

WAVELENGTHS

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln County

October 2008



**October 16
LWV
MEETING**

**12:00 noon
Newport Library**

During our October 16 meeting you will have a chance to meet Gene and Angel Newton. Gene is Project Officer for the Help America Vote Act, (HAVA), in the Secretary of State's office.

Gene will present an exciting new accessible computer technology for disabled voters who have previously been unable to vote independently. Mr. Newton's wife, Angel who has been blind since childhood, will accompany him and demonstrate the new voting system. "Using this system, I have voted independently for the first times in my life." Angel said she used the system the past three elections. This Accessibility system is now available in all Oregon county election offices. The elections clerk in Newport has been invited to attend our meeting, it is not known at this time if he will be able to attend.

Join us, see what technology is able to accomplish for disabled voters—and see if this will make voting independently possible for any of your neighbors/acquaintances. Then you can help spread the word.

At the meeting we will also have a short discussion of Ballot Measure 65 which Changes the General Election Nomination Processes. (See Ruth's notes on p.2)

The meeting is on Thursday, October 16, 12:00 noon, at the Newport Public Library.

We welcome guests. Coffee and tea will be provided. Bring a sack lunch and join us Thursday, October 16, 12:00 noon, at the Newport Public Library.

**Forum
Ballot Measures
Sunday Oct 12, 2-4 p.m.
Visual Arts Center, Nye Beach**

An overview of the 12 ballot measures on the November ballot, and audience input into which measures they would like to discuss in depth.

Visit

VoteSource.org

**The League of Women Voters
of Oregon's Election Web site.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler

I was a delegate to the 2007 LWVOR convention. There, Norman Turrill asked us to approve an Election Methods Study. He explained that the League of Women Voters had been asked to testify at the state legislative hearings about various election reform options, and we had to decline. We couldn't testify because we had no position on which to base the testimony; a position is only adopted after a study and after our members reach consensus based on that study. I voted for the study, but I expected a dry, legalistic document.

All LWV of Lincoln County members should have received the LWVOREF study, "Election Methods: Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals", in the mail. (If you didn't receive a copy, you can find it on the LWVOR website, or contact me.) We have until Jan 31, 2009 to discuss the study and try to reach consensus. I'm delighted to tell you that my personal prediction of a "yawner" study was all wrong; I think you'll agree this is fascinating stuff.

And it is timely. Measure 65 on the November ballot proposes to replace Oregon's closed primaries with an Open / Top Two primary. This is one of the Election Methods explored in the study.

The authors of the Ballot Measure believe that this form of primary will increase voter turnout and choice, and ensure that general election nominees represent a broad base of the electorate rather than a narrower party base.

But it is also likely to keep minor party candidates off the general election ballot, and push "major" party decisions on which candidates to endorse out of the public eye. The Election Methods study gives us rich background to use as we try to make an informed decision about Ballot Measure 65.

Following the presentation by Gene Newton of HAVA, I would like to discuss BM 65, and especially its relation to the Election Methods study, at our next general meeting, October 16. I anticipate a lively discussion.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership Dues need to be received in October to continue your membership in the

League of Women Voters.

Send your dues to Jamie Auburn, treasurer, at P.O. Box 1577, Waldport, 97394 (The form is on P.6 of this newsletter.)

Many thanks to those members who have sent their dues for 2008-9.

LWV LINCOLN COUNTY

President	Ruth Kistler	<u>Directors:</u>
Vice President	Charmian Mass	Millie Ehrman
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Susan Krein
		Marilyn Podesta
		Frances Van Wert



"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."



Candidate Forum

September 28, 2008

LWVLC hosted a candidates' forum September 28 at the Newport Recreation Center. It was well attended by candidates and the public (the house count was 92), and we received many thanks from both candidates and audience for hosting this event.

We want to thank the candidates who attended:

Mike Erickson, Alex Polikoff, and Kurt Schrader, for Congressman (5th CD).

Bill Hall and Tom Runions, for Lincoln County Commissioner.

Allen Alley for State Treasurer.

Joanne Verger for State Senator.

Jean Cowan for State Representative.

Linda Pilson for Lincoln County Treasurer.

Dennis Dotson for Lincoln County Sheriff.

Bill Bain for Newport Mayor.

Where there were more than one candidate for an office there was a debate. The majority of time (and audience questions) was given to the candidates for Congress, District 5, who the audience particularly wished to meet. Unopposed candidates, and those whose opposition did not attend, were given time to introduce themselves, and speak to their thoughts on their offices. Before and after the debates and introductory statements, all the candidates had an opportunity to greet the voters who attended.

As is our practice, members took the roles of greeters, moderator, and audience-question screeners. At the back of the meeting room, we provided some locally printed copies of the *Voters' Guide* (thank you Sue), recruited members, and sold some grapefruit. Special thanks to Marilyn Podesta for all her work contacting candidates, arranging for the meeting room, and providing refreshments. Many thanks to the many League members who assisted. And thanks to our members for their wonderful support!

