



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon January 2010

*A Happy and Healthy New Year  
To all*

### Meeting January 21st

Noon at the Newport Library

#### Billie Jo Smith on *Children's Trust*

At our January membership meeting, Billie Jo Smith will tell us about the **Children's Trust of Lincoln County** proposed by The Central Coast Chapter of Stand for Children. The Children's Trust is based on successful models in Portland and other U.S. cities. The Trust would serve as an umbrella organization, providing more stable and sustainable funding than is currently available to programs serving children in Lincoln County. Programs to be funded by the Trust might include childcare, early childhood education, health and nutrition, child abuse prevention and intervention, mentoring, homeless youth services, and outside of school enrichment. The Trust would be funded by five-year property tax levies, and would be accountable to the voters. Volunteers from Stand's Central Coast Chapter are spearheading the effort to put the levy initiative on the May 2011 ballot. Come hear about this exciting idea! Find out what you can do!

#### And LWV Lincoln County POSITIONS

At the meeting we will also discuss our positions, to consider which should be retained, which updated,...

See our current positions on pp 6&7

As the 2010 National Convention in June will be deciding which issues will be studied, and priorities for Action, we will also discuss any issues we would like emphasized at the Convention.

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### Happy Birthday LWV

The League of Women Voters is **90** !  
February 14, 2010 .

The League was created in 1920—just six months before women won the right to vote—League members promoted full participation of citizens in our democracy because they understood that's what it takes to build a strong democracy. Today, you and I as League members walk in the footsteps of those early pioneers.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



This past month we were very busy hosting two Measure 66 & 67 events. I fear the political year ahead will make this month seem like a peaceful interlude. The primaries are in May. In November, we'll vote for U.S. senator and congressman, Oregon governor, and Oregon state representative. Along the way there will be uncounted, but important, local position contests, and who knows how many ballot measures. Our League's voter service efforts will be challenged trying to provide unbiased information, meet-the-candidates and issue forums and debates. I want to share with you some things I observed at our recent debate.

On Wednesday evening, January 6, LWV of Lincoln County sponsored a debate, billed as "The Great Debate", on Ballot Measures 66 & 67 between Barton Howe, a Taft High School Civics teacher, and Jim Hoover, a local contractor and leader of the Americans for Prosperity chapter. The moving force behind this debate was actually Barton Howe; he contacted us and asked for our sponsorship because Lincoln City would not allow use of their Council Chambers for this event without such sponsorship.

By most standards the meeting was a success. It was attended by 62 people, very good for our area. Based on the signs people carried and the conversations I heard, most people favored a No vote on 66 & 67. However, the audience was decorous. They complied with our request to remove all signs from the meeting room and to refrain from demonstrations or applause until the end of the debate. They seemed quite attentive to what both speakers had to say. They took more than 25 LWVOR Voters' Guides with them from the literature table at the back of the room.

Continued on P. 3.

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Jamie and Rick Auburn are the proud parents of Ruby Marie, born December 23.*

*Jamie and Ruby are doing well, and Jamie and Rick are very happy to finally meet their little red head.*

Help Wanted! Yes on 66 & 67

Phone bank volunteers will be calling registered voters who have not yet cast their ballots.

. If you're willing and able to help with the phone bank, call Billie Jo Smith, 541-336-9578.

## Calendar

**2010 Happy New Year !  
The League of Women Voters I  
celebrates its 90th Birthday!**

January 21 General Meeting Program planning

January 25 Board Meeting 1pm

January 26 *Election. Measures 66 & 67*

February 18 General Meeting Immigration Issues

February 22 Board Meeting 1pm

March 18 General Meeting Noon

March 29 Board Meeting

April 17 Saturday Brunch! Water Issues

April 26 Board Meeting

May 6 Annual Meeting

## Presidents Message Continued

At another level, I was disappointed by this debate.

Barton Howe was passionate and persuasive about his school's need for the tax revenues Measures 66 & 67 would provide. He described the real and painful cuts that have already taken place, and fears of what further cuts would mean. Yet he confined his case to his school and his school district, to what he knew personally. He did not address any of the other areas where cuts in service would be painful. Jim Hoover trotted out a wide range of arguments against the measures — Oregon taxes are too high; Business should not be taxed; Businesses and high income people will leave the state if taxes are raised causing tens of thousands of jobs to be lost; State government is wasteful; There is more than enough money in state reserves to provide the \$750 million these tax increases would provide. Barton Howe did not try to counter any of these arguments in his rebuttals, but basically reiterated the damage that further reductions in funding would do to students' education. It was frustrating to me to hear the "No" arguments with no one challenging them.

In the future ("lesson learned") I will not support sponsoring such a debate. If we sponsor an Education Fund event on an issue, we'll need to get people who will address most of the major arguments of each side of the issue. If we can't do this with two debaters, we should go with a panel, or not at all.

