LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS* OF CURRY COUNTY

November 2021 Volume 38 Issue 3



CoastLines

I love November! I'm especially fond of November's book-ends: Elections, early in the month, and Thanksgiving, near month's end. And in between, despite the constraints of the ongoing pandemic, we keep busy at League.

Starting with that first bookend: YES, we do have a local election this month. It's hovered a bit under the radar, since it features only one item, and it applies to only some county residents. If approved, that item, Ballot Measure #8-102, will create a special district, the South Coast Parks & Recreation District.

Following that uniquely democratic kickoff to the month, LWVCC has a number of other civic projects and events in store.



November President's Message by Alyce Prudden

For one thing, we've completed our consensus discussion of LWVOR's current study, *Pesticides and Other Biocides;* it took place at last month's unit meeting. Our secretary, Louise Abbott, has written her consensus report, which we've sent to LWVOR. The state league will tabulate our responses, with those of other leagues, and issue a position statement early next year.

Coming up for this month's unit meeting is a discussion about the Curry County Jail. It will feature Jail Commander Lt. Joel Hensley. We expect an informative and lively session. Please plan on joining us on November 18th at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

To raise our profile (and, hopefully, a little money), the League will have a booth at the Brookings Harbor Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 13th. We'll offer gift wrapping and accept donations. And we'll also have information about LWVCC on hand, along with a soft pitch for Giving Tuesday. Please stop by if you're in South County.

As November closes, in the embrace of Thanksgiving, we remain grateful for your contributions to our league's important work.

To end on a lighter note, herewith this edition's collection of couplets:

Goodbye to Halloween, with its scares, and tricks, and pranks; Hello to sweet November, with its kinship, hearth, and thanks. Warmed by a cozy fire, at our northern latitude, We recount the many reasons for our heart-felt gratitude. And on this Giving Tuesday, we'd be grateful as could be, If you have the means to share with League your generosity.

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Board Meeting

> The October LWVCC board meeting was held via zoom on October 4, 2021, from 10am to noon. All board members were present.

The following motions were presented and passed, unanimously:

- 1. Motion to approve the treasurer's report
- 2. Motion to approve the secretary's report

Other topics included the following:

- The LWVCC presentation for the BHHS Academic Excellence Day at SWOCC was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- → The LWVCC currently has 33 members. Two additional sponsors have been added.
- → The National Voter Registration Day event was successful. We registered about 35 people. Thank you to all the volunteers. A discussion about Vote411 business cards & QR codes ensued.
- → There is a local election on November 2, 2021, with a single Ballot Measure #8-102, which would establish the South Coast Parks & Recreation District. The board decided to post information on the LWVCC Facebook page to let people know about the measure.
- Possible fundraising ideas were discussed. The board decided to do some sort of fundraiser this fall/winter, and another in the spring.
- For the November 2021 unit meeting, the plan is to have a speaker offer information about the Curry County jail.



The next board meeting will be Monday, November 15th, 10 am to noon, via zoom.



Tuesday, November 2nd

Our local ballot contains a single item, Ballot Measure #8-102, which applies to some Curry County voters. If approved, the measure would form the South Coast Parks & Recreation District, dedicated to recreational programs, services, facilities, parks and open spaces. It would be funded by a permanent property tax assessment of 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Vote-counting for this measure starts after 8 pm on election day; it concludes 14 days post-election. At 20 days postelection, the clerk's office certifies the election results to the Oregon's Secretary

For more information, see the Curry County Clerk's website at:

https://www.co.curry.or.us/government/county_cl erk/government/elections_division.php





October Unit Meeting, by Louise Abbott

In March 2021, the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) produced a study, *"Pesticides and Other Biocides."* Local leagues throughout Oregon were called upon to consider the consensus questions concerning this study.

At our October all-member unit meeting, held via Zoom on October 21st, we answered the call. Despite daunting weather, eight stalwart LWVCC members participated in this challenging and worthwhile exercise.

Here is a brief summary of the study, the consensus questions, our local league members' response, and next steps by LWVOR.

- Biocides are substances, typically chemicals, intended to kill, deter, or otherwise control specific organisms.
- These chemicals are used in agriculture and forestry to manage weeds and other pests. Unfortunately, biocides frequently have off-target impacts.
- They do not necessarily stay in the areas where they are applied and can contaminate our environment in unanticipated ways and with unanticipated consequences.
- Increasing evidence demonstrates that they can adversely impact workers, neighboring communities, consumers, and wildlife, including pollinators. Thus, the need for effective control of their use has become clear.
 - → LWVOR's study looked at many aspects of how and why pesticides are developed, regulated and used, along with both the positive and negative impacts that are consequences of that use.
 - → The study identified these five key areas in pesticide policy:
 - 1. Education, training, and labeling
 - 2. Transparency and information gathering
 - 3. Funding, research, and evaluation
 - 4. Adaptive management and integrated pest management
 - 5. Burden of proof and the precautionary principle





Ten consensus questions were posed, some with sub-parts. Both the study and the consensus questions can be viewed and downloaded at: <u>https://www.lwvor.org/pesticides-and-other-biocides.</u>



Overall, the takeaways included these: there must be improvements to regulations and changes to practices; more transparency is needed concerning use of pesticides and unintended consequences of use; greater protection of the environment is a must and it should be accomplished through better oversight at all levels: producers, users, and government.

