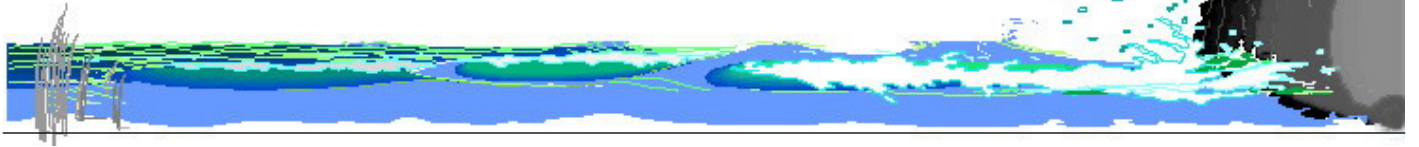


WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

May 2009

LWV Meeting

May 21 Noon

Newport Library

WATER USE CONFLICTS

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln County will meet at noon on Thursday, May 21, in the conference room of the Newport Library. The group will discuss the state's water traditions and current needs. Subjects covered will be the present multiple widely assorted water needs, conflicts of users with each other, and conflicting interests of government entities involved in water management.

We will base our discussion on the LWVOR Water Study.

Copies of the study will be available at the meeting if anyone wishes an additional copy, or did not receive one.

See p 4 for additional information on water issues in Oregon, and in the country.



Remember to
Vote!
Local Elections are
important!
The last day to
turn in your ballot
is May 19.

National Popular Vote

On Monday, April 20, at 5:30 PM, in the Newport Library, Ruth Kistler presented the LWVUS National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact study, and the arguments for and against LWV's supporting adoption of this Compact. The unusual evening meeting time was an attempt to allow participation by those members of our League and the community at large who cannot attend our usual Thursday noon meetings. We did gain a couple of people who can not attend Thursday meetings, but we also lost some member attendees because of the evening hour. Nonetheless, we were able to discuss the NPV compact, address the consensus questions, and reach a strong consensus on all questions. The responses we submitted to the national League are on P. 3.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

Henry Ford

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



Until September, this is our final newsletter, and May 21 will be our last membership meeting. It's time to look back at the event-filled year that's ending. We gained several new members this year and sadly lost others.

Our 2008-09 year kicked off in the middle of a roaring election run-up. In anticipation of the expense of distributing the LWVOR *Voters' Guide*, we mailed our first-ever fundraising letter. Do you remember that there were **twelve** ballot measures? (The League supports initiative reform.) We held a ballot measure forum and a candidates' forum, both well-attended. Our interest and efforts extended beyond the candidates and ballot issues to how elections are conducted. Our October meeting saw Gene and Angel Newton's presentation on an accessible computer technology that allows disabled citizens to vote independently; this technology has been deployed throughout Oregon. In November, we heard about Voter Protection from Diane Eckstein.

Our League participated in Project Homeless Connect; we were there to help homeless people register to vote. Martha Holmberg followed the Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition meetings for us. In December we listened to County Commissioner Bill Hall update us on homelessness and affordable housing in Lincoln County.

Throughout the Fall, we discussed the Election Methods Study, and in January, Paula Krane led our consensus discussion. In February, Dr. Paul Hochfeld showed his video "Health, Money, and Fear". It was an eye-opener and a serious discussion starter. (We may ask him for an encore.)

In March, Juna Hickner talked to us about Marine Reserves. In April, George Boehlert told us about the green promise of wave energy and its potential environmental problems. (Perhaps we'll need to deploy acoustical detour signs for the migrating gray whales.) And now, in May, Millie Ehrman will lead our discussion of the LWVOR Water study, Part I.

I look forward to next year. This year, we decided not to undertake any new local studies, but rather to concentrate our efforts on action based on positions we already hold. Next year we'll be looking for opportunities to take effective action on issues. Next year, we'll sell yummy grapefruit, again. Next year, we'll continue to try to attract new members and involve more of our current members in activities. At our May meeting you'll meet Catelin Hanshumaker, who'll be working with us as an intern on the goal of attracting new members.

But for now, I'm dreaming of the summer hiatus. Well, at least a slowing of League activity. Maybe I'll even win the LWVOR Convention raffle for a week in Maui. Dreamer!



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

National Popular Vote

These are the responses we submitted to the national League:

Amending the Constitution:

1. Actions by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
2. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.

Congressional Consent

3. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.

Enforcement

4. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.

Uniformity

5. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.

Popular Election of the President

6. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college

Achievability

We disagree that "The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states." We agree that "A constitutional amendment to establish the direct election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed."

Additional Comments:

We felt the consensus questions were slanted so as to get us to reject the NPV Compact, and that the questions were repetitive. An argument in favor of the NPV Compact is that its passage, or momentum towards passage, might cause the long-delayed Constitutional amendment to be approved (proposed) by Congress. Uniformity of voting systems is still important, but should not be a deterrent to accepting the NPV Compact because the Compact does not significantly reduce uniformity.

Election Methods

See the State League's new position on Election Methods.

Go to:

<http://www.lwvor.org/lwvorpositions.htm#electionmethods>

Calendar 2009

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 15-17 | LWVOR Convention Medford
You may still attend as an observer: call Ruth Kistler. |
| May 21 | General Meeting
LWVOR Water Study |
| June 8 | Board Meeting Noon |
| June 8 | LWVUS Council via Video Conference Members may attend.
Place to be announced. |



LINCOLN COUNTY LWV DOES NOT MEET in the summer. We'll see you SEPTEMBER 17!

