

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CURRY COUNTY

CoastLines

President's Letter

By MJ LaBelle, LWV Curry County President

Greetings Members and Friends of LWVCC,

We are hoping that you are well and safe and that some of you have received the vaccine. There is little to be said about the state of the pandemic and the changes in our lives that hasn't already been said, dissected and pondered.

Our January issue of CoastLines was distributed the morning of the January 6, 2021 riot in Washington DC. Shortly after that, the LWVUS made a statement and took a position on the Domestic Terrorist Attack. That statement can be found in this issue and on their website @ lwv.org.

Besides an attack on the Capitol, a new Administration, a pandemic and global climate issues, we have local issues of which to be aware. For instance, the elected County Treasurer position is on its third candidate since the November election. To this end, the Curry County League needs observers: one for the County and one for each city Council meeting. Please consider stepping up for one of these four off-board positions. We will train you and this will allow us to better keep apprised of local issues.

Since we cannot yet meet in person at our Unit meetings, we will be holding all-county Unit meetings on ZOOM. The dates are on the included calendar here and the first all-Unit meeting on February 18, will be on Climate Change. Please join us! All members will be receiving an invitation closer to the date.

On January 7, 2021, LWVCC held a Zoom interview with our elected state officials. State Representative David Brock-Smith and State Senator Dallas Heard were both invited to participate.



*Thank
You!*

*for being members
and friends of
LWVCC!*

*There continues to be
much to do!*

Rep Brock-Smith kindly accepted the invitation. State Senator Dallas Heard did not respond. Rep Brock-Smith's responses have been documented and conveyed to the LWVOR Action Committee. Seven questions were asked about the candidate's goals in the 2021 session of the Legislature and about specific local issues.

We thank Rep. Brock-Smith for his time and responses. He is consistently responsive to voter queries.

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- ✓ I have been a PBS (Public Broadcasting System) fan since about 1987. That's when my dear husband, whom I adore (he made me write that), introduced me to the news. He was an Economics major and religiously listened to the news any chance he got to understand the trends in various things such as markets, politics, laws, or even shopping.
- ✓ All these things work together or against each other to make economies work (or fail), so understanding them was important for him. I met David Brooks and Mark Shields through a PBS NewsHour program and have been impressed by the civility of their discussions over the years. Recently, while again listening to one of these discussions, David Brooks mentioned that he meets with groups of students on a regular basis to just talk.
- ✓ I found this to be an interesting activity for him to do at this time in his busy life. He explained his reasoning thus, "Americans are becoming more and more segregated into tinier and tinier enclaves of highly similar people." Gillian Oakenfull explains it further by saying, "In reality, the vast majority of Americans of all races have been practicing "social distancing" long before the term was connected to the COVID-19 pandemic." By meeting with students, David Brooks is trying to make sure he is not blinded by an empathy or diversity gap.
- ✓ Is the LWVCC social distancing? We are a wonderful group, but are we diverse enough to accomplish our goals? A lack of diversity, or "Empathy Gap" as David Brooks calls it, may be causing our League unseen harm. Our League Calendar has three Zoom meetings scheduled for the third Thursday in February, March, and April. These meetings could be attended by many more in our community, thus broadening our discussions.
- ✓ As a Board, we are in discussions on how to invite some of our high school youth to join these next three meetings. Perhaps they will see the topics differently than I do. Perhaps they will open to me a perspective I had not thought of before, or a solution to a problem that I, as an older generation, had not considered. I hope that we as a group will engage them in the conversation, ask what experiences are molding their opinions, and build on a foundation of empathy, that we may understand their perspective better.
- ✓ This outreach still leaves a gap between the students and most of our League members. I would encourage each of you to look around you, find someone that is different than you and invite them to join one of our next three meetings. When you get the Zoom invite in your email, simply share it with your new friend. Together we can accomplish great things.

