

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CURRY COUNTY

CoastLines



President's Letter

By MJ LaBelle

Happy nearly spring!

Some of the weather has been so lovely, I find myself humming. Of course, there is so much happening in the Country that we hear about in the news. First and foremost, I'm hoping you are being able to get vaccination appointments. Since I'm ancient, I've received #1, and have an appointment for #2.

On the **LWVOR** Legislative report, you may have noticed that the "Action Team" reports that our Republican State Senators staged a "walk out" or "denial of quorum" to protest Governor Brown's not opening schools. Additionally, our State Senator, Dallas Heard, is now the Chairman of the Oregon Republican Party.



Be safe out there!

Carla Hanson is Chairperson of the Oregon Democratic Party. Additionally, the House and Senate redistricting committees met concurrently last week. Another hearing will be held 3/2/21 to hear testimony about the redistricting process.

On March 5, 2021, Norman Turrill and a few others will be speaking with Representative Brock-Smith about LC 2276, the bill on campaign finance reform. I will report on the meeting next month.

Please see the notice about the first call to convention in this edition and consider participating as an observer. It is really eye opening to see everything going on at the state level.

Also, please join the Zoom Unit Meeting on March 18. Norman Turrill, Governance Coordinator for LWVOR, will be speaking on Governance. Zoom invitations will be sent out on March 15.

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By Louise Abbott

- 🇺🇸 Report on LWVCC all unit member February Zoom Meeting
- 🇺🇸 February 18, 2021, from 5 to 6 pm
- 🇺🇸 Mary Jane LaBelle hosted the meeting, and Louise Abbott moderated
- 🇺🇸 Thanks to Colleen and Mary Jane for sending out the notices



The topic of the February meeting was Climate Change, what is happening locally as well as globally. Our speaker was Dr. Bill Gorham, a marine biologist who spent 30 years as an environmental consultant, primarily on large energy projects.

Since he retired in 2017, Dr. Gorham has focused on educating people about the causes and effects of climate change, with special emphasis on limiting adverse effects. Dr. Gorham is a certified Climate Reality Leader, a designation given to trained individuals through Al Gore's non-profit organization, The Climate Reality Project. Dr. Gorham also is a leader in Coastal SOCAN, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

Dr. Gorham's presentation was fascinating, informative, encouraging, and challenging. You can find a recording of his presentation on the LWVCC website. At the end of his presentation, Dr. Gorham answered questions from the attendees.

I will provide a short summary of his presentation here. One of the bottom lines from Dr Gorham's presentation is that it is TOO EXPENSIVE for the United States and the world to NOT address Climate Change and mitigate its vast and far-reaching adverse effects.

152 million tons of pollutants are being admitted into the world's atmosphere every 24 HOURS. Greenhouse gasses are a massive problem, with carbon dioxide, methane nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gasses as the major players.

As an example of a local adverse effect, the oceans are becoming more acidic, which is devastating to Dungeness crab larvae. The larvae are dying in increasing numbers, which negatively affects our local crabbing industry.

We all have experienced the effects of climate change, from increased numbers and intensities of forest fires, changing rain patterns, and increased numbers and intensities of winter and summer storms.

What can we do about climate change?



Dr. Gorham discussed alternatives to the use of fossil fuels and progress that is taking place in alternative energy sources.

Dr. Gorham also advocates 3 things for people to do:

1. People can act in their own lives to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and, thus, their global warming footprint. These actions include turning down thermostats, buying locally produced foods and goods, carpooling, or even buying an electric vehicle.
2. It is critical to support legislators and legislative programs that meaningfully and equitably address climate change.
3. Finally, we need to share information, actions, successes and failures, and ideas. This third action is essential to build a community that can limit the effects of and deal with the unavoidable results of climate change. Another benefit of community building is a sense of contributing to the solution of a problem of our own (humanity's) making, which can counter feelings of being overwhelmed.



Please take time to
watch Dr. Gorham's
excellent presentation

April 2021 All-Units Meeting
April 15, 2021
5pm to 6pm
On ZOOM
More to follow.

We are happy to report that we have
received \$655.21 total donation
toward Lucie La Bonte's \$1,005.21
challenge.

