

Wave Lengths

A publication of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County

MAY 2008

Barry Norris to Speak at Annual Meeting

Last October, Joan Haffner and Ruth Kistler attended the LWVOR 2007 Fall Workshop in Eugene. There, we heard Barry Norris talk about “The Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative“, and we concluded that he would be an excellent speaker for our local League. We are fortunate that Mr. Norris has agreed to speak at our annual meeting.

The Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative is a project begun by the Legislature in 2006. The Purpose is to locate existing aquifers and potential reservoirs and to create a data base to be used in planning water supply. This will eventually include:

- Assessment of existing and future water supply needs,
- Analysis of conservation opportunities,
- Inventory of potential storage sites, and
- Basin yield estimates.

Mr. Norris is the State Engineer at the Oregon Water Resources Department. He has worked for the Department for 26 years and is currently involved in managing the Governor’s Water Supply and Conservation Initiative. He also oversees the Department Dam Safety Program, and is involved in managing the Umatilla Basin Critical Area Recharge Project that was funded by the Legislature in February 2008. We look forward to meeting with him!

LWV Lincoln County Annual Luncheon Meeting Thursday, May 15th Noon at Otter Crest

Speaker will be Barry Norris, Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative.

A short business meeting: Vote on proposed Nominations to the Board, By-laws changes, and 2008-09 Budget.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you need a ride, please contact Ruth Kistler 541-574-8145.

 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
**Reaching New
Heights Together**
June 13-17, 2008 • Portland, Oregon



The most important work of the convention is deciding the LWVUS Program for 2008-2010. This decision will drive the focus of the National League in the next two years. State and Local Leagues will be asked to participate in the adopted program.

Proposed Program (from the Convention Workbook)

Based on Program Planning responses from state Leagues, the LWVUS Board recommends retaining all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy.

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President's Message

Whew! As predicted, this has indeed been a very busy and exciting year for me, and for the Lincoln County League of Women Voters. Here are some highlights of our year:

September started with our meeting on the state judicial study and a film on the importance of an independent judiciary.

Then, using materials provided by the national League's immigration study, we spent several meetings studying, discussing, and finally reaching consensus in January on Immigration. Jorge Hernandez of Centro de Ayuda spoke to the November general meeting about Hispanic immigrants in our community. The 2008 LWVUS Convention will vote on the new immigration position..

We registered voters in October and again in April. We found new ways to print and distribute Voters' Guides. Last fall we hosted an informational meeting on ballot measures 49 and 50, and worked for, and celebrated the passage of, Measure 49. Our April meeting presented ballot measures 51, 52, and 53. We supported LWVOR's Democratic Senatorial candidate forum in Newport with womanpower and publicity. We sponsored a Lincoln County District Attorney candidate's forum in Yachats.

We sold grapefruit!

In December, we honored LWV's origins in the women's suffrage movement with a potluck luncheon social and snippets from the film "Iron Jawed Angels".

In March, our meeting again heard from County Commissioner Bill Hall. He gave us an update on Lincoln County's progress toward affordable housing and against homelessness.

LWV Lincoln County Board, Officers, Committee Chairs		
President	Ruth Kistler	574-8145
Vice President	Charmian Mass	994-3735
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	265-2145
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	563-5231
Directors		
LWVOR Liaison	Joan Haffner	547-4736
Membership	Frances Van Wert	265-9312
Committee Chairs:		
Land Use	Janice Gerdemann	547-3544
Newsletter	Sue Krein	765-2212
Nominating	Carol Hall	765-3342
Publicity	Jamie Auburn	265-2145



The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

While the state League undertakes a study of the Water Resources of Oregon, we've given heightened attention to our area waters. In February, we learned about the work of the Salmon / Driftwood Creek Watershed Council from Paul Katen. I've attended meetings and sent reports to the state League about our unique coastal water concerns, wave energy, marine reserves, and now the salmon fishery closure. Our May meeting will feature Barry Norris of the Oregon Water Resources Department.

We'll end the year with a crescendo of events, our annual meeting on May 15 at Otter Crest Inn, the LWVOR Council May 16-18 in Corvallis, and the LWVUS Convention June 13-17 in Portland.

And then you can take the summer off. Your board, however, will meet in June, July, and August, to prepare for next year.

Ruth Kistler

Mock Election

Making students aware of the power of their ballot by actively involving them in a state and national mock election.

Oregon LWV has coordinated the Oregon Mock Elections for the past several years. This year the State League has applied for a grant from the Federal Elections Assistance Commission, and if we receive it, we will be hiring a coordinator in July, and the program will be expanding. Probably the biggest change will be field outreach to schools by the coordinator.

Lincoln County LWV members can help by contacting schools and teachers and encouraging them to participate in the program. For more information contact Joan Haffner, jhaffner@pioneer.net or phone 541-547 5193.

The program. In Oregon, the Student Mock Election is a statewide program directly affiliated with the national organization. The Mock Election will be carried out in hundreds of public, private and home schools around the state. Our students will vote on the candidates for Governor, Representatives in Congress, and Oregon Supreme Court, as well as on the Oregon ballot measures and several national issues. They will join thousands of students around the country who will vote by Oct. 29. On Oregon Mock Election Day, Oct.. 30, Oregon's results will be announced at a special event.

