

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CURRY COUNTY

CoastLines



President's Letter

By MJ LaBelle

*Spring has Sprung!
And so has the
League's busy
schedule.*

In this edition of CoastLines, you will see information about the May 18th Election and the Candidate Forums we recorded and placed on YouTube. Be sure to check the article out and the Forums.

Also, encourage your friends to log into VOTE411.org to learn about the candidates' backgrounds. Not all candidates are included—only those who responded, and there have been many emails requesting them to enter their information.

The "People not Politicians" (non-gerrymandering) campaign has begun again. The League is supporting this in every way we can. The LWVOR will be seeking signatures later. With the Census-reported growth in Oregon, the good news is that we gain another member of Congress, making Oregon's influence in the US House of Representatives one stronger.

*There is lots going on
before the summer hiatus.*



You will also read here about the Harvard Project's Case Study program. Please consider participating. It'll be fascinating.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021 on Zoom. Please attend. We will be electing officers for the next two years; voting on budgets and bylaw changes, among others. You will receive notices about this meeting—both via email and snail mail. Our gratitude to the Nominations and Budget Committees who worked so hard on this meeting.

**The LWVOR Convention is being held
May 10-14. Sign up as an observer on
LWVOR website.**



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Candidate Forums for the Special District Elections for Curry County!

I was not involved in the Candidate Forums April 19th and 20th. However, I did watch them all in a marathon forum night in order to make sure the zoom recording was ok to put out to the public! I enjoyed watching each one and getting to know the candidates a little better. I learned some things from the candidates themselves, and more from the commentary of my husband, who watched two of the forums with me. I found that when we watched them together, he was able to share background information about a topic that I did not know, which then helped me to understand the candidate's position or answer much better. In this respect, the Zoom Forum was a good venue, as we could pause, have our own discussion, and move on when we were ready. It could actually be quite fun to have a socially distanced party, pick a forum to watch, and actually discuss with friends the positions of the candidates.

I learned much about the Port of Brookings Harbor. The 10 year plan for the future was enlightening and gave me pause to think – how do I feel about those proposed plans? Unfortunately, the two candidates attending the forum were not running against each other. I was able to learn about their ideas, their knowledge about the position, their reasons for running, their interactions with state legislators on issues regarding the port, but was not able to contrast/compare their answers to their opponents. What does this mean for me as a voter? It means that I must individually contact the other candidate to investigate their position. This is not something I have done before and seems very intimidating. Should I share what I learn through social media if I am brave enough to do it? Should I just assume that the candidate who showed up to the forum is the best candidate? The right to vote brings with it some individual responsibility.

The Special District Election is May 18th. Investigate, make your decision, fill out your ballot, and be sure your ballot makes it to a drop box!



PS – We would appreciate your help.

- ✓ The candidate forums can be found on our website (lwvcurry.org), on the League YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7NYDxzleUuArcM-h6T8xSQ>), or on the League Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Curry-County-LWVCC-109141511315935>).
- ✓ If you could please share as many of these sites with your friends and neighbors through word of mouth, social media, etc. it would be helpful. The League's mission is to educate the voters and this is just one way in which **every member** can fulfill that mission.



Annual Meeting Preview - Election



- ★ Among the important items for the upcoming annual meeting is the election of LWVCC officers and directors. Since this is an odd year, the bylaws call for election of the president and vice president, as well as those directors serving odd-numbered positions (Directors #1, #3, and #5). In the case of off-year, unexpired terms – as when officers or directors resign or move into different roles on the Board of Directors – it's the Board's duty to fill those positions by appointment.
- ★ With that in mind, we're excited to preview the slate that the Nominating Committee will be presenting to the members.

OFFICERS:

- ✓ For President, Alyce Prudden is running for a two-year term (2021-2023). Alyce has been serving as Secretary since early 2020 – first as a Board appointee, then by election at the June 2020 annual meeting.
- ✓ The Vice President's position remains vacant.
- ✓ For Secretary, Louise Abbott will be appointed by the Board of Directors to complete the remaining year of Alyce's term. Louise has been a hard-working director since her election in 2020.
- ✓ For Treasurer, Colleen Bunn will be completing her two-year term, which ends 6/30/22.

DIRECTORS:

- ✓ As Director #1, Dennis Triglia has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term ending 6/30/23.
- ✓ As Director #2, Karol Simas will be completing her two-year term, which ends 6/30/22.
- ✓ As Director #3, Susan Barke has agreed to stand for election for a two-year term ending 6/30/23.

