



# CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 32, Issue 10

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

June 2016

**Time, Dates and  
Places -  
2016  
Calendar  
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*Unit Meetings,  
Studies, Forums and  
More!*

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## Annual Meeting May 21 By Evan Kramer

The League of Women Voters of Curry County held their annual meeting on Saturday, May 21 and elected new officers for 2016-17. The meeting at the Docia Sweet Hall at the Curry County Events Center drew nearly 25 League members. The most visible efforts by the League include the Candidate Forums which are held in each of the three cities in our county. This year's spring forums were very popular drawing standing room only crowds to hear the 15 candidates. The League will hold three more candidate forums in October one week in advance of ballots being mailed for the November presidential election. The League only invites candidates in contested races and in November they will all be contested. September 27 is voter registration day nationwide and the Curry County League will participate by signing up new voters at several locations in the county.

Outgoing president Lucie La Bonté gave her farewell address at the meeting and talked about the successful candidate forums, the hard rock mining study and the homeless forums which drew large groups in all three cities and which are only the beginning of the League's efforts on behalf of the homeless. La Bonte served for two years as president and is tireless in her participation in public events.

Norman Turrill was the invited guest speaker. He is the President of the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Norman has been involved with various League of Women Voter units since the 1970's as well as a member of Common Cause. He said the League is very well respected in Salem noting that some of the studies the League had done are used by the legislature. He talked about the League holding mock elections in schools as civics education for students. He encourages Curry LWV members to be visible in their communities. He said the biggest challenge for the League was getting people hooked on advocacy as well as voter service. The League encourages members to serve as observers at local, county and state governmental meetings and take notes so our elected officials will be more aware that people are paying attention.

The slate of officers elected for 2016-17 include Phil Dickson - President; Alyssa Babin - Vice President, and Anne Morgan - Director. They will join Treasurer Connie Hunter, and Directors Evan Kramer and Lisa Harrison on the new Board beginning July 1.

## Moving to a 501 C-3

At the Annual Meeting members voted in a 2/3 vote to suspend rules so that we could amend our bylaws to become a 501 C-3. Member Marta West had been following the process since LWVOR made the change last year. Paperwork was received after our normal bylaws change notification period but with a quorum of members and help from LWVOR President Norman Turrill the LWVCC was able to move forward with this process.

What does this mean for LWVCC? Once the process is completed with the IRS it means that donations and dues contributed to the LWVCC will be tax deductible. If you have questions feel free to contact a Board member for more information.



## President's Notes by Lucie La Bonté



Dear Members and Friends;

Thank you again for all of the support and a great send off! Since I wrote my farewells in the May edition it is with great pleasure that I do something a bit different and have a letter from our President Elect in the June edition. His term begins July 1 and I know you will enjoy Philip and give him your loyal support. As continuing editor of CoastLines you will hear from me again. Have a wonderful summer!

Lucie La Bonté  
President

## President - Elect Notes by Philip Dickson



Greetings Fellow League Members;

I would like to thank each of you for your, membership, continued support, and efforts to make our local dynamic group the best we can be. I am honored to have been selected President for the upcoming year but do feel that my predecessor will be very hard to follow. I want to thank Lucie for her steadfast loyalty to the LWV and for the efforts and vision she displayed these past years. She has been instrumental in helping us get to where we are today. Please make sure to thank her the next time you see her. I also want to thank my fellow board members who are serving this upcoming year. I look forward to working closely with them on a variety of issues that you, the members convey to us. I would like to ask you to take some time and give feedback on what you feel are important issues facing the Curry LWV. Please feel free to offer ideas, plans, or thoughts on how we can make our local league better.