***On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense, David Brooks**
***<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gillianoakenfull/20/06/16/bridging-the-empathy-gap/?sh=75c5909a6797>**



League Condemns Domestic Terrorist Attack on the U.S. Capitol

WASHINGTON – Today the League of Women Voters of the United States president Dr. Deborah Turner, CEO Virginia Kase, and the full board of directors issued the following statement in response to the violent demonstrations at the U.S. Capitol:



- 🇺🇸 “This is a dark day in the history of the United States of America. Today’s activity on Capitol Hill should have been a procedural exercise to finalize the 2020 election. Instead, our nation’s Capital was attacked by domestic terrorists seeking to invalidate the will of the people.
- 🇺🇸 “The actions by these terrorists have had no impact on the results of the election. This violent mob was encouraged by an outgoing president who lost re-election in a free and fair election.
- 🇺🇸 “Donald Trump has emboldened and empowered violent agitators, perpetuated dangerous conspiracy theories, and dishonored the office of the President. Furthermore, the members of Congress who continuously lie to the American people about the proven legitimacy of this election are also responsible for today’s horrific events. There is blood on their hands.
- 🇺🇸 “The League of Women Voters of the United States calls on President Donald Trump to concede the election immediately. We call on all members of Congress to respect the certification process, condemn the actions of these terrorists, and support a peaceful inauguration on January 20th.



Board Meeting

By Alyce Prudden, Secretary

In what’s now a regular *Coastlines* feature, here’s a summary of the LWVCC Board’s most recent monthly meeting, held January 11, 2021.

The following formal board actions were taken:

- ✓ Statement concerning the Capitol Riot: The Board decided to issue a formal statement concerning the riot at the US Capitol on 1/6/21, by placing it on our website.
- ✓ Approval of financial statements: The Board approved the financial reports for December 2020 as presented by Treasurer Colleen Bunn.
- ✓ Approval of prior meeting minutes: The Board approved the November 2020 meeting minutes as submitted by Secretary Alyce Prudden.
- ✓ Appointments to Nominating Committee: The Board appointed MJ LaBelle and Alyce Prudden as board representatives to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee.

Other items included:

- ✓ Discussion of the member survey responses.
- ✓ Confirmation that unit meetings will continue as county-wide Zoom meetings every third Thursday, and discussions about topics and speakers.
- ✓ *Coastlines* review, including an assessment of January’s issue and plans for February’s issue.
- ✓ Review of state league interactions, including highlights from LWVOR’s Local League Leaders networking group.

Your feedback is always appreciated.
Feel free to contact me by email or phone
aeprudden@aol.com 541-412-0292

It's February, when we celebrate Groundhog Day, which reminds us to just keep at it. With that in mind, the membership committee's focus remains on engaging with our wonderful LWVCC members. Beyond that, the committee is also exploring outreach to the wider community.



Member Surveys, continued ...

- 🇺🇸 As you know, in late November 2020, we mailed interest surveys to our current LWVCC members. Responses are still coming in. It's such helpful feedback. If you haven't responded, it's not too late. We'd love to hear from you.
- 🇺🇸 To all who've participated, thank you so much! I have or will be contacting each of you individually.
- 🇺🇸 And, as always, your input as a league member is always welcome, by survey response or other means.

Unit Meetings, continued ...

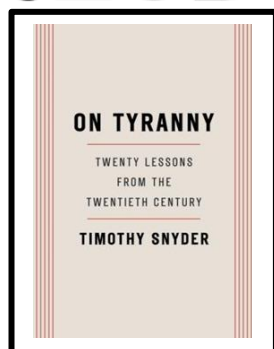
- 🇺🇸 As reported last month, in light of the pandemic, LWVCC has had to change its approach to our traditional in-person unit meetings. Instead, we'll be conducting a single, monthly, county-wide unit meeting, via Zoom, with a specific topic and a featured speaker.
- 🇺🇸 The meetings are scheduled for the Third Thursday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. See the calendar for more details.

Outreach, a beginning ...

- 🇺🇸 LWVCC is looking to broaden its outreach to include high school students. Our preliminary efforts include contact with local high school teachers of civics, history, and government, in an effort to connect with their students as future voters.
- 🇺🇸 We see a lot of avenues for league interaction with students. But as a modest first step, our thought is to invite them to our monthly all-unit member meetings. Stay tuned for more details, and please chime in with any ideas about this outreach effort or any other membership issues.

New Book Club! By Karol Simas, Director

NEW BOOK CLUB



Hello Members,



**Zoom invitations will
be sent out in May**

- 📖 For the May unit meeting your Board is proposing a zoom book club.
- 📖 We have chosen "On Tyranny, Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century" by Timothy Snyder. Professor Snyder is an historian and American author.
- 📖 The first review I read about this book the reader, after finishing the book, mentioned they were unclear whether Mr. Snyder was a democrat or a republican.
- 📖 That certainly is a welcomed nonpartisan endorsement. I hope you will join us for this May unit book discussion.