**Thank you for your
contributions!**

Lucie's Challenge

**Dr. Gorham gave a wonderful presentation to our Unit meeting on
February 19 via ZOOM**



Below are some of his thoughts after his presentation:

- One thing that I thought more about after the talk was Ann's question about the 3 things, I would advocate for people to do.
- I mentioned on the personal side about people taking actions in their own lives that will reduce their greenhouse gas emissions & thus their global warming footprint. These actions could include things such as turning down thermostats, buying locally produced foods and goods, carpool, or even buying an electric vehicle.
- I included below a scan of our Coastal SOCAN card that I'd mentioned. On other end of the spectrum of actions is to support legislators and legislative programs that meaningfully & equitably address climate change.
- The third action, which I didn't fully describe, is to do exactly what you did in inviting me to talk and beginning this discussion. Sharing information, actions, successes (& yes, failures), and ideas is very important in building a community that can limit the effects of and deal with the unavoidable effects of climate change.
- Another benefit from that community building is a sense of contributing to the solution of a problem of our (humanity's) making, which can counter feelings of it being overwhelmed. Keep up the good work you're doing.

The following suggestions are on the back of his business card:

Transportation

- ✓ Combine trips
- ✓ Carpool
- ✓ Drive an energy efficient car
- ✓ Size your vehicle to your needs
- ✓ Keep your tires properly inflated
- ✓ Bike or walk to work, school, or shopping
- ✓ Minimize or offset air travel



Food

- ✓ Buy local/Pacific Northwest foods
- ✓ Shop at the farmers' market
- ✓ Grow your own food
- ✓ Trade your lawn for a garden
- ✓ Eat chicken or fish in place of beef
- ✓ Hunt/fish local game fish



Water

- ✓ Run clothes dish washers with full loads
- ✓ Let your lawn go dormant in the summer
- ✓ Use low flow shower heads
- ✓ Take 3–5-minute showers
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets & toilets



Energy

- ✓ Turn off unused lights
- ✓ Use LEDs
- ✓ Turn down the heat & put on sweaters
- ✓ Use fans
- ✓ Put TV's, sound systems, computers on power strips & shut off when not using
- ✓ Insulate walls & attics
- ✓ Seal around doors & windows
- ✓ Dry clothes outside
- ✓ Get energy and bottles & cans



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- ✓ Use your own grocery bags
- ✓ Avoid single use bottles
- ✓ Recycle bottles & cans
- ✓ Buy recycled & secondhand clothes & materials
- ✓ Repurpose old materials
- ✓ Compost organic food waste
- ✓ Buy only what you need
- ✓ Cancel junk mail & catalogs
- ✓ Minimize plastics especially single use plastics




FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION 2021

“Reset”

“Reboot”

“Reconnect”

- CONVENTION:** Is the biennial State Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Oregon, which is held on alternate years to the State Council. First Call is issued so that local Leagues can begin to plan and discuss matters that will be presented at the convention.
- TIME & PLACE:** The 2021 State Convention will be held Monday-Sunday, May 10-16, 2021, via Zoom. This year, as a virtual convention, events will be scheduled over the whole week, and with only 2-4 hours of events each day. Caucuses will be early in the week, May 10, 11, 12.
- HOSTS:** 
- PURPOSE:** The convention shall consider changes to the Bylaws; shall consider and authorize for action a program; shall elect the president, first vice-president, secretary, three directors (two-year terms), and a chair and two members of the nominating committee; shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year; and shall transact such other business as may be presented.
- DELEGATES:** The convention shall consist of the Board of Directors of the LWVOR and delegates chosen by members through the local Leagues. Each local League shall be entitled to two delegates for the first 40 members or fewer. If possible, one delegate should be the President. An additional delegate is allowed for every 20 additional members or major fraction (10 or more) thereof belonging to the local League as of January 31, 2021. Each approved State Unit of members-at-large (MALs) shall be entitled to one delegate. For those MAL's not in an approved unit, MAL representation at convention shall be one delegate for every 20 MALs or major fraction (10 or more) thereof. If there are fewer than 10 MALs, the interest of the MALs shall be represented by the LWVOR Membership Chair.
- OBSERVERS:** Any member of the LWVOR (in a local League, a State Unit, or as a general MAL) may attend as an observer. Observers may not vote, but may, upon recognition of the Chair, have the privilege of the floor. All League members are urged to exercise this privilege, and members are encouraged to register as observers.
- BASIC COSTS:** Registration will not be charged for this virtual event.





