

CoastLines



Hello members of the League of Women Voters of Curry County.

They say that **March** comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well, at least at my house **March** came in like a snow leopard! Lots of hail, sleet, and snow at 1600 feet here outside of Brookings. Lost power for a day but we have a wood stove, so all is well.

- ⇒ I hope many of you will be able to attend the **March 7** panel discussion on Homelessness in Curry County at the library in Gold Beach.
- ⇒ It is from 2 to 3:30 pm and we will hear from the Curry Homeless Coalition and Brookings CORE Response. Bring a friend and learn about what is going on and what we can do.
- ⇒ We are gearing up for our candidate forums that we will have 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 Gold Beach (**May 2**) and Brookings (**May 7**) so far.

In this Issue	
President’s Message	Page 1
Board Meeting	Page 2
Unit Meeting	Page 2
News from State	Page 4
News From National	Page 4
Primary Elections	Page 4
Women At War	Page 5
OR Vote by Mail	Page 6
State of Curry County	Page 7-8
Calendar	Page 9
Sponsors	Page 10
Membership Form	Page 11

Respectfully, Louise Abbott
President, LWVCC



February 2024 Board Meeting



- Summary of the LWVCC Board meeting held February 12, 2024, via Zoom.
- Board members attending: Louise Abbott, Susan Barke, Debra Worth, Renee Kolen, and Alyce Prudden.
- The minutes of the February 12, 2024, board meeting were approved.
- The financial report for February was approved.
- The Panel Discussion on Homelessness in Curry County to be held on March 7 at the library in Gold Beach was discussed.
- Plans have been initiated for the nomination committee to begin working on finding individuals to run for the vacant offices, which are: vice president, treasurer, and three-at-large board directors.
- Fundraising was discussed briefly. It was noted that we will not have a fundraising event in this fiscal year.
- The next meeting will continue to focus on candidate forum planning.

The next LWVCC board meeting will be March 11th from 12-2pm via zoom.



Central County February 23, 2024, Meeting:

Charlene Enoch	Karen Cunningham (LWVCC Board)
Lucie La Bonte	Hank Cunningham
Phil Dickson	Guests: Matt Timchak, US Forest Ranger
Karol Simas	Kailey Guerrant



- ◆ Matt Timchak and Forest Ranger Kailey Guerrant made a presentation about the forest treatment strategies in the management of the Gold Beach and Powers Ranger Districts of the Siskiyou National Forest.
- ◆ Matt spoke about the Cooperative Suppression Fire Policy Plan based on team management.
- ◆ First priority is fire fighter safety.
- ◆ Evaluating safety versus success ratio.
- ◆ A team does risk assessments and informs people through the website.
- ◆ He reviewed a map of activity on fire boundaries.
- ◆ They now keep those areas clear instead of allowing vegetation to grow back as done in previous fires.
- ◆ These treatments positively affected the suppression of the fires last summer.
- ◆ This is a change in policy.
- ◆ These changes have been in place around a decade now.
- ◆ Recent Federal appropriations helped expand these treatments.
- ◆ One challenge is the lack of family housing which makes it difficult to recruit people to Gold Beach.
- ◆ They are looking for solutions for this issue and seeking cooperation to meet this challenge.





LWVOR's March All-Members Newsletter is packed with information.
The newsletter is available at <https://www.lwvor.org/news>.



Here are some highlights.

- ✂ Oregon Senate Commemoration of Alice Bartelt SCR 203, the Senate Memorial Commemoration for Alice Bartelt, was passed unanimously from the Senate Floor on February 28th.
- ✂ Alice recently died while serving as President of the League of Women Voters of Oregon.
- ✂ The resolution distills a lifetime of accomplishment, including her family life, graduation from Lewis and Clark Law, a twenty-five-year career in worker compensation law, and extensive volunteer work.

