



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 32, Issue 6

www.lwvcurry.org

February 2016

**Time, Dates and
Places -
2015-2016
Calendar
On Page 5**

*Unit Meetings,
Studies, Forums and
More!*

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Pages 6,7**

Economic Campaign Meetings

By Evan Kramer, Publicity Chairman LWVCC

The guest speaker for February Unit Meetings is Julie Schmeltzer who is the Director of Administration and Economic Development for Curry County.

Some of the topics Schmeltzer will cover in her presentation include: the high poverty rates in Curry County, challenges in attracting new businesses to the county, the housing shortage we are facing, Veteran's programs including the new clinic coming to Brookings, and the broadband fiber optic loop. Schmeltzer will discuss the concept of "owning" your community and making the most of it.

She has been working for Curry County in her current position since October of 2014 and besides leading the Economic Development Department is Director of Administration for the County Commissioners and is Manager of the county's Brookings Airport.

The meetings are open to the public which is encouraged to attend and ask questions. The Port Orford meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 1:00pm, at the Port Orford Library. The Brookings meeting take place on Tuesday February 16 at 5:30pm in the Curry Coastal Pilot conference room and the Gold Beach meeting is on Thursday, February 25 at the Fire Hall next to City Hall at 5:30pm.

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Governor Brown Announces Two New State Scenic Waterways

First designation of a State Scenic Waterway since 1988

Salem, OR) — Governor Kate Brown today announced the naming of two new State Scenic Waterways. Portions of the Chetco and Molalla Rivers were chosen as rivers that meet the Scenic Waterways Act criteria for outstanding scenic, fish, wildlife, geological, botanical, cultural, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

"Oregon is blessed with a diversity of river systems that richly contribute to our quality of life, and Oregonians value our rivers' importance to our economies, communities, and ecosystems," said Governor Brown. "Stewardship of our rivers is increasingly important as our population grows and our climate changes."

Oregonians voted to establish the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act in 1970 to protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation; protect and enhance scenic, cultural, and natural values; and establish a process and criteria for adding new rivers as scenic waterways. There are 1,150 miles of state scenic waterways on 19 rivers and Waldo Lake. No new scenic waterway has been designated since 1988. The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the Governor's scenic waterways designation of sections of the Chetco River and Molalla River, and adjacent land within a quarter mile of these river sections. The Oregon Water Resources Commission agreed, and approved scenic waterway flow levels in these river sections to protect recreation, fish and wildlife.

Local advisory groups, and the Curry and Clackamas County Commissions, supported scenic waterway designation for sections of the Chetco and Molalla rivers.

(Editors Note: LWVOR, Clackamas and LWV of Curry County leagues supported the designations with letters.)



President's Notes by Lucie La Bonté



Dear Members and Friends;

Now that the consensus meetings are over forums with speakers are coming up. It is a great time to invite people who have shown interest in the league to join up.

Economic Development is a difficult task in Curry County. I know how many Boards I have been on that worked on the problem. Transportation is a major problem for economic development because we are not on the I-5 corridor. At one point we had a very strong 3 county board that actually funded projects and some local business opportunities. It was sad to see it disband. We have some boards doing that but the funding is not the same. Fishing is still strong and we do have private timber cuts but Curry County is an impoverished area. Julie Schmeltzer has been with Curry County for 2 years now so it will be interesting to hear what she has to say at our February meetings. *(see the calendar for dates)*

When an area is impoverished and the weather is warm it seems there are a lot of people living outdoors. In March our league will be hosting forums on Homeless Resources. Curry County has received a grant for affordable housing but how will that work? In 1991 builder John Zia built a development in Brookings to address the issue. The problem is still there. I hope that members and the public will make a special effort to attend one of the 3 forums in March. *(See the calendar for dates).*

I did not have enough articles for this edition so looked to old issues of *CoastLines* and found the article quoted on Page 3 with some comments. It is critical that someone steps up to the plate to lead our league next year to continue this important work. We do make a difference!

