



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 32, Issue 5

www.lwvcurry.org

January 2016

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

Unit Meetings, Studies, Forums and More!

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JANUARY MEETINGS - MONEY IN POLITICS (CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM) STUDY

LWV Money in Politics study The 2014-2016 League Program on Key Structures of Democracy includes a review and update of the LWVUS campaign finance position. A reading list for this study has been posted on the LWV.org website: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/suggested-readings-money-politics>.

Sept. 2015: Consensus questions have been posted. [Click here to read the questions](#): These questions will be discussed at local League consensus meetings this fall and early winter. Results must be submitted by Feb. 1. Please check our Calendar page for dates and places of local League consensus meetings.

The study's goals: The League will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position. [Click on this link to the LWV.org site further information on this study](#)

NH angle Check out the [NH Rebellion](#) and [Open Democracy](#) websites and Facebook pages for events and information about NH residents attempts to make money in politics a key issue in NH's presidential primary races.

More about Consensus

"Consensus/group discussion is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The "consensus" reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority nor is it unanimity; rather it is overall "sense of a group" as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a membership meeting or a series of membership or unit meetings." In League LWVUS

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Mining Study Update - Alyssa Babin

Two bills are currently in the federal legislature related to hard rock mining. The Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act would create a withdrawal for areas that are currently being considered for mining. The Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act would set requirements for exploration permits, designate critical environmental exclusion zones and set aside 8% of gross income to go into a fund to be used for restoration. The Hard Rock Mining study committee met October 30th and shared progress on research thus far. The study committee will meet again in January.



President's Notes by Lucie La Bonté



Dear Members and Friends;

Happy New Year! We are going into the second half of our League year and it will be action packed. At the January Unit Meetings discussion on "Money in Politics" or Campaign Finance Reform should be very interesting as we take consensus to formulate LWVUS positions. What do you think? These positions will be used to lobby government for change. See the lead *CoastLines* article and come prepared to your unit meeting.

When the two LWVUS studies are behind us we can focus on study proposals for our local league. Are you interested in proposing and working on a study? This is the time to write up proposals due to the Board by March 1 on both the local and national levels. For more information on "How to Do a Study" look on page 4. Keep in mind proposals should come with a list of volunteers willing to work on the study.

Welcome new member, Kitt Carsten. Kitt lives in Brookings. She emailed me wondering why the *Public Officials Directory* hasn't been updated. My reply was that we need a volunteer. She is interested in helping. If you are interested in working on this project let me know. It is an easy task. We will be updating this again after elections in November. Thanks for volunteering Kitt!

Speaking of elections...In April we will be holding 3 candidate forums. Candidates are filing and need a fair way to be heard. Be sure to let Charlie know if you are interested in volunteering. We will also be training new moderators and timers for the fall forums. Volunteer and be a part of it! (More info..Page 3).

Enjoy the New Year by being involved. It is your community!

Lucie

The American Heritage Dictionary defines consensus as "collective opinion or concord; general agreement or accord." Be a part of it!

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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CoastLines is produced 10 times a year
by the
League of Women Voters of Curry
County.*

Web site: lwvcurry.org
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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 sometime in January.

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.

Holiday Party Fun!

***A BIG THANK-YOU to Lauren Spector
for arranging the Party!***



Vice President Alyssa (front)



Renee, Charlene, Anne, Karol, Kathi,
Secretary Charlie (front)



Sherrylee, Lauren, Marta, Carol



Steve, Georgia, Kathi, Ronn

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

Children at Risk, Take Action!

Linda Clary, Study co-chair

Now that we have positions from the LWVOR Children at Risk Study, the committee is ready to do something about the issue. Let us know if you would like to spearhead work on this project for the LWVCC. labontelucie2@gmail.com

Our 2-year study (Children At Risk: Early Learning, Early Intervention) asked what is best for kids and found some answers. Using our time-honored process of consensus the LWVOR created a position from which it will work supporting and advocating for children in the future. Thank you to all of you for your participation in developing this position.

Currently, several members of the study committee are working in various communities in the state advocating for an increased awareness of the importance of early childhood learning. You are invited to this campaign.

During 2015 - 2016 some Leagues will be presenting the video, Are We Crazy About our Kids? (part of the Raising of America project), a discussion of the recent changes in the K-12 education structure, and may introduce members of the local Early Childhood Education Hub to the public.

The Umpqua Valley League plans to pilot a project to teach dialogic reading to parents, grandparents, caregivers, and other interested parties. Dialogic reading is a technique used to improve literacy by involving the child in the story, encouraging his/her input and reflection on the content. Some call this technique Talking and Books. You can view a short video called Talking and Books Preview on YouTube to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgkZ8gSyfnU>.