LWVOR Youth Council News

- ✂ Three LWVOR Youth Council members participated in Oregon's 2024 short legislative session, which started February 5th and concludes March 10th. In an uplifting article, Charlie Bloomer, Chloe Acosta, and Ronan Nauert reported on their legislative experiences.
- ✂ Charlie and Chloe "ventured to the capital to give testimony on a series of pressing bills."
- ✂ They advocated in favor of SB1530, which offers stable housing solutions, and HB4070, the School Health Crisis Response Act; they lobbied against HB4002, the re-criminalization of drugs.
- ✂ As Charlie wrote: "This was my first-time lobbying, and I was extremely intimidated at first, but through this experience, I realized how accessible civic engagement truly is."
- ✂ Ronan submitted written testimony "in support of extending automatic voter registration to applicants for admission to public institutions of higher education."
- ✂ As he put it: "This is part of my mission to ensure that every young person's voice is heard."
- ✂ At the end of the day, the decisions made by leaders of today are the same decisions that will most impact the voters of tomorrow."
- ✂ Information about the 2024 session is available at <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov> and on the LWVOR website.

LWVOR Website Member's Section

- ✂ League members have access to multiple exclusive resources on our website, including the ever-expanding Knowledge Base, which includes tutorials, webinar recordings, and links to helpful toolkits and other resources.
- ✂ LWVOR invites you to register to access the Member's Section, at <https://www.lwvor.org/member-section-registration>.
- ✂ There you can take a look at the Knowledge Base and offer suggestions for topics you would like to see covered. Contact LWVOR at lwvor@lwvor.org.





- ✦ **LWVUS** has formally invited all league members to the 56th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention, June 27 – 30.
- ✦ The convention will take place in Washington, DC, and online.
- ✦ Here are the particulars, as stated in the national league’s late February email invitation:
 - Our Convention will be a fully hybrid experience, with both combined and unique experiences for in-person and virtual attendees.
 - All information related to National Convention, including registration and hotel bookings, can be found here:
 - <https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/regPage:fc9a5c5a-47d4-4ab8-826a-b4a1b6006aad>
 - League members are invited to attend as voting delegates or as observers.
 - Check out the registration tab on the Convention website to learn more.
 - Registration is open until June 10.



National Convention is a League experience unlike any other, where League members come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium. We hope you will join us in DC or online in June!



**Deadlines for the Primary Elections
May 21, 2024**



- ★ **Candidate Filing: March 12, 2024**
- ★ **Voter Registration: April 30, 2024**
- ★ **General Ballot Mailing: May 7, 2024**
- ★ **Ballot Return: Ballots must be deposited before 8 pm on election day at designated ballot collection sites or at the county clerk’s office.**
- ★ **Mailed ballots must be post-marked by 8 pm on election day.**
- ★ **Election Results will be certified no later than June 17th.**





Women At War: Revolutionary War, by Susan Barke
 Lydia Barrington Darragh (b.1729 d.12-26-1789)
 Patriot Spy
"An Irish immigrant and Pacifist turned Patriot spy"



Lydia Barrington was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1729 and emigrated to Philadelphia in 1753, shortly after marrying her family's tutor, William Darragh.

In America, Lydia took up work as a midwife and raised the couple's five children. Though William and Lydia were both Quakers and pacifists, their eldest son, Charles, joined the Continental Army, serving in the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment.

In September of 1777, the British occupied Philadelphia. British General William Howe wanted to occupy the Darragh home, but Lydia was able to convince Howe to permit the couple to remain in their home in exchange for allowing the British to use their parlor as a meeting place. Since the Darraghs were pacifists, and publicly remained uninvolved in the war effort, the British officials did not suspect that Lydia might be acting as a spy. However, Lydia gathered information about British activities, then passed the information to Charles through coded notes delivered by one of her younger sons.

On December 2, 1777, Lydia listened in on a secret meeting, securing information about the British plan to lead a surprise attack against General George Washington's Continental forces at Whitemarsh, located sixteen miles north of Philadelphia, in two days' time. The day after the meeting, Lydia received permission from General Howe to visit her youngest children outside the city, and to purchase flour from the Frankford mill. With her official pass, she moved past the British lines to the mill, and then on to the Rising Sun Tavern, where she informed an American soldier that Howe was planning an attack on December 4th.

Washington's forces were prepared but Howe called off the attack suspecting that a member of the Darragh family had overheard their plan. Lydia was questioned but remained calm. She claimed that she and the rest of her family had been asleep through the meeting, and the British officers let the matter rest.

