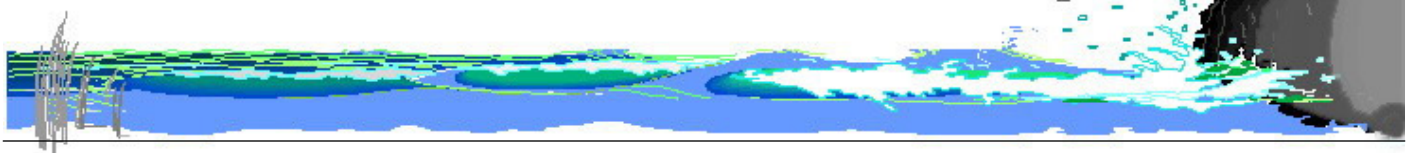


# WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon September 2009

Fall Meeting  
Thursday September 17  
Noon  
Newport Library

Lets Talk Health Care

Health Care Reform is on all our minds. The League believes "that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. "

And, of course, we need to understand what is happening with the various bills, statements, and arguments occurring nationally . This is a conversation we must join. Come and discuss and learn with us.

To get up to speed, you may want to visit some web sites that are following the complicated maneuvers in Washington. They include [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org) and <http://blog.healthcareforamericanow.org/hcan-or/> .

## Immigration Ana Maria Esparza-Smith

What do we mean when we discuss "Immigration"? Are we talking about numbers, data, the others, those people? Or are we really talking about our neighbors, children, women, men, grandparents, mothers, students.

It is easy to dehumanize this topic so when decisions are made we don't feel guilty. I support the LWV's position that Immigration Reform should promote the reunification of families. Because I speak Spanish and have ties in the Latino community, I see this problem as people who are struggling.

Right now many people are undocumented not by choice, but because the legal avenues are so complicated and take so much time and money. Roads to legal residency include: 1) if you marry a US citizen, but even then you may have to wait 5, 10 or even 15 years, and have enough money to pay the 'dues' and a lawyer. 2) if you are 18 years old and you can help your parents or 3) if you have super special talents and the US government needs you.

"Undocumented" means, in every day terms, that you are not able to have a bank account, a credit card, a driver license, go to college, get Unemployment, or loans. In Lincoln County it is very difficult to rent a place to live.

Here are a couple of cases of people that I know personally in Lincoln County. I will mention them only to give an example of the situation many undocumented people face.

Case 1. An American citizen got married to an undocumented man. They have 3 children. To be able to get him proper documentation as a husband (residency) he needs to go back to his country of origin for 10 years and

Continued on P.4 (Immigration)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ruth Kistler



Welcome back to another year of LWV activity. As is our custom, we held no local league activities over the summer. Many members have had a chance to relax, while some have been run ragged hosting visitors to our cool coast. As a volunteer at the Oregon Coast Aquarium and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, I've been dealing with large crowds. But Summer is over, the visitors are (mostly) gone, and another busy LWV Lincoln County year is here.

Last year at this time we were swept up in the election campaign, and that is thankfully far behind us. But citizen participation in government means more than just voting in elections. We need to continue to inform ourselves and our communities about the issues that are important to us, and communicate our views to our elected representatives. Among the many important issues, health care reform and global warming are two of the hottest.

While Congress continues to try to reach agreement on health care reform, LWVUS president Mary Wilson has reiterated the league position that a public option is essential to health care reform both to assure universal coverage and to provide cost control. Our local league will be discussing health care reform at this month's meeting.

This year's Oregon Shores conference was devoted to the coastal climate change being caused by global warming. My report on the conference is in this newsletter. Action is needed to slow the pace of global warming and to adapt our coastal

communities to the changing climate. Development of wave energy and marine reserves should help. But planning and land use decisions will be crucial to protecting our communities and our ecosystem in the face of climate change. I'm sure many of you want to participate in the process and assure that the best decisions are made.

Summer is over; let's get back to work.

*Always do right: this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.*

*Mark Twain*

### Calendar

September 17	Lets Talk Health Care Newport Library Noon
September 28	Board Meeting 1pm West Coast Bank all members welcome
October 15	General Meeting NOAA POC Newport Library Noon
October 17	LWVOR Fall Workshop Eugene
October 26	Board Meeting 1pm West Coast Bank all members welcome
November 19	General Meeting LWVOR Water Study
November 30	Board Meeting 1pm West Coast Bank. Join us.
December	Holiday Meeting TBA

## ACTION BY KAPPY EATON

*Sine Die Report (abridged)*

The legislature adjourned on its pre-decided date of June 30, and the League Action Team agreed that it was a satisfactory session in terms of what was accomplished in our areas of interest. Not everything we supported or opposed came out as we hoped, but overall it was productive. While the economic situation clouded much of the discussions, quite a number of important policy issues were both discussed and proposals enacted. The Governor has been busy signing the several hundred bills passed, with very few vetoed or allowed to be implemented without his signature.

