



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 29, Issue 9

[www.lwvcurry.org](http://www.lwvcurry.org)

April 2013

## **MAY UNIT MEETINGS A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR MAYOR**

During the May Unit Meetings members in each of our three cities will hear their mayor discuss the State of their City. These meetings are expected to be somewhat informal, with questions and discussion between each mayor and their audience. The financial crisis facing Curry County and the upcoming tax levy vote have direct effects on each of our cities. Each city is different, so it is important for each of us to learn as much as possible about our own home town.

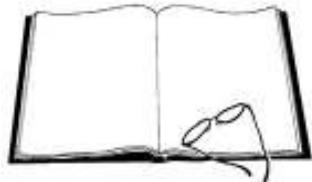
As with all of our recent meetings with public officials, the public will be invited. These meetings have a dual purpose. Certainly, we want to be better informed. We are also trying to widen the visibility of our League by demonstrating the valuable public services that we provide. Please invite a friend or two to come with you to your Unit's meeting so that they can see how valuable League membership can be. Then ask them directly if they would be willing to join our efforts.

Mayor Jim Auborn of Port Orford will speak on Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00 in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Ron Hedenskog of Brookings will talk on Wednesday, May 15 at the small meeting room near Chetco Public Library at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Karl Popoff will address the Gold Beach unit at the City Hall at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

## **ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 15, 9:30 AM SHOWCASE BUILDING, COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GOLD BEACH**

Curry County League of Women Voters will hold our Annual Meeting Saturday, June 15 at the Showcase Building, County Fairgrounds in Gold Beach. We will gather at 9:30 AM to pay for lunch, pay dues, and visit with other League members. This is a chance to meet people from the other two units. Business starts at 10:00 with adopting budget for 2013-14, approving program and electing officers. The meeting will conclude at approximately 1:00 PM.

Renee Kolen, our County Clerk, has been asked to speak and is tentatively planning to do so. We will have at least one person from the State League level present. This is the most important meeting of our year as we celebrate people and events which have shaped our year just past and plan for the future of our League. You will be contacted in May to make reservations for the meal. Y'all come!



Dear Members and Friends,

Certainly any election is important to our League and the upcoming Special District election on May 21 is no exception. By the time this *CoastLines* hits your computer monitor or mail box our Voter Forums will be imminent. We have Voter Forums scheduled for April 29 in Port Orford, April 30 in Gold Beach and May 1 in Brookings.

Most importantly, do not forget to learn as much as possible and vote. These contests involve offices that directly affect each of us. Your ballots are due by 8:00PM on Tuesday May 21.

Our April Unit Meetings were devoted to Health Care Management in Curry County. Please see Page 3 for a summary of what took place.

Our May Unit Meetings will be devoted to City governance. The mayors of Gold Beach, Port Orford and Brookings will be attending the meetings in their respective cities. The Port Orford meeting is scheduled for May 14 and the Brookings meeting is scheduled for May 15. The Gold Beach meeting is May 23. The details are on Page 1. Come learn more about what your city is planning!!

Lastly, our Annual Meeting is Saturday June 15. We have to set a budget and elect officers. We also want to renew our friendships with members from around our League. Renee Kolen is planning to be our speaker. She is Curry County's Clerk, and is the person charged with running our elections in Curry County. Please come hear what she has to tell us about Elections in our County.

League does make a difference!!

Al Wilson

## The League of Women Voters of Curry County



### Officers & Directors 2012-2013

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Milt Nelson, Treasurer  
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Genevieve Leary, Director  
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### *Coast Lines*

*A publication of the League  
of Women Voters ® of Curry  
County*

*Coast Lines is produced 11  
times a year by the League of  
Women Voters of Curry County.  
We welcome your comments,  
suggestions, story ideas and  
submissions. Submissions  
must be received no later than  
the day of the board meeting  
each month. That date is  
available on our web site.*

Web site: [lwvcurry.org](http://lwvcurry.org)  
Email: [league@lwvcurry.org](mailto:league@lwvcurry.org)  
Election Info: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)

## Bob Horel Speaks at April Unit Meetings



**Bob Horel:** LWVCC Member  
and Chair of Curry County  
Community Health.



An interested crowd at the Port  
Orford Public Library Freedom of  
Speech Room hears Bob Horel.