We offer sincere thanks to all board members for their dedicated service – past, present, and future. And of course, we extend a hearty welcome to Dennis Triglia and Susan Barke. We're excited to continue LWVCC's important work, utilizing the skills and energy of all of our board members, old and new alike.



LWV Curry County ANNUAL MEETING, MJ LaBelle

- 🇺🇸 The Annual Meeting will be held on June 5, 2021 at 9:30 am via zoom. Please join us.
- 🇺🇸 The invitation will be sent to all members a few days before the meeting.
- 🇺🇸 There are three items to be voted on:
 1. The Nominations Committee proposal for new board members
 2. The Budget report for 2021-2022
 3. The Bylaw change
- 🇺🇸 All will be emailed to you 30 days before the meeting and sent to you via snail mail a few days before the meeting.

**NOTICE
OF
BOARD
MEETING**

**Board Meeting Summary
by Alyce Prudden, Secretary**

Here is a summary of the last LWVCC board meeting, held April 12, 2021.

The following formal board actions were taken:

- 🇺🇸 Approval of financial statements: The Board approved the financial reports for March 2021 as submitted by Treasurer Colleen Bunn.
- 🇺🇸 Approval of funds transfer: The Board approved the transfer of \$3,000 from LWVCC's checking account to its regular savings account at Rogue Credit Union.
- 🇺🇸 Approval of prior meeting minutes: The Board approved the March 2021 meeting minutes as submitted by Secretary Alyce Prudden, with one correction.
- 🇺🇸 Approval of a board determination that the pandemic prevents an in-person Annual Member Meeting on June 5, 2021.
- 🇺🇸 Approval of the Proposed Budget for submission to the members at the Annual Meeting.
- 🇺🇸 Approval of the necessary expenditures for copying and mailing the annual meeting packet to all members.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

- 🇺🇸 Charlie Alexander reported on the upcoming Special District races.
- 🇺🇸 LWVCC will conduct candidate forums, for contested seats, on April 19 & 20 via Zoom. Forum recordings will be posted on our website afterward.
- 🇺🇸 The county-wide unit meetings remain scheduled for every third Thursday, via Zoom.
- 🇺🇸 April's speaker and topic: Phoebe Skinner, speaking on Civics Education. May's meeting will be a book club discussion, led by Louise Abbott. The book selection is *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder.
- 🇺🇸 The Board undertook its monthly *Coastlines* review, including plans for this May issue.

Amazon Smile. by Colleen Bunn

- Want to help make a difference while you shop on your phone in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you?
- Simply follow the instructions below to select "League Of Women Voters Of Curry County" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app.
- They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to our League.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "League Of Women Voters Of Curry County" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Also, you can sign up to put the LWVCC on your account so we will earn a small % from your purchases.

amazon

As we enter the lovely month of May, the League's membership focus turns to our much-anticipated annual meeting of members.

Annual Meeting

Our upcoming annual meeting is set for Saturday, June 5, starting at 9:30 am, via Zoom. We'd dearly love to meet in person, but for now we must remain in the safety of the virtual world. There's a lot of important work to do at the meeting, and we hope to see you there.

Call for Membership Renewal

LWVCC begins a new fiscal year on July 1. It's hard to overstate how much we value your continued support as a member, and we sincerely hope that you'll renew your membership this year. The cost remains at \$65.00 per year for individuals, \$97.50 for a family of two. With fundraising opportunities curtailed by the pandemic, your support is more important than ever.

So, please ... RENEW, REJOIN, RENEW, RE-UP, RENEW!



Unit Meetings

Our traditional unit meetings continue (for now) as virtual all-member zoom meetings. The meetings remain set for the Third Thursday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

April's meeting was a rousing discussion of Civics Education, led by Pacific High School teacher and LWVCC member Phoebe Skinner. For those who couldn't attend, or those who want to revisit the fast-paced session, the recording is available on our website.

The May meeting will be our inaugural Book Club meeting, where we'll discuss *On Tyranny*, by Timothy Snyder. It's a short yet insightful book, and we expect a lively discussion. We hope you'll attend.

Outreach

As noted in earlier *Coastlines* issues, LWVCC is making efforts to reach out to high school students. We contacted all three local high schools, hoping to connect with students through their teachers, with a focus on civics, history, and government classes. We started with invitations to attend our all-member zoom meetings in March and April. Although we haven't succeeded in attracting any students to attend so far, we're encouraged to have pathways and ideas for connecting with our future voters.



