



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 33, Issue 4

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

January 2017

Please  
support our  
sponsors -  
Pages 6,7  
Thank you!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

January Election Methods Study	1
HOLIDAY FASHION SHOW	1
CALENDAR	2
Election Methods Study! Do you want change?	3
Nominations for your Board are open! Be a part of it!	4
Study Proposals	4
Letter on Redwoods	5

## January MEETINGS -

### Elections Methods Consensus

GOLD BEACH, Jan. 17 - 5:30 PM, BROOKINGS, Jan. 18 - 5 PM

The LWVOR has been busy conducting statewide studies. First up for 2017 is consensus on Election Methods. This should be an interesting consensus. Only members can participate but it is also a good opportunity for people interested in LWV to observe and see how we work to get positions for advocacy. LWV is unique in conducting one year and two-year studies before taking positions.

We have attached the Executive Summary. Visit [www.LWVOR.org](http://www.LWVOR.org) to read and/or print the full study and other resources. Enjoy the two short videos to gain additional insight. Members are asked to read and study this material *before* the meetings so that there is adequate time for discussion.

## Holiday Fashion Show - Success!

Thank you to The Chic Boutique and The Pink Flamingo for presenting a wonderful selection of holiday fashions leading to a successful show. We raised half of our fundraising budget.

The Volunteers were: MC Debbie Schriver of Gold Beach, belly dancers - Vanessa Spini, Kelly Timchak and Maya Druzdzell and vocalist Megan Sheree Wright, Mary Stansell bartender, models: JJ Hilsenbeck, Rebecca Randall, Tammy Pierson, Dylan Duncan, Debra Bradford, Christal Santa Rosa, Karen Roe, Lucie La Bonté, Dino Jakacky, Colton Wentworth, Donna Wentworth, Brittany Fleshman, Pam Dickson and Disco Deb. Disco Deb also provided disco music.

Member volunteers were: Phil Dickson (Silent Auction), Charlie Alexander, Evan Kramer (Greeters) and organizer Lucie La Bonte. It was a lot of work but a lot of fun. We hope members and friends support these 2 boutiques/antiques and curiosity shops.

Thank you to the many businesses and members that provided silent auction items: Spinners, Pink Flamingo, Chic Boutique, South Coast Gourmet, Hook'D Cafe, Interior Cover-up, Ellensburg Theatre/Port Orford Masonic Lodge, Fresh Hair, Charlie Alexander, Charlene Enoch, Evan Kramer, Georgia Nowlin, Lucie La Bonte. We hope members continue to support these businesses and community groups.

Thank you to the Curry Fair Friends and Spinners for food and wine!

## **CALENDAR - UPCOMING MEETINGS BEING SCHELUDED**

Your Board met in October and has picked the following topics for Unit Meetings this year:

January 17 - 5:30 PM - Gold Beach City Hall, LWVOR Election Methods Study Consensus.

January 18 - 5 PM - Brookings - Chetco Senior Center, LWVOR Election Methods Study Consensus.

February 15 - 5 PM - Brookings - Chetco Senior Center, LWVOR Study Consensus TBA

February 21 - 5:30 PM - Gold Beach City Hall, LWVOR Study Consensus TBA

March 15 - 5 PM - Brookings - Chetco Senior Center, Domestic Violence presented by the Director of Oasis Shelter

March 21 - 5:30 PM - Gold Beach City Hall, Domestic Violence presented by the Director of Oasis Shelter

April 18 - 5:30 PM - Gold Beach City Hall, Cascadia Earthquake and Community Preparedness

April 19 - 5 PM - Brookings - Chetco Senior Center, Cascadia Earthquake and Community Preparedness

May -- is when we have our Annual Meeting, TBA soon!

**BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE THE 2ND FRIDAY 10:00 AM, GOLD BEACH CITY HALL - ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO BOARD MEETINGS**

### ***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.



#### **The League of Women Voters of Curry County Officers & Directors 2016-2017**

Philip Dickson, President  
Alyssa Babin, Vice President  
Vacant, Secretary  
Connie Hunter, Treasurer  
Anne Morgan, Director #1  
Evan Kramer, Director #3

#### ***CoastLines***

*A publication of the League of Women  
Voters ® of Curry County  
CoastLines is produced 10 times a year  
by the  
League of Women Voters of Curry  
County.  
Web site: [lwvcurry.org](http://lwvcurry.org)  
Friend us on Facebook!  
Election Info: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)*

# Choosing How to Choose: Election Methods Update!

Libby Medley, Program/Events Chair, Clackamas County

With the 2016 Election over, our Oregon League is using a statewide study to reflect on the experience from a procedural point of view.

**Were you a sincere voter?** Or did you vote for someone who was not your first choice in order to fulfill a strategic ploy?

**Did you wish for some way to indicate your true opinions of the candidates** rather than being limited to selecting one or not voting? Under our current single-winner system, plurality voting, you get one vote, and the candidate with the most votes wins. While simple to understand, it can be frustrating. And **it doesn't have to be this way.**

Voting methods for winner-take-all elections go beyond **plurality**, to include **delayed runoff, approval, range or ranked choice voting** for a single seat. Which voting method you prefer will depend on which criteria you think are most important. Looking for change?

