



### COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION, 2010!!

By Marilyn L. Podesta

Your board has been hard at work planning how and when to get information to the Lincoln County voters for the November 2 General Election.

This year we will not pay to insert Voters' Guides in our local newspapers as we have done prior to past elections. Instead, we are thinking of placing an ad in the Newport Times to alert voters to the online voters guide. The one provided as a model came from the State League and could work for us, as well.

Hard copies of Voters' Guides have finally arrived, and will be distributed to local libraries and other venues where they can be accessed. Click on "Where to pick up an Oregon LWV Voters' Guide" on the LWVLC home page to get a list of locations where we have placed Voters' Guides. We will have Voters' Guides available at our October member meeting, and at our Ballot Measure forum on October 24. We recommend that members who have internet access view the Voters' Guide on-line. You can access it from our LWVLC website; follow the link under "Education" to view the Voters' Guide on the LWVOR site. Or navigate from [www.VoteSource.org](http://www.VoteSource.org).

Fortunately, the Voters' Guides arrived in time to be available at Chinook Winds Casino on October 10, where your local League had an informational table with registration cards, Voters' Guides and membership information. Many Lincoln City organizations helped sponsor this forum which introduced the many national, state and local candidates to the public. Frances, Ruth and Marilyn were in attendance helping to "man" our table.

In late September, the five high schools in Lincoln County were contacted as to how students could make a video tape of themselves asking the two gubernatorial candidates questions. These tapes would then be sent to the State League where they would be judged and selected tapes/questions forwarded to the candi-

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **October Membership Meeting**

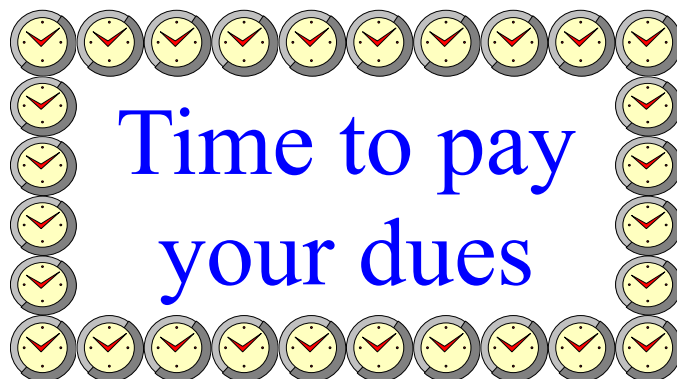
**Thursday, October 21, Noon  
Newport Public Library**

### **2010 November Election Ballot Measures**

Members Ruth Kistler, Suzanne Maxson, Marilyn Podesta, and Frances Van Wert will present the November Ballot Measures. This is a "dress rehearsal" for our public October 24 Ballot Measure forum, to be held at 2 pm at the Newport Visual Arts Center.

We hope meeting attendees will give us feedback on our presentation.

After the presentations, there will be an open discussion of the ballot measures and the positions the state League has taken on them.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler

It's election season. Democracy is precious; fair elections are essential to democracy, and so is an informed electorate. But I wish I had a "voter-control" button on my TV remote to automatically exclude those political sound bites. They're as welcome as the biting black flies that appear at Yaquina Head after the auks have gone back out to sea.



Our League has been busy helping people register to vote and distributing the LWVOR Voters' Guide; see Marilyn's article. It's so convenient to register and vote in Oregon with the on-line registration option (new last year) and vote-by-mail. This issue of the newsletter includes Suzanne's true tale of registering voters in 1964 Mississippi, and Frances's experience helping people vote in Philadelphia PA in 2008, to remind ourselves of the challenges presented then and there.

Our League has been busy helping people register to vote and distributing the LWVOR Voters' Guide; see Marilyn's article. It's so convenient to register and vote in Oregon with the on-line registration option (new last year) and vote-by-mail. This issue of the newsletter includes Suzanne's true tale of registering voters in 1964 Mississippi, and Frances's experience helping people vote in Philadelphia PA in 2008, to remind ourselves of the challenges presented then and there.

