



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

February 2009

We next meet on

Thursday, February 19

Noon at the Newport Library.

Lets talk Health Care.

Dr. Paul Hochfeld of the Archimedes Movement will share the video: "Health, Money and Fear."

This 48 minute video will be followed by a discussion with the producer and director, Dr. Paul Hochfeld. "Health, Money and Fear" was born out of Dr. Hochfeld's increasing frustration with our Healthcare System. The film's website reads "Our Health Care System is beyond broken or sick. It's dumb." Dr. Hochfeld has first hand experience of what he calls the "absurdities of our health care system."

Dr. Hochfeld is board certified in Emergency Medicine and has worked as an emergency doctor at Good Samaritan Medical Center for thirty years. He is a graduate of UCSD School of Medicine and also holds a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from MIT.

To read more about Dr. Hochfeld and his movie, "Health, Money and Fear." visit his website at www.ourailinghealthcare.com

Henrik Ibsen:

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

The nominating committee meets soon, Won't you consider joining our Board—contact Suzanne, 563-5231.

LWVOR Legislative Report

The Action Committee produces a bi-monthly Legislative Report—what issues are being addressed, bills that are being followed...

You may sign up to receive this report online by clicking here: <http://www.lwvor.org/index.htm>

The report is also available via mail. Contact LWVOR office at 503-581-5722

Election Methods Consensus

Our January 15 discussion on the Election Methods study arrived at the following consensus:

All the criteria listed in the study are important to ensuring a fair and equitable election process. The four most important criteria are: encourage minority and gender representation, increase voter participation, prevent political manipulation, and be easy to use and administer.

Oregon should explore fusion and instant runoff voting through enabling legislation that will allow local jurisdictions to try these election methods. If they are successful, we can gradually expand their use.

There was no consensus in favor of a nonpartisan legislature.

Enabling legislation should allow multiple seat election methods on a local level. It would be too complex and confusing to elect the Oregon Legislature on this basis.

The state should fund all state mandated election changes. The state and county or local jurisdictions should share the costs of current elections, based on what's on the ballot.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



The year started with a buzz of activity and reports to the state league. On January 5, board member Marilyn Podesta and I interviewed Representative Jean Cowan on behalf of LWVOR. We asked LWVOR-provided questions, about assistance to the needy, health care, state revenue restructuring, campaign finance reform, and green initiatives. Jean's answers spoke of hope, but also caution and realism about the prospects of solving Oregon's problems in the face of the revenue shortfalls due to this severe economic downturn. She emphasized cost / benefit connectivity. Her responses were sent to the state League's Action Committee, as were interview responses from all the other Local Leagues.

Our January meeting featured the consensus discussion on the LWVOR Election Methods study. Paula Crane, a Corvallis League and LWVOR board member, was our discussion leader. The discussion was lively, and we reached consensus on most questions. Many thanks to Paula for her able and interesting contribution to our discussion. Our consensus report has been submitted to the State League, to assist in reaching a statewide position.

I also reported the results of our program planning efforts to the state League. Our local league has not recommended any changes to existing LWVOR or local positions. This year we don't feel a need to undertake new studies or update positions. I think we instead need to concentrate on taking action based on existing positions. For example, many changes are being considered for our offshore waters — wave energy, marine reserves, expanded U.S. Navy training, a possible NOAA Newport home port. We should form a local league action committee that will respond to these and other proposals based on league positions. Any actions we take will provide an outlet for our concerns and enthusiasms, as well as visibility for our league.

LWVUS on HEALTH CARE

The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.



Thanks and Best Wishes, Sue

Sue Krein has resigned from the state and local League boards due to health problems. We thank her for her great service to the League and Lincoln County. Sue has been a member of our League for over 15 years, helping with studies, the newsletter, fundraising, voter services and was, of course, President for four years. We wish her a complete recovery and hope that she will feel able to rejoin us soon.

