

WAVELENGTHS

League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

December 2010

Thursday **December 9, Noon Luncheon Meeting**
At the Embarcadero Restaurant in Newport

Guest speaker will be Jeremy Vandehey, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and nine-member citizen Oregon Health Policy Board, which oversees OHA.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) was created by the 2009 Oregon legislature to administer most of the state's health-related programs. It is the organization at the forefront of lowering or containing costs, improving quality, and increasing access to health care in order to improve the lifelong health of Oregonians. Jeremy works with stakeholders, community partners, consumer advocates and the general public to provide updates on Oregon's work on health reform and obtain public input for staff and the board.

The luncheon Menu features the following choices:

Chef Salad

Spinach Salad

Fried Halibut Parmesan Sandwich

Bay Shrimp Melt

Price of \$13 includes soda, coffee, or tea. Gratuity included.

Please call Marilyn Podesta, 541-765-4422, to make reservations, specify menu selection, or for more information.

Guests are welcome – Bring a friend!

Members are invited to bring Christmas Stocking stuffers for adults and children living at Samaritan House.

Samaritan House also needs paper towels, facial tissues, one-gallon jugs of white vinegar (as an alternative cleanser), baking soda in boxes, and Borax.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler

In the year's waning days, 'tis the season to celebrate lights and rights.



We celebrate December 15 as Bill of Rights Day. It's the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, in 1791.

The national LWV has prepared a Bill of Rights Day statement for press release calling attention to the fact that the League has always defended civil liberties while urging civility in political discourse and greater civic participation. It goes on to say, "The protection of the individual liberties laid out in the Bill of Rights has been central to the League's work throughout its history. During World War II, the League worked to balance the preservation of civil liberties with the importance of national security. During the Communist 'witch hunt' period of the early 1950s, the League conducted a community education program known as the Freedom Agenda, providing Americans with the opportunity to discuss and learn about the Bill of Rights. More recently, League members have promoted a diverse and independent judiciary, advocated against warrantless domestic surveillance and other harmful elements of the PATRIOT Act, and worked for government transparency and accountability."

December 10 is Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This Declaration contains many articles that proclaim the same rights as does the U.S. Bill of Rights. In addition, it proclaims social, economic and cultural rights in articles stating that everyone has the right to work, the right to an education, and the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, and necessary social services. Through our positions and actions on Social Policy, LWV works to transform these social and economic rights into realities for all Americans by supporting community education, legislation, and funding.

So let's celebrate our rights, and continue to work with others to actualize and maintain those rights. And

Have a Happy Holiday.



Why Was This Newsletter Mailed to Me?

By Ruth Kistler

A couple of years ago, we went green. In order to save trees and energy and reduce our costs, we have been mailing copies of this newsletter only to those who don't have an email address or have told us they prefer a printed copy. However, I've heard informally from members who admit that they find it difficult to read the newsletter on-line and are more likely to read a printed newsletter that comes in the mail. Putting out this newsletter takes a lot of time and effort, and I'd like to have interested members and friends read it. So, for our members, we've changed the algorithm: We're mailing you a printed newsletter; if you would prefer not to receive a printed newsletter, please let me know by calling me at 541-574-8145, or send email to ruthkistler@msn.com.



Calendar

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|--------------------|---|
| December 9 | General Meeting & Luncheon
Noon – The Embarcadero in Newport
Speaker: Jeremy Vandehey from the Oregon Health Authority |
| December 10 | United Nations Human Rights Day |
| December 15 | Bill of Rights Day |
| January 3 | Board Meeting
1PM—West Coast Bank in Newport |
| January 13 | Legislative Process Day
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM – Oregon State Capitol – Registration Forms due January 7 |
| January 20 | General Meeting
Noon – Newport Public Library
Topic: Oregon Sea Grant |
| January 31 | Board Meeting
1PM—West Coast Bank in Newport |

LEADING THE LEAGUE

(from the Oregon State League)

Are you interested in:

- Meeting additional like-minded League members?
- Meeting and working with state policy makers?
- Participating in engrossing conversations?
- Promoting better citizen involvement?
- Enhancing Oregon's democracy?
- Learning more about Oregon's governmental policies?
- Improving state laws and policies?
- Protecting Oregonians' rights?
- Informing more Oregonians about state issues that affect them?
- Making the League of Women Voters more effective?
- Learning how the LWV gets its job done?

If you answer, "Yes!" to some or all of these questions, then you may enjoy working with the League of Women Voters of Oregon. To help with League work at the state level, please consider a one or two-year position on the board or on a statewide committee of the LWVOR, starting in June 2011—or even now. Specifically we need women and men to help with Membership, Voter Service, Action, Outreach, Technology, Development, Studies, and the Nominating Committee.

