



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 28, Issue 4

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

December 2011



## **Holiday Party December 10 Make Your Reservations !!**

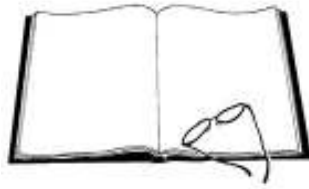


Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be at 11:30 AM on Saturday December 10 at the Port Orford Senior Center, 1536 Jackson Street in Port Orford at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets. Turn east and go up the hill from Ray's Market. We will have a half hour to meet and greet each other and pay for our meal. Lunch will start at Noon. As soon as most people have finished eating we will hear Bill McMillan, CEO of Curry Health District. Bring your questions.

Our menu is baked chicken, vegetable casserole, salad and dessert with coffee, tea, or water available. A vegetarian entrée will be provided if the request is made when you make your reservation. Cost is \$15.00 per person which includes the meal, rental of the facility and a small donation to our League.

Reservations must be made by December 6. Brookings members should contact Kathleen Tomko at 541-469-3348 or [kathleentomko@nwtec.com](mailto:kathleentomko@nwtec.com). Carpools from Brookings are encouraged. Meet at the Chetco Library overflow area at 10:00 AM to leave by 10:15. All other members should contact Shirley Nelson at 541-332-9002 or [mas770@charter.net](mailto:mas770@charter.net). When you reserve, you make a commitment to the cook and to our League to attend. Food will be purchased on your behalf.

When thinking of Holiday and year-end giving, we suggest a donation to Oasis Shelter Home, P. O. Box 932, Gold Beach, OR 97444. Your gift can be designated for Oasis or for the Brookings/Harbor Shelter for homeless women and children.



Dear League Members and Friends,

Happy Holidays! Our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 10. Details are on Page 1. Please make your reservation by December 6. Bill McMillan, CEO of the Curry Health District, will be our speaker on this vital topic.

Our League has had a busy month. After some discussions by both the Port Orford and Brookings Units we submitted our League's answers to the consensus questions for the LWVUS study "The Role of the Federal Government in Education." They are on Pages 3 and 4. Many members attended recent hearings regarding mining on the Chetco River. I have sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management summarizing our League's position. That letter is on Page 5. A relevant letter from the Rogue Riverkeeper is on Page 6.

While making plans for the upcoming season, let us not forget those who are most needy in our community, especially so during these hard times. Gift giving locally means that we choose what and to whom we give, and see the results. You can support one of our schools or one of the organizations that are providing direct support.

Here is a list of organizations that can use your help. Schools in: Brookings-Harbor 541-469-7443; Gold Beach 541-247-2003; Pt Orford 541-332-2712; Oasis Shelter Home 541-247-0607; Outreach Gospel Mission 541-412-0278; Community Kitchens 541-469-3314; Food Banks 541-469-6988; ChariTree (Dori) 541-661-2473 or 541-469-7738; St. Timothy's Free Medical Clinic 541 469 3314.

Many happy returns!

Jan

## The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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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)

## **ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION: CURRY COUNTY CONSENSUS MEETINGS**

Fourteen members of Curry County League of Women Voters (8 in Brookings and 6 in Port Orford) met to discuss the LWVUS study on the Role of the Federal Government in Education and try to arrive at consensus. Although the two units made exactly the same choice with some of the questions, there were differences which the Board tried to resolve at their November meeting. Here is a summary of our local position which will be added to the results from local Leagues around the country. Eventually we will see a national position on this complicated subject.

### General Questions

1. Port Orford thought the current role of the federal government in public education is too large; Brookings thought the role too large regarding mandates and too small regarding funding.
2. Both groups thought the most important role should be “to ensure that all students preK – 12 **have the opportunity to** receive a quality education”. (words in bold type added by us) Port Orford ranked the other four choices: 2. to develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress; 3. to mandate Common Core Standards for all students K – 12; 4. to monitor state efforts for funding; 5. to measure teacher effectiveness through test data. Brookings did not want to give the federal government carte blanche to control all aspects of public education.
3. Both groups strongly agreed that “A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.”