Here is a summary of the latest LWVCC board meeting, held February 8, 2021

The following formal board actions were taken:

- ✓ Approval of financial statements: The Board approved the financial reports for January 2021 as submitted by Treasurer Colleen Bunn.
- ✓ Approval of prior meeting minutes: The Board approved the January 2021 meeting minutes as submitted by Secretary Alyce Prudden.
- ✓ Approval of policy: The Board approved the Voter Service Protocols, as submitted by co-chairs Mary Jane LaBelle and Charline Alexander.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

- ✓ Anne Morgan joined the virtual meeting as a guest. As LWVUS Roster Manager for LWVCC. Anne provided a very instructive informational session on the process of roster management with national. Colleen Bunn expressed an interest in being trained for that position.
- ✓ The Board decided to defer LWVCC's Recycling Study update to next year.
- ✓ A plan was approved for quarterly contact with each member of LWVCC by a board member.
- ✓ The LWVCC Directory of Elected Public Officials has been updated and printed. Paper copies will be distributed to city and county government offices, libraries, high schools, and senior centers. A digital version will be placed on the LWVCC website and the county website.
- ✓ The Board discussed the recent positive follow-up with members who submitted survey responses.
- ✓ The Board confirmed its decision to continue holding county-wide unit meetings every third Thursday, via Zoom, until it's safe to meet in person.
- ✓ The Board undertook its monthly *CoastLines* review, including an assessment of February's issue and plans for March's issue.

Welcome

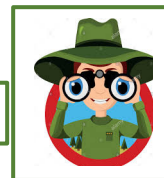


We are very, very happy to welcome our newest member to the VST: **Dennis Triglia from Brookings**. He is a great addition to our team and Charlie and MJ look forward to working with Dennis this year.

Happy March to all!

- The Voter Services Team (VST) is getting ready for the May 18 special district elections. Depending on who is running for which seats, we will be putting together virtual Zoom candidate forum(s) on April 19th and/or 20th, 2021—only if there are contested races.
- You will be able to access the Forums on our website—as in October 2020, they will not be live. The filing deadline is March 18, 2021, so we will know on March 19th who will be running, and we will let you all know via both April's *CoastLines* and press releases.

Keep your eyes on the lookout!





Membership News

By Alyce Prudden, Membership Chair




Can it really be March already? At least the promise of Spring is ahead, and so is the hope for controlling the pandemic. But for now, of course, we remain tethered to the virtual world in order to connect with each other. Even within that constraint, the **LWVCC** remains committed both to engaging our marvelous members and to reaching out to the wider community.



Member Engagement

-  Late last year, we mailed surveys to LWVCC members. The feedback has been impressive. And of course, we welcome your input as a league member, by whatever means you choose.
-  More recently, the board approved a plan for informal, periodic, personal contact with all members, just to stay in touch.




Unit Meetings

-  Due to the pandemic, we've switched from in-person unit meetings to all-member Zoom meetings. The meetings are scheduled for the Third Thursday of the month, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This month's meeting will feature LWVOR Governance Chair Norman Turrill who will speak on "Current Governance Issues". We hope you will attend.

Outreach

-  LWVCC is looking to broaden its outreach to include high school students. We've contacted all three local high schools, hoping to connect with students through their teachers, with a focus on civics, history, and government classes.
-  Interested students – and their teachers – will be invited to join our monthly member meetings. We're looking forward to their participation. As the program grows, we will explore other ideas for outreach to our future voters.

Membership Rosters

-  By joining LWVCC, you're entitled to membership in the state and national leagues, too. Though entitlement is automatic, enrollment is required. So how does that happen?
-  Enter Anne Morgan. Anne, a long-time LWVCC member, serves on the Membership Committee as LWVUS Roster Manager for LWVCC.
-  In February, Anne walked the board through the enrollment process. As she explained, only one person per local league has authority to update the password-protected roster. The process of navigating the website and entering or editing data can be complicated. Even so, Anne has it well in hand and was able to make the process more understandable. For that, and for all of Anne's service to LWVCC, we remain so grateful!



All Units Meeting on **Zoom**

March 18, 2021 - 5pm to 6 pm

Please join us!

Norman Turrill, Governance Chair,

****LWVOR**, will be speaking on**

Current Governance Issues

Invitations will be sent out March 15.

Watch your emails!



Constitution Workshop

By Colleen Bunn



March 2021 Volume 37 Issue 6

A few notes from the LWV Umpqua Zoom Meeting: U.S. Constitution Workshop Held on Feb. 4, 2021

Presenter: Donna L Cohen, MLIS, MEd, Portland, Oregon, 503-737-1425, dcohen@hevanet.com.