The National Popular Vote Compact, an Introduction



By Alyce Prudden

To me, the wild 2020 national election emphasizes the need to rethink how we elect the President of the United States. Let's start with a basic question about majority voting.

Should the President be chosen by a majority of voters across the country?

Many Americans think so, including me. According to one survey, "Americans would prefer that presidential elections were decided by the national popular vote as opposed to the Electoral College by 'roughly a two-to-one margin.'" [1]

The League of Women Voters thinks so, too. As stated by Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS, "we believe that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. Therefore, the League believes that the Electoral College should be abolished." [2]

What's wrong with the current Electoral College system?

The Electoral College is unpopular for a number of reasons. One is its "direct relationship to racism and slavery in this country." [2] Another "is that the Electoral College doesn't support a multi-party system." [3]

But perhaps the worst lingering flaw of the Electoral College is that it's "not reflective of a true democracy in which people directly decide their leaders. The system over-represents some states and under-represents others, creating campaigns that focus on a few 'swing states' that can really determine which way the election goes." [3] The Electoral College system thus "advantages swing states most of all, rather than small states over large states or one party over another." [1]

Under the current system, five presidents have won the Electoral College vote without winning the popular vote nationwide. Of those five, there were two in this century alone – Bush in 2000 and Trump in 2016.

Can we do away with the Electoral College?

Abolishing the Electoral College would require a constitutional amendment, which would be both a heavy lift and a long slog. But short of that, there's a practical solution to the problem: the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact.

What is the National Popular Vote Compact?

NPV is a contract among states that their electors will vote for the winner of the national popular vote, regardless of their state's popular choice.

So far, the National Popular Vote compact has been enacted by the legislatures of 15 states and the District of Columbia. Oregon is among those jurisdictions, having joined the compact in 2019. Collectively, the 16 signatory jurisdictions possess 196 electoral votes. The NPV compact will take effect once it's been enacted by states with a combined total of 270 electoral votes, the number needed to win the presidency.

QUOTED SOURCES:

[1] <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/news-clips/truthout-15-states-have-already-taken-steps-make-electoral-college-obsolete>

[2] <https://www.lwv.org/blog/electoral-college-what-it-good>

[3] <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/news-clips/elle-three-things-virginia-kase-wishes-you-knew-about-electoral-college>

OTHER SOURCES:

<https://www.nationalpopularvote.org>

<https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/state/or>

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/national-popular-vote.aspx>





Our Website

By Louise Abbot

LWVCC Director and Website Coordinator

February 2021 Volume 37 Issue 5

- Do not forget to visit the website at <https://lwvcurry.org/>
- There you can find a wide range of interesting and useful information, including the calendar of events, the LWVCC Board of Directors, the newsletters, public officials directory, elections information, and general information concerning the league.
- Additionally, we decided to keep the 2020 candidate forums on the website for your reference. If you want to see what the candidates said they would or would not do and compare to how the winners have proceeded thus far, you can do so.
- Finally, I will remind everyone that you can contact the LWVCC by "snail" mail or email. The information is on the website under the CONTACT tab, and I will list the mailing address for you here as well.

Mail:

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

Email:

go to the website and fill
out the form

SIGN UP NOW
SIGN UP NOW

Fred Meyer Rewards Program

By Colleen Bunn, Treasurer

Please, if you would like to sign up and are having trouble, give me a call, Colleen Bunn, at 208-610-6852. I would love to help you get signed up to earn Fred Meyer Community Rewards for the League.

The League received this correspondence from Fred Meyers Rewards:

Dear League of Women Voters of Curry County (FH475),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home.

Our stores are on a mission to not just be a part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization.

Community Rewards is easy to use,

The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn! **For the quarter ending December 31, 2020, The League of Women Voters of Curry County had one household signed up and you earned \$4.86 in rewards!**

-Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Thank you for your Donation dollars in
January!

LWV Curry County's goal is to match Lucie
La Bonte's donation of \$1005.21.

The additional January donations bring our
total to \$655.21!

This means we only have \$350 to go.