Calendar

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| February 19 | LWV Meeting Newport Library
Lets talk Health Care with Dr. Paul Hochfeld |
| February 24 | Board Meeting 1pm
Ruth K's home |
| February 17 | LWVOR Day at the Legislature |
| March 19 | LWV Meeting Water Issues |

Lincoln County Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition Update

Martha Holmberg

As of mid-November 2008, the LSCD reported 295 homeless students. Last year Lincoln County had the highest percentage of homeless school-age children in the state. On the positive side of this issue: Denise Naegli reported, "Lincoln County is a standout among other counties, as we are one of the few who are working cohesively with their local 10-year homeless population plan to address youth homelessness and we are becoming somewhat of a model for other counties." Denise, the coordinator for the Lincoln County Runaway/Homeless Youth project has informed Coalition Members that a discussion with Dona Bolt from the Oregon Department of Education will be held at the March meeting. Dona is specifically interested in the collaboration between our 10-year plan to end homelessness, the Lincoln County School District and the RHY Project.

At the last meeting, Denise presented an update on the key service areas of the project. The following summarizes her report.

I. Connectivity to Resources – a goal was to hire 4 youth liaisons to design and distribute a resource card to 300 to 500 RH youth. Two Taft high school youth have been hired to do this and youth outreach workers have begun polling the student body to determine what resource information is needed by RH youth. A website was created - www.homelessinlincolncounty.com, which lists resources and services and has received 71 hits so far. Seventy-seven youth have been served because of a created referral system that utilizes informational flyers and a referral sheet that can be used by anyone to refer a youth.

II. Continuity of Education – one goal is to increase by 20% the number of RH youth who remain connected to schools. This cannot be evaluated until after a baseline has been set. Currently 11 youth who dropped out have returned to classes.

III. Safety – goals are to increase safe living situations by 30% once a baseline is established and to increase the # of youth accessing health care at the School Based Health Clinics. Eighteen of the 77 youth referred to the program are in safer environments.

IV. System Areas – the coordinator continues to make presentations to community organizations to expand support and services for the RH youth.

An analysis of referral sources revealed that the North County Coordinator (Lincoln City area) has made 52% of the referrals. The SWE Coordinator (Newport, Toledo, and Waldport) has made 1% of the referrals. The remaining referrals were from a variety of service agencies plus 3% self-referrals and 3% from the community/public.

Three points of interest:

- The independently living program can only serve 10 youth at one time so foster children aging out or youth who could be emancipated may be able to receive this valuable service
- Dental care continues to be a problem in Lincoln County as it was when the LWVLC completed the Child Health Study in 2005.
- Adequate ID for youth is not always available which bars them from some resources.

LWVOR State Convention

May 15-17 Medford, OR

Plan to join us:

Lincoln County will assist a few members who wish to attend. If you would like to see the League in action, please let us know!



"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."

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	Needed

Support for the National Popular Vote Compact

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Because the League already supports direct election of the president, arguments against the Electoral College (EC) are not included in the material supporting the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact).

Constitutional Issues The NPV Compact is a way to assure that every person's vote counts equally and that the person receiving the most votes is the winner of the presidency. The same result would be achieved by constitutional amendment but the U.S. Constitution is difficult to amend. The NPV Compact is a viable way to attain the same goal as amending the Constitution to eliminate the EC.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to effectuate the NPV Compact because states already have the right to implement changes in how electors are appointed.

The NPV Compact is a compact between states – a method of concerted state action that has long been sanctioned by the Constitution and the courts.

Evaluating Fairness A candidate can be elected president by receiving the most electoral votes even though he or she did not receive the most popular votes. This is not a result voters expect or desire. As election campaigns are now waged, major emphasis and resources are concentrated in key EC battleground states because that is where elections are won or lost. The NPV Compact would eliminate the emphasis on battleground states and would be more apt to assure campaign strategies that appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate which would foster greater voter participation.

