



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

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February 2019

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February Unit Meetings

As a follow-up to the January Unit Meetings, in February the North and Central County groups will be meeting in new places and South County group will continue to meet at the Chetco Library. (See Calendar Pg. 5). All 3 meetings had interesting discussions following the LWV Curry County history presentation.

North and South County Units will continue position review and discussion of "hot topics". The Central County group completed review of LWVCC positions in January and will be discussing Recycling concerns as a result. New Central County Unit Chair Anne T. Hall has invited Amy Timeus to come and speak about a proposal she is working on to ban plastic bags in Gold Beach. Other "hot topics" may be discussed.

Members are encouraged to bring guests to these meetings to learn more about the League.

LWV Curry County Requests Proclamations

The Curry League is requesting that the Curry County Commissioners and all three City Councils declare March, "Revive Civility Month" in their jurisdictions. Visits are being made to all three City Councils and the County Commissioners with the request. At the start of a new year with newly elected officials seated the LWVCC Board felt this is a good time to get a good start. Working as an elected official can be difficult and officials need to be respectful of each other and citizens. Citizens also need to speak to and treat elected officials respectfully.

The LWV of Oregon adopted the following position on Civil Discourse:

"Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication."



**The League of
Women Voters of
Curry County**

CoastLines

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President's Letter



Dear Members and Friends;

There is a lot going on with our league in 2019.

Members met in January to learn more about our league and restart our north and south county unit meetings. With some members out of the area, attendance was low, but our units have some wonderful members with a lot of energy. We are hoping attendance grows as the months go on. The Central County Unit continues to be strong.

The North and Central Units decided to change their venue. The North Unit will be meeting at the home of Becky Flake in Port Orford. The Central County Unit will be meeting at the Rogue Landing Restaurant for lunch.

At the North County Unit meeting a concern of how community members get public notice was brought up. We hope to look into how that can be improved. Most in Langlois do not get a local paper so other options need to be explored by elected officials.

The Central County Unit completed review of our local league positions and had a lively discussion regarding some of the issues our league has studied over the years. Concerns over land use planning tools and recycling were raised.

At the South County Unit member Debra Worth volunteered to become our Brookings City Council Observer. She and I attended the Brookings City Council Meeting where she was introduced.

We are in the process of asking all three city councils and our County Commissioners to proclaim March "Revive Civility Month" and are presenting each public body with a sample proclamation.

All this and preparing for our March 17th fundraiser have made this a busy month! Happy February!

Lucie La Bonte, President

Debra Worth Our New Brookings City Council Observer

Debra Worth was born in Chicago IL and moved west as soon as she could. Debra graduated from Chico State with a BA in Geography and Planning, with an emphasis in Public Policy Administration. She also earned an AS degree from Sierra College Rocklin in Watershed Biology. Debra worked for the DOD in China Lake CA in the Patent and Trademark office and worked for non-profits in the Sierra Nevada in Watershed management. She ran for the School Board in Penn Valley CA and served for 7 years. Debra was part of LWV in Grass Valley and worked on several studies in relation to trails and green spaces.



Debra and her husband Ed Patterson moved to Brookings in early 2018 following her son and his family. She absolutely loves the Brookings area, the ocean, redwoods and the friendliness of the people she has met here.

As much as it is possible Debra likes to get involved in the area and become aware of places she can use her skills to make the world a better place. She is happy to find LWV active and vibrant in Curry County. In her spare time Debra writes poetry and kills plants.

March 17 Fundraiser, Dancers & Fiddle Music

Mark your calendar and prepare for a fun fundraiser on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 1PM** - Docia Sweet Hall at the Event Center.

Rehearsals have begun for the Rogue River Dancers on Wednesday nights at the Ellensburg Theater. Musician Cliff Stansell has agreed to play wonderful Celtic music for our event. Limericks? fairies? or maybe you will find a Pot of Gold at the Silent Auction that Ria Smith is organizing. An Irish meal of Corn beef and Cabbage is being planned by Curry Fair Friends. Mary Stansell has volunteered to be our Bartender so beer and wine will be available. Tickets are on sale, advanced tickets only. Members are asked to help sell tickets and they are available at Wild Rivers Land Trust in Port Orford, Gold Beach Bookstore, and at Wrights in Brookings.