Lucie's Challenge

By Colleen Bunn, Treasurer





2021 Calendar

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
January	8 11	Board Brain Storming Session LWVCC Board Meeting	ZOOM Louise Abbott's home GB	10am-2pm 10am
February	8 18	LWVCC Board Meeting All-Units Meeting (Climate Emergency)	ZOOM ZOOM	12 noon 5-6pm
March	15 18	LWVCC Board Meeting All Units Meeting (Election Security: Renee' Kolen & Shelley Denny	TBA ZOOM	12 noon 5-6pm
April	12 15	LWVCC Board Meeting All Units Meeting (Legislative Update)	TBA ZOOM	12 noon 5-6pm
May	17 20	LWVCC Board Meeting All Units Meeting (Book Club: "On Tyranny")	TBA ZOOM	12 noon 5-6pm
June	5	LWVCC Annual Meeting New/Old Board Meeting	TBA	9:30am-1pm



LWVCC wants to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to our programs.

The Crazy Norwegian's

Fish and Chips
259 6th Street
Port Orford
541-332-8601

Escalate

Medical Financial Consulting
Mary Jane LaBelle
4790 Irvine Blvd
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Irvine, CA 92620

Spinners

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

Interior Coverups

Interior design, Distinctive coverings,
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29325 Ellensburg Ave Gold Beach
541-247-6683

Pacific Coastal Real Estate

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www.PacificCoastalRealEstate.com
541-247-7925

Re/Max Ultimate Coastal

Properties - Karen Kennedy
29555 Ellensburg Gold Beach
www.ILoveCoastalOregon.com
541-425-7494

Fishermen Direct

Premium fresh local seafood
Cannery building Port of Gold Beach
www.fishermendirect.com
541-247-9494

Redfish

517 Jefferson St Port Orford
chris@hawthornegallery.com
www.redfishportorford.com
541-366-2000

Tasty Kate's

Bakery, espresso, coffee,
wine shop, catering, teas, gift
917 Oregon St Port Orford
541-290-4999

Joseph T Wegner, PC

Certified Public Accountant
wegnercpa@gmail.com
541-247-6818

D & J Shell

29619 Ellensburg Gold Beach
U-Haul 8:30 am to 2 pm
541-247-7440

Port Orford Community Co-op

poccoop@gmail.com
www.portorfordcoop.com
541-366-2067

Blue Pacific Realty

16289 Hwy 101 Brookings
www.blupac.com
888-412.8424



LWVCC wants to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to our programs.

Fely's Café

**Harbor Shopping Center
Next to laundromat
Open 7 days a week
541-251-3375**

Curry Coast Community Radio

KCIW 100.7FM

P O Box 565

Brookings, OR 97415

KCIW.org

contact@kciw.org

541-661-4098

All-volunteer Community Radio

Sixes Grange 856

44556 Hwy 101

Sixes, OR 97476

541-655-0423

Open daily 9am-4pm

12+ vendors

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Wild Rivers Land Trust

wildriverslandtrust.org

541-366-2130

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Mary Stansell

29642 Ellensburg Gold Beach

www.goldbeachcentury21.com

541-425-0121

Curry Health Network

www.curryhealthnetwork.com

Gold Beach:

Curry General Hospital

94220 4th St

541-247-3910

Curry Medical Practice

94220 4th ST

541-247-3910

Brookings:

Curry Medical Center

500 5th ST

Primary, Specialty, Same Day

Visit and Emergency Care

541-412-2000

Port Orford:

Curry Family Medical

5252 Madrona Street

541-332-3861

CoastLines

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Gold Beach, OR 97444



The League of Women Voters of Curry County
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Website Information: lwvcurry.org
Election Information vote411.org

2020 – 2021 Board Officers and Directors

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

The League of Women Voters of Curry County - -How to Join

Yes, I want to make a difference by joining the League of Women Voters of Curry County. _____
Individual Membership \$65 _____ Household Membership (2 adults in household) \$97.50 _____ I am
unable to join but enclose a contribution of _____.

Only a portion of Membership dues to the League of Women Voters of Curry County are tax deductible. Donations to the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund are tax deductible

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to work on _____

**Send your check to: League of Women Voters of Curry County
PO Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444**

**Stay informed on issues that concern you. Join with us to make your voice heard. Develop skills in
networking, communication and leadership.**

You will receive periodic League publications (local, state and national).