- As always, I'd love to your ideas for membership.
- Meanwhile, please plan to attend the all-member meeting in May and the annual meeting in June.
- And please renew your membership, too. **Happy Spring!**



- ✓ The LWVCC April All-Member Unit Zoom Meeting was held April 15, 2021, from 5 to 6 pm. Louise Abbott moderated, MJ LaBelle hosted, and MJ and Colleen Bunn sent the invitations. The topic for the April meeting was Civics Education. The speaker was Phoebe Skinner, Pacific High School teacher, Harvard Case Study Project alumna, and LWVCC member. In a fast-paced and informative hour, Ms. Skinner addressed a broad range of topics currently impacting Civics Education, summarized below.
- ✓ She started by discussing her education and teaching experience. Ms. Skinner earned her BA and Masters degrees in International Affairs from Lewis and Clark College, in Portland Oregon. She has had a wide range of teaching experience and has been at the High School in Port Orford for five years. One of her main goals in teaching is developing writing and critical thinking skills in her students. Ms. Skinner covered four areas in her presentation.

1) Student Trips. Ms. Skinner discussed government field trips – local, state, and national – which give students a first-hand look at our democracy. Locally, there's typically a Fall trip in which students meet with Curry County officials – County Commissioners, Judge Jesse Margolis, to observe court, and County Clerk Renee Kolen, to see voter registration in action. On the state level, the Senior Trip to Salem allows students to meet with state legislators; side trips have included college tours and visits to parks and monuments. Nationally, there's a long tradition of student trips to Washington DC. But with a price tag of about \$2300, that trip can be prohibitive for our districts' students, many of whom are poor. There is some tuition assistance available, but students usually rely on community fund-raising. Fortunately, Ms. Skinner said, the community wants to support kids.

2) The Classroom Law Project. This resource offers three main avenues for civics education. The first is Civics Day for educators. The second, "We the People," is an immersive learning experience fostering deeper understanding of the constitution and government institutions. It features student competitions and presentations. The third is Mock Trial. As Ms. Skinner noted, Judge Margolis would love to field a Mock Trial team, but no single local high school is big enough. One possibility is a county-wide team, which also could foster connection among the three distinct and often divided geographic areas of our county.

3) Student Study, Participation and Feedback. Civics study topics for Ms. Skinner's students include civil discourse and media literacy. Beyond study, Ms. Skinner encourages active participation. As one example, her students excelled in their roles as facilitators for a real-life land swap in Langlois, where their involvement actually seemed to improve the adults' contentious behavior! One consistent student take-away from participation in government is that it's not glamorous, it's a process. Ms. Skinner also shared her students' feedback in responding to three questions concerning their own participation in democracy: (a) what have you learned in school that's helped; (b) what have you learned outside of school that's helped; (c) what would you like to learn about that would help. The students' answers were insightful, illuminating, and sometimes whimsical.

4) Wrap-Up. In closing, Ms. Skinner touched on several other topics, including the Harvard Case Study Project, Youth Voting, and the plethora of proposed legislation on civics education pending in the Oregon Legislature. All in all, it was an insightful and energetic discussion.



The Unit meeting has been recorded and uploaded to the LWV-Curry County Website. To access the recording, go to <https://lwvcurry.org/> and click on the 2021 LWVCC Unit Zoom Meetings tab.



Learn More AT LWV.org



- ★ The 700,000 residents of DC were recognized by members of Congress, who voted to pass the *Washington, DC Admission Act* (HR 51). The League has been a strong advocate of this legislation, which would create a 51st state from the residential and commercial areas in the District.
- ★ As LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase has stated, “DC statehood is not a partisan issue but a civil rights issue which cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice. As DC is a jurisdiction with a majority population of Black and Brown people, continued efforts to block full representation is discrimination against the people who live, work, and pay taxes in the District...It is long past time that we dispel these racist and discriminatory excuses and deliver justice to the residents of our nation’s capital.”

This bill now goes before the Senate - Encourage your Senator to support it today.

Drum Roll

Please...



Now presenting ... a unique opportunity for League members!

Harvard Case Study
by Alyce Prudden

Many of you received this through a membership e-blast, but here it is in CoastLines in case you missed it!

LWV of Curry County and LWV of Coos County are joining forces to host a virtual community case study. The study derives from the Harvard Civics Project, “an initiative formed:

1. to bring case method teaching to high schools, and
2. to use this methodology to deepen students’ understanding of American democracy.”

[\[www.lwvgreenwich.org/content\]](http://www.lwvgreenwich.org/content).

This community case discussion is essentially the high school classroom experience – but moved into the public domain.

Two local teachers will be presenting the case study: Phoebe Skinner of Pacific High School and Dustin Hood of North Bend High School.

The study they’ve selected is *Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights*.

The case study will be presented Friday evening, May 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, via Zoom.

