adopted its resolution on the observance of International Women's Day in 1975, it cited the following reasons: "To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security."

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>

Norman Turrill spoke at last month's all-member unit meeting, which met via Zoom on Thursday, February 16, 2023, starting at 5:30 pm.

The speaker:

Norman Turrill holds MS degrees in Chemistry and Computer Science from the University of Washington. He has worked as a teacher in the Peace Corps in Somalia and as a computer software engineer. He has been active in Common Cause for many years, serving at different times as state president in both Nebraska and Washington and as a state Board member in both New York and Oregon.

Mr. Turrill's history with the League of Women Voters runs long and deep. He joined the Seattle League in the 1970s, shortly after it first began to accept male members.

He was a member of the LWVUS Board between 2008 and 2014 – the first and only man to ever serve on the national board.

In Oregon, Mr. Turrill served as LWVOR President from 2015 to 2019. Currently, he is the LWVOR Action Committee Governance Coordinator. Mr. Turrill was a Chief Petitioner for Initiative Petition 57 on redistricting, and he is still Chair of People Not Politicians, which is active in current redistricting efforts. He brings rich experience and knowledge on governance issues, which he generously shared with the eight LWVCC members in attendance.

The presentation:

Mr. Turrill updated us on current governance issues – some the subject of initiative petitions and others under consideration in the Oregon Legislature.

The Legislature is in full swing now. Many bills have been introduced (some two or three thousand), but most won't see the light of day. Beyond that, the more important bills have not yet been heard; they are often saved for later, especially in the Rules committees which have no committee deadlines.

Taking questions as we went along, Mr. Turrill addressed five topics: campaign finance reform; election methods; redistricting; primaries; and voter registration.

1. Campaign Finance Reform (CFR)

Two current legislative measures address CFR, both sponsored by Rep. Rayfield. One would call on Congress to address campaign finance reform, via House Joint Memorial HJM-1. The other, HB 2003, would establish limits on campaign contributions. HB 2003 is similar to bills in previous legislatures, which the League has opposed as still allowing huge amounts of campaign moneys from unions and other interest groups.

Simultaneously, there are three initiative petitions – IP 7, IP 8, and IP 9 – under the collective rubric "Honest Elections." LWVOR President Rebecca Gladstone is a chief petitioner for each. According to Mr. Turrill, IP 9 is the most likely one to go forward. That petition provides for contribution limits and required disclosures.

Mr. Turrill compared CFR to a three-legged stool with three necessary components: contribution limits, public finance, and disclosure.



All-Member Meeting - continued

2. Election Methods

Mr. Turrill touched on two alternative election methods currently under discussion: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) voting.

From the editor: *RCV refers to a system in which voters rank their candidates or options—in a sequence of first, second, third, and so on—on their respective ballots. With STAR, voters can score as many candidates as they choose, showing preference order and level of support; the two highest-scored candidates have an automatic runoff; the one given a higher score on a greater number of ballots wins.*

LWVOR is supporting one RCV bill – HB 2004 – sponsored by Representatives Rayfield, Fahey, Reynolds, and others. It would establish RCV as the method in Oregon for nominations and elections for federal offices (President, Senators, Representatives) as well as state offices (Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General). HB 2004 would permit local governments (cities, counties, service districts) to adopt RCV to nominate or elect candidates for relevant offices.

The STAR voting method has been proposed by initiative petition, IP 11, which has been approved for circulation.

3. Redistricting

Mr. Turrill reported that redistricting is currently the subject of four measures in the Legislature – but he doesn't expect any of them to get a hearing.

There is action on the initiative front, however, with continuing efforts by the People Not Politicians coalition to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission. (PNP is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations; LWVOR is one of its leaders.) The coalition received certified ballot titles for its two current initiatives, IP 13 and IP 14. The coalition has decided to circulate IP 14 only.

4. Primaries

The Oregon Election Reform Coalition has filed initiative petition IP 19. It's an open primaries proposal using a 'Final Five' system similar to the Alaska model. IP 19 also includes other reform features.

From the editor: *In a Final Five primary, all candidates appear on a single ballot, and all voters can participate in the primary regardless of whether they are registered with a party.*

5. Voter Registration

The League delivered testimony on HB 2107 to the House Rules Committee on February 14. This bill extends automatic voter registration to the Oregon Health Authority when eligible individuals have provided pertinent information to the Oregon Health Plan. Current law provides for the automatic process only through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Despite the breadth of the subject matter, Mr. Turrill's presentation was succinct and up-to-the minute. We're grateful for his time.