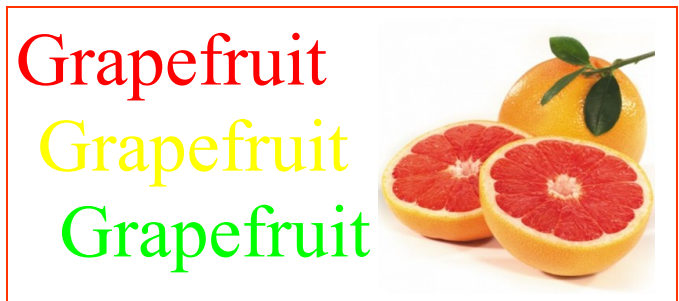
Yet voting rights are not all that secure in our country today. In the name of preventing voter fraud, several states have passed laws requiring voters to show photo ID. These laws will probably have the effect of discouraging voting of the poor and elderly, who are less likely to have such ID, and for whom acquiring such identification can be difficult and expensive. It has not yet been shown that a photo ID requirement disenfranchises citizens, but it has also not been shown that it prevents voter fraud.

In the matter of an informed electorate, LWV president Elizabeth MacNamara recently wrote in her Leaders' Update: "1)... anonymity is the enemy of truth in almost every case, including electioneering, and (2) even the most informed voter can be easily distracted by well constructed efforts to change the terms of a debate. With regard to anonymity, we need look no further than the false information being put out by special interests with regard to health care reform. And, as the *New York Times* recently reported, these special interests can hide their identities by donating to nonprofit groups with innocuous sounding names with no duty to reveal the names of their donors."

Today, LWVOR and OSPIRG sent a letter to the Oregon Chamber of Commerce asking that they either document that no foreign funds are being spent on their campaign ads, or stop spending money on attack ads in

Oregon. Although direct election spending by foreign entities is illegal, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United* allowed organizations like the Chamber of Commerce to spend unlimited amounts of money on elections as long as it is not the "primary purpose" of the organization. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce collects hundreds of thousands of dollars from foreign-owned businesses, including companies owned by foreign governments, and has so far funded over 8,000 attack ads for this November's election. Go to [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org) to see LWVOR's letter to the Chamber, our press release, and further information on this topic.

Thus we see new challenges to our mission of encouraging informed citizen participation in government and keeping the election funding process transparent. And your League will continue to try to meet those challenges.



### Calendar

<b>October 15</b>	<b>LWVOR Fall Workshop in Eugene</b>
<b>October 21</b>	<b>General meeting November ballot measures Noon—Newport Public Library</b>
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Public Ballot Measure Forum 2PM—Newport Visual Arts Center</b>
<b>October 25</b>	<b>Board Meeting 1PM—West Coast Bank in Newport</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Election day</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>General meeting Water study consensus Noon—Newport Public Library</b>
<b>November 29</b>	<b>Board Meeting 1PM—West Coast Bank in Newport</b>

## COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION, 2010!!

*(Continued from page 1)*

dates. This is part of the YOUth Film Project in conjunction with the State League's Mock Election project. To date, I have not had any feedback as to participation from our high schools.

Much effort was expended by your President, Ruth Kistler in trying to set up a debate between candidates Jean Cowan and Becky Lemler for District 10 State Representative. In the end, this was not possible, but a radio interview between the two took place on October 1 on KCUP in Newport. This, and the many other interviews with local candidates, will be active until Nov. 2, according to the station's owner. Go online at [www.kcup.net](http://www.kcup.net) and click on their Political Interview Site to listen to the interview.

The LWVLC will present the Pro's and Con's of this election's Ballot Measures (there are seven which the electorate will vote upon) on **Sunday, October 24**. We will be at the Visual Arts Center at Nye Beach between 2-4 pm. I encourage as many members as possible to come and support the League's efforts. We will be rehearsing the program at our October meeting at the library on **Thursday, October 21**, and also discussing these ballot measures ourselves.

Ruth earlier sent out the link to view the Speakers' Kit for these measures. Go online at [www.VoteSource.org](http://www.VoteSource.org) to view the copy.

The website for online voter registration is: [www.oregonvotes.org](http://www.oregonvotes.org). Other than our table on Oct. 10 at Chinook Winds, we will not be holding public voter registration tables (as we did last fall) because of the nearness of the cutoff date for registering.