The event is expected to draw diverse, interested participants from both Curry and Coos counties. We’re seeking both adult and student participants, whether League members or not. Participants are expected to read the case materials before the session. The teachers will then lead the discussion, using the case method process (the Socratic method), which prompts discussion and debate.

This is a rare and exciting opportunity for a deep dive into an interesting and important historical case. We hope you’ll join us. If you’d like to participate, please contact LWVCC Membership Chair Alyce Prudden by email (aeprudden@aol.com) or by phone. 541-412-0292 - 541-425-1418

The following Resolution has been adopted by our Board of Directors to be presented to the LWVOR for adoption at its May 2021 Convention. We have joined our surrounding Local Leagues to present this. By MJ LaBelle, President, LWV Curry County

Resolution To Be Presented to the 2021 Oregon State Biannual Convention

Sponsored by LWVs of Rogue Valley, Curry County, Coos County, Klamath County, and Umpqua Valley (pending)

- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, the work of the League of Women Voters (LWV) is based on our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy, our vision of democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate and our belief in our power to create a more perfect democracy;
- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, as the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the LWV approached, the national atmosphere of overt racism, gender bias, and resistance to groups seen by some as “other” was becoming among the most challenging in our nation’s history;
- 🇺🇸 **Whereas** in response, the LWVUS, state, and local Leagues intensified ongoing conversations about the threats to democracy and universal voting rights posed by systemic racism, inequity, and barriers to full participation in democracy;
- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, the League also acknowledged our own exclusionary history and determined to address it;
- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, the Board of the LWVUS in 2017 adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy;

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.



- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, delegates of the 2020 LWVUS Convention passed on a vote of 750 to 37 a proposal establishing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as a policy on par with Nonpartisanship via an amendment to Article II of the national bylaws;

ARTICLE II - Purposes and Policies

Sec. 1. Purposes. *The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*

Sec. 2. Policies. The policies of the LWVUS are

Political Policy. *The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.*

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. *The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.*

- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, that the 2020 LWVUS Convention delegates also passed the emergency resolution "Racial justice for black people and all people of color" (Racial Justice Resolution);

The League of Women Voters of Missouri, in conjunction with 20 state Leagues and 27 local Leagues, proposed an emergency resolution that the League of Women Voters advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes. We resolve second, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

- 🇺🇸 **Whereas**, the LWVUS has developed a "DEI Lens" as a tool for "examining a program, a process, a product, etc., with regards to how it is perceived by a variety of communities, voices, and perspectives and what barriers, if any, may exist that are preventing it from being equitable or inclusive of everyone."

Therefore, be it resolved LWVOR encourages all local leagues in Oregon to join the state League to

1. Update their bylaws to be consistent with Article II of the LWV bylaws as amended by the membership at the June 2020 Convention;
2. Develop a DEI Policy for their League that is consistent with the spirit and principles of the 2017 national Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and implement it appropriately across both their Voter Service and Action work;
3. Familiarize themselves with the DEI Lens and use it as a tool to do their work in ways that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
4. Ensure adherence to the Racial Justice Resolution adopted in 2020 in all of their work to facilitate the eradication of systemic racism.

**Resolution initiated by LWVRV members Shirley Weathers
(Contact: walsh.weathers@gmail.com),
Joyce Chapman, Bill Walsh, Jean Buck, Jim Buck, and Susan Roberts**



2021 Calendar

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
May	10-16	LWVOR Convention	ZOOM	10am - 12 noon
	17	LWVCC Board Meeting	ZOOM	12 noon
	20	All Units Meeting (Book Club: "On Tyranny")	ZOOM	5 - 6pm
June	5	LWVCC Annual Meeting	Zoom	9:30am – 1pm
		New/Old Board Meeting	TBA	



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541-247-6818

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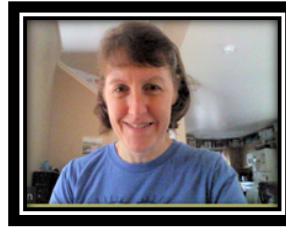
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*A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!*

MaryJane LaBelle



Colleen Bunn



Charlie Alexander



Alyce Prudden

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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Website Information: lwvcurry.org
Election Information: vote411.org

2020-2021 Board Officers & Directors

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



Louise Abbott



Karol Simas

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 \$ _____

*LWVCC is a qualified 501©(3) nonprofit organization;
therefore, your dues & donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell/Text _____ Email _____

Volunteer Interest in the League _____

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

Join with us to make your voice heard. Stay informed on issues that concern you.
Enjoy periodic League publications – local, state & national.



Revised April 2021