



CoastLines

The League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

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www.lwvcurry.org

November 2011

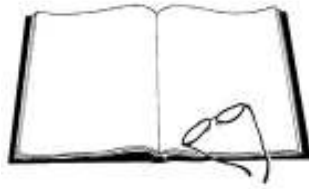
November Unit Meetings Role of the Federal Government in Education

The League of Women Voters of the United States is completing an important study on the role of the Federal government in education. This study examines all levels of education from kindergarten through college. A vital part of each League study is the achievement of consensus. Each local League – and that includes the Curry County League – is asked for its answers to questions that the study team feels will help guide the creation of League positions. We all know that the League wants to be a grass roots organization that truly reflects the views of its members. Our November Unit Meetings will be devoted to answering these “Consensus Questions.” **If you want your views included in the responses that the Curry County League submits to the study committee you must attend your Unit meeting.**

These are complex questions that will require some deliberation. For that reason the leaders of these meetings – Shirley Nelson in Port Orford and Jan Krick in Brookings – have asked that we allocate two hours for these discussions. **The Port Orford meeting will be on November 8 from 1 to 3 PM at the Flake’s house. The Brookings meeting will be at Mo Joe Café, 625 Chetco Avenue #210 from 2 to 4 PM on November 9.**

The study materials are quite extensive – far too voluminous for us to be able to print copies for everyone. An email was sent to all members who have email service providing links to these materials. If you need this email to be resent, please contact Shirley Nelson at mas770@charter.net. Those of you who do not have email will be able to access this material online at the Brookings meeting. That is the reason for holding the meeting at Mo Joe Café because they have Wi-fi service that will be used to access these materials.

There are a large number of consensus questions and some of them are somewhat complicated. We have included those more complex questions in this issue of *Coast Lines* on Page 4 so that you may consider your answers before the meeting. If possible please review these questions along with the study materials before you come to the meeting so that we can make maximum use of everyone’s time.



Dear League Members and Friends,

Hello from the road! Warren and I are returning home after attending Fall Workshop in Eugene, along with Milt and Shirley Nelson and many, many others. We met and heard from an impressive group of intelligent and well-spoken women and men passionate with good ideas for positive change in our state and nation. In particular was the guest speaker Sarah Miller, project manager from Governor Kitzhaber's 10-Year Plan team. Their goal is to make our state government accountable and responsive to its citizens. Please Google her at sarah.s.miller@state.or.us for more information on the plan to rebuild, to reinvest, and to protect Oregon's resources.

Coming up, we will participate with League members across the country to probe the role of the Federal government in education. Please follow along with the discussion and watch for my emails containing pertinent material. Port Orford members will meet at the Flakes' at 1PM on November 8 and Brookings members will meet at Mo Joe's on November 9 at 2PM to take our place among other US local Leagues to complete our role in the Consensus portion of the Study by responding to questions concerning government's appropriate role in public education. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

While you are marking calendars, please make a note that our annual holiday luncheon will take place on Saturday, December 10th, at the Senior Center in Port Orford, beginning at 11:30. The Luncheon will be catered locally; please see Page 6 for details. Our speaker will be Bill McMillan, CEO of the Curry Health Network to talk about CHN's role as a special district.

Thank you for your continuing support and participation in League events -- your participation makes us strong!

Jan

The League of Women Voters of Curry County



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Coast Lines

A publication of the League of Women Voters ® of Curry County

Coast Lines is produced 11 times a year by the League of 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

LWVOR Fall Workshop

The League of Women Voters of Oregon held its annual Fall Workshop in Eugene on October 22. Jan and Warren Krick were joined by Milt and Shirley Nelson as the Curry County League's attendees. Nearly sixty League of Women Voters members gathered to hear what is happening in our organization and our state. Sarah Miller, Strategic Initiatives Manager for the State of Oregon, gave a lively presentation on Governor John Kitzhaber's ten-year plan to restructure state government with long range policies and stop responding only to boom/bust cycles of funding. This involves multiple agencies which often overlap and each of which wants to maintain itself and its budget. Agencies and legislators are resisting changes. Part of the Governor's plan is to involve the public in discussions. Stay tuned.

We were told to expect the state study material on Coastal Issues by March 2010 and the second national study, on Privatization, by May. In the 2012 Legislative session the budget will be the main item. Our Land use system will continue to be attacked; House Bill 3015 is one to watch. Twenty-seven initiatives have been introduced and nine of them have qualified for signature-gathering. Most measures that get enough signatures would appear in the General Election in November 2012. We were reminded to "think before you ink" and be very careful which petitions, if any, you sign.

LWVOR Oral History Project

Trish Bowcock, Publicity Chair and Rachel Buckley, LWVOR Intern, presented Legacy of the League: Preserving Our History. Local Leagues throughout the state are being asked to interview members, particularly those with long histories of League activity, and to record their League memoirs. These interviews will be captured on film through the use of video recorders that were passed around to the group to use locally and return so that personal oral histories can be collected in the League archives and used on YouTube and in other ways to share their contributions. This project is especially relevant as we celebrate our 92nd year.