Vote Yes for Libraries

Ballot Measure 21-123 on the November ballot asks voters to approve continued library district funding at its current level. Rebecca Cohen spoke to the LWVLC September general meeting. She explained what the Lincoln County Library District provides, and why they need the local option tax to be approved at this election.

On September 30, the LWVLC board of directors discussed supporting BM 21-123. Sue Krein pointed out that in 1975 our local league adopted a position supporting the public library district, and that this is the earliest position we have on record. The board voted unanimously to support this ballot measure. LWVLC can lend its name as a supporter of the measure. We urge all of you to "Vote Yes for Libraries".

NOTICE

Voters' Guides have arrived!

Call Ruth to receive copies to distribute. We have the Regular, as well as Large Print, Easy-to-Read and Spanish language editions.

“At Home in Lincoln County” Sue Krein

A public meeting for the ten-year plan addressing homelessness and affordable housing, needs was the subject of a well-attended public meeting held Wednesday, September 17, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Newport. Interested citizens were welcome to attend.

The event marked the completion of the first year of the plan, according to Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall. “We’ve made remarkable progress in year one, but there’s much more to accomplish,” Hall said. “We want to let the community know where we’re headed, and how they can become involved.”

Along with Bill Hall, Tom Hatley, Housing and Community Resources Director for the Community Services Consortium, who co-wrote the plan with Bill Hall is equally pleased with the results so far.

“At Home in Lincoln County” is part of a national effort encouraging counties and cities to develop ten-year plans to end homelessness. Although more than 300 plans have been produced nationally, the Lincoln County plan is unique because it includes several tasks to add workforce housing needs.

Report to the Community: Year One, September, 2008

It’s been almost a year since the launch of At Home In Lincoln County, a ten-year plan with a special focus on chronic homelessness. The plan (available at www.lincolntenyearplan.org) is a comprehensive effort to better utilize existing resources and generate new resources to address the county’s housing and homelessness crisis.

The decision to develop the plan followed a county-wide housing summit in the fall of 2005. Work on the plan began in the fall of 2006 after the county and each city government passed resolutions supporting development of the plan. The Community Services Consortium (CAS), the Community Action Agency for the tri-county region, agreed to oversee the plan’s development.

The plan is the product of extensive research, a survey of local homeless populations, and a series of community meetings and forums held in Newport, Lincoln City and Waldport. It identifies 10 major action steps and 59 individual tasks. To date, we have made at least some progress on 19 of those tasks, thanks to the investment of time and energy by a number of organizations and people. These are some of the highlights:

◆ **Permanent Supportive Housing**

Getting chronically homeless people into stable, permanent housing is a cornerstone of the national effort to end homelessness. Studies show that Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)—housing tied directly to services, with no time limit on occupancy—has a high rate of success in helping people to escape chronic homelessness.

◆ **Runaway and Homeless Youth**

Last year, 403 school-age children in Lincoln County, or 7.4 percent of the school-age population, met the federal Dept. of Education’s definition of homelessness. *This is highest percentage of any county in the state.* The plan charges the Lincoln Commission on Children and Families with developing strategies to address this aspect of the crisis.

Other committees organized to address concerns include:

Community Resource Center (Newport) to assist individuals and families in crisis, with the aim of ending, or better yet, preventing homelessness.

◆ **Community Housing and Land Trust**

The land trust model is a proven mechanism to create affordable housing and, equally important, keep it affordable. The trust develops housing, which is then sold to buyers who meet income requirement. The trust retains ownership of the underlying land, which is leased to the buyer. When the home owner is ready to sell, they just sell to another qualifying buyer.

◆ **Workforce Housing Committee**

This involves the development of a “tool box” for homebuyers and potential homebuyers to help connect them with programs and resources that can help them achieve home ownership.

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◆ Expanded Rent Assistance

Thanks to a \$47,598 allocation from Lincoln County's general fund, CSC will be able to expand the scope of its existing rental assistance programs. The county money will allow CSC to access an additional \$90,000 in matching federal funds. This will allow an additional 20 families to be served in the emergency housing program and 115 more households to be served in the transitional housing program.

◆ Project Homeless Connect (PHC)

PHC, a one-day service fair for homeless individual and families, has taken place in more than 150 communities from coast to coast. Philip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, describes the PHC as the "community's living room"—an opportunity to welcome our neighbors and friends, get them the immediate help they need as well as connecting them to other services.

The first Lincoln County Project Homeless Connect took place in October 2007 at the Newport church of the Nazarene. More than 125 guests had access to hot meals, free hair-cuts, free medical exams and care, free bus tickets, blankets, clothing and non-perishable food. More than 30 federal, state, county and community non-profit agencies were represented.

The second Lincoln County PHC was held at the Church of the Nazarene on October 9, 2008, providing these same services. In addition, a dental van was on-site to provide care for serious dental needs.

◆ A Home for Hope: Oregon's Ten-Year Plan

Work to develop Oregon's ten-year plan to end homelessness was completed this year. The plan sets goals and describes strategies in three areas: prevention and intervention, permanent housing with supporting services and system improvements.

The complete plan is available at: <http://www.ehac.oreon.gov>

Grapefruit



Grapefruit sales have begun. If you have not yet received the packet with flyers and sign up sheets and receipts for sales, contact Joan or Ruth.

