

# Wave Lengths

A publication of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County - September 14,

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
**Thursday, Sept. 20, 12 noon, Newport Library**

Our September meeting will focus on the STATE JUDICIAL STUDY AND BEYOND, in which our league participating. At our Annual Meeting in May, Circuit Court Judge Huckleberry spoke to us about the many challenges facing the courts, and provided an extraordinary incite in to their work.

We will have a brief film, "Protecting our Rights, Protecting our Courts", produced by the American Bar Assn. to start off our discussion. The member questionnaire, and a pitch from "Radio on the Edge". Ruth Kister and Frances Van Wert will lead the discussion; and Jamie Auburn will manage arrangements for viewing.

This month the newsletter has been sent by email to those who have indicated that they are able to receive information in this format. This represents a considerable savings in materials and postage costs and time. However, if this does not work for you, please let me know and I will mail a copy you immediately.

Thank you! Sue Krein 765-2212

The newsletters can be found also on our Web Site at [www.lwvlincolncounty.org](http://www.lwvlincolncounty.org)



**VOTER  
REGISTRATION**  
**A great way to  
Be Involved  
in Democracy.**

Voter Service chair Nancy Jones is organizing Voter Registration activities with locations in Depoe Bay, Lincoln City, Siletz, Newport, Toledo, Waldport, and Yachats, and Registrars are needed in some locations.

If you can help in this worthwhile effort, contact Nancy in Waldport at 563-5800, or by e-mail at [ritter80@hotmail.com](mailto:ritter80@hotmail.com).

Nancy will provide registration materials and Voters Guides to those who can help.

Focus is on new county residents and those whose addresses have changed since the last election.

The rules and requirements for registering to vote have not changed since the last election, but many people do not realize if they move their residence, they must reregister. The post office will not forward ballots to a new address.

## Election Calendar

October 7 thru 12, LWV Voter Registration

October 16, Last day to Register to Vote

October 19, Ballots mailed to voters

November 6, General Election Day

Official Drop Sites open till 8:00 p.m.

County Election offices open 7 am-8 pm  
for depositing ballots

Election results posted following certification

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings! I'm looking forward to a busy and exciting year as president of our local League.

The national League is completing the Immigration Study. Immigration is a very complex issue that affects us all. I expect we will have many interesting discussions on this topic as we inform ourselves and our community about this always-in-the-news topic. We'll need to organize and lead discussions before we seek consensus; our consensus responses are due by February 1, 2008.

The state League is undertaking two new studies, "Election Methods" and "Water Resources of Oregon." The Water Study Committee members will be asking for our assistance in answering questions about our water supplies. This study, recommended by the Lane County League, was discussed at a meeting last Spring, with consensus agreement that our league would participate.

This November, Oregon voters will be presented with two state ballot measures: Measure 49 repairs measure 37 to balance the rights of private property owners with the rights of their neighbors. Measure 50 is a constitutional amendment that funds the Healthy Kids program with a tax on tobacco products. We'll be registering voters and informing them about the intricacies and pros and cons of these ballot measures. We'll also be ramping up (and fund-raising) for the November 2008 election which is on course to bury us under an avalanche of ballot measures and high-profile national and state contests.

Of course, we need to continue to monitor our local government(s) and advocate for good governance, social policy, and wise use of natural resources. To achieve these goals we need to recruit new members and increase participation of our current members. We need to recognize that our members have other interests and commitments and provide ways for each member to contribute in a way that is satisfying for her (or him). I'm looking forward to a busy, exciting, and very challenging year. I hope you are too.

Ruth Kistler

**Next BOARD MEETING**

Monday, September 24, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

West Coast Bank Board Room

506 SW Coast Hwy, Newport

All members are welcome to attend.

|                |                 |          |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President      | Ruth Kistler    | 574-8145 |
| Vice President | Charmian Mass   | 994-5800 |
| Treasurer      | Jamie Auburn    | 265-2145 |
| Secretary      | Suzanne Maxson  | 563-5231 |
| Directors:     | Dale Harlan     | 994-5843 |
|                | Frances VanWert | 265-9312 |
|                | Joan Haffner    | 547-4736 |

**Committees Chairs:**

|                           |                  |          |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Land Use                  | Janice Gerdemann | 547-3544 |
| Membership/<br>Newsletter | Sue Krein        | 765-2212 |
| Nominating                | Carol Hall       | 765-3342 |
| Publicity                 | (Vacant)         |          |
| Voters Service            | Nancy Jones      | 563-5800 |



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.

## New Member Dianne Rulon

We are pleased to welcome new member Dianne Rulon who recently moved to Gleneden from the San Francisco Bay Area where she was an active and long-time member of the League.

When I called Dianne and asked if she had met League member Mary Lou Boice who also is from the Gleneden area, it was no surprise that she and Mary Lou had met, resulting in Dianne's getting involved in interesting local activities.

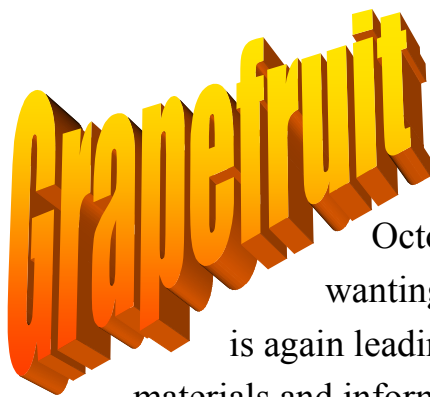
We look forward to meeting Dianne and gaining from her past experience in the League in California.

## LWVOR Fall Workshop

All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a guest!

Registration forms are included in the LWVOR Voter Fall 2007 issue, and forms will also be available at our (LWVLC) membership meeting on September 20. Completed registration forms are due September 26. Our local League will reimburse members who attend for their workshop fees.