Lydia and William lost their membership in The Religious Society of Friends (aka Quakers) before the end of the war, suggesting that their contributions to the Revolution became known to their community. They were however, buried in a Quaker Cemetery. Lydia Darragh remains an important example of heroism and patriotism in the fight for American independence.

Source: The American Battlefield Trust





Oregon's Vote-By-Mail System, by Alyce Prudden

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- 📧 In Oregon, the use of vote by mail was first approved on a limited basis by the Legislature in 1981 and was made a permanent feature of some elections in 1987.
- 📧 In 1998, Oregon voters amended state law to require that the primary and general elections in May and November of even-numbered years also be conducted through vote by mail.
- 📧 This was accomplished through Ballot Measure 60, a citizen's initiative.
- 📧 The initiative passed overwhelmingly, with nearly 70% of the vote.
- 📧 The League of Women Voters of Oregon was a key VBM supporter.
- 📧 Oregon was the first full VBM state in the union, and the second state in the union to vote exclusively by mail in a presidential election (just weeks behind North Dakota).
- 📧 Beginning in 2000, primary and general elections have been conducted by mail. In 2007, the Legislature provided that all elections be conducted by mail.
- 📧 In 2019, the Legislature approved funding for postage paid envelopes to be provided for returning ballots starting in 2020.
- 📧 Vote-by-mail in Oregon has maintained a high level of support.
- 📧 According to a 2003 survey by Dr. Priscilla Southwell, University of Oregon, more than 80% of respondents from across the political spectrum favored the vote-by-mail system.
- 📧 There are good reasons for the popularity of Oregon's vote-by-mail system.
- 📧 For one thing, it has contributed to Oregon's highest-in-the-nation voter turnout rate.
- 📧 For another, VBM costs substantially less than in-person voting. And even more importantly, VBM has proven to be extremely safe.
- 📧 According to the Oregon's Legislative Fiscal Office, about 61 million ballots were cast from 2000-2019.
- 📧 Of those tens of millions of votes, only 38 criminal convictions of voter fraud were obtained. That represents a vanishingly small rate of 0.00006%.
- 📧 As a nonprofit, nonpartisan political organization, LWVCC encourages informed and active participation in government.
- 📧 We believe in expanding access to voting for all eligible voters.
- 📧 For that reason, LWVCC has expressed its opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 1589. SB 1589 was recently introduced by Senator David Brock-Smith, Representative Court Boice, and two other representatives.
- 📧 The bill would mandate a return to in-person voting on the date of an election as the standard method for conducting an election. In the League's opinion, this regressive proposal is unworthy of Oregon.





On February 7, 2024, Brad Alcorn, Chair of the Curry County Board of Commissioners, delivered the state of the county address. This is a summary by Alyce Prudden, with direct quotes from Mr. Alcorn. The Commissioners set goals for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Financial Stability, Public Trust, and Quality of Life.

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ☑ Part of the Transient Lodging Tax money allows the Economic Development Department to assist in the creation of new jobs, support local enterprises, and introduce new initiatives.
- ☑ One of the wins this year is a grant from Travel Oregon that will permit the county to offer a beach wheelchair rental program locally.
- ☑ Called Wheel the World, the program will start in Gold Beach.
- ☑ Another economic development opportunity is in housing, which is critical for the workforce. Oregon has set aside five hundred million dollars to back local housing projects, and Curry County has the chance to submit projects for funding.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

- ☑ The Board of Commissioners “does not support windmills and will adamantly oppose their introduction to our ocean.”
- ☑ Curry County finalized a state grant funding transfer to the Rogue-Siskiyou Regional Fire Training Center. Once completed, this facility will provide robust training opportunities to first responders.
- ☑ It will also include a firearms range accessible to the public.
- ☑ The April 2023 cyber-attack on the county’s information technology infrastructure affected all county services, “but it also provided an opportunity to band together and resolve the issues.”
- ☑ With the invaluable help of “other counties, state agencies, nonprofits, and local municipalities” after the attack, the county was able to implement “strong, long-term solutions.”
- ☑ The county’s IT infrastructure is now faster and more secure.
- ☑ There is an up-to-date IT policy, and a transition to a .gov domain is planned.
- ☑ The cyber-attack had another positive outcome: It strengthened the county’s relations with neighboring governments, particularly the Lane Council of Governments (“LCOG”).
- ☑ LCOG is still “a crucial facet of the County IT Department” and the “partnership doesn’t just stop there.” Keina Wolf, former LCOG Finance Director, now holds that position at Curry County.

