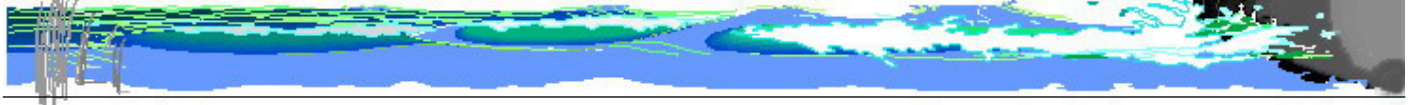


WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon December 2009

Thursday **December 10** Noon **Luncheon Meeting**
at the Embarcadero Restaurant in Newport
We will order from the menu.

Guest speaker will be Cristina Clerico, case manager at Samaritan House Homeless Shelter. She will talk about the services and opportunities provided for homeless families at Samaritan House, including the new Wellness program.

Cristina is also a member of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition of Lincoln County and on the Board of Directors for Writers on the Edge. She has been working at Samaritan House for two years and worked for Options Counseling as a counselor for at-risk families prior to that time. She has two children and has lived in Lincoln County for seven years.

Each member is invited to bring a gift for Samaritan House to the meeting. The families at Samaritan House have their own apartments so they need such things as attractive dish towels, sponges/scrubbers and dish soap, calendars with room to note family appointments, alarm clocks or other household items. Other groups will be providing toys and gifts for children, but we could provide some cute journals for the children to use as part of their Wellness Program.

Guests are welcome to attend - invite a friend to join you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



At last May's LWVOR Convention, Jane

Gigler (our State League's Ed Fund Chair) read an essay entitled "The Rule of Law" by Michael Mullane. I was quite moved by it, and I quote the start of that essay here:

"For the most part, my personal belief — or yours, for that matter — is not particularly important to society. On the other hand our beliefs about *some* things are very important. These are things subject to the "Tinkerbell effect"—that is, they *exist* only so long as we believe in them. One of them is the rule of law."

Democracy is even more subject to the "Tinkerbell effect". For a democracy to function, most of us must not only believe in it, but actively participate in it. At our last meeting, Ana Maria, who had been registering voters, expressed her puzzlement and dismay that she had encountered citizens who chose **not** to register, chose **not** to vote. It saddens me too, and scares me not a little. It weakens our democracy. The light of democracy dims too when people shout slogans at each other, rather than take the time to become informed about the issues. I believe in democracy, and I am an active member of the League of Women Voters because I see the League's mission as keeping the light of democracy alive and bright.

At this season, as we celebrate holidays of light, let's also celebrate the light of democracy. And please, if you haven't done so yet, pay your League dues.



Joan Haffner & Darrell Demory

Grapefruit Sales

Many thanks to all of you who assisted in sales, delivery will take place soon. We expect the delivery in Corvallis on Saturday.

We sold 190 boxes of grapefruit this year—and are very pleased, as there will certainly be costs involved in the elections coming up!

Enjoy your grapefruit, with our thanks!

Calendar

- Nov 6-Dec 12** **Voter Registration**
- Dec 5-6???** **Grapefruit delivery —You will be notified when the grapefruit arrive in Newport!**
- December 10** **Holiday Luncheon meeting at the Embarcadero.** Cristina Clerico, case manager at Samaritan House Homeless Shelter. **League members may bring Christmas Gifts for Samaritan House.**
- December 15** **Bill of Rights Day**
- 2010**
- January 4** **Board Meeting 1pm**
West Coast Bank. **Members welcome.**
- January 10**
2-3:30 pm. **Advocacy at Newport Rec Center**
Yes on Measures 66 & 67
- January 21** **General Meeting Program planning**
Noon Newport Library
- January 25** **Board Meeting 1pm**
West Coast Bank. **Members welcome**
- January 26** **Election. Measures 66 & 67**
- February 18** **Update on Immigration Issues.**

*Yes! THERE IS AN ELECTION
JANUARY 26, 2010*

There are two referenda of actions taken by the 2009 Legislature, and placed on the ballot by initiative petition. The chief petitioners are opposed and want Measures 66 and 67 defeated.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports a YES vote on these measures.