At this event, the debaters first addressed four agreed-on questions, and then took questions from the audience. In accordance our League meeting ground rules, audience members wrote their questions on cards we provided, and we screened the questions for duplication, clarity, and appropriateness, before passing them to the moderator. Our League instituted this rule a number of years ago after an earlier divisive meeting, in order to maintain control. However, there is a trade-off here. At Wednesday's meeting many of the written questions were unclear. I suspect many audience members had appropriate questions that they would have been able to ask orally, but were unable to put into writing clearly. Although there are some people who would rather pose a question in writing than stand up to ask it, I think there are as many or more who just won't or can't ask questions if they are required to write them. We've achieved highly controlled meetings at the cost of two-way communication.

At meetings where we talk about issues, and are not dealing with a very large audience, I would like to back off on the written-questions-only rule, and allow audience members to ask their questions orally. The moderator needs to recognize audience members fairly (take your turn, don't ask a second until everyone has had their first), cut off those who are making speeches instead of asking questions, and tell people that questions that are off the topic won't be answered here. For very large audiences and meet-the-candidates events I would have us continue to accept only screened written questions.

What do you think?



*"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

#### Directors

President	Ruth Kistler	Maxine Demory
Vice President	AnaMaria Smith	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	Suzanne Maxson
	Land Use	Janice Gerdemann

## Election January 26

### Vote Yes on Measures 66 & 67

**Vote Yes to prevent further painful cuts to our schools and the most vulnerable members of our community.**

If you haven't yet received your ballot, call Lincoln County Elections, 541-265-4131. If you haven't yet sent in your completed ballot, do so ASAP.

Phone bank volunteers will be calling registered voters who have not yet cast their ballots. Cast your ballot now and give these volunteers one less call to make.

*Stand For Children* plans to do phone banking from Jan 21 through Jan 25, and they can use all the help they can get. Volunteers can make calls from the office or, if they prefer, from their homes. If you're willing and able to help with the phone bank, call Billie Jo Smith, 541-336-9578.



### Donations made to Samaritan House LWV Luncheon in December 2009 -

Thank you for all  
these wonderful  
gifts! We hope you all had  
Happy Holidays! From  
Samaritan House Staff and Residents



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Film Series

Here's a happy coincidence! In time for the second year of our state water study, the Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District is presenting their second annual water film series. Free!

**River of Renewal** Conflict over water & wildlife in the Klamath Basin turned farmers and ranchers against American Indians and salmon fishermen in Oregon and California. But after lawsuits and winner-take-all politics brought disaster to the farms, the fish, and the fisheries, these stakeholders came together to forge a consensus for the common good.

Jan 25 – Yachats Commons

Feb 2 – Lincoln City Cultural Center

**Reining in the Storm – One Building at a Time** Dave Eckert presents the fourth in his series of documentary films about our role in creating healthy water supplies and healthy communities. This 30-minute film presents five steps involved in creating clean water through Low Impact Development techniques.

Jan 26 – Lincoln City Cultural Center

Feb 1 – Yachats Commons

*Films begin at 6 PM. Discussion follows.  
For information, call Robin or Stacey, 541-265-2631*

## Grapefruit

We sold 189 boxes of grapefruit and will be using our profits during the elections this coming spring and fall!

Many Thanks to all our members who worked very hard at making sales and deliveries, and thanks to all the people who bought grapefruit.

**LINCOLN COUNTY LWV POSITIONS\*\*\***

	Retain	Drop	Up-date	Restudy
Homeless Youth (2006)				
Child Health (2005)				
Land Use and Natural Resource Issues in Lincoln County (2001)				
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education and Services (2001)				
Lincoln County School District (1985)				
Post Secondary Education (1985)				
Port District (1983)				
Domestic Violence (1979)				
Libraries (1975)				

**\*\*\*These positions are printed for you on the following pages.**

Please explain any positions you would like to Study or Restudy. Why do you feel it's necessary? What do you hope to gain? Are you willing to be a part of the study group?

On what issues do you think LWV Lincoln County should be active?

LWVOR has positions on: Governance, Natural Resources and Social Policy (which includes Health Policy). Recent studies may be found online at <http://www.lwvor.org/recentstudies.htm>

At present the second part of the Water Resources in Oregon Study is being completed, and in the next year the state League will be studying Coastal Waters of Oregon. What issues would you would like the State League or the National League to focus on?

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## **LWV of Lincoln County – Summary of Positions – 1975-2009**

### **Homeless Youth**

**2006**

LWV Lincoln County supports state and local programs and services which intervene to prevent conditions that lead to homelessness.

