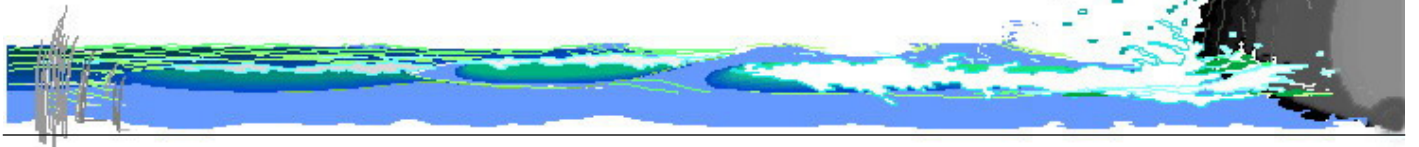


WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

October 2009

OCTOBER 15

Noon
Meeting at the
Newport Library

NOAA in Lincoln County



JoAnn Barton, Commissioner, Newport Port Authority, will join us to discuss the possible community benefits of NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's) selection of Newport to be the new home of the agency's Marine Operations Center-Pacific .

JoAnn was elected to *Port of Newport Commission* in May 2007 and serves as Secretary. She was involved in preparing the offer to NOAA for the MOC-P Homeport award, including citizen lobbying of the Oregon Legislature to secure state assistance in funding the project. JoAnn is currently serving on the committee that will review proposals and recommend a Construction Manager/General Contractor for the project.

JoAnn is past Chair of the Board of Directors of the *Lincoln County Children's Advocacy Center* and past leader of the Poverty Task Force of Central Coast Chapter of *Stand for Children*.

JoAnn relocated to Newport in July of 1996 with late husband Joe Kertis who was VP/GM of Georgia Pacific Toledo Operations. Their two children graduated from Newport High School. JoAnn credits much of her community activism to the outpouring of caring and support she and her children received as newcomers to Newport, during her late husband's illness and passing. In 2003, JoAnn married local attorney Bill Barton.

Voter Registration

November 3 is election day, AND we vote again in January. In the meantime, League members will be out and about, reminding people to register, to inform themselves about the issues, and to vote. Because of the great interest in the January election, members will be registering voters at holiday craft fairs. If you would like to assist in Voter Registration please contact Marilyn Podesta or Ruth Kistler.

Although the good people at the Lincoln County Elections Office will try to contact individuals who submit invalid or incomplete voter registration cards, we want to help registrants fill out the form correctly.

Here are some things to watch for:

- ◆ Voters need to re-register if they change their name, residence address, or mailing address.
- ◆ **"Oregon residence address"** requires a house and street address. If someone receives their mail at a post office box (or an address other than their residence), they should provide that address on the **"mailing address"** line. *Not providing a residence address is one of our most frequent registration errors.*
- ◆ **Homeless** individuals may give "homeless" as their Oregon residence address and use the elections office address (225 W Olive, Room 201, Newport OR, 97365) as their mailing address. These voters will need to pick up their ballot at the Elections Office.
- ◆ If the registrant does not have a valid Oregon DMV Driver's License (or ID number) they may provide the last four digits of their **Social Security number**. In this case, the elections office will check the Social Security database. The name on the voter registration card must match the name in the Social Security database. If someone has changed his name and not yet updated Social Security, he should use the old name for voter registration purposes.
- ◆ Finally, check that the registrant has marked "yes" to being a citizen of the United States and at least 17 years old. And remind him/her to sign and date the registration card.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



Dues are Due!

Member dues were due October 1. To those who have already sent in their checks, Thank you! For those who have not yet done so, Please Remit. You'll find a handy coupon on the last page of this newsletter.

Our \$50 dues are a real bargain. Actually, they're too much of a bargain. Each year we pay the state League \$27.50 for each of our members, and the national League \$29.20 per member, for a total \$56.70 per member payment. (National and state League payments for a second member within a household are half that of the first member, as are our dues.) If you wonder how we can manage to send the state and national Leagues more than \$56 of each \$50 dues we take in, we make it up with donations and profits from grapefruit sales. But our donors expect their money to be used for the educational and advocacy work of the League, not to keep our dues low. We need to raise our dues!!

Still, even \$50 dues may represent a financial hardship for some current or potential members. We don't want anyone who supports our mission to forgo membership merely because of our dues. So along with any dues increase, we should institute a "limited means" dues, perhaps \$40. Of course, we would leave it to individual members to decide which rate applied to them. And we should encourage members who can afford it to send a small additional contribution with their annual dues to help make up for the lower "limited means" dues.