MEASURE 66

DRAFT TITLE to be finalized by Dec. 1, 2009:

Raises Tax on Household Income at and above \$250,000 (\$125,000 for individual filers). Reduces income taxes on employment benefits in 2009. Provides funds currently Budgeted for education, health care, public Safety, other services.

MEASURE 67

DRAFT TITLE to be finalized by Dec. 1, 2009:

Raises \$10 Corporate minimum tax, business minimum tax, corporate profits tax. Provides funds currently budgeted for education, health care, public safety, other services.

What's at Stake in January 26 Election

Unless the electorate votes yes on measures 66 and 67, services that depend on state funding will face further cuts. Steve Novick researched and published on the BlueOregon website just how many people could be affected in each county. Here in Lincoln County, these people could face cuts:

- 5,377 children in public schools
- 5,971 people on the Oregon Health Plan
- 551 seniors and people with disabilities receiving long-term care
- 186 released criminal offenders under supervision.

In Lincoln County, if the measures pass,

- 325 tax filers with more that \$250,000 (joint) or \$125,000 (single) taxable income would face new higher marginal tax brackets
- ◆ 2,095 people who received an initial unemployment check in 2009 would not pay taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment

Check the Oregon League's Voter Education WebSite: www.VoteSource.org

Information on voter registration
The Voter's Guide for the JANUARY ELECTION
And much more....



Louisa Osborn

Louisa, a long-time member of the Lincoln County League of Women Voters and former board secretary, died on October 21, 2009. She will be remembered for her friendly smile and genuine interest in other people. Before her retirement, Louisa worked as a medical clerk for the state Adult & Family Services Division of the Department of Human Resources.



"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	AnaMaria Smith	Millie Ehrman
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Marilyn Podesta
		Frances Van Wert
		Maxine Demory
Committee Chairs:		
	Land Use	Janice Gerdemann
	Membership	Frances Van Wert
	Newsletter	Joan Haffner
	Child Health	Martha Holmberg
	Nominating	Suzanne Maxson
	Publicity	Millie Ehrman
	Voter Service	Marilyn Podesta
	Grapefruit /Fundraising	Maxine Demory

Runaway and Homeless Youth

Ruth Kistler

In 2007, the Lincoln Commission on Children and Families together with the Community Services Consortium won state grant money to establish the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Coalition. The RHY project has helped youth stay in (or return to) school, obtain employment, and access other services, and has improved communication among service providers. During the 2008-09 school year, 9% of the school-age population of Lincoln County was homeless, one of the highest percentages in the state. The number is probably higher this year.

Our local League has long been concerned about the issue of homeless youth. In 2005 LWV Lincoln County undertook a study of Lincoln County's homeless youth, in parallel with LWV Oregon's study of Oregon's homeless youth. We adopted a position in favor of proactive programs to prevent conditions that lead to homelessness. Martha Holmberg has been following the RHY Coalition meetings for us, but recently she has been unable to attend due to family medical needs. Thus I decided to attend the October and November meetings. As a new participant, I was unfamiliar with the many programs that have been put in place. In this newsletter article, I've tried to capture the sense and direction of the meetings.

The October (10/13) meeting began with a review of the accomplishments of the previous year. My note-taking couldn't keep up with the many accomplishments. A website, www.Homelessinlincolncounty.com, is up and running. There's an RHY resource card, and a resource guide from Food Share. There's more collaboration among agencies dealing with homeless youth. But the recession has resulted in more need and less funding. The meeting participants brainstormed about what more could be done. How could we best increase community awareness of the issues? Could we establish a shelter for unaccompanied youth using Benton County's Jackson Street Youth Shelter as a model? What about a 2-1-1 telephone system, like that in Yamhill and Marion counties, to connect people to a wide range of social services with a single call?