LWVLC supports the ASF (Adoption and Safe Families Act), which provides funding to local programs and services. LWVLC supports ASF's long range goal-- to put at risk children into a permanent healthy family environment through adoption, or when possible, education and treatment for parents to return the children to their families, or to place them with other family members.

LWVLC supports state, county, city and private programs, specifically including schools, which attempt to identify children at risk before the situation becomes critical.

LWVLC supports and encourages proactive programs to assist youth and families, including affordable housing and emergency shelters, daycare centers for children and improved public transportation systems.

### **Child Health Position:**

**2005**

1. The LWV of Lincoln County supports the mission, goals and legislated responsibilities of the state Department of Human Services to provide health, childcare and safety services for children and families. The LWVLC also supports the county goals identified by the Lincoln County Children and Families Commission particularly Goal II – Healthy Thriving Children.
2. The LWVLC supports adequate public funding at the national, state and local levels for health and safety services, which include adequate staffing of schools and the child welfare agency; and adequate funding for food and shelter for all children in the County. Specifically the LWVLC supports the widest inclusion of families in the OHP by supporting adequate national funding for Medicaid and expanding health care access of children and families through public clinics with sliding fee scale payment options.
3. The LWVLC supports the Oregon's Progress Board's Benchmark Project as a method for identifying and measuring outcomes of services such as the Child Well-Being Index.
4. The LWVLC supports the development of three needed services in the county:
  - ◆ A crisis-center for children and families that could provide emergency child care
  - ◆ Accessible dental care for children
  - ◆ Mental health services for children and families regardless of income or health insurance eligibility
5. The LWVLC supports a healthy, safe environment for all the children in Lincoln County.

### **Land Use and Natural Resource Issues in Lincoln County**

**2001**

. The LWVLC supports all the statewide planning goals of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, with particular emphasis on Goal 5 (open spaces, scenic and historic areas, and natural resources); Goal 17 (coastal shorelands); and Goal 18 (beaches and dunes). We advocate the cooperation and compliance of local jurisdictions in meeting these goals, conducting periodic reviews, and revising local codes and ordinances as appropriate.

2. The LWVLC supports preservation of open spaces in the coastal shoreland, including bays and estuaries.

3. The LWVLC supports the preservation of Highway 101 as a National Scenic Byway. We advocate the study of costs and benefits of proposed economic developments prior to approval of proposed developments in the Highway 101 corridor. We support action to maintain a viable economy while preserving the natural beauty and environmental integrity of the area, such as preservation of native flora and fauna, removal of noxious weeds, reduction of intrusive signs and overhead utility lines, and removal of derelict buildings.

**Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education and Services****2001**

The LWV of Lincoln County supports the need for alcohol and substance abuse education in schools and in the community, and services for alcoholics in Lincoln County, including a medically-supervised detoxification facility, in-patient and out-patient care, and centralized leadership and coordination.

(Updates position adopted in 1982, by adding substance abuse.)

**Lincoln County School District:****1985**

The LWV of Lincoln County studied Lincoln County School District curriculum, organization, and financing in 1984-85 and continue to invite speakers and hold programs to keep us informed. We recognize the need for an update of this position but do not have resources to do so at this time. However, we are able to take action on some issues under the LWVOR position on K-12 School District Finance, which we studied this year. The revised version adopted by the LWVOR states:

The LWV of Oregon believes:

1. The major portion of the cost of public schools should be borne by the state.
  - a. The state should provide sufficient funds to give each child an equal, adequate education
  - b. All specifically-mandated programs should be financed by the state.
2. Local districts should be allowed funding alternatives to provide educational programs.
3. Apart from state mandates, local control of the educational programs should be maintained.
4. A stable state system for financing public schools is crucial for long-range planning.

**Post Secondary Education****1985**

The LWV of Lincoln County believes the primary goal of Oregon's post secondary education should be to provide a broad spectrum of higher education for professional, vocational, and personal enrichment to all qualified and motivated individuals.

**Port District****1983**

Support use of prudent economic development strategies by port districts within the county when undertaken with public knowledge and participation, and are consistent with adopted land use planning guidelines. We believe the port districts should do a better job of educating and informing the public about port business.

**Domestic Violence****1979**

The LWV of Lincoln County believes that resources should be available throughout the county to provide shelter, referral and counseling services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We support legislative domestic violence laws and ask that they be enforced. We believe that there should be cooperation at all levels among agencies providing services.

**Siletz Indian Tribe Restoration****1977****Dropped in 2008**

The Lincoln County League of Women Voters supports legislation to restore the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon as a federally recognized Sovereign Indian Tribe and also to restore to these Indians, Federal Services and benefits furnished to federally recognized American Indian Tribes.

**Libraries****1975**

The LWV of Lincoln County supports county-wide public library services.

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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**