No dues increase or restructuring will take place before October 2010. A proposal to increase and restructure dues will appear in the April issue of *Wave-lengths*, and will be put to a vote at our annual meeting in May. If you have comments or suggestions about our dues, please send them to me or any other board member.

League of Women Voters of Oregon Fall Workshop

Growing our Grassroots

DATE: Saturday, October 17

TIME: 9:30 AM-3 PM LOCATION: First United
Methodist Church [376 Olive St., Eugene](#)

The Program:

Special Election 2010: Talking about Tax Measures

21st Century Outreach, Part II

***Have a laptop? Please bring it!**

Reaching an Audience Effectively

Bringing Back Civil Discourse

Sharing Innovative Ideas

If you wish to join us, it is not too late. Call

Ruth 574-8145, or Joan 547-5193

Let us know if you would like to carpool.

"Medicine is for the patient. Medicine is for the people. It is not for the profits."

George Merck, leading pharmaceutical manufacturer,
Time, Nov 3, 1952.

Fall Calendar

October 15	General Meeting JoAnn Barton NOAA & Lincoln County
October 17	LWVOR Fall Workshop Eugene
October 30	Board Meeting 1pm West Coast Bank all members welcome
November 3	ELECTION
November 19	General Meeting Noon, Newport Library
November 25	Board Meeting 1pm West Coast Bank. Members welcome.
December 10	(Tentative) Holiday meeting

New Member — Debra Martzahn

Debra is a Midwesterner who moved this year to Lincoln City, Oregon to take a job as Senior Planner. She was born, raised, and went to college in Iowa. For 8 years, she and her husband directed a Milwaukee Boys and Girls Club. She was active in the League of Women Voters when she lived in Grinnell, Iowa. Grinnell is a rural college town, about the size of Newport or Lincoln City. There she served one term as President of the local League, and worked to televise city council meetings.

Debra has a full-time job in Lincoln City and is unlikely to be able to attend LWVLC monthly membership meetings in Newport. But she would like to be involved in League activities. Lincoln City will be studying and adopting a comprehensive plan. Issues that the League studies, such as land use, housing, and flood plain issues, are important issues for planners. She is in a position to alert our League to issues that concern us all.

Debra wholeheartedly supports Lincoln City's goal to become carbon neutral. She would like to make Lincoln City a place where people can walk everywhere — to work, shopping, and recreation. She says this would contribute to the health of the walkers and the health of the planet.

We welcome Debra to Lincoln County, the League here, and look forward to meeting her soon.

**AnaMaria Esparza Smith
Vice President of LWVLC**

At the September board meeting (9/28), board member AnaMaria Esparza Smith volunteered to fill our vacant Vice Presidential office. The board voted to accept AnaMaria's offer. We are all grateful for AnaMaria's offer of service, especially President Ruth Kistler! AnaMaria will serve until members elect a new slate of officers in May 2010.



Grapefruit Grapefruit Grapefruit

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln County is taking orders for boxes of Texas ruby red grapefruit until November 15. Each box contains from 16 to 24 grapefruit and sells for \$18.00. Orders must be prepaid and will be delivered in early December. Call Maxine Demory at 265-7532 or Joan Haffner at 547-5193 to for an order form or to order your grapefruit.

The League has been selling grapefruit as a fundraiser for the past twelve years and has many repeat customers. Proceeds are used by the League to cover the expenses of distributing Voters Service Guides, organizing and conducting candidate forums, researching ballot measures and other voter service activities.



“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>
Vice President	AnaMaria Smith	Millie Ehrman
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Marilyn Podesta
		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

Oregon Lakes Association Annual Meeting, September 12, 2009. Lincoln City
By Janice Gerdemann

The Oregon Lakes Association President Roger Edwards welcomed about 100 members and visitors to their annual meeting in Lincoln City, Tuesday, September 12, 2009. He then introduced Paul Katen, Salmon Drift Watershed Council Chairman, who briefly described Lincoln City's attractions — Cascade Head to the north, Devil's Lake, middle, and Siletz Bay to the south. Two creeks exit into the Bay, and there are ten miles of sandy beach where people love to fly kites and just go beach walking. The Salmon River estuary is the least disturbed on the coast, but remnants of Pixieland Amusement Park are still being removed, and Highway 101 is a major dike.