My preliminary goals going into this year are to increase membership. We have just under 50 members currently and I would love to see this number grow in the next year. I see no reason that our county should not have at least double our current number of members. I hope you give this idea some thought and take the time to personally invite your friends and neighbors to join us. I will admit, I was asked over 3 times to join before I ever made the final decision to do so. Some may feel that may be viewed as being pressured but I will admit at no time was I offended by the invitations. In fact it was the perseverance of the members that caused me to finally give the matter serious thought. Once I made up my mind that this was an organization I would be proud to be associated with, it was then I was open to joining. The person asking me to join again brought it up the next time we saw each other out. I replied that I had decided to join and right then and there I was asked for my dues in order to seal the deal. I look back at that now and smile knowing that if that member had not put as much effort into recruiting me, I would have probably not have ever joined. I am not encouraging you to badger your friends and neighbors but I hope to encourage not to accept indifference as a solid "NO". Keep after people, bring up membership often, and if you catch someone while the iron is hot so to speak, even offer to take their membership dues from them right then and there. We can fill out the application soon after. I know from personal experience that this tactic works.

I will be attending the annual conference next month in WA as a delegate for our local league. I hope to learn from seasoned veterans on how to grow our local league make it as strong as it possibly can be.

Have a great June!

Philip Dickson  
President - Elect



## The League of Women Voters of Curry County

### Officers & Directors 2015-2016

Lucie La Bonté, President  
Alyssa Babin, Vice President  
Charlie Alexander, Secretary  
Connie Hunter, Treasurer  
Lisa Harrison, Director #2  
Evan Kramer, Director #3

## CoastLines

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## Senator Wyden Holds Curry County Town Hall

Senator Wyden held a town hall meeting in Curry County Saturday of Memorial Day Week-end. It was well attended by Veterans and some league members. Several League issues were brought up during the meeting.

Citizens concerned about river protection in Curry County and possible impacts of proposed hard rock mining in our watersheds were in attendance. Questions were asked about the status of the expansion of the Oregon Salmon Protection Act and what could be done to assist in these efforts. Wyden's response was the need to enhance grassroots efforts. "Create as many options as possible. Recreation and tourism are a big economic multiplier. This is the Oregon outdoor advantage." He is currently working on red tape affecting the tourism industry – improvement in write offs for restaurants for equipment. He says it is important to diversify economy. The craft brew sector is dealing with rules from prohibition days. From growing to processing to restaurants. Wyden believes that all economics tie together.

Concerns were raised about threats to rivers from foreign companies proposing mining. Wyden says he is working for a permanent ban against mineral withdrawal. He held a special meeting regarding the issue in Curry County. People were heard from after meeting. Wyden believes that there is need for grassroots to mobilize, weigh in and let views be heard. His example was how attacks on Internet by US Chamber of Commerce and others got overturned. 11 million people contacted Congress. "Grassroots power can beat special interests. This is what our founding fathers had in mind." Wyden said.

Another topic of concern was about the Choice Program for Veterans. Veterans claimed it is not working. Wyden agreed and is looking into how to fix the program.

Gold Beach Councilwoman Tami Kaufman raised the marijuana banking problem. Wyden said it is an odd situation with the federal government unraveling states decisions. Wyden introduced a bill to fix this problem. He said the US Post Office won't deliver mail with information regarding marijuana. Citizens in states voted for legalization and he believes it should not be overridden by federal laws. He also wants to make Vote by Mail national to increase voting opportunities.

## Past Presidents and Members Receive Thanks



3 League of Women Voters of Curry County Past Presidents attended the LWVCC Annual Meeting (not including President Lucie La Bonte who served in the 1990s). Past Presidents Milt and Shirley Nelson traveled down from their new home in Florence to attend. Both are now M.A.L (Members at Large) because there is no unit in Florence at the present time. Past President Linda Stagg Brown who is still a member also attended. Linda is part time in Curry County and part time in Coos County where she teaches at Southwestern Community College. Each received flowers.

Outgoing President La Bonte also presented the following members with certificates of appreciation for their league work over the past year: Kitt Carsten - Public Officials Directory, Al Wilson - Webmaster, Kathi Lindsay - 2016 Budget Chair, Georgia Nowlin - Brookings Forum Moderator, Linda Elfman - Nominating Committee Scribe, Charlene Enoch - Nominating Committee Chair and Gold Beach Unit Leader, Marta West - Treasurer, Fundraising, LWVOR Membership Leadership Development, Non-Profit Status Tracking, Lisa Harrison - Board, Port Orford Unit Chair, National Consensus, fundraising, Evan Kramer - Board, Publicity Chair, Nominating Committee, Connie Hunter - Treasurer, Homeless Forums, Charlie Alexander - Secretary and Voters Service Chair, Alyssa Babin - Vice President, forum moderator, natural resources issues, fundraising.