The November (11/10) meeting atmosphere showed the impact of the large drop in funding. A further large reduction in state (Oregon Commission on Children and Families) funding was expected because the state grant process was a competitive one, and the Commission felt Lincoln County had not demonstrated sufficiently strong outcomes or community involvement. Meeting participants made unhappy comparisons between community support of the animal shelter, evidenced by the recent passage of the local option tax for the shelter, and the difficulty in getting support for homeless families and youth. The planned work on "connectivity to resources" seemed beside the point because of the lack of resources.

The discussion moved on to how we might increase community awareness of our so-often-invisible homeless youth. People suggested posters, letters to the editor, and newspaper articles. Kaija Daniels, the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, offered to create a power-point presentation. Privately, I thought our local League might want to update our Lincoln County Homeless Youth study. The meeting again addressed "connectivity to resources". As one example, a business offered to donate surplus blankets, which are always needed by the homeless, but they could not be accepted because there is no available storage. We need to get someone to donate use of a storage area, and there needs to be a contact, a phone number to call, to connect donated resources with those who need them. Since this would be time-consuming, it should be handled by a part-time coordinator along with volunteers to handle the phone messages. Further discussion brought to light the fact that the county has a "Resource Center" to serve homeless individuals, and the Lincoln County School District has family resource centers in Newport, Lincoln City, Toledo, and Waldport primarily to serve homeless students and their families. There is obvious overlap. Joe Novello, a meeting participant and school district

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Runaway and Homeless Youth Cont from P. 4

administrator, told us about their program, which gives students a place to study, and provides food and clothing for them and their families; it is a 501(c)3 organization and could accept donations of time and money from the community. Joe is preparing a presentation about this program that could be used to win community support.

The next meeting of the RHY Coalition will be December 8.



LWVUS Convention 2010
June 11- June 15, 2010, Atlanta, Georgia
 at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis

At this time the National LWV is soliciting proposals for Program 2010-12 and for any Proposed By Laws changes. At the Convention, the League establishes the program for the next two years—the issues which will be studied, and the League's priorities.

Lincoln County League is entitled to a representative at the national Convention next June... but at this time, none of our members has plans to attend.

However, we may still influence the decisions made at the Convention—the state League will be represented, and we may send our suggestions and recommendations with those representatives. We will be following the proposals from other state leagues, and will want to know your suggestions/reactions. We can discuss these proposals at our January program planning meeting.

If you would like to attend and represent Lincoln County, please contact Ruth Kistler.

"I never give them hell, I just tell the truth, and they think it is hell."

Harry Truman on campaign technique,
Look, April 3, 1956

VOTER

REGISTRATION



I want to report to our members that nine voter registration dates/venues were scheduled between Nov. 6 and Dec. 12. As of Dec. 2, five have been held, with one rain-out. At those venues, members registered 15 voters on site and another 21 forms were given to Lincoln County residents who wished to turn in their registration form themselves.

Thanks to the following members for giving their time to this effort: Carol Hall, Maxine Demory, Ruth Kistler, AnaMaria Smith, Nancy Nash, Nancy Jones, Andi Sachs, Frances VanWert, Millie Ehrman, Joan Haffner and Janice Gerde-man.

For the present time, please keep the LWV signs, extra registration forms and back-up information I mailed to you. There is a good possibility of another registration drive before the May Primary!

Thank you, Marilyn Podesta,
 Voter Service Chair

League of Women Voters of Lincoln County
P. O. Box 1577
Waldport, OR 97394



League of Women Voters
of Lincoln County

Membership Form

For information call Frances Van Wert
Membership Chair, 265-9312

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

	Individual	Household
_____ I am a new member	\$50	\$75
_____ I am renewing my membership		
_____ I am interested in working with the League.		
_____ Please call me.		

The membership year begins October 1.
Please make checks payable to: LWV of Lincoln County
Dues are not tax deductible.

Contributions to LWV Oregon and LWV United States Education Fund are tax deductible.

I wish to contribute an additional amount to the LWV Oregon Education Fund \$ _____

I wish to contribute to LWV Lincoln County \$ _____

These contributions assist LWV Voter Service activities and education projects.

(Contributions to Educational Funds and payment of dues must be on separate checks.)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail to: Frances Van Wert, 742 NW 2nd Ct, Newport, 97365