



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

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www.lwvcurry.org

June 2017

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

**DUES ARE
DUE!**

**Your Annual
Membership
dues are due
July 1.
See form on
back page.
Thank you for
your support!**

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National Popular Vote

"Throughout its nearly 100-year history the League of Women Voters has been guided by core principles, and one of its most cherished is the belief that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote. Today we continue that fight, to ensure that every vote matters when electing a US President, the highest office in the land. We strongly support HB 2927, which would allow Oregon to join the National Popular Vote (NPV) Interstate Compact, an agreement among the states to guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most votes in all 50 states and D.C.

NPV has already been enacted into law in 10 states and D.C., representing 165 electoral votes, and will become effective when the total electoral votes of the compacting states reach 270, the minimum required to win the presidency. Because the compact does not abolish the Electoral College, a Constitutional Amendment is not needed. Electors in participating states remain in place, but all electoral votes must go to the winner of the nationwide vote. NPV can withstand legal challenges, because the Constitution clearly stipulates that each state has the right to choose its method of selecting presidential electors. Unlike the current system, no state or region is favored, since all votes (and all voters) count the same.

League support for NPV is not a recent decision. In fact, we have been deeply concerned about the flaws in our current presidential electoral process for over 45 years. The Electoral College itself is a vestige of a time when uneducated and widely scattered citizens were not trusted to select the President directly, so a compromise was crafted to assign electors the role of intermediaries in the election process. As time went on, slave states were eager to maintain a system that allowed them to include slaves in their population counts, using the two-fifths rule. The Electoral College persists until the present day, not because it is a superior system, but because it suits entrenched partisan interests to maintain an unequal distribution of power. It serves no purpose in a modern democratic society.

In 1970, after a national League study of the presidential electoral process, members concurred that the Electoral College in its current form is an impediment to a representative government and should be abolished. We lobbied hard each congressional session in support of legislation that would amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President. Yet, despite overwhelming public support, year after year the legislation failed to pass, and it became clear a new strategy was needed. "

From LWVOR Testimony signed by President Norman Turrill and Marge Easley

ACTION ALERT:

Contact Senator Kruse

**If you have not yet contacted your
senator in support of this bill,
please do so as soon as possible,
and make sure you ask that the bill
not be amended to include a
legislative referral clause.**

Greetings!



Alyssa Babin
President

It's been a short and eventful term as President. I wish good luck to the upcoming board. My work will continue on the state level with the Hard Rock Mining Study.



Let's work together to build membership, increase visibility by active participation in government and have fun doing it. Thank you to the outgoing board for all of their work. I know the new board will do you proud!

Lucie La Bonté - President Elect

Onward and Upward!

Thank you for electing me to be your next President. I look forward to an active year ahead working on important issues that affect us all!

REMINDERS

July 1 - DUES ARE DUE (See Membership Form on back)

August 17 10AM - New Board Meets for Retreat including Board Meeting

**September - Unit Meetings TBA in August CoastLines,
Possible other events TBA**

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!

Incoming... 2017-18 Board Changes on Nominating Committee

Board 2017-2018

President	Lucie La Bonté	2018
Secretary	Mary Jane La Belle	2019
Treasurer	Hassie Taylor	2018
Director #1	Anne Morgan	2018
Director #2	Karol Simas	2019
Director #3	Charlie Alexander	2018

Nominating Committee

Renée Kolen (Chair)	2018
Charlene Enoch	2018
Evan Kramer	2018

ALERT:

**FINAL READING FOR
COUNTY**

**ADMINISTRATOR POSITION
WEDNESDAY JUNE 7, 10AM
COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX**

**IF PASSED, THIS WILL IMPACT
COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND OUR
FORM OF GOVERNMENT.**

**PLEASE ATTEND. YOUR
OPINION COUNTS.**



The League of Women Voters of Curry County

Officers & Directors 2016-2017

Alyssa Babin, President
Evan Kramer, Secretary

Anne Morgan, Director #1
Charlene Enoch, Director
Charlie Alexander, Director
Phil Dickson, Director

CoastLines

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Web site: lwvcurry.org
Friend us on Facebook!
Election Info: vote411.org

Observer Corps - The Eyes and Ears of the League

The League of Women Voters of Curry County has a proud tradition of observing government entities in Curry County. Past Observers to the County Commission, County and City Planning Commissions, 3 City Councils, and Ports have been well respected by local elected officials. Often as a result of their work we are asked to have a position on various boards and committees to assist governments in making informed decisions. We have a new County Commission Observer, Karol Simas (see below) and are seeking members who would be interested in observing other government bodies. Interested? Contact Lucie: labontelucie2@gmail.com Members are encouraged to take this on. We need you!