Lucie

Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



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Lisa Harrison, Director #2
Evan Kramer, Director #3

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by the
League of Women Voters of Curry
County.*

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Nominations Are Open! Volunteer!

League Members will be voting on a slate of officers and a new nominating committee at the May Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee meets in February to formulate the recommended slate for the 2016-17 Board. Nominating Chair Charlene Enoch will be contacting nominating committee members to begin this important work. They are looking for positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and for Board Members. We also need volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2016-18. This is your chance to learn more about how league works and help your league in our task of providing good leadership into the future. With both the Secretary and President retiring your help is needed. Be a leader and step up to the plate for a wonderful experience. The League of Women Voters is well respected in our community so we need new leaders to continue our good work.

History of Curry League Highlights Importance of Action

From CoastLines October 1990 edition an article about action taken while the LWVCC spearheaded the LWVOR study "Energy, Ecology, Economics: Oregon Offshore Development Issues" which addressed Marine Mineral Mining being proposed for off of Port Orford.

PROTECTING THEIR SEAS: Port Orford Fishermen take on the Aloha

"The Public Trust Doctrine gives the public the right to access all public navigable waters and protects the public's right to navigations, fishing, and commerce.

Early one recent fall morning, the sea urchin diver left the port at Port Orford to go to his favorite diving hole. When he got there, the mining exploration ship, Aloha, was anchored right over the fishing hole. "Aloha, this is the vessel____, you are over my fishing hole, please move", called the diver. The Aloha moved. When the Aloha arrived at the next area for exploration, another fisherman called "Excuse me fellows, but you're right where I want to go fishing." The Aloha moved. This went on day after day. The fishermen of Port Orford had decided to fight for their seas.

When the Greenpeace vessel, Rainbow Warrior dropped anchor at Port Orford, the fishermen were apprehensive. They had heard whispers about "endangered species". Many of their friends in the logging industry had warned them about the "environmentalists. But the fishermen had decided they had enough of the regulations handed down by the state and federal government. So they had a fish fry and invited the crew of the Rainbow Warrior. And the crew? They had never before had the public come to help them. Instead of having their meeting back on their ship, the Rainbow Warrior's crew met that night with fishermen on shore. A friendship had been born.

It must have been quite a sight the first night of protest by the Rainbow Warrior - 27 commercial fishing vessels trailing behind. Convinced their action was necessary, the fishermen continued their vigil throughout the time the Aloha plied the southern Oregon waters.

The commercial fishermen are continuing the fight. They will try to get a constitutional amendment establishing a Renewable Resource Development Zone in the state's territorial sea. The amendment it is hoped will be on the 1992 general election ballot. Meanwhile they plan to petition Sen. Bill Bradbury to include "academic research" and "pilot programs" for marine minerals on his draft Senate bill. And, Greenpeace and the fishermen have plans to keep working together to be sure that the fishermen will always have their fishing grounds." 1990 - Pres. Lucie Giampaoli and Ellen Babin - Editor

It turned out even better. After distributing copies of the LWVOR Study to all Oregon state and federal legislators LWVCC past President Ann Ramp headed up a lobby effort lobbying all Gubernatorial candidates and extracted promises to ban marine mineral mining in Oregon waters. SB 499 was signed into law in 1991 by Governor Roberts. At the signing LWVCC Member Phyllis Cottingham was presented with the pen. Later, Rep. Walt Schroder handed me a signed copy of the bill. In 2016, fishermen continue to fish around the protected Marine Reserve they established with a grassroots process. Lucie

END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS: HELP CREATE A SOLUTION FOR CURRY COUNTY

Submitted by Connie Hunter

In three upcoming community forums in March, the League of Women Voters' panelists will discuss the local root causes of homelessness and what we can learn by other communities' successes. Please join us as we start on the road to creating our own community-based solutions for Curry County. Forum attendees will learn about community blueprints, scalable and replicable model programs and begin to create the custom solution that works to end homelessness in Curry County. Attendees are asked to look for at least one solution in another community, county or state that has been successful and share by Email either before or after the forum. Everyone's input is valuable!