Next Paul Robertson, of the Devil's Lake Water Improvement District, spoke about 25 years of Devil's Lake Management. The non-native carp fish introduced to keep the vegetation under control do their job, but they also bring other problems, such as eating the other fish in the lake. Also a careful balance has to be maintained between the algae, the natural vegetation, and the carp — as soon as the carp eat too much of these, then they decline because there isn't enough for them to eat, and afterwards the algae and weeds grow back. Recent more rapid residential development causes more loss of natural bank vegetation, and there are also issues between motorized and non-motorized boats, somewhat shared by users at different times of day.

Richard Lycan, of Portland State University, reported on the Atlas of Oregon Lakes — a computer information project. I was interested in this topic because it seemed parallel to the Atlas of Oregon Flora, which Jim and I found interesting and helpful regarding native plants. Apparently this was previously studied in 1985, and an attempt is being made now to retrieve and use that information. There are many problems with the master lakes list; lake names are not sufficiently consistent, so a unique ID number was assigned for each lake, but not everybody uses the same system. There are 38,000 lakes over one acre in size in Oregon, and 40 in SW Oregon. Some are studied within a river basin system. Google Earth is good for public and private (man-made) lakes (there are a minimum of 220 of these), but less good for natural features.

We heard some things about the Dept. of Environmental Quality, and also the Dept of Human Services' monitoring of water quality.

We all had a nice lunch across the street at Kyllos Seafood restaurant, which was a welcome chance to talk to people. I snagged a ride half-way home with a pleasant young woman who worked with lake and stream bed banks preservation and restoration.

After lunch I was pretty much lost at following most of the issues. There was a lot of discussion of studies at Tenmile Lake, near one of our state forests. No relation to "our" Audubon Preserve at Tenmile Creek. Also, toxic algae issues in Washington State, and cyanobacterial monitoring in the future by genetic testing. Is this a threat to Oregon agriculture?

The 2009 legislature dealt with monitoring the contamination of lakes by "dirty boats", a difficult issue not successfully attacked before. Apparently there are 5 stations around the state that can clean the bottoms of boats and the official position now is to ask politely by pointing out the problem when officials notice it. There is a \$5 fee per boat to finance this effort.

Continued on P.5

Continued from P.4 Janice Gerdemann

The last presenter of the day dealt with Woahink Lake near Florence, at least a lake I am familiar with. It is a popular recreational lake with lots of boats and colorful activities which I have observed while at rhododendron society picnics at a nearby park. Dune City, on its bank, has been, at least until recently, unincorporated, and there has been little supervision of residential development of town or lake banks. Heavy new development is now becoming a problem and lake water quality an issue. Lake water is used for drinking water for some of Florence.

The day was a pretty heavy introduction to all the issues and players in this complicated field. I would need to do a lot of homework to explain it better to the general public.

NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

Lincoln County LWV Positions

Residents of the county will soon receive their ballot for the Nov. 3 election. To see if you are registered, and/or see a sample ballot go to Lincoln County's election clerk's website at http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/clerk/election_info.html

The ballot contains two county wide measures:

- ◆ *Shall Library District renew levy of 9cents per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2010-2011, to fund your library?*
This measure renews the current expiring local option tax.

If it does not pass, dollar losses to county wide libraries will result in reductions in hours, courier services, library staffing levels; fewer books being purchased and elimination of some library programs and services.

In 1976 the Lincoln County League studied Libraries in the County. Our resulting position supports adequate funding for libraries, and county wide library facilities.

Because we have this position on the libraries, the LWV of Lincoln County supports a YES vote on this measure.

- ◆ *Shall county levy 11cents per \$1000 assessed value for five years, beginning in 2010-2011, for animal control and support services?*

As a League, we have no study, nor position on this issue, and therefore remain neutral.



PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

National LWV responds to the Senate Finance Committee Failure to Protect Consumer Choice and Control Costs

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters national President Mary G. Wilson expressed disappointment with the Senate Finance Committee votes defeating amendments to include a public option in health care reform legislation in the following statement:

"The public option is the key to consumer choice and to lowering health care costs. Both are essential elements of health care reform. The Finance Committee's failure will hurt consumers and result in higher costs. How could they be so short-sighted?"

"The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security. Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform and the public option is vital. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option. We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs and providing real choice to consumers.

"The public option is critical to health care reform. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward, not backward, with true health care reform."

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: Francis Van Wert, 742 NW 2nd, Newport, OR 97365