Observers are the Eyes and Ears of the League

Those listening to the history of our league learned about all of the issues the Curry League has worked on over the years. How do we "take action" on these issues? By having Observers at our local elected officials' meetings, we learn what is happening in local government. Observers report back to our Board so that the President or his or her designee can "take action" by giving input. We still need observers for the Gold Beach and Port Orford City Council Meetings. Interested? Email or call Lucie.

LWV Curry County - 30 Years of Curry County History

As presented at January Unit Meetings and requested by members who wanted copies. This review was taken from old issues of CoastLines. There are gaps in this history because some of our issues of CoastLines have been lost. Our League has done a lot and much more than in this summary. Older members will remember marching in parades, celebrating the LWV 75th Anniversary by honoring 100 women in Curry County, and much more than what is here.....Lucie

1981 - Founding members Edna Allen and Joan Heavey got the ball rolling. Edna contacted the LWV of Oregon (LWVOR) to find out what we had to do. The first meeting had 15-20 people. LWVOR required that we publish "*Know Your County*" which they did and has been updated a several times. Volunteers observed at County and City of Brookings Planning Commissions, the County Commission and City of Brookings Council meetings and hearings. They chose issues to begin working and advocating on. Brookings formed a day and night Unit.

1987-1988 Study Items were: **Local:** Land Use Planning in Curry County, **State:** Schools Project, (reassessment of funding), **National:** Meeting Basic Human Needs and a continuing study on Agriculture. Members worked on all studies. The Gold Beach Unit was formed in 1988.

November 1988 - After discovering that Oregon was slated for offshore oil drilling, our unit meetings discussed the issue. By attending Ocean Planning meetings, it was found that Ocean Mining off the coast of Port Orford was also an issue.

January 1989 - the members LWVCC proposed that the LWVOR do a one-year study (fast track due to immediate nature of issue) on offshore oil and mining issues. This study item was adopted at the State Convention in May.

1989 - We were accepted as a 501 c (4). (Filed in 1988). LWVCC adopted a position on planning based on consensus taken from the study. Members worked on planning issues (Curry County had a moratorium on building, had refused to adopt the first CC Comprehensive Plan). Water issues were also cropping up including problems with the then City of Brookings water intake and a drought. While some worked on "*Energy, Ecology, Economics: Oregon Offshore Development Issues*", in September the issue of Recycling in Curry County was a major topic. We were told by commissioners (our Observer reported) it wasn't "economical", so members adopted a study to find out if that was true.

1990 - LWVOR adopted a position opposing offshore drilling and mining based on the one year's study consensus. Members went to work having surveys and action raising the issue to a national level. The outcome was that all three candidates for Governor and the Oregon Legislature committed to a ban on Ocean Mining in Oregon waters and a moratorium on Offshore Oil Drilling. Meanwhile with the event of Valdez. Senator Mark Hatfield and others were able to convince President Bush to enact a moratorium in Federal waters off the Oregon Coast. The LWV of Curry County had an impact.

1990 - The LWVCC adopted positions on recycling based on the study consensus.

1991 - The LWVCC worked on a study on Conditional Use Permits. This became an issue when Observers at the Planning Commissions found Conditional Use Permits were being used as a way around reasonable development.

1991 - Water remained a major issue with increased development and low water. A study on the Chetco River was adopted as a study item and a committee formed.

1992 - Positions were adopted on Conditional Use Permits.

LWV Curry County - 30 Years of Curry County History Continued -

1993 - "*Water Sources and Uses in Curry County*" was completed and positions adopted. Curry members were told by the Dept. of Interior that samples taken during ocean mining sampling showed Oregon was due for a huge subduction earthquake off its coast. Members again went to the LWVOR Convention and asked a study to be adopted, this time, on *Seismic Risks* with success. Locally members had also been working on domestic violence and found that Curry County had the highest percentage in the state per capita. A *Family Violence Study* was adopted.