- ➔ An interesting perspective for decision-making around these issues is the precautionary principle, which is discussed in the LWVOR Study [Recommendations and Conclusions, at pp. 50-51].
- → It is a proposed guideline for making environmental decisions.
- → "The principle has four central components: taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity; exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions; and increasing public participation in decision making." [Kriebel, D et al.
- → The precautionary principle in environmental science. [*Environmental health perspectives* vol. 109,9 (2001): 871-6. doi:10.1289/ehp.01109871], cited in the LWVOR Study [References, p. 59].



The notes from this LWVCC consensus meeting have been submitted to LWVOR. This month, the state league will tabulate our responses, and those of other local leagues; it will issue a position statement early next year.

> *"We are in the heart of the fight to protect our democracy."* Deborah Ann Turner, President LWVUS





News from the State League: What's Happening at LWVOR

- $\rightarrow\,$ There's always something going on at the League of Women Voters of Oregon.
- \rightarrow October was no exception.
- \rightarrow Here are some highlights.
- On October 3rd, LWVOR published the Fall issue of its twice-yearly "Voter Newsletter." In it, LWVOR President Rebecca Gladstone welcomed a new Voter editor; thanked everyone who worked on September's National Voter Registration Day; highlighted the 2021 legislative session's historic success in addressing water issues; and touched on Oregon's redistricting process.
- Mid-October brought LWVOR's biennial 2021 Fall Workshop, "Discourse in a Diverse World." Held virtually over four days, the workshop featured four expert speakers giving presentations designed to help navigate the discourse in our ever-changing political world.
- The workshop opened on October 13th with "Engaging Differences: Constructive Conversation in a Diverse World," moderated by Cheryl Graeve, Director of National Programs for the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) at the University of Arizona. The program, with small-group breakouts, explored ways we can all make public life more grounded in understanding and respect.
- On October 14th, Dr. Terry Busch of Braver Angels presented "Defusing Contentious Conversations." He shared his experience in working to defuse heated rhetoric and broaden the perspectives of others.
- The October 15th program was "Using the Volunteer Development Cycle to Improve the Volunteer Experience." Presenters Katie Parker and Stacey Smith explained how the Oakland LWV is using its Volunteer Development Committee to better recruit, engage, train, and retain volunteers.
- The workshop closed on October 16th, with a keynote speech by Garrett Epps, Constitutional Law Professor and U.S. Supreme Court reporter. In thought-provoking style, he discussed the future of democracy, especially as it relates to the high court.



You can read about the presentations and watch the events using the "Learn More" links provided by LWVOR at: https://www.lwvor.org/fall-workshop-2021.



The full LWVOR newsletter is available online at:

https://www.lwvor.org/newsroom/categories/ voter-newsletter

Or for download as a pdf at:

https://ed6f5519-4686-4cd9-9452-

9297180c211f.usrfiles.com/ugd/ed6f55_777b9a 65011f4f818cc2de91553984ad.pdf





Healthcare in Curry County - Installment #1 By MJ LaBelle, BA, RN, CMAS, CCFA

Editor's note: At LWVCC's Annual Meeting in June 2021, members approved adoption of an "issue of emphasis" regarding Curry County's health systems. The board ultimately decided to emphasize this issue via a series of CoastLines articles describing and discussing the various local health systems. Herewith, the first installment.

There are a number of moving parts in our county's healthcare continuum. Often, it can be confusing knowing where to go and for what. Many of us will go north into Coos Bay/North Bend for some of our services; others go south into Crescent City. This article, and the installments that follow, will focus only on Curry County primary medical providers. Ancillary medical providers, such as dentists, will not be addressed.

This introductory article is intended to give an overview of local health providers in Curry County. In future articles, we will offer greater detail about the medical service providers discussed below.