Information and teaching aids are available to schools and teachers. Each school or teacher can keep this as simple as they like, or can host a variety of events and activities to broaden students' learning experiences. Students from different schools across Oregon will be able to debate each other via videoconferencing. Debates may concern the state ballot measures, other state issues and/or national issues on the Mock Election ballots. Many excellent ideas can be found on the national web site. In addition, a suggested curriculum specifically for Oregon that meets social science standards, is available on the League of Women Voters web site:

More information: www.lwvor.org/mockelection.htm
www.nationalmockelection.org

State Coordinators:

LWV of Oregon Education Fund
1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97302
Ph: 503-581-5722 FAX: 503-581-9403
lwvor@lwvor.org

(Continued from p 1) LWVUS Convention Proposed Program

The LWVUS Board recommends a Health Care Program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.

The LWVUS Board recommends the following proposed concurrence to amend the LWVUS Principles: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.

There are several items "**non-recommended**" by the national board, they may be reconsidered by a decision of the delegates at the convention. These items include (*the number following indicates the number of Leagues supporting the item*).

- ◆ National Popular Vote (38)
- ◆ Natural Resources (36)
- ◆ Citizens Right to Vote (12)
- ◆ Health Care Review (11)
- ◆ Trade (11)
- ◆ Selection of the President (10)
- ◆ Media (10)

To see a complete list of these items go to www.lwv.org and follow the trail to Convention.

Proposed Concurrences to be discussed and voted on at the Convention:

- ◆ Arms Control and Disarmament
- ◆ Civil Marriage
- ◆ Health Care
- ◆ Independent Judiciary
- ◆ Media & the Internet
- ◆ Reapportionment and Redistricting
- ◆ Sustainability

To see current Positions of the National League, visit the national website, www.lwv.org
It is not too late for you to **volunteer to assist at the convention**. If you would like to volunteer or observe, contact Joan Haffner for information.

IF YOU MISSED THE April 17, 2008 Membership Meeting

Here are the highlights

Ballot Measures 51, 52, discussion was led by Suzanne Maxson. The two measures are about improving crime victims rights. Ballot Measure 53 discussion was presented by Joan Haffner. This constitutional change would allow Oregon law officials to share the proceeds from seized property that is allowed by federal law but not Oregon law. The state league has not taken a position on any of these measures, nor has the ACLU.

Maxine Demory provided an excellent and informative DVD about SAMARITAN HOUSE.

Joan Haffner made voter registration packets for members who will register voters at various community locations. Last day to register to vote for the primary was April 29th.

Sue Krein brought the Voters Guides for members to distribute in public places. Jamie Auburn will publicize the locations.

“Bumper Crop” of Voter Registrants

Our LWV members fanned out across the county in the weeks preceding the April 29 voter registration deadline and harvested a bumper crop of new and changed voter registrations. In addition to the typical number of new voters and voters who needed to re-register because of an address change, there were many voters re-registering in order to change party affiliation so as to be able to vote in the Democratic primary. Our members provided voter registration cards, instructions for filling out the cards, and delivery of cards (postage-free) to the elections office. We also offered our free LWV *Voters' Guides* to all those interested.

Usually, we're one of the only groups out there registering voters, but not this year. Interest in the November election and this May's primary has brought out many potential voters and those who wanted to register them. Frances Van Wert reported that there were organized High School students registering voters in her neighborhood, and she encouraged them. I received a request from the Oregon Coast Community College in Newport for advice on their student voter registration drive. The political campaigns sent in teams to register voters in hopes that the new voters would support their candidate. And it's all to the good; we support citizen participation in government. Now, we need to get out the information that will help these registrants be informed voters.

Looking Forward to a Busy Fall!

This will be an active election year, with lots of opportunities for League members.

- Register voters (possibly at late summer farmers' markets in the county as well as community locations in the fall).
- Assist in researching &/or editing the fall Voters' Guide. This will have to be done in July/August. Research will involve a commitment of some time, editing a commitment of 1 day with travel to the valley.
- Volunteer to join a Speakers Bureau, share information with community groups about the (expected) many Initiatives on the fall ballot.
- If you have suggestions for community members who are supportive of the League, help us put together a mailing list for fundraising. We will need to pay printing costs, and newspaper insertion costs for the fall Voters Guide.
- And join us at the first fall meeting, September 18!
- If you can help in any of these ways, or have other suggestions, call Ruth Kistler 574-8145 or Joan Haffner 547-5193.

Page 3 includes information on the Mock Election program available for local high schools, beginning in the Fall, 2008.

District Attorney Candidates Forum Held April 20.

On Sunday, April 20, LWV of Lincoln County held a forum, organized by Nancy Jones, for the candidates for the office of Lincoln County District Attorney, Bernice Barnett and Rob Bovett. There had been earlier forums featuring these two candidates, but this was the only one held in south county, at Yachats Commons. Over 50 people were in the audience, an excellent turnout. Although several in the audience sported campaign buttons that identified them as supporters of one or the other candidate, there were also many present in order to hear the candidates and make a choice.

This was a LWV-format forum; the audience wrote questions for the candidates on forms that we provided. Nancy Jones and Sue Krein screened the questions to eliminate duplicates and negative statements. Suzanne Maxson served as moderator and posed the questions to the candidates. Frances Van Wert was the timekeeper. Everyone considered the forum a great success.