Lastly, **dates to remember:**

**October 12: last day to register to vote**

**October 13-19: ballots mailed to voters**

## James W. Groshong

We are saddened by the death of Jim Groshong. We offer heartfelt condolences to his widow and long-time League member, Sue Groshong.

## Marine Reserve Process

By Ruth Kistler

The State of Oregon has been engaged in a process to consider marine reserves along its coast for the past several years. Following the requirements of HB 3013 (2009), community teams comprised of diverse and balanced stakeholder representatives were formed to further evaluate the marine reserve sites proposed by OPAC in 2008. The proposals for marine reserve sites are being evaluated and potentially modified to determine whether, individually or collectively, the sites are large enough to allow scientific evaluation of ecological benefits, and small enough to avoid significant economic or social impacts. Various scenarios for each site, with different boundary locations and levels of protection, have been proposed by the Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, and Cape Perpetua community teams. Before passing along their recommendations to the state, each community team is looking for public input. You can participate in the process by contacting your stakeholder representative, attending team meetings, or providing public comment at [www.oregonocean.info/](http://www.oregonocean.info/).

The League of Women Voters of Oregon currently has no position on Marine Reserves, but this is one of the topics being addressed in our Coastal Study update.



*"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 state-wide."*

## 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

## ELECTION PROTECTION EXPERIENCE

By Frances Van Wert

In November of 2008 Dianne Eckstein and I, along with our friend Allison, volunteered to act as Election Protection Staff with People for the American Way. Dianne and Allison had done this for a previous election and talked me into going with them. We flew into Philadelphia in the evening. The next day we met with an organizer, were trained for a couple of hours and stayed to help organize the voting information boxes each volunteer was to take to her specific site. Why Philly? Pennsylvania registered 127,000 new voters with over 27,000 just in Philadelphia. They were targeted as a place that needed assistance.

At 6:00am the next morning we picked up our box of materials and were driven to our polling ward in a barrio in North Philadelphia. The polling ward was located in a very old building with about six oversized stairs leading to the door. Most voters were Latinos, Puerto Ricans and Blacks who had lived in the area for many years. We were wearing aprons over our coats that identified us as "Election Protection Volunteers", plus we had a couple of large signs. Interestingly, there were no other signs around to identify this place as a voting ward. No VOTE HERE sign; no American flag or anything. If it hadn't been for our signs, it wouldn't have been a recognizable site for voting. (I somehow bet that's not the case in an affluent area.) We assisted by waving our signs at cars as they passed by.

Our rules stated that we had to stay outside ten feet away from the door of the polling place. We gave each person a VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS, written in both English and Spanish, before they entered the ward and told them to ask for assistance if they needed it. We had both cameras and cell phones to problem solve, plus we had to document any noticeable problems. We documented the lack of signage. We used the cell phones a lot because so many people came to the wrong polling ward. They said that every election they had to go to a different polling ward and that it was very confusing. We would call the staff at People for the American Way to find out where their polling ward was and try to assist them in getting there. We used the camera (with their permission) to verify that the stairs were a problem for several elderly people and handicapped folks. Everyone at the polling booth seemed intent on helping everyone who wanted to vote.

We were volunteering from 6:00 am until 8:00pm when the polls closed. We got little sleep in the two nights we were there. We had to get up at 4:00 am to make

our plane home. We didn't get the Oregon returns until we got back to Portland. While it was an exhausting experience, I did feel we were contributing to something very important. I was so impressed with this small polling ward in a barrio in Philadelphia. The people were so accepting of us, once they figured out we were there to assist. Would I do it again? Yes, definitely. But, only if I add a day or two, so I'm not so exhausted when I return home. Also, the experience makes me appreciate Oregon's vote-by-mail.

Contact the People for the American Way if you are interested in being a Voter Protection Volunteer.



## Where is the Big Map?

By Ruth Kistler

Local League members devoted hundreds of hours to create a detailed map of the Lincoln County coastal corridor, the Big Map. The Big Map showed land use, beach access, and significant visual features. It was used in our Land Use study.