Curry County League Member Bob Horel spoke to all three Unit Meetings in April. Bob is Chairman of the Board of the new Curry Community Health organization (CCH). He described the nonprofit corporation which replaces the former Curry County departments of Public Health and Human Services, the government entities that provided mental health services to Curry County residents in need prior to the creation of CCH. As a cost-cutting measure the former County Commissioners (2009-2012) looked for a way to spin off the two departments. Not finding another entity willing to take over either or both, they decided to form the new corporation.

Horel said the board is excellent, with representation from all parts of the County and expertise in multiple fields. Board members receive no remuneration for their time or travel. They were appointed in the summer of 2012 and had to get IRS 501(c) (3) status, secure health care for employees, establish a line of credit and arrange transition of the 47 county employees to CCH. The transition went well and services are moving smoothly. Funding comes from state and federal sources, private grants and fees for services.

Public Health includes communicable disease investigation and control, environmental health, emergency preparedness, maintaining vital records (birth and death), family and children's and women's health and health education. Mental health and addictions services cover psychiatric crisis response and prevention, medication management and treatment, mental health court and jail services, case management, residential placement, and specialized services. Horel said there were 11,000 mental health visits in Curry County in 2012 involving 1,178 residents.

## STATE LEGISLATORS HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING

*Editor's Note: The following report is the combined efforts of League members Shirley Nelson and Georgia Nowlin, who were at the meetings in Port Orford and Brookings.*

State Representative Wayne Krieger and State Senator Jeff Kruse addressed audiences at their Town Hall meetings in Port Orford and Brookings on March 29. They reported on legislation being considered after two months of the current session in Salem. After a few opening remarks, time was spent in conversation with audience members; questions were asked and answered regarding specific issues in legislation and came from people of various political views.

Kruse discussed the recurring issue with the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). He is determined to solve the problem of it being too expensive for employers, especially in education. He is working on an alternate proposal and if it goes to court hopes to get “all the questions answered.”

Kruse hopes all gun control measures being presented in the Oregon Legislature fail. Both men believe the main problem is mental health and mentioned some proposals for improving our state’s mental health system. Krieger also mentioned some ways to cut prison costs such as not sending a parole violator back to prison; if there is a problem –such as drugs—the perpetrator should be helped. Older prisoners in poor health who are no longer a threat to society (such as sex offenders) should be sent to nursing homes rather than kept in prison.

Kruse is against any health care system operated by the government. He talked about Oregon’s current and proposed health care and said Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are so new that the Legislature will probably do nothing new in this session.

When asked about Senator Bates’ bill to outlaw suction dredge mining on some Oregon rivers Krieger launched an argument that those “little dredges” don’t do any harm to fish or anything else; turbidity is caused by other factors. He wants more research done to determine whether hatchery fish fare as well as native fish. He said a huge problem is the number of smolts being eaten by cormorants and seals, with losses estimated to be as high as 50%. He and other legislators are sponsoring a bill to address these problems.

Kruse chairs the Coastal Caucus and dredging of ports is at the top of their list. There is hope for the Port of Port Orford and others to get some help for their shoaling problem.

Krieger says he believes the next marijuana bill will be likely to pass, whatever it is. The state is looking at Washington and Colorado which have recently passed legislation. Both legislators are aware of the dangers of marijuana to our young people.

Most of the same issues were addressed at the Brookings forum. There Krieger talked about a bill he is sponsoring on grandparents’ rights regarding children in the foster care system. He also mentioned the loss of county payments and the possibility of legislation that would allow counties and cities to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Currently, there is no law allowing counties to declare bankruptcy.

## **CANDIDATE FORUMS APRIL 29, 30 AND MAY 1**

Forums are scheduled for Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings, on April 29, 30, and May 1, respectively. Shirley Nelson will moderate the first two and Maggie McHugh will moderate the Brookings forum. Brookings will have a split format as there are a large number of candidates. As well as four open positions on the Southwestern Oregon Community College board, there are four people running for two positions on the Port of Brookings-Harbor Commission, two running for Position 1 on the Harbor Sanitary District board and eight people running for three positions on the Brookings-Harbor School District board. We hope all League members attend the forum in their town. Their help in putting on the meetings will be appreciated.