1994 - We hosted visitors from Hungary and worked on water, sewer and solid waste concerns. We assisted advocates towards construction on the Oasis Shelter at the Gold Beach City level.

1995 - LWVOR Positions on Seismic Risk were adopted and the league worked with schools and others on evacuation plans. LWVCC adopted positions on Family Violence. League worked on a Groundwater Survey due to concerns about wells and water shortages in areas of the county.

1996 - 1997 - The Port Orford Unit was formed. Water positions were reviewed and updated to include the entire county. A study was adopted, "*How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County*"

1999 - Positions were adopted on the "*How We Govern Ourselves in Curry County*" study.

2000-01 - Members worked on issues based on study positions and through Observers at all levels of government

2002 - LWVCC adopted an Issue for Advocacy based on the LWVUS Position on Health Care. Members also worked on land use issues such as the Borax development proposal.

2003 - Members continued working on development issues, (Harbor Bench etc.) Health Care, and State and National studies.

2004 - 2005 - Members continued working on local government issues and water issues

2006 - LWVCC began working on Homeless issues and the LWVOR *Homeless Youth Study*. The Water Sources study was reviewed

2006-2011 - Members worked on water (updating positions), land use and homeless issues. At some point a study on Workforce Housing was started but never completed.

2012 - Work began on Chetco River Scenic Designation

2013 - The League continued working on issues based on existing positions.

2014 - LWVCC held forums on Hard Rock Mining in Curry County, Mental Health in Our Jails

2015 - We held meetings on water, measure forums on Curry General's proposal. The LWVCC also advocated for change in policies regarding Aerial Spraying at the Legislature. The LWVCC successfully lobbied the LWVOR to study *Hard Rock Mining*.

The LWVCC continued work on the Chetco River Scenic designation

2016 - The LWVCC continued holding hot topic forums (Homeless Resources) and advocated for protection of the Redwoods.

2017 - The LWVCC focused on increasing membership and restarting the Observer program. We took action on Floras Lake and doubled our membership. We held forums on the Cascadia Earthquake and Community Preparedness, on Family Violence, Health Care and Climate Change.

2018 - We held forums on: The Aerial Spray Notification Process, Civil Discourse and Redistricting. The League also worked on and has now submitted to the IRS a packet to change the 501 (c)(4) designation to a 501 (c) (3).

Why doing all of this, beginning in 1988 our league hosted candidate forums for all primary, general elections and most special district elections. We also held issue forums on ballot measures and registered Voters. Our league members participated in coming to consensus on numerous LWVOR and LWVUS positions based on studies. Our league also held successful fundraisers just about every year.

League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar - 2019

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
February	11	LWVCC Board Meeting	Hassie Taylor's, GB	10 AM
	19	Central County Unit	Rogue Landing	Noon
	21	South County Unit	Small Chetco Library Bldg	1 PM
	28	North County Unit	Becky Flake's Home	5 PM
March	11	LWVCC Board Meeting	Karol Simas', GB	10 AM
	17	Fundraiser	Event Center	1 PM
	19	Central County Unit	Rogue Landing	Noon
	21	South County Unit	Small Chetco Library Bldg	1 PM
April	28	North County Unit	Becky Flake's Home	5 PM
	15	LWVCC Board Meeting	Tucker Nunn's, GB	10AM
	16	Central County Unit	Rogue Landing	Noon
	18	South County Unit	Small Chetco Library Bldg	1 PM
May	25	North County Unit	Becky Flake's Home	5 PM
	13	LWVCC Board Meeting	Hassie Taylor's, GB	
	17-19	LWVOR Convention	Ashland, Oregon	
June	1	Annual Meeting	TBA	10AM-
		Old Board/New Board	TBA	1PM
		Meeting		1PM



Moderator Phil Dickson with candidates in Gold Beach.



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