- → Curry Health Network is comprised of Curry County Hospital in Gold Beach, which is a DNV Accredited Critical Access Hospital; a satellite Emergency Department in Brookings; and clinics in Gold Beach, Brookings and Port Orford. They provide medical services, including emergency medicine, but at this time, no maternity services. If patients arrive for treatments that they don't cover, they will dispatch the patient to Medford, or elsewhere, either by air or by ground ambulance, depending on the problem. Curry Health Network is a tax-based rural hospital and clinic system. It is managed by a board of directors.
- → Coast Community Health is the newest provider of clinic services in the county, housed in two buildings in Port Orford—one for pharmacy and another for medical services. They are the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Curry County, and indeed there are only 10,000 of these providers across the United States. What that means is that they are mandated to take walk-in patients who have no means of paying for service. In fact, their outreach program provides food and clothing for the homeless and needy. They also take Medicare and commercially insured patients. Their staff is part-time and includes two doctors and a social worker on site. They also provide pharmacy, behavioral health and addiction counseling, among other services.
- → Curry Community Health is a non-profit organization that provides behavioral health services. It has community service clinics in Gold Beach and Brookings. A variety of programs and services are offered at each location.
- → Coastal Home Health and Hospice is a non-profit organization that operates in Brookings, at 306 Wharf Street. Their services are available with a physician's order. Contact Jamie Daugherty or Sally Beavers at (541) 469-0405 if you need home health or end of life care for your loved ones.
- → Public Health is currently run by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). That state of affairs results from a decision, made 4/28/21 by the Curry County Board of Commissioners, to transfer its local public health authority to the state agency.
- → Behavioral Health (also known as mental health) is currently provided both by Curry Community Health and by Coast Community Health, as noted above. But Curry County behavioral health services are expected to be subsumed by OHA the first of next year.
- → Veterans Services are available at the following locations: Brookings (517 Railroad Street); Gold Beach (94235 Moore Street, Suite 112); Port Orford (Coast Community Health); and Langlois (Langlois Public Library)
- → Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is offered county-wide by Cal-Ore Life Flight. In addition to ground ambulance services, Cal-Ore offers life flight (air ambulance) service if necessary, in affiliation with AirMedCare Network. Cal-Ore is headquartered in Brookings.



Membership Update

Membership

- ✓ As of 10/28/21, LWVCC's membership roster stands at 37 members.
- ✓ Thank you one and all!
- ✓ Your membership supports the League in a very fundamental way.

🥌 Unit Meetings

- ✓ Like many, we long for the time that we can connect in person again.
- ✓ But safety must remain front-of-mind.
- ✓ So for now, we'll continue to hold virtual all-member unit meetings on the Third Thursday of the month, starting at 5:30 pm, via Zoom.



Our final unit meeting for 2021 is coming up November 18th.

The speaker will be Lt. Joel Hensley, Commander of the Curry County Jail.

Please join us on November 18th to learn all about our local jail facilities and processes.

🥌 Outreach

- ✓ Our first pandemic-era excursion into community events is coming up this month. LWVCC will have a gift-wrap booth at the Brookings Harbor Holiday Bazaar on November 13th.
- ✓ We'd love to see you there; please stop by!
- ✓ We're also working to strengthen our online presence.
- ✓ As always, we welcome your feedback about outreach or any other membership issue.

Kudos to LWVCC's Secretary, Louise Abbott, who oversees our website (<u>https://lwvcurry.org</u>) , and to Treasurer Colleen Bunn, who maintains our ever-changing Facebook page

(https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Curry-County-LWVCC-109141511315935).

Come check us out online!

Giving Tuesday, by Alyce Prudden



I was curious about Giving Tuesday, so I visited the official website (<u>https://www.givingtuesday.org</u>). Here are some highlights from what I learned there. Not surprisingly, much of it resonates strongly with the league's mission and values.

- Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement.
- It was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.
- Generosity brings people together across races, faiths, and political views.
- Grassroots generosity and community action are powerful forces for good, especially in turbulent times.
- Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, it falls on November 30th.
- We invite you to join the movement and give what you can, whether it's some of your time, a donation, or the power of your voice in your local community.
- Everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts.

This year, on Giving Tuesday, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to LWVCC.



Are you ready for some holiday fun? Then mark your calendar for Saturday, November 13th. That's the date set for this year's all-day Brookings Harbor Community Bazaar.

- The combined venue for the Bazaar is the Brookings Harbor High School Cafeteria/Multipurpose Room, together with the Azalea Middle School Gym, back-toback on the same property. **The event runs from 9 am to 5 pm.**
- ****** See <u>www.brookingsharborbazaar.com</u> for further information.
- The Bazaar debuted over 50 years ago, and it's been popular ever since. This fun community event is now organized by Chapter GE-P.E.O. (PEO is an international organization dedicated to helping women attain further education through scholarships and loans.)
- ** The Bazaar features handcrafted items, made by the artists appearing at the Bazaar.
- The organizers have graciously agreed to give LWVCC a booth, which we'll use to offer gift-wrapping services in exchange for a voluntary donation to the League.
- We'll be in Booth 4, which is located at the northeast corner of the Brookings Harbor High School Multipurpose Room.
- Relate come, enjoy the event, buy a gift, and have us wrap it for you!
- 🗯 We'd love to see you!