The map is on butcher paper, 3 ft wide and 15 ft long. It is rolled up. It is in a cardboard carton shaped like a triangular prism, 39 inches high and 6 inches on each side of the triangle.

It has probably been a couple of years since the map was last seen. Mary Banvard told me she thought it had been in a storage area at the Newport Public Library, but when that area was checked, no map. Several years ago, when I became LWVLC president, I received League files to store at my home, but a map was not among them; I checked again recently. Last month Phil Krein was kind enough to search all the closets and attic of his home, but again, no map. Ted Smith, the Newport Library director told me he would bring the map up at the library staff meeting and ask staff to check all possible storage areas.

It would be a crying shame if the Big Map has been lost. Please, everyone, try to remember when and where you last saw it. If it was ever at your home, look to see if it's still somewhere about. If you have any idea where it might be, please let me know. Thank you.

## VOTER REGISTRATION, MISSISSIPPI 1964-65

By Suzanne Maxon

My name is Suzanne Maxson. When I was 24 I went to Mississippi as a Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) volunteer. I got to Canton, MS and on my first day we went to court to support the local people who had been denied voter registration.

The local folks who testified were remarkably brave. In the court were sheriff deputies and police officers glaring at the witnesses or patting their holsters. The color that stands out in my memory was the orange leather holsters. The witnesses' testimony was about threats made to them, of the county registrar office closing in their faces and of beatings. They were naming officers and deputies who were in the courtroom with their orange holsters. Many had been visited by the White Citizens Council, which was the actually the ku Klux Klan, (KKK) with a fancy name, white hoods and all. The few folks who had got in the door to register were given questions from the Constitution of Mississippi. The folks were told to interpret the questions. The people could not read the legalese. At first I thought the people testifying were illiterate.

I listened to the witnesses carefully and began to understand their words. They wished to "redish" (register) to vote and had studied "constistion" (constitution)].

After the second day of hearings I was assigned to a rural county where I was going to help people 'redish'. I was ready to leave the Freedom house in Canton where there were constant telephone calls of hatred and threats of bombs and cars and pick-ups with gun racks driving by all night because of the hearing.

Some word snap shots of 'redishing' voters:

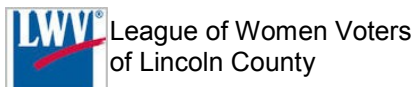
1. In Pisgah we had mass meetings every Thursday night, at one of the meetings I was asked to teach a class on the U.S. Constitution. When we discussed the bill of rights we came to the freedom of religion. I said if you want to think that God is a giant green worm you were free to do that. The next question was, "Suzanne what is your religion?" OOPs! What I learned was that people who said they couldn't read actually could. They managed crop allotments, ordered from catalogs, read the bible and a hundred other documents, bills, etc. I think my contribution to the class was telling them that they could and did read. It bolstered their resolve to be voters.

2. I was in a residential (black) area which led to the street where I would be picked up. I knocked on doors and doors, I reached the street a little early. So I knocked on doors where people gave me the strangest looks before slamming their doors. After about 3 such encounters I saw that the houses had signs Blue Lady, Blossoms, Orchids Sassy's, Blue Fox, It dawned on me they were actually Speak Easys (clubs). Mississippi was a dry state, the clubs would be very vulnerable to police. At the next house the people there came out and got me. I was invited to wait there for my ride. They were very nice folks and told me that there were clubs and brothels on the street and said not to come there ever again.
3. We went to a hill community to talk to folks about "redishing". We walked up a cart track on a ridge. We got to the end of the track and looked down to a small farm. A man was plowing with mules. The man was old. He waved at us to come down and we did. He said he'd been waiting for us Freedom Riders.
4. We had a mock election in 2 communities, with poll watchers, sign in people. The ballot was from the Freedom Democratic Party. People all over Rankin County came. It was an exciting time for them, The Voting Rights Act had just been announced by President Johnson. It was 1965 and the voting act outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had caused widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans.

Voter intimidation still exists in the US -- not the blatant 60's Southern style, but with results that continue to keep voters from exercising their rights. As well as addressing the Supreme Court decision on Bush vs. Gore, the League's work on voting methods and voting rights continues the struggle.



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**