



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Volume 35 Issue 6

www.lwvcurry.org

March 2019

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Pages 7, 8**

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March Proclaimed "Revive Civility Month"

The League requested elected officials start off the year by promoting civil discourse. The Curry County Commissioners and all three City Councils (Brookings, Gold Beach and Port Orford) have declared March, "Revive Civility Month" in their jurisdictions.

The LWV of Oregon adopted the following position on Civil Discourse:

"Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication."

Our League is proud that our elected officials adopted these proclamations.
(More on page...)

March 17 Fundraiser, Dancers & Fiddle Music

Mark your calendar and prepare for a fun fundraiser on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 1PM** - Docia Sweet Hall at the Event Center.

The Rogue River Dancers have been kicking up their heels under the direction of Anne T. Hall in preparation. Musician Cliff Stansell will be playing wonderful Celtic music for our event. Luke Martinez will also be adding to the music and fun. Limericks? fairies? or maybe you will find a Pot of Gold at the Silent Auction that Ria Smith is organizing. An Irish meal of Corn beef and cabbage is being planned by Curry Fair Friends. (Ticket info page...)

March Units - Consensus on Hard Rock Mining

Members should have received hard copies of the "*Hard Rock Mining Study*" in the mail. (some are on the way). Only members can take part in consensus and it is important to come prepared by reading the study before the meeting. Meeting dates and times are in the *Calendar page 6*.

The Curry League proposed this study that was adopted at the LWVOR 2015 Convention. Thank you to all members who worked on this statewide study.



**The League of
Women Voters of
Curry County**

CoastLines

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends;



February flew by. Our league was so busy. The Curry Board took a position to support the County Transient Lodging Tax. I read a letter to the County Commission (page 4). We also requested all 3 cities and the County Commissioners proclaim March "Revive Civility Month" which they have officially done. Thank you, MJ La Belle, for attending the Port Orford Council meeting, Anne T. Hall for attending the Gold Beach Council Meeting, and City of Brookings Observer Debra Worth for accepting the Brookings proclamation.

Meanwhile, Anne T. Hall, members and friends have been rehearsing the dance numbers for our upcoming St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser. This is our one fundraiser for the year. Members have been sent tickets to sell, the Silent Auction Committee has been hard at work and Treasurer Karol Simas is tracking tickets. This will be lots of fun.

February Unit Meetings were really interesting with discussions on gun control, reduction or possible ban on plastic bags and our local league positions.

Also coming up in March will be consensus of the LWVOR "Hard Rock Mining Study". If you are a member you should have received a copy (or your copy is on the way). All three units will be taking part in this very important consensus. Please check the calendar for all the times and places.

Have a wonderful March!

Lucie La Bonte, President

February Unit Meetings

At the February Unit meetings South and Central County units decided to discuss hot topics. The North County Unit continued reviewing local league positions.

South County Discusses Gun Control

Board Member Judy Kaplan opened the February 21, South County Unit Meeting. She reported the following:

"The focus was on the Curry County Ordinance # 16-05 Second Amendment Preservation enacted Nov. 1, 2016. There was agreement that it would not be held up in court since the County government would not enforce laws, rules, regulations, etc. that 'infringe' on the County's definition of the right of people to keep and bear arms."

Recently there was a citizen request for an additional County Ordinance on gun control that Commissioners decided not to take up. They were being asked to override state and federal laws which legally they cannot do. If they try, they could lose state and federal funding. The requested new ordinance would also take authority away from the Sheriff.

Central County Discusses Plastic Bag Ban Proposal

Amy Timeus has been working on a proposal to ban plastic bag use in Gold Beach since March of 2015. The proposal has been evolving and still is. In its present state the bigger retail stores (McKays and Rays) would be effected. The City is checking with legal council to find out whether all retail stores would have to be included or can it be limited to the bigger stores. Timeus maintains that this is not a "tax" but a "fee". If you check the definitions of "fee" verses "tax" she is correct.

The City did a survey of the original proposal. "The proposal would replace plastic bags with paper and institute a \$0.10 cent per bag tax with \$0.07 cents to go to the local school district. \$0.03 would be retained by the retailer for administration of the tax and for additional cost associated with the paper bags."

"Question #1: Would you like to see plastic bags banned and replaced by paper bags in Gold Beach? 61 - Yes, 64 - No, 19 - Maybe it depends on the particulars."

"Question #2: - Would you support a \$0.10 per bag fee with \$0.07 cents to go to a fund for the local schools? 56 - Yes, 76 - No, 13 - Maybe it depends on the particulars."

One suggestion Timeus is floating is to put some of the funds into an underground utility project the City is looking at funding streams for.