In May 2011 at the LWVOR Convention in Salem, League members will elect a President, a First Vice-President, a Secretary, at least three directors (one of whom will be Education Fund Chair), and a Nominating Committee for the 2011-13 term. Over the next few months, we will be writing and calling local League Presidents, asking for recommendations. Serving on a state committee or the LWVOR Board is a great opportunity to learn more about how democracy works in Oregon; to make democracy work better in our state; and to make the League work better at all levels. Please tell your local president that you would like to be considered for the state board or a state committee. Or email a member of the LWVOR Nominating Committee. Thank you!

LWVOR Nominating Committee: Margaret Noel, Chair, mrgtnoel@comcast.net; Pamela Ashland, misschattr@verizon.net; Judith Benjamin, jeg@mind.net; Janet Calvert, jankcalvert@comcast.net; Jane Gigler, jg@efficientfrontier.com; Rose Lewis, lewisrr@xpressdata.net.

DUES

Dues

are

dribbling

in

this



slowly

year.

Have you paid your dues?

The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic.

John F Kennedy—June 11, 1962



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

LWV Lincoln County

Directors

President	Ruth Kistler	Maxine Demory
Vice President	vacant	Millie Ehrman
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Marilyn Podesta
		Frances Van Wert

Committee Chairs:

Voter Service	Marilyn Podesta
Membership	Frances Van Wert
Publicity	Millie Ehrman
Newsletter	Joan Haffner
Child Health	Martha Holmberg
Nominating	vacant
Land Use	Janice Gerdemann



Legislative Process Day

Thursday January 13, 2011
Oregon State Capital
Hearing room 50



9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Sponsored by LWV of Oregon
and

Oregon AAUW



- What is Oregon’s legislative process?
- What will first official “annual session” be like?
- How will the historic 30/30 tie in the house affect the process?
- What does the new leadership look like?
- How can League members have an impact on budgetary decisions?

Join us to hear from elected officials and action leaders to learn about these important issues!

Legislative Process Day Registration Form

Advance registration needed—return form or register online at www.lwvor.org
by Friday, **Jan. 7, 2011**

Yes, I want to attend Legislative Process Day!

Name: _____ League/Branch: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Workshop with lunch: \$18.00 LWV or AAUW member \$23.00 guest
Choose one: Veggie Pesto Wrap Mesquite Turkey Blue Cheese Wrap

Workshop only: \$11.00 LWV or AAUW member \$16.00 guest

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to LWVOR, 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by **Jan. 7, 2011**. Questions? Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.

Water Study Consensus Meeting

By Ruth Kistler

At our November 18 meeting we considered the Water Study consensus questions. Eleven local League members participated. Ruth Kistler led the discussion and Maxine Demory served as recorder. Our discussions brought home just how complex the issues of water management are. Here are the consensus questions and **responses** that we sent to the state League:

1. There are 11 state agencies with water management responsibilities (*Water in Oregon—Not a Drop to Waste, Part 2* Table 1, detailed discussion of responsibilities by task in *Water in Oregon—Not a Drop to Waste Part 1*), each with its own mission and expertise, interacting with local and federal government and special districts. What actions would you support to improve decision-making by connecting water quality and water quantity issues with each other and with land use decisions? Check all that apply.

Better communication and cooperation between agencies?

Conformity in definitions among agencies, such as definition of “beneficial uses”?

Coordination in the prioritization of water uses/regulations among agencies?

Response: This requires a strong coordinator

Consolidation of governmental structures for policy making and/or enforcement?

Clarification and strengthening of the role of local or regional land use planning in the water management process?

Other actions? Please describe:

Response: User-oriented approach in local land use agencies to help users navigate the many agencies involved.

2. When comparing our current statewide model with possible alternatives for managing water protection and conservation, which of the following do you prefer? (If applicable, how should these alternative models relate to the multiple political structures within their boundaries?)

Our current statewide approach

Basin management

Watershed management

Management based on water or soil types

Management directed by specific pollutants

Local government management

Other? Please describe.

Response: We need a statewide approach, but all these other entities need to be considered. We need flexibility to deal with local needs and changes.

3. Oregon has limited scientific data on water resources, uses and purity, which impacts the ability of agencies to make informed decisions about water quantity and quality. Is a comprehensive inventory of all water resources necessary to understand availability of water quantity and quality to meet future needs/demands, or is a more limited approach based upon specific criteria adequate? If the latter, what criteria should be used?

Response: It would be nice to have a comprehensive inventory, but it is not essential.

Should currently exempt domestic wells be required to obtain a permit? Why or why not?

Response: Continue to require a permit and tests when property changes hands; require a permit for all wells in area if aquifer drops.

Should water monitoring/measurement be required by all permit holders and users, or should it be limited according to some criteria? If the latter, what criteria should be considered?

Consensus: Water monitoring/measurement should be limited to situations where it is needed; for example, if there is a water shortage.