To arrange car-pooling, please contact Ruth Kistler (541-574-8145).



Grapefruit Order packets will be sent to members in mid-October. We know you may be getting calls from people wanting to place orders for grapefruit and Martha Holmberg, who is again leading this important fund raising effort is working to get materials and information out to you.

Grapefruit are \$16.00 per box, the same price as last year. Order deadline will be mid-November, with delivery date in early December.

Grapefruit sales help support our Voter Education program, which encourages voter participation and provides forums for discussion on ballot measures, distributes non-partisan Voter Guides in English, Spanish, Large Print and Easy Read editions to Libraries, Schools, Activity Centers, and also as an insert in local newspapers.

## **Oregon LWV is very alive and kicking!**

### **LWVOR May 2007 Convention**

#### **Ruth Kistler**

The LWVOR 2007 State Convention was held May 18-20 at McMenamin's Edgefield, in Troutdale. McMenamin's Edgefield is a quaint old hotel; it used to be the Multnomah County Poor Farm. Suzanne Maxson and I attended the convention as delegates from Lincoln County; Joan Haffner was present as a state board member. In support of the Convention theme, "Empowering People", a representative from each local league gave a 5-minute talk about how their league had empowered themselves and their communities. I described how we addressed the issue of homeless youth, informed and empowered ourselves on the issue of roadside herbicide spraying, and also registered voters, distributed the Voters' Guide, and held an informational meeting on the November (2006) ballot measures.

The Convention adopted the LWVOR and LWVOREF proposed budgets. The Convention followed the recommendations of the Nominating Committee in electing state league officers and board members. As an experiment, for the 2-year term 2007-2009 the state league presidency has been divided into two positions; Marge Easley is president for LWVOR and Janet Calvert is chair of LWVOREF. Marge will lead advocacy and most administrative functions; Janet will coordinate Voter Service activities and fund raising for these activities.

The Convention heard reports from the board member chairs for Program, Voter Service, Development, Membership, and Action. The Action Committee members were indefatigable this session. Norm Turrill addressed a matrix of about 100 bills they had been tracking, most of

which they had testified for or against.

And at that point the Legislative session was far from over.

Program decisions engendered the most discussion. The board had recommended a 30-month study of Election Methods (e.g. partisan vs. non-partisan elections, top-two open primaries, instant runoff voting, etc.), but Norm Turrill argued convincingly for a much shorter time-frame. New election methods are already appearing in initiative petitions, and the League has been asked to testify about them before legislative committees. However, until we have studied the issues and reached consensus, we are unable to testify. In order to accommodate an 18-month time-line for the Election Methods study, "Water Resources of Oregon" was adopted as a 30-month study. Delegates from coastal Leagues (Lincoln, Coos, and Curry counties) successfully argued to have this study include unique coastal concerns. Despite the adoption of these ambitious state studies, it was still difficult (for me) to follow the board recommendation and vote against a proposed study of Health Care Funding, but reason prevailed over passion, and only 2 studies were adopted.

The 2007 summer issue of the LWVOR newsletter, "Voter", contains a number of articles about State Convention 2007. For me, participating in State Convention 2007 was an opportunity to meet dedicated and talented members of our state League. During informal discussions and League process workshops I (hope I) learned things, both inspirational and mundane, that will lead to improved day-to-day running of our local League and improve our effectiveness in Voter Services and action.

**ENVISION OREGON (and Measure 49)**

Maxine Demory

Thirty years ago, in a series of meetings held all over the state, Oregonians discussed two basic questions: What do we love most about Oregon and what kind of place do we want it to be? The answers to those questions helped create the system of statewide planning goals that have made Oregon a special place. Many League members were

involved in that process and the League of Women Voters of Oregon is one of the co-sponsors of Envision Oregon.

When the voters passed Measure 37, it changed land use planning. The 2005 Legislature passed Senate Bill 82, which created a 4-year review of the land use tools (known as the "Big Look") with a final report due on February 1, 2009. In an effort to include the public in assessing and creating tools to build better communities and protect our unique landscapes, 1000 Friends of Oregon launched a public involvement effort to "Envision Oregon" through town hall forums, house meetings, a new website and a state wide media campaign.

Round One was held last year and Round Two meetings are being held around the state this year. The Lincoln County meeting was held at the Oregon Coast Aquarium on May 17. Ironically, it began

**My hope is that a based on the presentations, more people realized that we need to be actively involved in passing Ballot Measure 49, the legislation we will be voting on this fall to fix the flawed Measure 37. For more information, check out these websites:**

**[onethousandfriendsoforegon.org](http://onethousandfriendsoforegon.org), [envisionoregon.org](http://envisionoregon.org)**

with a power failure at the aquarium so the planned media presentation was cancelled.

Bob Stacey, Executive Director for the 1000 Friends of Oregon, talked about "How We Decide Our Future" and about "Land Use Fairness". He described the Measure 37 reform package (now known as (Measure 49), and involved the participants in small group discussions of values and ideas about land use issues.

The keynote speaker was Jefferson . Smith, who works with The Bus Project. He was a particularly articulate, dynamic speaker. The Bus Project is not about transportation, but about mobilizing volunteers and registering voters, particularly those in the 18 to 35 age bracket, and advocating for the public interest.

The Coalition of the Benevolently Irrational - that's how Jefferson Smith describes "good people who do good things for no good reason", except because they care about the common good. He noted that this issue is not a Democrat/Republican issue, but about the politics of the common good. He said that we are dealing with the politics of ME, when we should be dealing with the politics of WE. The truth, he noted, is that we CAN create wealth and also protect the environment.

Caring for the common good does help our self-interest and we should be comfortable in using power for the common good.



