

WAVELENGTHS

League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

April 2009

Meeting on **WAVE ENERGY**

Thursday April 16 Noon

At the Embarcadero Restaurant

Lunch may be ordered there and will cost between \$8 and \$10.50.

Join us to find out more about the possibilities and possible effects of wave energy.



Our speaker will be Dr. George Boehlert
Director/Professor at
the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Dr Boehlert's background is in Biological Oceanography, Marine Ecology, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Biological Oceanography, Marine Ecology, Fisheries, Aquaculture Research on environmental variability and fisheries, ichthyoplankton ecology, ocean data and fish growth.

The US Dept. of Energy has awarded a grant to OSU to establish the Northwest National Renewable Marine Energy Center. The goal is to move the generation of energy from waves, ocean currents and tides from the laboratory to part of the nation's alternative energy future. The Marine Science Center will lead research on marine environmental impacts of wave energy.

We look forward to hearing Dr Boehlert, learning more about wave energy and precautions for the marine environment.

PHONE 563-5231 or 265-9312 to reserve your place.

National Popular Vote Compact

Consensus Meeting

Monday, April 20, at 5:30 PM

at the Newport Public Library.

LWV of Lincoln County will discuss and hopefully find agreement on the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact. We hope the evening hour will allow participation by many who find it hard to attend our regular Thursday noon meetings. Come to our meeting, join the discussion, and help us decide whether the NPV Compact is an acceptable way to implement election of the U.S. President and Vice President by popular vote.

The 2009 session of the Oregon House has passed the NPV Compact (HB 2588) and the Oregon Senate is now considering it (SB 732). The NPV Compact has been introduced in the legislatures of most states, and has been approved in Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey.

In 1970, the League of Women Voters of the United States adopted a position stating the U.S. President and Vice President should be elected by direct popular vote, and that the Electoral College should be abolished. Abolition of the Electoral College would require a constitutional amendment. In the past 200 years, more than 700 proposals have been introduced in Congress to reform or eliminate the Electoral College; proposals in the current Congress have not gotten beyond the Judiciary Committee.

The idea of an interstate compact as a way to bring about a popular vote for President was first proposed in 2001. The plan gained widespread

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



The League of Women Voters of the United States has announced its role as a national partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. I know some of our members are working for the census, and there is a role here for us all. Here is (part of) what LWVUS President Mary G Wilson says:

“We join with the U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations in emphasizing the importance of every single resident being counted in the community in which they live. Census data is used as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and to state legislatures.”

“Our goal is to work with others to eliminate the ‘undercount’ that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations. We have been fighting to protect the rights of underrepresented communities in many arenas including voting and elections, and immigration and health care reforms. The Census influences so many public policy decisions, we all must do our part to see that it is as accurate and inclusive as it can be.”

“Officials have worked hard to plan this Census, but they cannot reach into every community without the help of grassroots organizations like the League. It is our hope that thousands of League members nationwide will do our part to make the Census a success, by helping Americans reach a comfort level with the process and a willingness to participate in this important civic process. Our approach to the Census is similar to that of voting—We want everyone to count!”



LWVOR RAFFLE

WIN

- ◆ **A week in Maui**
with roundtrip airfare for 2
(from PDX, SEA, LAX, SFO, SAN, EUG, RDM or MFR)
7 nights 1 BR condo
across from the beach
7 days car rental
\$3,000.00 Value
or
- ◆ **\$2,500 Cash to plan your own get-away**

Tickets must be purchased by May 1 for drawing May 16 (at convention)

Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| April 16 | ANNUAL MEETING Noon
Embarcadero Newport
Reserve your place. |
| April 20 | EVENING MEETING
National Popular Vote
Newport Library 5:30-7pm |
| April 27 | Board Meeting 1pm
West Coast Bank
all members welcome |
| May 15-17 | LWVOR Convention Medford
If you wish to attend as delegate
or observer, call Ruth Kistler. |
| May 21 | General Meeting
LWVOR Water Study

LWVUS Council via Video Conference
Members may attend.
Place to be announced. |

NOMINATIONS

**For the Board of Directors
League of Women Voters Lincoln County**

The Nominating Committee recommends the following members be elected to the Board:

Maxine Demory
AnaMaria E Smith

The following members have been nominated to serve an additional two year term:

Ruth Kistler President
Suzanne Maxson Secretary
Joan Haffner

At the Annual Meeting on the 16th nominations from the floor will be accepted, and the election held.