The Grapefruit cost \$18 for a 20lb box. And they are wonderful. Many of our customers return year after year—as you who sell the grapefruit know very well.

Sales end mid November. Delivery early December.

Time is running out!

Voter registration deadlines (October 14) are just a few days away.

Make sure your friends and family can play a part in this important election. Encourage them, provide the Voters' Guide to them, refer them to VoteSource.org for election information. Call Ruth Kistler if you need Voter Registration cards.

Many of our members carry the voter registration forms with them, to have ready to hand out. Others are setting up voter registration tables. Many thanks to you all.

Next BOARD MEETING

November 7, 2005
West Coast Bank, Board Room
All members are welcome to attend
www.lwvlincolncounty.org

League Of Women Voters Provides Tips For Getting The Most Out Of Presidential Debates

Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters today released helpful tips for media and voters on watching and analyzing the upcoming presidential and vice-presidential debates.

"We are at last reaching the home stretch of an election season marked by unprecedented length, intensity, and civic excitement," said national League president Mary G. Wilson. "As we move into these final weeks, it is absolutely critical for the media and community leaders to encourage voters to watch the presidential and vice-presidential debates, and consider these five tips for getting the most out of their experience."

TOP FIVE TIPS FOR DEBATE WATCHERS

1. **Think Ahead**-Before the debate, ask yourself which issues are most important to you, and jot down what you'd like to learn from each of the candidates.
2. **Are They Answering the Question?** *Pay attention to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Sincere? Knowledgeable?*
3. **Keep Track of Topics**-*Are the candidates being asked about your priority issues? Are the questions fair and pertinent?*
4. **Talk it out!** -*Afterwards, talk about the debate with your friends & family. Did the debate sway your decision? Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions?*

VOTE on November 4th. *It is your best opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the issues that affect all of us! VISIT VOTE411.org to prepare yourself.*

Find much more on our "[Debates 101](#)" page; including fun tips for hosting [debate-watching parties](#), all at www.LWV.org

LWVUS urges you to

Take Action !

Urge your representatives to
Stop Global Climate Change
Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

LWVUS Climate Change Background Papers

The National League has produced background papers examining global climate change, including What can state and local Leagues do? What is government doing? What is the science? What are the economics. National would like local and state Leagues to use these papers as a base for their own discussions:

Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming

By Win Colwill

Do A Little. Change A Lot: A Biographical Sketch on Energy

By Donna Ewing, LWVWA

Economic Effects of Not Taking Action on Climate Change

By Pamela W. Person

To see the papers go to www.LWV.org

LWVOR Opposes Ballot Measure 58 LWVLC Urges Members to Attend BM58 Forum

Ballot Measure 58 prohibits teaching public school students in a language other than English for more than two years. Originally the state league took no position on this ballot measure, since we have no position on educational content. However, on October 1 the state board reconsidered and adopted a position in opposition to BM 58.

LWVOR opposes BM 58 based on the LWVUS position for non-discrimination in educational opportunity. BM 58 does not allow consideration of a student's special language or learning needs. LWVOR also opposes BM58 based on the state League's position favoring local control of educational programs. Local school boards are in a better position to know what is working for their students. And LWVOR opposes this ballot measure based on its projected high cost.

LWVLC was invited to be one of the co-sponsors of the Coastal Progressives' October 19 forum on BM58. At first, we reluctantly declined to participate, since the overwhelming majority of forum speakers will oppose of BM58, and the state League had taken no position on this ballot measure. However, now we have become co-sponsors of that forum.

I am a free man, an American, a United States Senator and a Democrat. I am also a liberal, a conservative, a Texan, a taxpayer, a rancher, a businessman, a consumer, a parent, a voter, and not as young as I used to be nor as old as I expect to be—and I am all these things in no fixed order.

Senator Lyndon Johnson, on seeking Democratic Presidential nomination of 1960, recalled when he became President, Nov 11, 1963.

OCTOBER 19, BM 58 FORUM

Coastal Progressives has organized the forum on Ballot Measure 58. It will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2-4 PM, in the Boone Center at Newport High. A panel of local and visiting speakers, including teachers, service providers, business owners, and public officials, will discuss the potential impact of passage of BM58 on their lives and communities. There will be time for questions, answers, and discussion.

We urge League members to attend; it promises to be interesting and informative.

Don't Forget
To
Pick Up and Distribute the
Voter's Guides

Available at our Ballot Measure Forums Oct 12 and Oct 19 and at our General Meeting Thursday Oct 16.

Calendar

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| October 12 | 2-4 pm <i>BM 54-65</i> FORUM |
| October 16 | LWV meeting Noon
Newport Library Gene and Angel Newton, HAVA demonstrate alternative method for independent voting. |
| October 28 | LWVLC Board Meeting
West Coast Bank
all members welcome |
| November 4 | Election Day |
| November 14 | Grapefruit Orders Due Contact Jamie Auburn 563-5453. |
| November 20 | LWV Meeting Noon
Newport Library. Elections! |