Civics for Adults – & Others – Workshops: To Enhance Civic Knowledge and Inspire Political Engagement

Webpage: www.civictinker.info

I thoroughly enjoyed this Zoom workshop and felt there was a lot of good information in it. Following are a few ideas that I found interesting.

It was suggested that the founders of the Constitution were fearful of concentrated wealth and thought that an equality of property would be the one thing that would ensure social stability and preserve the democracy. The country would need to create laws that would help to lift the poorest people up and keep to mediocrity those in the wealthiest realms.¹

Compared to the richest person at the time, whose wealth when they died was \$5 million in today's dollars, the richest now have "\$100,000,000 which is 20,000 times greater in today's dollars". This information was suggesting there was no way the founders could even have imagined the wealth that is in existence today.

The presenter talked about "Exceptions to First Amendment Freedom of Speech *Incitements *Fighting words *Expression that constitutes criminal or severe harassment *Defamation *Obscenity

* Commercial speech or advertising that is false or misleading " (I found this very interesting and tried to go to the cited link to learn more, but the link didn't work. Instead, I found the following link which gave some background on each of the above exceptions. It seems some of these are hard to define and as such hard to police. https://home.ubalt.edu/shapiro/rights_course/Chapter4text.htm

The talk then turned to representation as it was then and how it has changed. "In 1789 there were 26 Senators, and a member represented about 50,000 people.

Today a Senator represents, on average, 3 million people." A Representative spoke for about 35,000 people then; now, on average, they represent about 750,000.

More graphs were displayed that showed the size of representative body ratio correlates with economic inequality. Some ideas for changing the representation laws were suggested to better represent the people in our country. It was suggested that the Founders realized some of these challenges and knew future generations would need to adapt institutions and laws to be able to mitigate these problems.

Donna ended the discussion with this quote that suggested the means to solving today's crisis is not with the tools of our ancestors. This is found on panel four at the Jefferson Memorial.

*"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."*²

¹ The Founders knew that economic inequality would destroy America's democracy. So why can't the Constitution save us? - Sitaraman

https://newrepublic.com/article/141644/divided-fall-trump-symptom-constitutional-crisis-inequality?fbclid=IwAR3CyvJJ97YO61QrLwAFjwCKa3xzYtXwCY0iUxEyODp_PqLmQcKxa4stTB4

² <https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/quotations-jefferson-memorial>



2021 Calendar

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
March	15 18	LWVCC Board Meeting All Units Meeting (Redistricting: Norman Turrill, LWVOR Governance Chairperson)	ZOOM ZOOM	12 noon 5-6 pm
April	12 15 19-20	LWVCC Board Meeting All-Units Meeting (Legislative Update) Candidate Forum Recording	TBA ZOOM ZOOM/Tentative	12 noon 5-6pm TBA
May	17 20	LWVCC Board Meeting All Units Meeting (Book Club: "On Tyranny")	TBA ZOOM	12 noon 5-6pm
June	5	LWVCC Annual Meeting New/Old Board Meeting	TBA ZOOM	9:30 am – 1pm



LWVCC wants to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to our programs.

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Brookings:

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Port Orford:

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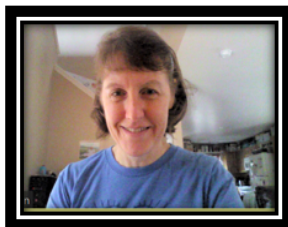
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541-332-3861

Mary Jane LaBelle



Colleen Bunn



Charlie Alexander



Alyce Prudden

The League of Women Voters of Curry County

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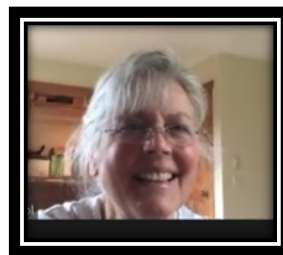
Website Information: lwvcurry.org
Election Information: vote411.org

2020-2021 Board Officers & Directors

★ President	MaryJane LaBelle
★ Vice President	(open)
★ Secretary	Alyce Prudden
★ Treasurer	Colleen Bunn
★ Board Directors	Charlie Alexander
	Louise Abbott
	Karol Simas



Louise Abbott



Karol Simas

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 1859, 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).