What is an observer and what do they do? Observers are the eyes and ears of the League of Women Voters at all levels of government. Observers inform the League of issues which relate to League principles, positions and program items and provide first hand information about decisions made or contemplated by government entities. The information furnished by the observer may lead to action, a decision to monitor a program or project, or provide an idea for a new League study.

Observers learn how government functions. They may become resources for the League membership as they share their knowledge through bulletin articles or special programs. Observers demonstrate continuing citizen interest in the procedures and actions of boards, commissions, councils and committees as the business of government is conducted.

County Commission Observer and New Board Member Karol Simas

Hello fellow LWV members. I look forward to learning more about the inner workings of the league as a new board member. I have always admired the league's dedication to voter participation and education. My earliest votes have been influenced by the league's reputation of exhaustive review of factual information.

A little about my background, I grew up in Oregon (Portland, Gresham, Coos Bay, Corvallis and now Gold Beach). Mostly I am an Oregon native except a few brief sojourns elsewhere, 4 years recently in Tucson and a 2 year stint with my husband Tom in El Salvador in 1977. Nothing like being 20 something in a country on the cusp of revolution. I have a Fish and Wildlife degree from OSU. My claim to fame is one of the first women hired as a salmon checker. Yes, that was me on the docks asking if I could feel your fish for a clipped adipose fin. After a few years of temporary positions I got a job teaching at an outdoor school and loved it so much I went back to get a teaching degree and a masters in science education. I retired in 2010 after a wonderful career teaching science at South Albany High School. Tom and I have 2 lovely daughters making their way in life so now with retirement time on my hands I am excited to be an active participant in this organization, so thank you for the opportunity.



Regards, Karol Simas

Annual Meeting Report - Evan Kramer

The LWVCC Annual Meeting was held May 20, 2017 at the Curry County Fairgrounds Forestry Building. A quorum was present and we had a special guest traveling from Portland, LWVOR President Norman Turrill.

The meeting began with a round table in which members discussed what they hoped for the LWVCC in the upcoming year.

At the regular business meeting, the 2017-18 Budget was presented and approved, a Voters Service Report was given (we need more workers next year), all local positions on issues were retained by consensus, there were no bylaw changes or studies to approve. It was noted that this coming January our local league positions will be reviewed. For more information on League positions go to LWV.curry.org. Norman Turrill said the League positions are on issues for advocacy. The nominating committee report was accepted with the slate of officers for 2017-18. Elected to join Director Anne Morgan on the Board are: Lucie La Bonté President, Hassie Taylor Treasurer, Mary Jane La Belle Secretary, Karol Simas Director #2 (2019), Charlie Alexander Director #3 (2018). Changes to the Nominating Committee were made confirming Rene Kolen (Chair) 2018, electing Evan Kramer (2018) and confirming Charlene Enoch (2018).

President's Report: Alyssa Babin had recently attended the State League convention where she spoke on the Hard Rock Mining issue. She is looking forward to returning to work on the study. She said one topic at the state convention was engaging more young people in the League. She then turned the meeting over to Norman Turrill who said he was pleased to be here with the grassroots of the organization. He recommended a website run by the State government called OLIS (Oregon Online Legislative Site) for keeping up with state issues in the legislature. He also said the biggest issue this year is revenue. Turrill said membership is up by 20% in the League this year. Turrill is working on the conversion of local leagues to 501©3 non-profit status.