## **LWVOR CONVENTION MAY 18 AND 19 IN COOS BAY**

Our delegates to Convention at the Mill Casino in Coos Bay May 18-19, 2013 will be President Al Wilson and Director Genevieve Leary of Brookings. Linda Valet, Judy Fladger and Charlie Alexander of Port Orford will be observers. They will follow the theme "Looking at the World through League Colored Glasses." Program will be authorized, State Board and officers elected and budget approved.

Speakers will be Sue Allen of Our Ocean and Sarah Diefendorf, International Trainer for LWVUS, on her work in Jordan and Tunisia. Workshops on Health Care and Coastal Issues plus Help for Struggling Leagues and Leadership Development will be available. Readers Theater "Suffrage Succotash," which was born in Port Orford, will be presented at Dophin Playhouse May 17, 7:30 pm.

## **FIVE RAFFLE TICKETS REMAIN**

Be the member that puts our League over the top in buying all 35 raffle tickets issued to us. Reaching that goal will put \$35 into our treasury. Three iPad prizes will be awarded on May 18 at the LWVOR Convention, selected from the 2000 tickets sold. You need not be present to win. We have sold 17 in Brookings, 9 in Port Orford and 4 in Gold Beach. Contact Milt Nelson, 541-332-9002 or [mas770@charter.net](mailto:mas770@charter.net).

## Welcome to New Members!!!

The Port Orford Unit has spearheaded our membership recruitment campaign this year. They have been aided by the community attention drawn to our Unit Meetings where we have been inviting various community leaders to interact with League members and the general public. Additionally, the Gold Beach Unit has come back to life under the guidance of long time member Lucie Labonté.

When you come to the Annual Meeting on June 15, if you see a new face please introduce yourself. That unfamiliar face probably belongs to one of our new members and they very much want to meet you!!!

**Charlie Alexander** joined our League partly because she was an active member of the Ravalli County League in Montana. She attended our Port Orford unit meetings before joining. She was Vice President of her local league and active with the State League in Montana. In her working career, Charlie was an executive secretary in banking as well as serving in that capacity with a major corporate firm. Enjoying her work on the census of 1976, she worked in leadership roles for both the 2000 and 2010 census events. She was on the Board of the Steenville Museum for 20 years. She very much enjoys quilting.

**Linda Elfman** joined our League through the Gold Beach unit to achieve balance in her political attitudes because she values the thorough bi-partisan stance she has experienced through our candidate forums. Holding an Associates degree from Pasadena Community College, she has attended colleges wherever she has lived, not to pursue a degree but because learning is so important to her. She retired from the U. S. Forest Service, but then worked for two sets of Curry County Commissioners and is now working at the Visitors Center in Gold Beach. What she does for fun is to maintain friendships with the many musicians who have appeared at the Pistol River Concert Association.



- Port Orford (541) 332-3931
  - Coquille (541) 396-3118
  - Gold Beach (541) 247-6638
  - Brookings (541) 469-2103
  - After Hours (866) 352-9044
- [www.ccec.coop](http://www.ccec.coop)



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## Coast Lines

League of Women Voters of Curry County  
P O Box 8039  
Brookings, OR 97415

### April, May and June 2013

<b>Port Orford Voter Forum</b>	Apr 29; 7 PM	Port Orford Library
<b>Gold Beach Voter Forum</b>	Apr 30; 7 PM	Gold Beach City Hall Council Room
<b>Brookings Voter Forum</b>	May 1; 7 PM	Chetco Community Public Library
<b>LWVCC Board Meeting</b>	May 8; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
<b>Port Orford Unit Meeting</b>	May 14; 1 - 3 PM	Port Orford City Hall Council Room
<b>Brookings Unit Meeting</b>	May 15; 2 - 4 PM	Chetco Public Library Annex
<b>Special District Elections</b>	May 21 by 8 PM	A ballot box near you
<b>Gold Beach Unit Meeting</b>	May 23; 5:15 PM	Gold Beach City Hall
<b>LWVCC Annual Meeting</b>	June 15: 9:30 AM	Showcase Building, Curry County Fairgrounds, Gold Beach

# Membership Invitation

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

JOIN NOW!

Name/Names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 ONE-YEAR individual membership due on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

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Additional contributions - checks made out to League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund (LWVOREF) and mailed to the LWVCC Treasurer are tax deductible.