Continuing members of the Board are:

Jamie Auburn Treasurer
Millie Erhman
Marilyn Podesta
Frances Van Wert

Leaving the Board:
Charmian Mass

NPV Meeting April 20 Continued from P1

attention in 2006 when it was endorsed and publicized by the non-profit group, 'National Popular Vote'. Under the proposed legislation to enact the NPV Compact, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes. The NPV Compact has been introduced in the legislatures of most states.

The 2008 LWVUS Convention adopted a study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President." The deadline for local League consensus on this study, May 1, 2009, is upon us. Background papers and arguments pro and con are available on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org The consensus questions were published in the March issue of *WaveLengths* and are also available on the LWVUS website.

CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR MAY 19 SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Our local League can make a major contribution to voter education in local elections. The positions are important, and voters will not be deluged with candidate information, as they often are in statewide and national elections. Many locals need to know more about these candidates.

Yet regrettably we don't have the time or available personnel to take the initiative at this time to organize a candidates' forum. However, if some member comes forward, or another organization were to ask for our support (say for our "expertise" in forum procedures), then we will certainly provide it.



"The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government in order to build better communities statewide."

LWV LINCOLN COUNTY

President	Ruth Kistler	<u>Directors:</u>
Vice President	Charmian Mass	Millie Ehrman
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Marilyn Podesta
		Frances Van Wert
Committee Chairs:		
	Land Use	Janice Gerdemann
	Membership	Frances Van Wert
	Newsletter	Joan Haffner
	Child Health	Martha Holmberg
	Nominating	Suzanne Maxson
	Publicity	Millie Ehrman

LWVLC Budget 2009-2010

Members must vote on this budget at the Annual Meeting. Please review and bring any questions.

	2008-09 Approved	Actual to Date (04/16/09)	2009-10 Proposed
Expense Items			
Per Member Payment LWVOR	925	888	925
Per Member Payment LWVUS	1000	780	970
Newsletter/Website	450	96	250
Council/Convention	700	727	700
Voters Service	1575	1069	350
Meeting Room Rent	160	120	160
President's Allowance	150	49	150
Workshops	100	0	115
Advocacy	100	0	100
Miscellaneous/Postage/ Supplies	250	0	150
LWVOR Annual As- sessment	45	45	45
Receptions Luncheons	60	62	60
Oregon Corporation Fees	60	60	60
Expense Total	5575	3896	4035
Income Items			
Membership Dues	1800	1700	1800
Education Fund Dona- tions	1500	1725	1000
Fund Raising Net	1300	1361	1400
Non-member Dona- tions/Rebate	100	118	100
Member Donations	1075	111	600
In Kind Donations		131	500
Income Total	5775	5146	5400
Surplus (Deficit)	200	1250	1365

Notes

1 The newsletter is now mailed only to those who request it via regular mail and those who do not have email. All others receive the newsletter via email.

2 Our net income from the fundraising letter was \$1469. Our net income from the grapefruit sale was \$1317.

3 Member Donations and In Kind Donations now have their own line.

4 We are preparing for extensive Voters Service expenses for 2010.



WATER LAWS AND REGULATIONS EXPLORED IN LWV REPORT

Water. Everyone needs it. Everyone uses it, but few people really understand how much water Oregon needs and the rules and regulations governing water supplies in the state.