You can view the full LWVOR Sine Die Report at [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org). You will need to follow the links in order to get all of the information. LWVLC will discuss the legislative issues at the October units. Following are a few of the enacted highlights:

- electronic voter registration starting in 2010
- no ballot-title "shopping" for initiatives
- stiffer penalties and regulations for paid petition passers and employers
- protection as a state area of critical concern for the Metolius basin
- establishment of two marine reserves
- health care for 80,000 more children and 40,000 more adults
- approval to begin building a new state mental health hospital in Junction City

There will be a month-long Special Session of the Legislature in February 2010. Some of the expected issues include consideration of new beer and cigarette taxes, changes in the kicker surplus allotment to build the Rainy Day Fund, a review of tax expenditure credits, and further discussion of health care and education. The meeting will allow an assessment of the 2009-11 budget seven months into the biennium. The League Action Team will be meeting weekly and will issue Legislative Reports.

## Decline to Sign

Petition circulators are now gathering signatures to place two measures before voters in January. [Why you shouldn't sign?](#)

Kappy Eaton

**Protect the 2009-11 Budget and State Programs and Services: DECLINE TO SIGN!**

Because of the \$4 billion shortfall in predicted revenue for the biennium, the budget had to be balanced by \$2 billion in cuts to education, social programs and public safety, and by the use of more than \$500 million in reserve funds and federal stimulus money, as well as by the enactment of increases in corporate and personal income taxes.

Oregonians Against Job-Killing Taxes is circulating petitions to force a referendum on the tax increases. The Legislature has set January 26, 2010 as the date a Special Election will be held if the necessary 55,179 valid signatures are collected. The deadline for turning in the petitions is September 25. Counties will have 30 days to verify the signatures.

It is important that you DECLINE TO SIGN those petitions. If the referendum is held and the taxes are repealed, there will be more than \$800 million in further cuts which must be made to the major state services and programs. Citizens already are feeling the lack of services to the disabled, children, the elderly, in school districts and higher education, and public safety areas. The proposed taxes would raise \$733 million in revenue to support these state services. Their enactment has helped create a fairer tax system in the state between personal income tax payers and business tax payers.

*Decline to Sign, Continued on P. 5*



*"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."*

**Immigration** (Cont. from Page 1)

MAYBE he will be able to have his documentation. This man was brought to the USA by his family when he was 9 years old. He doesn't speak his native language; he doesn't have friends or family there. If you were in his shoes what would you do?

Case 2. She was an outstanding student in Newport High School. She wanted to be a doctor. But because she is undocumented she is not allowed to go to college or receive any kind of scholarships.

She is one student that I know but how many bright students are condemned to work all their lives in a low paid job? How sad it is to lose this talent. What will happen to the Country in the future?

I think that we shouldn't be afraid of extending the same rights to our fellow man as we want for ourselves. This will not make our country vulnerable, but to the contrary, we will be stronger!

If you are interested in learning more about this topic visit our national web page. [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**LWVUS Position on Immigration** - Apr 01, 2008  
*The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law*



**LWV LINCOLN COUNTY**

President	Ruth Kistler	<b>Directors:</b> Millie Ehrman
Vice President	vacant	Maxine Demory
Secretary	Suzanne Maxson	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jamie Auburn	Marilyn Podesta
		AnaMaria E Smith
		Frances Van Wert

**Grapefruit Grapefruit Grapefruit**



Summer is almost over and it's time

again for our annual grapefruit sale! I've agreed to coordinate this fundraiser this year and when I went to my computer, I found an article I had written in 1998. It started out: *To all members of the Lincoln County League of Women Voters: We are again selling boxes of luscious Texas ruby red grapefruit. Everyone who bought some last year was very pleased. The grapefruit were sweet and delicious. They kept well and some of us were still enjoying them in late January.*

Here it is in 2009, and, yes, we are still selling grapefruit and they are still delicious. The price will be \$18 a box this year, the same as last year. For those who haven't been involved before, this is a joint fund-raiser that we do with the Corvallis LWV. The grapefruit will be delivered to Corvallis and Jack & Ruth Kistler have volunteered to pick it up and bring it to Newport for us. I'll be glad to help deliver it to other parts of the county if needed.