In a multi-member position, there are several election method choices.

**Bloc types** are traditional in the U.S.; examples include city council members that are elected at-large.

**Semi-Proportional** methods allow voters multiple votes in the same race. The top vote-receivers win the number of seats that are available.

**Proportional representation** methods allow voters to simultaneously elect multiple candidates for multiple seats in one race.

Other considerations include **the role of political parties** in how our elections are conducted, and the **impact on voting administration**, from hardware and software to training and voter education.

- **Please read the every member material** (attached) **review the consensus questions** and **share your thoughts with others at a Unit meeting.** Which method best combines fairness and voting clarity for each type of race?
- Visit [www.LWVOR.org](http://www.LWVOR.org) to read and/or print the full study and other resources. **Enjoy the two short videos to gain additional insight.**

## Be a part of it!

If you are concerned about the election process this is your chance to comment and change the system!

The LWVUS has a position on the Electoral College. You can sit back and do nothing or join with league members across the country to support change. It is your democracy!

## LWVOR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DAY

Looking Ahead to The Legislative Session - Alice Bartelt, Action Committee Chair

The beginning of the next legislative session will be here before we know it. The Action Committee will shift into high gear once the session opens. There could be as many as 3000 bills introduced, with the Action Committee following many of them. Those serving on the Action Committee are volunteers who put in many hours of work each week of the session.

The biggest issue that will be considered during the session will be the budget. Forecasts are that there will be at least a billion-dollar shortfall. How that problem will be resolved is the biggest question looming over the lawmakers. This problem will affect every state agency, many of which the League is concerned about. Perhaps the failure of Measure 97 will serve as a reason for the legislature to consider tax reform

Before the session starts, you will have the opportunity to learn how the Legislature works. Legislative Process Day (<http://lwvor.org/event/legislative-process-day-2017/>), on January 10, 2017 will feature the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate. In addition, we will hear from Oregon's new Secretary of State, Dennis Richardson. It should be a very informative meeting, and the Action Committee will be there to answer your questions.

## Interested in Proposing a Study?

The League Board will be accepting member's Study Proposals for 2 year studies to be vetted and presented to the general membership at the Annual meeting. If you are interested in proposing a study a study scope, title and budget are required.

For information on how to write a proposal contact Alyssa Babin [lyssa.kate@gmail.com](mailto:lyssa.kate@gmail.com) Having successfully proposed the LWVOR Hard Rock Mining Study Alyssa is very knowledgeable of what a study takes and how to write the Title and Scope. She can also let you know if we already have positions that will cover your issue. Studies can also be brought up from the floor at the Annual Meeting but Board recommendations are even better. It also helps to have several members who are willing to help on the study.

## Nominations are Open!

The LWVCC Nominating Committee will be meeting in February to begin recruiting members for the 2017-18 Board of Directors. Positions to be elected at the annual meeting in May will be: President (1 year term, 2017-2018), Secretary (to be filled for 1 year, 2017- 2018). Treasurer (2-year term, 2017-19), Board Position #2 (2-year term, 2017-19), and Board Position #3(2-year term, 2017-19).

If anyone is interested in having their name submitted to be on the Board please contact Nominating Committee members: Chair- Lucie La Bonte, Charlene Enoch, Renee Kolen or Evan Kramer.

# LWVCC Sends Letter Regarding Redwoods

November 28, 2016

Commissioner Thomas Huxley, Chair  
Commissioner Susan Brown, Vice Chair  
Commissioner David Brock Smith  
Board of Commissioners of Curry County  
94235 Moore St. Suite 122  
Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

Dear County Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan voter education and outreach organization. We do not support or oppose political candidates. After careful study, the League sometimes adopts positions on issues decided upon by our members.

The National League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources of these resources should be controlled to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect the public health.

League of Women Voters of Oregon 2016-2017 Positions

We believe that the League's position on natural resources supports securing permanent protection for the Oregon Redwoods for this and future generations.

We in Curry County are proud that the northernmost extent of the coast Redwood species is found on and near the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in the upper Winchuck River watershed and in the watersheds of the Redwood, Big Redwood Creek, Emily, Little Emily and Mill Creek that all flow into the lower Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

In California, most redwoods were logged long ago. Almost all of what redwoods remain in California is permanently protected in national, state, and regional parks. Also magnificent and awe-inspiring, Oregon redwoods are not afforded comparable and enduring protection, but they should be.

The natural resources of Curry County are vital to the growing outdoor recreation economy. People come to visit our county to enjoy the weather, the water and the wild. Protecting the Oregon Redwoods would result in increased visitation in ways to sustainably enjoy them. Increased visitation would mean an expanded and diversified economy for Curry County.

Please join us in supporting permanent protection for the Oregon Redwoods by an act of Congress or other means.

Sincerely,

Phil Dickson  
President  
League of Women Voters of Curry County



*Coast Lines*

League of Women Voters of  
Curry County  
P O Box 630  
Gold Beach, OR 97415

*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 630, 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).