The League of Women Voters of Curry County is following this proposal as it evolves. We have a strong local league position on recycling. Plastic bags have been banned in other jurisdictions and there are a couple of bills floating through the legislature on bans of bags and plastic straws. We are looking for a member to follow the legislation to be sure that local bans already enacted take precedence regarding where funding would go. If any member is interested in tracking this legislation email Lucie so she can connect you with our LWVOR Action Committee.

LWV Curry County Board Takes Position on Transient Lodging Tax

The LWV Curry Board took a position to support the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) at our February Board meeting. On February 20, I read the following statement to the Curry County Commissioners. We heard a concern from a citizen who thought the commissioners might change the formula. The Commissioners supported a citizen committee proposal that the state mandated split 70% for tourism and tourism related facilities be split again. 50% of the 70% go to the County's Event Center on the Beach, and 50% of the 70% go to fund tourism related projects throughout the county. The remaining 30% under state law can go to County services and it was recommended that it go to the Sheriff to help with the impact of tourists on sheriff resources. Two commissioners agreed not to change the formula, one said he would likely not change the formula.

Commissioners;

February 20, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Curry County has taken a position in support of the County's Transient Lodging Tax Ballot Measure based on the following positions:

The League of Women Voters of Curry County supports that alternative sources of funding should be explored for County government. The League of Women Voters supports a tax system that recognizes the individual's responsibility for government services by providing a broad sharing of the tax burden.

We do recognize that tourists put a certain burden on county government services and facilities and therefore, should share in the tax burden to provide these services.

The League has heard concerns that the commissioners might not abide by the distribution of the funding provided by the tax as outlined in the ballot measure. Certain percentages are in line with state statutes and cannot be changed. However, we would like the sitting Board of Commissioners to commit to not changing the distribution that is voted on to assure trust in the County Commission on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lucie La Bonté
President

Fundraiser Tickets

Members were each sent two tickets to buy or sell for our fundraiser, March 17 at 1 PM at the Event Center. Please mail your check in the return envelope to: PO Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444 by March 8. Treasurer Karol Simas is tracking the tickets. Additional tickets are also available at Wrights in Brookings, the Gold Beach Bookstore and Wild Rivers Land Trust in Port Orford.



March Proclaimed "Revive Civility Month"

Photo to right: Mayor Jake Pieper presenting Brookings proclamation to Observer Debra Worth. Below Curry County proclamation.



Curry County, Oregon

WHEREAS, civil discourse is the free and respectful exchange of different ideas in a way that respects and affirm all persons, while hearing their perspectives; and

WHEREAS, heated rhetoric and a dramatic shift away from collaboration leaves us unable to solve the challenges confronting our community; and

WHEREAS, civility reduces rudeness, ridicule, and lack of respect for the open exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, civility improves our well-being, restores trust, and encourages Americans to participate in building a brighter future for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, civility assists in the process of working together to create lasting solutions to our most pressing challenges, while fostering respect among opposing groups; and

WHEREAS, community members should feel comfortable and respected while exploring worldviews outside their own; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of civility and how it improves personal relationships leading to greater civil discourse, in recognition of the University of Arizona's National Institute for Civil Discourse's initiative, would like to invite all members of our community to exercise civility and respect toward each other and participate in reviving civility together.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Curry County Board of Commissioners for the Great State of Oregon, do hereby proclaim March, 2019, to be REVIVE CIVILITY MONTH in this community and encourage all residents to practice civility by listening respectfully to people who have different views, avoiding language that is insulting or derogatory to others and supporting efforts to work together across ideological and political lines.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Commissioners have hereunto set their hand and caused the Seal of the County of Curry, Oregon to be affixed this 20th day of February, 2019.


Christopher Paasch
Board of Commissioners / Chair

Date

2/20/2019

League of Women Voters of Curry County

Calendar - 2019

Month	Day	Events	Place	Time
March	11	LWVCC Board Meeting	Karol Simas', GB	10 AM
	17	Fundraiser	Event Center	1 PM
	19	Central County Unit	Rogue Landing	Noon
	21	South County Unit	Small Chetco Library Bldg	1 PM
	28	North County Unit	Becky Flake's Home	5 PM
April	15	LWVCC Board Meeting	Tucker Nunn's, GB	10AM
	16	Central County Unit	Rogue Landing	Noon
	18	South County Unit	Small Chetco Library Bldg	1 PM
	25	North County Unit	Becky Flake's Home	5 PM
May	13	LWVCC Board Meeting	Hassie Taylor's, GB	
	17-19	LWVOR Convention	Ashland, Oregon	
June	1	Annual Meeting	TBA	10AM-
		Old Board/New Board	TBA	1PM
		Meeting		1PM



Moderator Phil Dickson with candidates in Gold Beach.



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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

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PO Box 1859, Gold Beach, OR 97444**

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You will receive periodic League publications (local, state and national).