Note: Under current Oregon state requirements, masks are required for all persons over the age of 5 years in the buildings, with no expectations.

News From National

Are you wondering what's happening at the League of Women Voters of the United Sates? Here are some highlights from the October League Update, sent by Deborah Ann Turner, LWVUS President.

Our Nation

The fight for voting rights is the foundation on which LWV was founded over 100 years ago and it continues to be one of our biggest fights.

On October 19th, twenty-five voting rights advocates — including LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón — were arrested in front of the White House advocating for the freedom to vote for all Americans. In response to that and other protests, the White House stated its intentions to deal with the filibuster in coming weeks.



Our Legislature

On October 20th, the Senate failed to move forward with debate on the Freedom to Vote Act. But we will continue to push until every person in this country has equal access to the vote, fair representation, and true equity in our democracy.

Our League

We have published the first call for our 55th Annual Convention to be held in June 23 - 26, 2022. We are going hybrid this year, with opportunities to participate both in person in Denver, CO, or online from anywhere. More information will be available over the coming weeks.



A note from your Treasurer, Colleen Bunn



I've written before about the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program. It's a simple way for those who receive Fred Meyer rewards to help support the League of Women Voters of Curry County. Fred Meyer gives our League a percentage of how much enrolled members spend in relation to the total spent each quarter. It does NOT reduce individual members' rewards.

So why am I writing again? Two reasons:

First, to remind you to **sign up** if you haven't; second, to ask you to **double check** your account, if you have. We've heard from members who thought they were signed up, but actually were not. Either way, just follow the directions below:

Computer Directions



- 1. Go to <u>www.fredmeyer.com</u>
- **2.** Create an account there, if you haven't already. It requires your email and a password. OR, if you already have an account at the website, just sign in using your email and password.
- **3.** Once you're signed in, click on the down arrow by your name in the upper right corner of the screen.
- 4. Click on "My Account."
- **5.** On the left of the screen, under My Account, scroll down and click on Community Rewards.
- → If you have signed up, your status should say "enrolled," Organization Name: League of Women Voters of Curry County. If it says not enrolled, please enter FH475 and click enroll or enter. Instantly, it should now say you are enrolled and have our league name under the organization.

Smartphone Directions

- **1.** Install the Fred Meyer app to your phone.
- 2. Sign in; OR create your account and then sign in.
- 3. In the upper left, click on the three horizontal bars to access the drop down menu.
- **4.** Click on Rewards (third option down).
- 5. Click on Community Rewards. If you have signed up, it will say "currently enrolled,"
- → League of Women Voters of Curry County. If it says not enrolled, please enter FH475 and click enroll or enter. Instantly, it should now say you are enrolled and have our league name under the organization.
 - \rightarrow If you need help with signing up, please give me a call and I will help you.
 - \rightarrow This is a great way for our League to earn a few dollars, with little effort and no cost on your part!

We hope you'll join in!











2021 – 2022 Calendar

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
November	2	Election Day		Vote until 8 pm
	13	Bookings Harbor Bazaar: LWVCC in Booth 4	BHHS Multi-Use Room & Azalae Auditorium	9 am – 5 pm
	15	LWVCC Board Meeting	Zoom	10 - Noon
	15	LWVOR Consensus Deadline		
	17	LWVOR Local League Leaders	Zoom	5 pm
	18	All-Country Unit Meeting Topic: Curry County Jail Speaker: Lt. Joel Hensley	Zoom	5:30 - 6:30 pm
December	5	Holiday Party Details & Member Invitations coming soon!	TBA	TBA



November 2021 Volume 38 Issue 3



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Spinners Seafood, steak and chop house Dinner 4:30 pm 7 days a week 29430 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach 541-247-5160

Coastal SOCAN <u>Bill@socan.eco</u> <u>https://SOCAN.eco</u> Brookings Harbor *South Coastal residents collaborating to promote climate action Re/Max Ultimate Coastal Properties Karen Kennedy 29555 Ellensburg, Gold Beach www.ILoveCoastalOregon.com 541-425-7494

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Curry Coast Community Radio KCIW 100.7FM P O Box 565 Brookings, OR 97415 KCIW.org <u>contact@kciw.org</u> 541-661-4098 All-volunteer Community Radio



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



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'

CoastLines

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

2021-2022 Board Officers & Directors President ★ Alyce Prudden Secretary ★ Louise Abbott Treasurer ★ Colleen Bunn Board Directors ★ Karol Simas ★ Susan Barke

🗯 Dennis Triglia



Dennis Triglia- Susan Barke- Alyce Prudden- Colleen Bun- Louise Abbott- Karol Simas

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