



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 30, Issue 10

www.lwvcurry.org

June 2014

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



League President Al Wilson calls the Annual Meeting to order.



Al Wilson congratulates President-elect Lucie La Bonté.

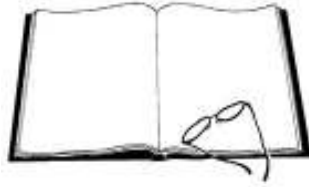


New Board of Directors: Jessica Kensinger, Alyssa Babin, Lucie La Bonté, Charlie Alexander, Kathy Wilson and Kathi Linday.

Nineteen members made some important decisions at the League's Annual Meeting on June 14 at Docia Sweet Hall in Gold Beach. Al Wilson presided over a meeting that marked an important transition from the old guard to the new. The highlight of the meeting was the election of the League's new Board of Directors: President Lucie La Bonté, Vice President Alyssa Babin, Secretary Charlie Alexander, Treasurer Kathi Lindsay and Director Kathy Wilson. In the Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting Jessica Kensinger was appointed as a Director. This new Board is dedicated to reenergizing the League by expanding its activities while it broadens its membership base with an emphasis on bringing in many younger members.

The members also filled three of the five positions on the Nominating Committee by electing Linda Elfman and Charlene Enoch. As required by our bylaws the Board appointed Board Members Jessica Kensinger and Lucie La Bonté to the Nominating Committee at its meeting following the Annual Meeting. They also appointed Penny Seuss to fill the remaining member-at-large position. The Committee will elect its Chairman at its first meeting early in 2015.

The members also did some important fine tuning of our Bylaws and approved the budget for 2014-2015. Membership dues will stay the same for the next year but this will require at least one significant fund raising project. The Coupon Book Project netted well over \$1,200 in 2013-2014 and the Board will consider whether to print another book in 2014-2015 at its August Board Meeting. Other fund raisers might also be considered. One thing is clear: full participation of the members will be needed for any effort to be successful.



Dear Members and Friends,

This is my last President's Letter. I have been either President or Co-President of our League for four of the last five years. As of July 1 the reins will be passed to Lucie La Bonté. I have also been the *CoastLines* editor for seven years. With this issue I am turning over these duties to Alyssa Babin, our League's new Vice President.

I thank all of you for the help you have given me and I am sure you will support Lucie and our new Board. There has been an infusion of youth into our Board that should give us the energy to grow and achieve. We have done a lot but there is much yet to do. You can count on my support!!

By far the biggest effect we have had on our County during my time in office has been our Voter Forums. These have been tumultuous times in Curry County and I think we can take pride in the fact that we have been and continue to be the one place that people can turn for unbiased, nonpartisan information. The flow of elections will never stop, so the need for Voter Forums will continue. I believe, however, that our League can do more.

Many tough choices lie ahead, both for our elected leaders and for our citizens. The best chance our County has for successful outcomes will be if our citizens and our leaders are able to engage in meaningful dialog - something that has been sorely lacking during my time in Curry County. Our League can and should provide a forum where that badly needed communication can take place.

There is no other organization in Curry County that has our reputation for nonpartisanship and that has our experience in facilitating meaningful discussion of the issues. I urge our members to encourage our Board to step forward and offer our abilities to our elected leaders and to our fellow-citizens.

I am willing to take a part in that effort and I hope you are, too. I believe that this is yet another way that League will continue to make a difference!!

Al Wilson

The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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Al Wilson, President
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Lucie La Bonté, Vice President
541-247-0935
Charlie Alexander, Secretary
541-332-0386
Kathi Lindsay, Treasurer
541-332-0185
Milt Nelson, Director
541-332-9002
Genevieve Leary, Director
303-912-1196

Coast Lines

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Women Voters of Curry County.
We welcome your comments,
suggestions, story ideas and
submissions. Submissions
must be received no later than
the day of the board meeting
each month. That date is
available on our web site.*

Web site: lwvcurry.org
Email: league@lwvcurry.org
Election Info: vote411.org

WE HAVE BIG SHOES TO FILL

The LWV of Curry County has been blessed with support from women and men who are now our seniors and elders. Now in their 80s and 90s some are moving on for one reason or another. Others remain in our community donating to our LWVCC financially because of the great things we do. These great individuals have supported us through the years in different ways. Some are checkbook members (those who paid dues but may not attend meetings), some are past Presidents and past Board members. They put on fundraisers, folded and stamped the Coast Lines, headed up studies, observed meetings, shepherded the LWVCC through difficult times, registered voters and ran and ran and still attend candidate forums. Each has contributed in their way and we hope will not forget us because we will not forget them.