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Water Study Consensus Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

What types of data should water monitoring/measurement collect? Check all that apply.

- How much is used
- Who is using it
- The purpose of the use
- Water purity as compared to standards
- The time period/date
- Other? (Please describe.)

Response: All these types of data should be collected if financing allows.

After installation, when/how often should septic systems be required to be inspected?

Response: When property changes hands. Also anytime there is evidence of possibly non-functioning systems, they should be checked.

4. While the current LWVOR Water Quality Position supports the need for water quality standards in Oregon, it does not prescribe how state standards should be determined. What should be the basis for such standards? Check all that apply.

- Promote/foster public health and safety
- Cost
- Need to maintain beneficial uses
- Other (Please describe.)?

5. Climate change could lead to less snowfall and more erratic rainfall. Population growth will increase demands for water supply. What options should the state use/encourage to address future water needs/demands? Check all that apply.

- Address each situation individually
- Changes in land use regulation, as needed
- Green construction/landscaping
- Rationing if necessary
- Increased conservation
- Use of greywater
- Increased water storage
- Other (Please describe.)

6. If water conservation is to become a significant part of water quality and quantity management, do you have a preference in favor of an approach based upon:

- Incentives (such as selling saved water to other users or reduced rates for lower consumption), **or**
- Regulations (such as limiting water use for lawns, requiring water saving toilets, shower heads, etc.)?

Response: A combination of both approaches is needed.

What other approaches should be considered in promoting water conservation (specific incentives/regulations targeting categories of users (agriculture, industry, municipal use, domestic)?)

Please describe:

Response: Municipalities should develop a rate structure to encourage conservation and discourage excessive use, while still protecting low-income users.

7. The League believes that informed citizens have an important role to play in governmental decisions. How and when should members of the public be included in water management and planning processes? Please describe.

Response: The public should be included in the process via public hearings, mailings, websites and electronic communication. Agencies should be user friendly – make it easier for the public to be involved.

8. Currently, users pay for their water delivery system, but the water itself is free. League positions note that “all water users must share in the costs of water management”. Should “users” include state and local government as well as individual and corporate users?

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Water Study Consensus Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

Please indicate on the chart below how the costs associated with water capture, storage and delivery should be funded. Also indicate the sources of funding you support to cover present and future costs associated with planning, research, data acquisition, regulation and enforcement and any other program(s) you describe. Additional comments are welcome. **Since water is a public resource, how should funding of water management and delivery be achieved for:**

Check methods that apply

	Rate Pay-ers	Permit fees	Charge by volume of water (beyond delivery charges)	Tiered Rate Sys-tem	State Taxes	Local taxes	Special taxes
Planning - current and future demand							
Research							
Data collection							
Infrastructure, maintenance and delivery							
Public Outreach							
Conservation							
Regulation and							
Other							

Response: These Funding questions are very complex. We did not have enough time to reach any consensus on Funding.

Program Planning for 2011 – 2013

By Marnie Lonsdale, LWVOR Program Chair (from the LWVOR Voter Newsletter)

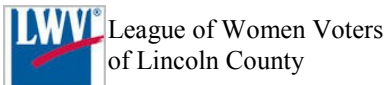
At the LWVOR Convention this year we will be adopting our program for 2011-2013. The updated water position will be included in the upcoming program, although the Coastal Management study will not be ready for consensus until the fall of 2011.

Local Leagues are asked to submit program ideas for future state studies by January 31, 2011. Members are encouraged to identify and propose studies of issues that are not addressed in current positions or that are out of date to the extent that an update is in order. Con-

sider whether proposals fit with League principles, are feasible, timely, add to the balance of the League program, and would generate sufficient member support for the actual study. Also keep in mind that studying a relevant issue is a great way to attract new members to our organization.

To facilitate discussion of potential studies, a title for the study, scope and outline should be submitted with the proposal. Keep in mind that the state Coastal Management study, as well as two LWVUS studies (the role of the federal government in education and privatization of government services), are all in process. Several Leagues have mentioned possible study ideas such as K-12 education and sex trafficking.

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



Membership Form

For information call Frances Van Wert
Membership Chair, 541-265-9312

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

	Individual	Household	Low income: Individual	Household
<u>Annual Membership Dues</u> (Circle one.)	\$60	\$90	\$40	\$60

I am a new member

I am renewing my membership

The membership year begins October 1.

I am interested in working with the League.

Please call me.

I wish to make a contribute to LWV Lincoln County in addition to my dues \$ _____

Total Member Dues and contribution Make check out to: LWV of Lincoln County \$ _____

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

Make check out to "LWVOREF".

Only contributions to the LWV Oregon Education Fund are tax deductible.

These contributions assist LWV Voter Service activities and education projects.

(Contributions to the Educational Fund must be on a check separate from payment of dues and LWVLC contributions.)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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