LWVCC Board Concerned About Homelessness

After Board discussion your board decided that Homelessness in Curry County is the number 1 hot issue. We need to know what resources are available in each of our communities. Port Orford members are also very active in the Food Bank and are concerned.

Several members are on the Healthcare For All Committee that has funded Curry County with a grant for housing in Curry County. What other resources are available? We are hoping that members turn out for this very important forum. Thank you to Connie Hunter for volunteering her time to organize all 3 forums for LWVCC. If you would like to help please email Connie at: Journeyofgrace2011@hotmail.com

Spring Candidate Forums by Charlie Alexander

Spring candidate forums will be held in Gold Beach on Tuesday, April 19th at City Hall, Wednesday, April 20th in Port Orford at the City Hall and Thursday, April 21st in Brookings at the Chetco Library. All Forums are from 7 to 9 pm. If you would like to help at any of the Forums or participate in helping coordinate the letter writing, confirmations or setting up please contact Charlie Alexander, Voter Service Chair, 541-332-0386. Those of you that signed up at the Annual Meeting to participate in these vitally important informational candidates forums will be called.

Membership Leadership Development

LWVCC is looking for a volunteer to participate in a once a month phone call to learn more about Membership Leadership Development. This LWVOR program addresses LWV problems like how do we find new leaders for our organization? How do we retain members we have recruited and engage members in LWV activities? Treasurer Marta West has been handling these calls but with her workload needs someone to take on this task.

For more information contact Marta@: martaloreewest@gmail.com

Day at the Legislature February 22

Join us at the Capitol on Monday, February 22nd!

10AM-2PM 900 Court St NE, Room 50 Salem, OR 97301

Event Highlights:

Registration begins at 9:30AM

Lunch at noon

Speakers:

Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the OR Higher Education Coordinating Council, will be discussing the **State of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission** and **Paul Warner, Legislative Revenue Officer**, will be discussing **State Revenue Reform**.

For more information contact:

League of Women Voters of Oregon
1330 12th ST SE Suite 200 Salem, OR 97302

lwvor@lwvor.org

[503-581-5722](tel:503-581-5722)

League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2016

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
February	5	Board Meeting	Gold Beach Fire Hall	
	9	Unit Meeting Economic Campaign	Port Orford Library	1:00 PM
	16	Unit Meeting Economic Campaign	Pilot News Conference Room	5:30 PM
	22	LWVOR Day at the Legislature	Salem	
	25	Unit Meeting Economic Campaign	Gold Beach Fire Hall	5:30 PM
March	1	Study Proposals Due		
	4	Board Meeting	Gold Beach City Hall	10 AM
	8	Unit Meeting- Homeless Resources	Port Orford Library	1:00 PM
	15	Unit Meeting- Homeless Resources	Pilot News Conference Room	5:30 PM
	24	Unit Meeting- Homeless Resources	Gold Beach City Hall	5:30 PM
April	1	Board Meeting	Gold Beach City Hall	10:00 AM
	19	Candidate Forum	Gold Beach City Hall	7:00 - 9PM
	20	Candidate Forum	Port Orford City Hall	7:00 - 9PM
	21	Candidate Forum	Brookings - Chetco Library	7:00 - 9PM
May	21	LWVCC Annual Meeting	TBA	10AM-
	21	LWVCC Old Board/New Board		12PM 1:00 PM
June	3-5	LWVOR Council	Vancouver Hilton Hotel, WA	
	16-19	LWVUS Convention		





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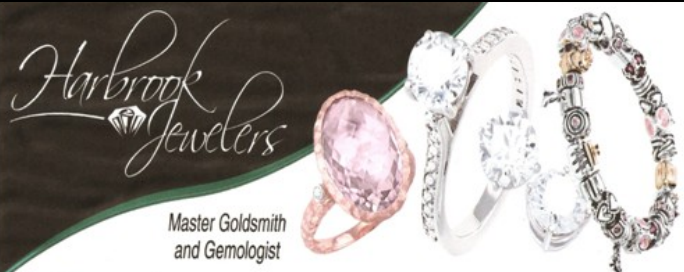
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