Central County Unit Meeting

- ✍ Last month – with encouragement and effort from Lucie La Bonté – a contingent of current and former LWVCC members in the Gold Beach area got together for a "Meet and Greet."
- ✍ The newly reconstituted Central County Unit held its inaugural in-person meeting on Friday, February 10th, starting at 4:00 pm, at Rogue Landing North in Wedderburn.
- ✍ As Lucie reported, it was a fun and successful event. In addition to Lucie, six others attended: Ria Shannon Smith, Billy Smith, Karol Simas, Phil Dickson, Charlene Enoch, and Phoebe Skinner.
- ✍ There was a brief discussion about the process of selecting a County Commissioner for the position vacated by Court Boice.
- ✍ The group agreed on its next meeting's topic, discussion leader, and date, time, and place. The topic will be the Wind Power Project offshore near Brookings, with Phil leading the discussion.
 - ✍ The meeting is set for Friday, March 17th, at 4:00 pm, again at Rogue Landing North. Since the event is set for St. Patrick's Day, attendees are encouraged to wear green.
 - ✍ The plan is to invite Tribal Council Leader Jeri-Lynn Thompson and potential LWVCC members to get their perspectives. The group voiced concerns about the project.
- ✍ The Gold Beach group also created a list of topics for future meetings.
 - ✍ April's meeting will consider local school concerns, such as staffing and treatment of teachers. They will look at LWVOR positions from past studies to determine whether action can be taken based on existing positions or if a local study should be proposed.
 - ✍ Other potential topics include Radiological Testing in Ocean Water and Tribal Leadership.
- ✍ Phoebe brought two books to share: *"I Think You're Wrong But I'm Listening"* and *"Between the Listening and the Telling."*
- ✍ The group discussed a goal of increasing membership; Lucie reported that they will need membership forms, since at least three people want to rejoin.

For further information about the Central County unit, contact Lucie La Bonté at lwwcclu2@gmail.com.

- ✓ A big shout-out to the Gold Beach/Central County Unit – the first in Curry County to revive in-person local unit meetings.
 - ✓ And kudos to the Port Orford/North County Unit, too – it's starting to organize for meetings this spring.
- Can Brookings/South County be far behind?



Spotlight on Louise Abbot

In celebration of International Women's Day, we're highlighting the extraordinary accomplishments of LWVCC's treasurer, Louise Abbott. This is a most opportune time to do so, as Louise is currently in Egypt, teaching on a Fulbright scholarship.



Louise's Background

Louise was born in Virginia but grew up in Oregon. She earned a B.A in biology, a Ph.D. in zoology, and a D.V.M. In her 35-year career, Louise taught at three university colleges of veterinary medicine, including 24 years at Texas A&M University. There, she was an Emerita Full Professor of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences and a Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence. Her research focus was developmental neurobiology and neurotoxicology. Louise was honored as a Texas State 2015 Piper Professor, and as a recipient of the Outstanding Anatomist Award from the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists. She is also a past president of that association.



Louise has served on the boards of academic associations, churches, and non-profit organizations – including LWVCC, lucky us! She has a passion for working for the homeless, wildlife, and the environment. Her husband, Rev. James L. Abbott, is a retired Lutheran Pastor. They have been married for over 45 years. They retired to the Southern Oregon coast and currently live near Brookings.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers scholarships in more than 135 countries, which enables American citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world.

"The goal of the Fulbright Program in Egypt is to ensure students have a deeply enriching and productive experience, academically and culturally, and to promote mutual understanding between Egypt and the United States. Egypt is a country with a rich history, a beautiful and diverse topography, and a robust and nuanced cultural context. It is known for its bustling capital, its rapidly growing population, and its unique role in the region. As a destination, it offers a chance for Americans to learn about civilization's origins and experience the thrill of navigating a complex locale." <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/egypt/1603>

Louise's Experiences in Egypt

Here are some excerpts from Louise's email on February 10th. "The travel to Egypt went well. ... We are still trying to adjust our sleep cycles since it is just about opposite to the US west coast. We have a nice apartment and are trying to learn now to get around. Cairo is huge and spread out. The weather is just about like what you are having in Brookings: 45-47 [degrees] at night and 50s-60s during the day. We have not been able to make any phone calls to the US so far and are trying to figure that out still. I start lecturing on Tuesday and have been busy preparing my lectures."

**We hope to share more of Louise's experiences abroad in future issues.
Until then, congratulations and kudos to the amazing Louise Abbott!**



League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2023

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
March	6	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	12:00 - 2:00 pm
	17	Central County Unit Meeting	Rogue Landing North, Wedderburn	4:00 pm
	22	LWVOR Local League Leaders	Zoom	5:00 pm
April	10	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	12:00 - 2:00 pm
	20	All-County Unit Meeting, Topic & Speaker: TBD	TBD	TBD
	26	LWVOR Local League Leaders	Zoom	5:00 pm
May	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	12:00 - 2:00 pm
	16	Special District Elections	County Clerk's Office; Official Ballot Dropsites	7:00 am –8:00 pm; Until 8:00 pm
	24	LWVOR Local League Leaders	Zoom	5:00 pm
June	3	Annual Member Meeting	Curry Public Library, Gold Beach	10:00 am–1:00 pm



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Cedar Bend Golf Association

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Gold Beach, 97444

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



CoastLines

League of Women Voters of Curry County
P O Box 1859
Gold Beach, OR 97444



2022-2023

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★ **Alyce Prudden**

Secretary

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Karen Pringle Cunningham, Susan Barke, Debra Worth, Louise Abbott, Alyce Prudden

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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Website Information: lwvcurry.org

Election Information: vote411.org

The League of Women Voters of Curry County – How to Join

Yes, I want to make a difference by joining LWVCC!

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

I am unable to join but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

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