## New Board Member - Anne Morgan



Anne Morgan moved to Gold Beach last fall after spending 30 years in Coos County working as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse-Midwife. Newly retired, she is pleased to have time to spend in local volunteer activities. She is a new member of the League of Women Voters, the Friends of the Library and Friends That Care (the give-away group).

Anne grew up in a small town in Eastern Washington in a family that valued reading, education and conversation. Along with discussions about school activities, their dinner-table conversation often centered on current events. The Huntley-Brinkley Evening News or The News with Walter Cronkite were watched most evenings creating many opportunities for lively discussions. Anne's father was a newsman for one of the town's daily papers. He abhorred "yellow journalism" and "sensationalism" and instilled in his children the importance of knowing and reporting the facts. She sees the League's approach to studies and projects as consistent with the investigative values that she learned as a child.

Anne has four grown children, all of whom are married and living interesting lives. As often happens when raising a family in a small town, her children left the area to attend college and graduate school and three of them have settled into careers and family far away - Massachusetts, Ireland and Tanzania. She is fortunate that one son returned to Coos County with his family - including two wonderful grandchildren. Her passions include hiking, birding, wild-flower identification and dance. Her quirky hobby is antique sewing button collecting.

Her "brush with history" - sitting with her father in the press core section while listening to John F. Kennedy deliver a speech at Hanford in September of 1963. Following the speech she followed the dignitaries through the line for an official hand-shake with our 35th president.

## Treasurer Connie Hunter



Connie is one of ten board members working to found a new community-based nonprofit radio station, KCIW (Curry Coast Community Radio). She is the producer/host of the local government/hot topics Community Conversations radio show. Connie has an office called Community Builders which provides meeting, office space and supplies for nonprofits. Her background is of a professional Director of Development (DD). She currently serves as the DD for a nonprofit started when her nephew, Sgt. John "Kyle" Daggett was killed in Iraq in 2008. She is an active associate member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and other veterans' groups and well-known for her veterans' advocacy in Oregon. Her previous employment includes working for the largest community-based mental health center in Arizona, working at the national-international headquarters of Circle K Corporation, Assistant Director of Development for the largest attended arts organization in Arizona, writing and securing the nonprofit status that created the downtown center/marketing destination for Scottsdale as the Executive Director of Marketing, and as the west coast marketing and national product management for a record label which was purchased by Virgin.

Connie is the proud mother of son, Jason, who passed away at age 16 from complications related disease, after they had done a kidney transplant. Jason's legacy is shown in Connie's work in the area of social activism and her creative writing. As a published poet and writer, Connie's writing was influenced by Academy Award winning movie producer, Elmo Williams, who helped her with her first screenplay. Connie continues to advocate for mental health as a member of Curry Community Health's Mental Health Advisory Board; is a staunch supporter of arts and culture as therapy and engines of community/economic development; and provides grief support for newly bereaved parents, when asked to do so. Her work with college students includes co-coaching the Mendocino Eagles women's softball team with her college instructor/coach/Athletic Director husband, Skip Hunter.

She currently chairs the LWVCC Homeless Resources Committee and is very involved in the effort to eliminate homelessness in Curry County and for our U.S. Military Veterans, nationally. Other projects of note include: working with Dr. Mikel Harry on veterans' projects, doing the kick-off fundraising for a permanent WWII memorial in Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol in Phoenix (which includes the two center cannons of the U.S.S. Arizona and the U.S.S. Missouri), and fundraising for research to find a cure for paralysis/spinal cord injuries.



## League of Women Voters of Curry County Calendar 2016

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
June	3-5 16-19	LWVOR Council LWVUS Convention	Vancouver Hilton Hotel, WA Washington, D.C.	
August	13	Board Retreat	Lisa Harrison's House Port Orford	10AM to finish

Have a great summer!!!

### ***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* - - *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 \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to work on \_\_\_\_\_



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