Vote411

Vote411 is the result of a continuing effort by our national League, LWFVUS. Its intent is to provide all Leagues, national, state and local, with a uniform structure for providing information to voters. The intent is to allow a citizen to access information about all issues relevant to that person's ballot in a single online source. By supplying one's zip code Vote411 makes available all issues that will appear on that person's ballot – everything from Presidential and Congressional elections down to local elections will be available in a single site. The project wants to provide our League's voter education services to more people and do it within our limited budgets.

A one-hour presentation on Vote411 provided attendees a description of this website as well as basic instructions on how to use it. Vote411 is an online Voters Guide that can instruct the public, expanding the scope of, and information available in, the printed Voters Guides that LWV has produced for years. Vote411 will add to, not replace, the printed Voters Guides. Local candidates can provide their own biographical information so that they can introduce themselves and their positions to the public. Advocates and opponents of local initiatives can present their arguments.

Anyone with basic computer skills can set up a Vote411 Voters Guide relevant to their community. All communication takes place on a secure website. LWFVOREF has received grants to cover the cost of Vote411 for Oregon. There will be no cost to local Leagues for Vote411 in the 2012 election cycle.

Consensus Questions for LWVUS Study Role of Federal Government in Education

What follows is a list of the more complex consensus questions that will be addressed at the November Unit meetings. Other questions will be presented orally. Please give these questions some consideration before coming to the Unit Meeting.

1. The current role of the Federal government in public education is: (a) much too small, (b) too small, (c) about right, (d) too large or (e) much too large?
2. What should be the role of the Federal government in public education? Please rank in order of importance. (a) to ensure that all students pre-kindergarten through grade 12 receive a quality education, (b) to develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress, (c) to mandate Common Core Standards for all students kindergarten through grade 12, (d) to monitor state efforts for funding and (e) to measure teacher effectiveness through test data?
3. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are **national** but not **federal**. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? Choose one: (a) Special grant programs such as Race to the Top, (b) all programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for spending, (c) all programs receiving Federal funding from any source, (d) all of the above or (e) none of the above?
4. What other accountability measures might you suggest? Choose one: (a) continue to allow states to develop their own assessments, (b) suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills* or (c) suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically.
5. National standards should lead to: (Choose one) (a) A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments, (b) A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated, (c) A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum or (d) No national curriculum?
6. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Please rank): (a) Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards, (b) Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards, (c) Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers, (d) Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement or (e) Provide diagnostic information on each child?

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

7. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students, and the community? (a) Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only (b) Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level or (c) Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.
8. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one:) (a) Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels, (b) Reward schools that achieve high scores, (c) Rank teachers based on student test score data, (d) Reward teachers who have exemplary scores or (e) Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.
9. In the past, most of the elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been noncompetitive based on need. All/Any schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive [funds] are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain Federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (Choose one.) (a) Noncompetitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements, (b) A combination of noncompetitive and competitive grants, (c) Competitive grants only or (d) No federal funding?

Mandates

1. If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then: (Choose one.) (a) . Mandates only should be sanctioned, (b) Mandates and funding should both be provided, (c) Funding should be provided through grants only, (d) A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply or (e) No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.
2. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order.) (a) high quality teaching/learning, (b) adequate and current learning materials, (c) clean and well-maintained physical facilities, (d) food and health care, (e) safe and secure neighborhoods or (f) secure housing?

HELP OUR LEAGUE GROW!!

**ASK A FRIEND TO COME WITH
YOU TO A MEETING.**

Destination Resort At Floras Lake A Victory for our League!!

During the last week of October the Curry County Commissioners voted to terminate their interest in trading land owned by the County for land that is currently part of an Oregon state park near Floras Lake. The League of Women Voters took an active role in opposing this proposed trade. Representatives of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department opposed this land swap as being against the best interests of the citizens of Oregon. In a letter that was published in the September issue of *Coast Lines* your League concurred in that judgment. Your membership in our League really does matter because League does make a difference!!

Holiday Party Update

Please mark your calendars for our annual holiday party. The party will be Saturday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m. at Port Orford Senior Center, 1536 Jackson Street in Port Orford. Brookings members will be carpooling. More details in the December *Coast Lines*. Sonja Mason, who has cooked for us before, will cater. The menu will be baked chicken or a vegetarian alternative, a baked vegetable, salad, dessert and beverage (coffee, tea or water). The price will be \$15. Bill McMillan, CEO of Curry Health District, will speak. Reservations will be taken following publication of the December *Coast Lines*. **Mark your calendar now!!**



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Coast Lines

League of Women Voters of Curry County
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November and December 2011

Port Orford Unit Meeting	Nov 8; 1PM	Flakes' House
Brookings Unit Meeting	Nov 9; 2PM	Mo Joe's; 625 Chetco Ave. #210
LWVCC Board Meeting	Nov 16; 2PM	Nelsons' House
Holiday Party	Dec 10: 11:30AM	Port Orford Senior Center

Membership Application

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_____\$55 ONE-YEAR individual membership due on Sept. 1st of the current year.

_____\$82.50 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 (2011-2012) on your check, and return with an application form to: LWVCC Treasurer

P O Box 1471

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.