The argument that the plan would negatively impact states' rights is countered by poll results showing that most voters want their individual vote to count, rather than allotting them to electors representing the state as a whole.

Any claim that the NPV Compact is an unprecedented disregard for the U.S. Constitution ignores the reality that voting rights have been changed through state action many times. Women's suffrage, for example, was instituted by twenty states before passage of the constitutional amendment that made the right universal.

Mechanical Considerations Those opposed to the NPV Compact cite mechanical issues that might lead the NPV to fail, but the Compact includes provisions that address issues of enforcement, winning levels and recounts.

Other Issues The Voting Rights Act and the NPV Compact are in harmony, assuring equality of votes throughout the United States.

League Issues Opponents say that the NPV Compact conflicts with the League's support of uniform voting standards. Supporters of the Compact advocate its passage in all states, which would result in uniform voting standards. It is true that the NPV Compact could be in effect for an interlude when not all states had signed on to it. The same could be demonstrated for other laws, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. Nonetheless, it must be remembered that uniform voting standards are not now in effect. The NPV Compact could help assure that every vote would be counted equally.

Further, implementation of a method which assures direct election of the president by popular vote is in keeping with the League's long-held position.

To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at www.lwv.org) by the LWWUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.

VERY SORRY!!

However...

We need you to fill this out again. Joan was collecting them, and then had a fire in her home...

So now your original is toast. From what we remember, most current members were happy to come evenings. ARE YOU?

Changes... Changes ???

Please answer the following questions and return this page to Jamie Auburn, PO Box 1577, Waldport, OR 97394 or you may answer it online by clicking on:

www.lwylincolncounty.org/surveydec08.html

The Lincoln County Board has been considering changing our meetings to early evenings instead of having them at noon. Several members find driving at night difficult, but it may be possible to car pool. We would like to be more accessible to working folks who cannot take the time to attend during the day.

Would you be willing to attend our meeting if it were to be held at 5:30-7pm? YES NO

Would you prefer we keep the meeting at Noon? YES NO

Would you need a ride if the meeting is held after dark? YES NO

Can you provide a ride for someone else? YES NO

Do you want to receive your newsletter online only? YES NO

Your Name:

Your email address:

U.S.. Navy Training Proposal off Oregon

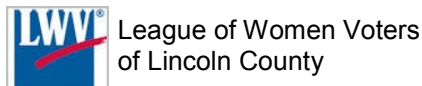
Ruth Kistler

The Navy wants to expand activity in the Northwest Training Range Complex, part of which is 12 miles off the Oregon Coast. The proposal includes expanded air and surface target services, submarine and anti-submarine training (including sonar), as well as the development of an underwater training minefield for submarines. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (1,058 pages long) is posted on the website www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com; the public comment period is scheduled to end February 11, 2009. A series of open houses and public hearings have been held. The only public hearing in Oregon was held January 30, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

Pullicity for this meeting was seriously lacking. Those in attendance repeatedly heard from other attendees, from NOAA employees, from EPA employees, from the MidWater Trawlers cooperative, from Oregon Shores and other environmental group members, that their organizations had not been informed of the meeting or the EIS. The Newport News-Times had nothing about it. There were nonetheless perhaps 2 dozen attendees from the public, environmentalists, scientists, and fishermen. Every public commenter complained that they had just heard of the meeting 2 or 3 days previously. And each requested that the public comment period be extended for another 30 days, or even that the public hearing be rescheduled.

The public also expressed a variety of concerns. There are economic concerns about interference with whiting fishing. There is concern that underwater detonations and sonar use will kill or injure marine mammals. There is concern for the safety of ships and their crews from submarines. There is concern about environmental damage from debris left behind, including spent or unexploded ordnance. There is concern about protocols to communicate problems in these areas that may be discovered during training exercises.

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



Membership Form

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

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Annual Membership Dues (Circle one.) Individual \$50 Household \$75

I am a new member

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: Jamie Auburn, P. O. Box 1577, Waldport, OR 97394