From Brookings members: Past President **Alice Chapman**, is a former engineer who calculated river flows for the Chetco River Study, served on the Board more than once and was the League's Action Chair and filled other roles too numerous to mention. Past Board Member **Phyllis Cottingham**, Coastal Chair, LWVOR introduced issues for LWVOR studies such as Offshore Oil Drilling, Marine Mineral Mining and Tsunamis and all while working on local studies. **Pat Nash** has always been there for us, supporting all of the work that the League did. Past Board Member **Connie Wilson** has worked on fundraisers, observed meetings, mailed Coast Lines and worked on a host of issues.

From Gold Beach member **Kay Jensen** helped at numerous Voter Forums and opened up her house for us for a critical membership tea which helped to restart the Gold Beach Unit.

From Port Orford Past Presidents **Milt and Shirley Nelson** added so much. Shirley was our Voter's Service Chair and also served on the LWVOR Board. Milt was our Treasurer for many years and also served as Secretary and Membership Chair. Both Milt and Shirley worked on Voter Forums, headed up studies, observed meetings and chaired Unit Meetings. **Jerry Hillman** was regular at Voter Forums and meetings. **Dot Matthews** was a founder of the Port Orford Unit member and always participated in our meetings, sometimes at her house. She also worked on studies and Voters Service activities supporting the LWVCC.

To all of these members a big THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts! We appreciate your work and support! We have big shoes to fill!



Sherrylee Felger and Kathi Lindsay presented Milt and Shirley Nelson with a gift from many LWVCC members.

Milt and Shirley Nelson thank our League friends for the lovely cards and generous gifts of cash and one restaurant certificate; also the clever poem by Sherrylee and Kathi. We were surprised and pleased.

SMALL PORT DREDGING AL WILSON

When I became an LWVCC member in 2003 I wondered what our League got in return for the Per Member Payment (PMP) that it sends each year to the state League (LWVOR) and to the national League (LWVUS). As I was composing this edition of *CoastLines* the U.S. Army's *Yaquina* dredge boat was working in the Chetco River. Its presence was due in part to the work that our PMP does at both the state and national level. LWVOR lobbies Oregon's Governor and Legislature on behalf of the coastal Leagues to encourage funding of this dredging. LWVUS does the same at a national level. The *Yaquina's* presence in Oregon this summer is tangible evidence of the benefit that these lobbying efforts can bring. What follows is a press release from our Governor's office that tells part of the story.

Governor Kitzhaber Praises Congressional Action on Small Port Dredging

(Salem, OR) – Governor Kitzhaber today applauded the inclusion of dedicated funding for dredging and maintaining small coastal ports in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. The move is the latest step to secure consistent funding for harbor maintenance in small ports nationwide, including commercial ports on the Oregon coast. Oregon's small ports will be able to compete for a share of the funds each year.

"This decision is a huge step to help stabilize the availability of dredging funds for Oregon's coastal communities," said Governor Kitzhaber. "Commercial and recreational boating and fishing and small businesses along Oregon's coast all rely on predictable dredging of these ports for their economic well-being. This bill will help create jobs while improving safety in communities up and down the Oregon coast."

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act, or WRRDA, authorizes how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) uses the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, the traditional source of federal funds for dredging and harbor maintenance. The language in the bill guarantees the nation's small ports will receive at least 10 percent of annual funding provided for dredging over the next eight years. Assuming funding levels stay consistent, this will generate at least \$90 million annually for small port maintenance and represents an \$11 million increase above funds made available for 2014. In recent years, funding for most of Oregon's small ports and harbors has not been included in administration budget requests to Congress.

The Governor has been working with Oregon's Congressional delegation to secure federal maintenance dredging funds this year and in the future. In anticipation of WRRDA, last December Governor Kitzhaber wrote WRRDA conferees, saying, "Oregon cannot go it alone in perpetuity to pay for this long-standing federal obligation." The Governor was referring to 2013, when federal funding for dredging was nonexistent. In response, Governor Kitzhaber partnered with the Oregon Legislature to secure approximately \$5 million in state funds to pay the USACE to dredge several Oregon coastal harbors.

Oregon also successfully competed for dredging funds in the 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Prior to the bill's passage, the Governor [wrote USACE Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy](#) outlining why Oregon's ports deserved funding.

The Governor praised the efforts of Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Representative Peter DeFazio, who have secured small ports language in each chamber's respective WRRDA bill. Representative DeFazio, a WRRDA conferee, helped negotiate the final language in the 2014 WRRDA conference report and kicked off the national campaign in support of funding for small port dredging early in 2013 at an event in Brookings. The Governor also thanked state legislators in the Oregon Coastal Caucus for their tireless advocacy for Oregon's ports.

The U.S. House and Senate will each vote on WRRDA, and if passed in both chambers, it will go to the president's desk for his signature.

ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION

Assistant District Attorney Jake Conde spoke at the LWVCC Annual Meeting about the crisis in the jail. A large portion of the jail population is people with mental health issues. The lack of facilities for people in crisis puts pressure on law enforcement and our jail. Many are those who go off their medications, get on illegal drugs or drink alcohol as a substitute and commit crimes or become a public nuisance. There is a Mental Health Court and the process does work if the client is willing to go through the procedure.



According to Mr. Conde the issue needs creative thinking and citizen involvement to find solutions which will not be an easy task. Law Enforcement officers need C.I.T. (Crisis Intervention Training) to improve the way they respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis. At the present time only 4 Gold Beach officers are trained. This is partly due to lack of funding for staffing in the Sheriff's office. In order to have training the Sheriff needs to have additional staff to cover the jail.

When asked what we can do to help several solutions were suggested but most need funding. Besides training Conde mentioned that there is no local psychiatrist who will do the evaluations needed so that people can get help. A retiree would be ideal. Having lock down facilities or a Mental Health Ward would be ideal to handle the situation by stabilizing people instead of putting them directly in jail. The hospital has a hold room but it is next to the emergency room often causing issues. When state facilities were closed no lock down facilities were built for people in crisis. If there was housing available fewer people would be on the street and in crisis. Civil commitments are difficult with the present system.

LWVOR COUNCIL 2014 FROM LUCIE LA BONTÉ

Attending LWVOR Council in Roseburg as your delegate was a great experience. I met with delegates and observers from all over the State. Some I had never met and others were longtime friends. Our volunteer Action Portfolio Chairs were there who lobby at the Legislature on our behalf. There are a lot of important issues coming up this session. It was an honor to be with these ladies because they have done so much for Oregon. For instance, Paula Krane was President when I was on the LWVOR Board and we worked on the original Vote by Mail Initiative. She still works on "Public Access". Past President Kappy Eaton handles "Governance" issues and has traveled monitoring elections in new free world countries. She is known for her testimonies on the state and federal levels on so many issues. Peggy Lynch handles "Natural Resources". I had never met Karen Nibler "Social Policy" and Alice Bartelt, Action Chair but know what they do will be important for LWVCC.

Jackie Cleary who attempted to start a Del Norte County LWV in the 1990s and was a member of LWVCC even though she lived in CA was there. She is now involved in Grants Pass!

Reports were given, issues were discussed, motions made, elections took place and we all had a lot of interaction time too. Next year LWVOR Convention will be in Eugene. Hopefully you too will volunteer to be an Observer. It is an experience well worth the time.

LWVOR Conventions take place every two years and Councils on the off year.

NEW MEMBER BIOS

DAVID ITZEN

My decision to apply to join the League was influenced by Al Wilson's supportive role to the group. Also, I have witnessed many times the League's sponsorship of well run forums which offered the opportunity for voters to compare in a civilized state the positions of candidates. And I intended to acknowledge through membership my support and encouragement of the League's activities and of its membership.

I have over the years been integrally involved with education, both as an employee and volunteer and I believe in the power of education for the individual and society. Perhaps one of my most valued achievements in that field is the key role I played in helping to create the Brookings-Harbor Scholarship Foundation. I've spent quite a number of years in agriculture and my family's background over many generations is in agriculture. I enjoyed playing a role in one of the 8 farms (at the time) that produced all of the Easter Lilies in this hemisphere. I prefer interesting and challenging positions and my time at the Curry County Government certainly is that. I have been in management in all the previous fields for approximately 33 years but I will say that the Curry Commissioner position is definitely one of the most interesting and challenging positions that I've held.

For fun, I assist my spouse in gardening around our home and play with our "rescued" cats and dogs (two of each with very different personalities). For real fun we visit our children and grand children, who believe it or not, still seem to enjoy a visit from Grandma and Grandpa (how long will that last?).

KATHY WILSON

Why did you decide to join the League? I thought it was a good way to meet people and find out about issues that pertain to our community. **Will you share something about your work, or educational background and interests?** Bachelor's degree in nursing. Registered nurse for 28 years. Three children, none in Oregon. Born and raised in CA. Grandparents owned a ranch in Ophir and she used to visit them there. **What do you like to do for fun?** Golfing and knitting. Golf group in Gold Beach. Knitting group in Bandon.

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Coast Lines
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August 2014		
LWVCC Board Meeting	Aug 3; TBA	TBA

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_____ \$60 ONE-YEAR individual membership is due on July 1 of the current year.

_____ \$90 HOUSEHOLD (for one-year membership for the current year) for two members who share an address

_____ YES, I would like to receive *CoastLines* by email, saving LWVCC over \$10 a year in postage and printing.

Please make your dues checks payable LWVCC, listing the year (2013-2014) on your check, and return with this application form to: LWVCC Treasurer; 36858 Highway 101; Port Orford, OR 97465

Additional contributions - checks made out to League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund (LWVOREF) and mailed to the LWVCC Treasurer are tax deductible.