The Are We Crazy About Our Kids? and Great Schools, Great Communities projects will coordinate their efforts. At a minimum, each campaign will be aware of the other and how they can assist each other in supporting the League's effort.

Are you interested in coordinating a viewing of Are We Crazy About Our Kids? There are resources available to assist and support you in bringing this to your community. Please contact Linda Clary at: Lindaclary1@gmail.com.

Are you interested in a dialogic reading project in your community? It's a really solid way to directly impact a young person's life. Research has shown that the amount and quality of talk experienced in the first three years of life makes a big difference in a child's readiness for kindergarten and success throughout school. Please contact Linda Clary at Lindaclary1@gmail.com for more info. As the level of early childhood literacy rises, so will our high school graduation rates. It is fun and satisfying to support and encourage these youngsters. Join our efforts to spread Talking and Books throughout the state.

How to Do a Study

Studies are the first step to taking action in the League of Women Voters. As a grassroots organization study proposals come from members once a year and are adopted at convention or at local annual meetings. Proposals are to be written with a Title, Scope, and Outlook For Work. For more information call Lucie or Alyssa who have both proposed successful studies.

Title: The wording should be neutral. It may be amended at the Annual Meeting or convention provided the intent is not changed nor the scope enlarged.

Scope: The purpose of preparing a scope statement is to state the purpose of the study, focus on the primary areas of the issue, set parameters for the study and to indentify the important issues.

The scope statement must include the targeted level of government, jurisdictions and geopolitical boundaries, funding concerns, and relationship to current League program if any.

Outlook for Work: A listing of possible activities which may be pursued in order to fulfill the scope, including timing (one or two year study) and whether a publication is expected to result. (*LWVOR Handbook for Local Leaders*)

Gun Safety Committee - Marge Easley, LWVOR Action Committee

Did you know that, on average, someone in Oregon is killed by a gun every 18 hours? Or that from 2001 through 2012 more than 6,400 women were murdered in the U.S. by an intimate partner using a gun? Given that gun violence is now recognized as a public health crisis in our country, it is important that we as League members do our part in the ongoing campaign to reduce gun violence in our communities.

A LWVOR Gun Safety Committee is now forming, and we need your help. The committee will be creating a white paper for local Leagues about current Oregon gun laws, loopholes in those laws, and common sense ways to reduce gun violence, based on input from the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety. We'll also be joining in monthly conversations with League members from around the nation who are working on this critical issue.

Please contact Marge Easley (marge.easley@frontier.com, 503-638-7023) if you'd like to join the committee, need more information. To pique your interest, try this short online quiz about Oregon gun laws: <http://newtrajectory.blogspot.com/2015/09/how-well-do-you-know-oregon-gun-laws.html>.

League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2016

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
January	8	Board Meeting	Gold Beach Fire Hall	10 AM
	12	Unit Meeting -LWVUS Consensus	Port Orford Library	1:00 PM
	19	Unit Meeting -LWVUS Consensus	Pilot News Conference Room	5:30 PM
	28	Unit Meeting- LWVUS Consensus <i>Money in Politics</i>	Gold Beach Fire Hall	5:30PM
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	Day at the Legislature	Salem	
	25	Unit Meeting Economic Campaign	TBA	5:30 PM
March	1	Study Proposals Due		
	4	Board Meeting	Gold Beach City Hall	10 AM
	8	Unit Meeting- TBA	Port Orford Library	1:00 PM
	15	Unit Meeting- TBA	Pilot News Conference Room	5:30 PM
	24	Unit Meeting- TBA	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-12PM
	21	LWVCC Old Board/New Board		1:00 PM
June	3-5	LWVOR Council	Vancouver Hilton Hotel, WA	
	16-19	LWVUS Convention		



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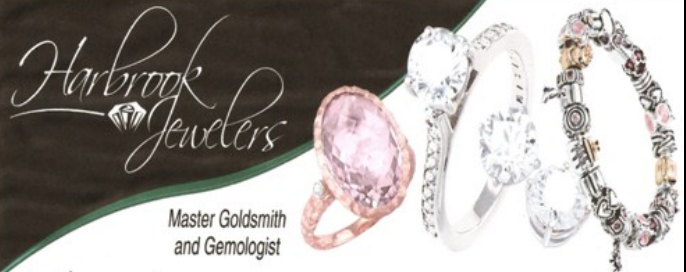
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