3. FINANCIAL STABILITY

- ☑ One key to implementing the goal of financial stability is a “capable, qualified, and knowledgeable Finance Director” such as Ms. Wolf, particularly given the county’s ongoing financial problems.
- ☑ One problem is that “the true state of County finances was unknown” during last year’s budget season, because the “accounts had not been reconciled for the previous two fiscal years.”
- ☑ “This year, staff have been hard at work reconciling the books to ensure that our finances will be accurate going into the 2024/2025 budget season.”





- ☑ Another urgent problem is that the county's long-expected financial crisis "will be a reality in the spring of 2024."
- ☑ "Two financial cliffs loom in our future, the general fund deficit and the rapidly depleting road funds."
- ☑ As for the general fund deficit, this year's budget "was balanced using a combination of educated estimates and one-time money" plus a "combination of discipline, double-checking and a bit of luck."
- ☑ Administrative redundancies have been eliminated.
- ☑ There has been a reduction in county staff from 139 last year employees to 124 this year, saving about \$800,000 in salaries and benefits.
- ☑ "This year, four million dollars was transferred from the Road fund to the Sheriff's Office to provide limited services."
- ☑ The Road Fund issue was addressed "early in the year" in part by emphasizing "the maintenance and longevity of our existing vehicles" instead of "new vehicles being bought every couple of years."
- ☑ Combined with other initiatives, an estimated \$5 million was saved.
- ☑ "The Road Department is here to maintain the County Roads and they are doing a great job, especially during the recent weather events."

4. PUBLIC TRUST

- ☑ Public Trust "goes both ways, and it starts with" the county; that includes providing information about finances.
- ☑ "The strength of our community lies in active community participation on key issues, and that in turn ensures that the voices of all our citizens are heard and valued, shaping the future of Curry County."
- ☑ As Alcorn put it, "community participation and input on important topics is a driving factor on how" the commissioners serve their constituents.
- ☑ With the public's input, commissioners "have changed meeting times to accommodate working people and have begun holding meetings and workshops in both North and South County on a regular basis."

5. QUALITY OF LIFE

- ☑ The foundation of quality of life is safety.
- ☑ This past year's disasters include the "loss of Highway 101 near Arizona Beach" and "three major fires" that cost the life of one young fire firefighter, Benjamin Charles Sapper.
- ☑ "The primary public safety duties rest with the County Sheriff's Office. Currently, the County is able to offset the cost needed to perform patrol services with Road funds."
- ☑ "No one wants to use the Road Funds to fill the gap," and "current staffing levels do not allow for deputies to be on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."
- ☑ To address these issues, "the May Primary ballot will include a levy to fund 24/7 deputies for the Curry County Sheriff's Office, to maintain the County jail so they can accommodate arrests made by City Police in Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings, and will ensure that the District Attorney's Office has all the resources it needs to prosecute those criminals."

The full address can be read at:

<https://cms6.revize.com/revize/currycountyor/2024%20State%20of%20the%20County.pdf>

It can be viewed on the Curry County Civic Youtube page at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIEyILkBsP0> (introduced at minute 4:15).





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

MONTH	DAY	EVENTS	PLACE	TIME
March	7	Panel Discussion on Services provided to Unhoused & Food Insecure Individuals in Curry County – All unit meeting & open to the public.	Curry Public Library in Gold Beach	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
	11	Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon - 2 pm
April	8	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon - 2 pm
May	2	Candidate Forum	Curry Public Library in Gold Beach	7:00 - 9:00 pm
	7	Candidate Forum	Chetco Public Library in Gold Beach	5:00 - 6:30 pm
	13	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	Noon - 2 pm



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South Coastal residents collaborating to promote climate action.

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2023-2024 Board Officers & Directors

President

- Louise Abbott

Secretary

- 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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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