Water in Oregon – Not A Drop To Waste Part 1: Regulating Water in Oregon, just published by the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Oregon, offers a “concise review of current Oregon laws and regulations for water resources at a time when many are concerned about the availability and quality of state’s waters,” says Janet Calvert, chair of the board of trustees of the Education Fund.

The Oregon League of Women Voters is halfway through an intensive review of Oregon’s water resources. Janet explains that the study, scheduled to end in 2010, will result in a second publication which, using a non-biased approach, will present perspectives on current issues and gaps in regulations relating to both water quantity and quality.

Part One, now available through the League, and in the hands of most (all?) of our members, looks at who owns the water, regulations of surface and ground water, drinking water regulations, monitoring water quality, and the relationship of land use, water and water conservation.

The new report comes at a time when precipitation has been down significantly across the state, including the Willamette Valley. The drop in rainfall coupled with the unpredictability of climate change, prompted Gov. Ted Kulongoski to initiate the Headwater to Ocean (H2O) strategy to address the complexities of Oregon’s water issues.

LWVOR STATE CONVENTION

MAY 15 – 17, 2009

RED LION Hotel

200 N. Riverside avenue; Medford, or

State Convention is a chance to learn about and influence what the League of Women Voters of Oregon will be doing in the year ahead. You can have a fun time with other League members from around Oregon while doing so. The State League chose to hold Convention in Southern Oregon so that as many members as possible would attend. Get together with another League member to share a room and have an interesting weekend while you meet League members from all over Oregon.

The convention shall consider and authorize for action a program; shall elect the president, first vice-president, secretary, three directors (two-year terms), and three members of the nominating committee, as well as a chair of the nominating committee; shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year; and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

The convention shall consist of the Board of Directors of LWVOR, and delegates chosen by members through the local Leagues. Any member of a local League in Oregon may attend as an observer. Observers may not vote but may, upon recognition of the Chair, have the privilege of the floor. League members are urged to exercise this privilege and local Leagues are encouraged to bring many observers to the convention.

2009 Day at the Legislature

Ruth Kistler



Ana Maria Smith and I
Legislature. We joined a
hear about this current leg-
elected representatives.

basics: Oregon must have

On March 17th, one of our more pleasant pre-Spring days, headed to Salem to take part in LWVOR's 2009 Day at the few dozen other LWVOR members and some AAUWers to islative session from the LWVOR action team and from our While waiting for the busy legislators, we learned about the a balanced budget, and the economic downturn is producing a major revenue shortfall for 2009-11. The House and Senate each has a Revenue Committee charged with providing revenue, and the Joint (House and Senate) Ways and Means Committee must pass on any legislation that has a price tag. Despite the dire revenue outlook, there is hope that this session can pass progressive legislation that doesn't cost money, e.g., campaign finance reform.

Representative Mary Nolan, the House majority leader and Land Use Committee chair, told us she hoped to reap benefits from the work of the "Big Look" task force. There are some statewide land use principles, but other aspects of land use regulation can be handled regionally. The large volume of land use statutes passed from 1973 to the present need to be updated and clarified. There are 51 codified exceptions to exclusive farm use zoning; can they be reined in to prevent fragmentation of farm land? Statutes dealing with destination resorts need to be reconsidered to protect wild areas. The Metolius basin is an "Area of Critical Concern" under state law and also the site of proposed destination resorts.

Senator Alan Bates told us that the economic situation is expected to reduce state revenues by 4 billion dollars in this biennium. Applying our "Rainy Day Funds" and federal stimulus funds will still leave us a billion dollars in the hole. It might be possible to raise that much money with a 1% income tax surcharge on those with incomes greater than \$100,000. Senator Bates (who is a medical doctor) said we need to bring in more money for health care. Oregon is now leaving federal matching funds for health care unclaimed; we could access those funds by passing a provider tax which could then be refunded with the matching federal monies. Representative Phil Barnhart (House Revenue chair) also addressed the revenue shortfall. He explained we need to put part of the "kicker" in a larger Rainy Day fund, to deal with future economic downturns. We also should raise the minimum corporate tax. Oregon voters are very attached to their "kicker", and increasing taxes is also hard to sell to the voters, but the alternative is drastic cuts in education, health, and human services, which together comprise 92% of the state budget. Tax increases will need voter support, and the League can be part of the process of informing our communities about the alternatives.