### Common Core Standards

4. To answer the question “Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding?” Port Orford chose (from five options) that all programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act should be so funded where needs qualify. Brookings said no programs should be so restricted. We all feel that classroom teachers should be well-represented in making education policy; important decision should not be made only by school administrators and politicians.
5. We agreed there should not be a national assessment aligned with the common core standards and that states should continue to be allowed to develop their own assessments.
6. National standards should lead to a suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
7. According to the Leader’s Guide for the consensus, there is already in place a national consortia (actually two groups) who has won \$3.5 million to develop assessments that follow the Common Core State Standards by 2014. To answer the question, “What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation, both groups ranked the choices the same way: 1. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement; 2. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers;

*Continued on Page 4*

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3. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards; 4. Provide diagnostic information on each child; 5. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards. Brookings members could find no information about the assessment consortia and did not think there should be such a group.
8. If we have a national assessment, data should be criterion referenced and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level. Brookings said they don't believe there should be any national assessment as it could not be done in a meaningful way.
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

### Funding and Equity

10. ESEA funding has heretofore been noncompetitive based on need; competitive grants are now being proposed for states/districts who meet certain federal requirements. We said noncompetitive funding should be available for all applicants meeting requirements.
11. "If the federal government's role is the concern of the 'common good' then ..." Of five options Port Orford chose "Mandates and funding should both be provided." Brookings said "A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply," adding the comment that block grants to states would be most effective.
12. "Equity in public education means equitable access to: (a) high quality teaching/learning, (b) adequate and current learning materials, (c) clean and well-maintained physical facilities, (d) food and health care, (e) safe and secure neighborhoods and (f) secure housing. Port Orford ranked them in the order above, feeling that federal government can do little about the last three; that they are the responsibility of local states, communities and neighborhoods. Brookings agreed that (a) was the most important. However, since all other factors are important for learning to take place, they ranked them in the order (a), (d), (e), (f), (b) and (c).

Mandate: The two units were in complete agreement on the last three questions:

13. They agreed that ESEA funds should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
14. Strongly agreed that the federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children.
15. Strongly agreed that federal support for early childhood education programs should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services such as mental health as needed. This funding should be extended to all children.

In general, we thought the national committee provided extensive and informative material for us to read and study; however, they might have spent more time and thought formulating the questions, as some seemed ambiguous.

## **MINING ON THE CHETCO RIVER**

On Wednesday October 26 the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held hearings regarding mining on the Chetco River. BLM requested interested parties to submit written comments. What follows is a copy of the letter sent by Jan Krick presenting our League's position based on our existing positions.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF CURRY COUNTY**

November 17, 2011

Mr. Edward Shepherd  
Oregon/Washington State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
P. O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208-2965

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

This letter is in response to the invitation to comment on the proposed withdrawal from mineral entry of approximately 5,610 acres of National Forest lands in Curry County along the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

The League of Women Voters, at National, State of Oregon, and Curry County levels, strongly believes in maintaining our rivers as clear, clean water. Our positions, based on extensive study and member agreement, can be summarized as follows:

We support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water. We oppose degradation of all of Oregon's surface and groundwater. Locally, we support maintaining a healthy balance between the water requirements for population growth and the water requirements of anadromous fish runs.

The League of Women Voters supports the proposed mineral entry withdrawal along the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

Respectfully yours,  
Jan Krick  
President  
League of Women Voters of Curry County

## Message from Lesley Adams

Lesley Adams is the Rogue Riverkeeper. Because the Chetco River is within the area overseen by Lesley she was actively involved in the recent hearings on mining in the Chetco. A Portion of her message is presented here.

Hello friends of the Chetco!

**Thanks to all who attended the October 26 hearing in Brookings for the Chetco mineral withdrawal.** The hearing was a great success! In total for both the afternoon and evening sessions, 40 people testified—35 in support of the mineral withdrawal and the Chetco River Protection Act, 4 in opposition, and one person was off topic.

People gave wonderful personal testimony about fish, drinking water, recreation, tourism, national significance, Wild and Scenic rivers and the future. But our advocacy for the Chetco is not over! There was a great local turnout, but now we need to focus on generating emails in support of the withdrawal from people who may not live near the Chetco, but love to visit and value the Chetco as the national treasure that it is. Showing strong support now also helps build momentum for the Chetco River Protection Act.

**More Info:** There is a wealth of information about this issue at the [Save Our Chetco website](#).

**HELP OUR LEAGUE GROW!!**

**ASK A FRIEND TO COME  
WITH YOU TO A MEETING.**



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**Brookings**

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## *Coast Lines*

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

December 2011 and January 2012		
Holiday Party	Dec 10: 11:30AM	Port Orford Senior Center
Port Orford Unit Meeting	Jan 10; 1PM	Location TBA
Brookings Unit Meeting	Jan 11; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library
LWVCC Board Meeting	Jan 18; 2PM	Chetco Community Public Library

# Membership Application

WE NEED YOU WITH US!

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\_\_\_\_YES, I would like to receive *CoastLines* by email, saving LWVCC over \$10 a year in postage and printing.

Please make your dues checks payable LWVCC, listing the year (2011-2012) on your check, and return with an application form to: LWVCC Treasurer

P O Box 1471

Port Orford, OR 97465 .

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