LWVUS STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION (LWV Lane County *Argus*)

0/11/2017 *Washington, D.C.* - The League of Women Voters US President, **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to reports that President Trump will announce an election commission to investigate claims of widespread voter fraud in American elections:

President Trump's "Election Integrity Commission" is an unnecessary distraction from the real work to protect against foreign hacking and interference in our electoral process. The real purpose of this effort is to justify President Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections.

This effort begins with a deep credibility gap. Commission members' views on elections are well known and have been discredited as political ideologies with dangerous agendas. This is part of a wider effort to suppress the vote, keep certain politicians in power, and undermine our elections by spreading falsehoods.

Today's announcement is just another distraction from the real issues, and we expect that any findings or recommendations from this Commission will only be used to make it harder for people to vote in the future.

The White House is attempting to bury this Commission at a time when the nation and Congress are consumed with this administration's own Russia scandal.

The real problems with our electoral system are the suppressive laws that prevent eligible voters from access to the ballot. False claims of voter fraud have been used to push through more restrictive voting laws including voter ID, proof of citizenship requirements and limiting or reducing early voting opportunities.

This administration is laying the groundwork to usher in widespread discrimination in our system of voting and manipulate our democracy.

LWVOR CONVENTION REPORT - Lucie La Bonté

First, thank you for choosing me to be one of your 2 delegates at the LWVOR Convention. (Your other delegate was President Alyssa Babin.) It was a long trip but well worth the attendance.

The LWVOR is hard at work on so many issues: National Popular Vote, Ariel Spraying, possible cuts to Human Services (a concern due to possible no increase to revenue), Justice Reinvestment (Diverting people from prison to community programs with 40 million in grants to local communities), Woman's Health Issues, Equal Pay, Housing, Domestic Violence, stopping No Cause Evictions, Campaign Finance Reform, Redistricting to name some of the issues. We have an active Legislative Committee and as always need more volunteers.



Past LWVCC Presidents: Shirley Nelson, Lucie La Bonté, Ann Younger & Milt Nelson

Our lunch speaker, Amy Hjerstedt from the LWVUS spoke of opening the LWV up to changes without losing track of our non-partisan policy and heritage. Change is necessary as we move into the future. This was followed later with a workshop led by Amy and Debbie Kaye (Portland) and Jan Calvert (Eugene) both involved in the Membership Leadership Development Program.

The workshop on "Civil Discourse: From Confrontation to Dialogue" was equally useful. We brainstormed to come away with specific strategies that local league leaders can use to improve the level of civility within local government and our interactions with each other.



Past LWVCC President Shirley Nelson
Receiving Lifetime Membership Award

It was wonderful seeing LWVCC past Presidents in attendance. Ann Younger was the Voter's Service Chair who developed our long standing process we use for our candidate forums. Past President Shirley Nelson told me she had been a member of LWV for 50 years! Since men were not admitted to the LWV until the 1970s Milt could not join until later. He said that he would listen to what the group was saying while having the unit meetings in his house and decided he needed to join. Shirley and Milt are now Members at Large as there are no units at the present in Western Land County. They are also members of several groups in Florence where they now reside. Ann Younger is a member of the LWV Clackamas but lives in Washington County. Washington County is in the process of starting a new unit.

The Convention voted on giving the Hard Rock Mining Study another year to complete the work and do consensus. It also voted to adopt a change in the bylaws allowing the LWVOR to adopt positions based on studies from other leagues. The issue of Civil Discourse was the reason. The Convention felt that in today's political atmosphere this is critical and that the LWV Santa Barbara, CA has a completed study with good positions that we may need to use. We also voted to accept the slate of officers as presented by the LWVOR Nominating Committee including Norman Turrill as President for another term.

What I came away with from this convention was it is important to listen to each other with respect even if we may disagree with what some in our community may believe in. The LWVCC can have a role in bringing our community together while people may have different views by finding common ground.

FARE THEE WELL OLD FRIEND DOT MATTHEWS

It is with much sadness that we are saying good bye to long time member and great supporter of the League of Women Voters of Curry County, Dot Matthews.

Dot recently passed away at 100 years old. She lived in Port Orford with her son who was her caretaker in later years and spent her final days at Harmony Estates. No firm plans for services have been announced. Our sympathies go out to her son and family.