After lunch, Director of Elections John Lindback addressed us. The Elections Division "stands for good government". Its mission is to enforce campaign laws and investigate violations. Its largest expense is publication and distribution of the state *Voters' Pamphlet*.

Secretary of State Kate Brown has set the following priorities for the Elections Division: on-line voter registration, initiative reform and a beefed-up investigative staff. Afterwards, Ana Maria and I briefly attended some of committee hearings before returning to Newport. For me, it was a very worthwhile and educational trip, and I hope that more Lincoln County LWV members choose to participate next year.



What's Happening in Oregon's Legislature?

Sign up for and Read our Legislative Report!

To receive the Report via EMAIL,

You may sign up on the front page of www.lwvor.org



Action Priorities for the 2009 Legislative Session

The LWVOR Action Committee will designate which areas of advocacy we will likely focus on for the upcoming 2009 Legislative Session in the fall of 2008. However, these priorities are not set in stone, since it is always possible that other issues may suddenly take center stage. We will carefully monitor all issues on which we have positions and continually re-evaluate our priorities as the session progresses.

Citizen Access

- At least 48 hours notice should be given for committee hearings and should include an accurate list of bills to be heard.
- Work groups (appointed to reconcile various opinions on a bill) should be balanced so that all views are heard. At present members are chosen solely at the discretion of the committee chair. Each work group's report should have a hearing.
- Budget notes should be included in the budget only after a full hearing. Budget notes frequently include important restrictions or instructions on how budget moneys are spent and are often added by the chairs of Ways and Means Committees, without agencies or other legislators being aware of what the notes say and without any public hearing.

Support legislative reform involving citizen access.

Governance

- Initiative Reform (following the PCOL recommendations)
- Rainy Day Fund and Kicker reform
- Repeal or suspension of the 50/50 (double majority) requirement put into effect by Measures 47/50 (1996/1997)

Governance (CONTINUED)

- Ethics reform (following the Oregon Law Commission's proposals)
- Fiscal policy: revenue, tax expenditures, school funding
- Campaign finance reform and possible implementation of Measure 47 (2006)
- Monitoring of the new Electronic Disclosure System
- ♦ Monitoring of elections law reform

Natural Resources

- Prevent rollbacks to natural resource agency budgets.
- Prevent changes to key land use policies, including "transferability" of Measure 37 claims and regionalization of LCDC.
- Prevent limitations to "standing".
- Prevent reauthorization of Pollution Tax Credits.
- Support conservation of resources, including energy conservation, electronic waste recovery systems and modernization of the bottle bill.
- Support efforts to improve water quality and quantity, including prohibiting toxic mixing zones, protecting wetlands and protecting ground water.
- Support conservation including energy efficiency, electronic waste recovery systems and modernization of Oregon's Bottle Bill.
- ♦ Elevate status of climate change initiatives.

Social Policy

- Adult Corrections – support alternatives to incarceration and community based programs, and treatment of mentally ill prisoners in prison or hospital
- Child Care – support affordable quality child care.
- Children at Risk – support early intervention and prevention programs through Commission on Children and Families.
- Education – support adequate funding for K-12, community colleges and the higher education system.
- Health Policy – Physical Care – support health care for all children, expand Oregon Health Plan adult coverage, support prescription drug coverage
- Adult Mental Health – support regional care facilities, local crisis services and housing.
- Children's Mental Health – support mental health services in home, day treatment and residential treatment options