**OREGON'S WATER:
ENOUGH TO GO AROUND?**

**By Marnie Lonsdale,
LWVOR Water Study Co-Chair**

A visit to the National Weather Service climate data center shows Oregon's precipitation is down significantly this year. For example as of February 22, 2009, in Eugene, the precipitation since October 1, 2008 has been 13.78 inches, down 19 inches from the normal value of 32.78 inches. If the low rainfall continues the prospect of drought looms. The state of California is already experiencing a drought that has significant effects on agriculture. According to an article in the February 20 *New York Times*, projections from federal authorities indicate that little or no water will be available from federal sources this year for agricultural use, with the Central Valley Project, the large irrigation system operated by the Bureau of Land Reclamation, only able to provide zero to 10 percent of its contracted deliveries. Just as in California, almost all or perhaps all of the water rights in Oregon have been allocated, and in drought there may not be enough to go around. The Water Resources Department is responsible for tracking these water rights.

A detailed system of regulations is in place to track and control the use of the water that, by law, belongs to the public. However, many rights having first priority were obtained years ago when the Oregon population was agrarian. The needs of increasingly urban populations and modern industries may be secondary to earlier rights. These issues are further complicated by problems of pollution and the more recently introduced laws to maintain in-stream flow. Also, both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Federal Clean Water Act may place additional limits on the water that can be removed from surface sources.

Governor Ted Kulongoski has initiated a strategy to address the complex water issues by creating Headwaters to Ocean (H2O). The strategy is intended "to achieve sustainable water supplies and quality to benefit Oregon's people, communities, environment and ecosystems, and fish and wildlife." The governor convened an H2O Advisory Group, including representatives from key stakeholder groups and state agencies. To learn more about the group and related legislative action visit <http://www.oregon.gov/Gov/GNRO/14jan09-h2o-strategyhome-page.shtml>.

As you read the study *Water in Oregon – not a Drop to Waste, Part 1*- keep in mind the complexity of addressing modern and future water issues when rights were established many years ago. The economics and culture of our state have strong ties to the traditional rights that must be adjusted for future needs. Go to lwvor.org for a PowerPoint presentation of *Water in Oregon*.

LWVLC BOARD

At our annual meeting in April, the Lincoln County Board changed. We lost the invaluable help of Charmian Mass, and gained the experience and talents of Maxine Demory and AnaMaria E. Smith.

We thank Charmian for her help and commitment. And we welcome Maxine and Ana Maria and look forward to their assistance, ideas, and passions.

Continuing on the Board next year will be President Ruth Kistler, Secretary Suzanne Maxson, Treasurer Jamie Auburn, Membership chair Frances Van Wert, Marilyn Podesta who will work on Voter Services, Millie Ehrman who will assume Publicity and Joan Haffner who is responsible for this late! Newsletter.



Sue Krein

Susan Krein died of pancreatic cancer on April 1, 2009 at her home.

Sue was a mainstay of the Lincoln County LWV during her years on the Oregon Coast. She served in every possible manner, including four years as president, and more recently on the State LWV Board.

She was always involved in our community, and will be greatly missed by her friends, including many friends in the League and in the other organizations she supported.

We send our deepest sympathy to Phil and their family.

ACTION NEEDED:

(From the LWVOR Action Committee—see www.LWVOR.org)

Contact your state legislators ([Senate](#)) ([House](#)) and deliver the message below. It is also important to contact your legislators if they are members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee or the House or Senate Revenue Committees.

DEADLINE FOR ACTION: IMMEDIATE, URGENT PRIORITY

MESSAGE TO CONVEY to your LEGISLATOR: Protect Oregon's most vulnerable citizens and maintain basic infrastructure needs. Although some cuts are inevitable, I would like you to put party ideologies aside and *increase revenue*.

I support: [choose one or two of the following to emphasize]

- Increasing the income taxes paid by corporations; be as equitable as possible in protecting small businesses and returning fairness and equity to the system.
- Adding a 4th bracket to the individual income tax or place a surcharge on incomes above \$250,000 with a sunset date.

THE FUTURE OF VOTER SERVICE

On April 10, 2009, LWVOR/EF board and guests from other Leagues, met to explore the changing dimensions of Voter Service activities and delivery. Suggestions from the consultant findings and League member comments and ideas as well as national changing trends necessitated this discussion.

The discussion centered around six areas and groups of 4-5 persons rotated through each topic making comments and deciding on directional priorities. The six areas were: *What is our niche? *What should we do with the Voters' Guide? *What are successful delivery/contact methods? *How do we finance our activities? *How do we improve public outreach? and *How do we identify and account for our audience being served?

At the May Convention, a preliminary proposal will be shared with League members for input and an opportunity to volunteer to serve on a Voter Service committee to enact targets established. Please consider serving on this committee. Many of you have invaluable experience and many wonderful ideas came about this year through the Local League Grants.

If you want to see the notes from the April meeting and/or join in as a member of the Voter Services Future committee, please contact Deanie Anderson Voter Service cochair at eanieha@comcast.net or the State League office.

- Increasing certain taxes, such as cigarette and beer, to be used to fund specific programs.
- Using Rainy Day and Educational Stability Reserve Funds.
- Using the federal stimulus funds and account for them in preserving services and providing jobs. Taking advantage of matching federal funds where possible.

Go to the state website for more information and legislators addresses.

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
<u>Annual Membership Dues</u> (Circle one.)	\$50	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a new member		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am renewing my membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in working with the League.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 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