Our dues aren't enough to cover our basic expenses so we need to do a fundraiser and this has proven very successful. We have loyal customers who look forward to the grapefruit, so sales are easy. We will have packets of information available at our first fall meeting on September 17. If you are unable to attend that meeting, we will send the information to you. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you may call me at 265-7532 or reach me by email at [mdemory@peak.org](mailto:mdemory@peak.org).

Maxine Demory

## Project Homeless Connect

Maxine Demory

The 3rd annual Homeless Connect event will be held on Thursday, October 8, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Church of the Nazarene fellowship hall, 227 NW 12th Street in Newport. The Lincoln County LWV will have a table to offer people an opportunity to register to vote. If you would like to help at our table, call Maxine Demory at 265-7532. We will arrange for 2-hour shifts, so no one has to stay all day. However, you may find it so interesting and inspiring that you won't want to leave.



Project Homeless Connect is a nationwide movement designed to increase access to services for homeless people and to engage local communities in finding a solution for homelessness. By convening a one-day, "one-stop" event, Project Homeless Connect offers assistance with housing, health care, legal issues, benefits enrollment, treatment and other basic needs to people who are homeless. The individual events are held in different cities at different times throughout the year.

In past years, services here in Lincoln County have included such things as free haircuts, pet food, clothing, hygiene products, immunizations, dental check-ups, eye exams and a good meal. A wide variety of social services, employment, public health, mental health, legal aid, police and educational agencies and groups have been involved.

The day is a demonstration of community support for people whose needs are often unrecognized and unmet. It provides human connections with those who need help and also between service providers. For more information, call Kaija at the Commission on Children and Families, 574 -3305.

*Decline to Sign Continued from P.3*

### What exactly are these tax increases?

- ◆ raises the \$10 corporate minimum income tax for the first time since it was lowered from \$25 in 1931. It would replace the \$10 corporate minimum tax with a sliding rate equal to one-tenth of one percent of Oregon sales. The new minimum would be set at \$150 and capped at \$100,000.
- ◆ increases the tax rates on corporate profits over \$250,000 to 7.9 % until 2011, when it drops to 7.6%.
- ◆ increase the marginal tax rate on income over \$125,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for households to 10.8 % until 2012, when it drops to 9.9 %.
- ◆ increases the marginal tax rate on income over \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for households to 11 % until 2012, when it drops to 9.9 %.

Currently two-thirds of Oregon corporations pay \$10 annually as their corporate minimum. The League of Women Voters supports a tax system that is equitable, adequate, and stable. We support the legislative plan to balance the state budget and oppose the attempts by out-of-state interest groups and corporations to defeat the tax fairness packages and derail the 2009-11 budget. **DECLINE TO SIGN!**

The state League is participating in the Defend Oregon Coalition which is providing leadership and information for the campaign. You may follow their efforts at [www.defendOregon.org](http://www.defendOregon.org)



**Mark your calendar!      October 17**  
**LWVOR Fall Workshop**

**To be held in Eugene. Let's Car pool!**  
More information coming soon

## Oregon Shores' "Coastal Climate Action" Conference

Ruth Kistler

On June 6, Oregon Shores' 25th annual conference was held in Newport; the emphasis was on climate change and the Oregon coast. Climate change is upon us because the earth is currently absorbing more heat than it radiates and the greenhouse gases (GHG) we are adding to the atmosphere are to blame. Although individual weather events cannot be ascribed to climate change, models predict an increased frequency of extreme events, and we already see measurable increases in mean temperature, rising sea level, and shrinking snow cover. The effects in the Pacific Northwest coast will be mild compared to the effects elsewhere. There may be more winter flooding. Rivers and streams will be lower and hotter in summer. Our forests may suffer more insect attacks and fires. As our climate changes we'll see a more stratified ocean, ocean acidification, possibly significantly different food chains. And as the sea water warms it expands, thus the sea level will rise. The larger the change in climate, the more negative the net effects will be.

Angus Duncan spoke about reducing greenhouse gas production. Oregon's GHG reduction goals are among the most aggressive in the nation: by 2010 we will arrest GHG growth (we have already met this goal and the new tail-pipe emissions laws will get us beyond it), by 2020 have GHG emissions 10% below those of 1990, by 2050 75% below those of 1990. Repowering Oregon with clean energy provides tremendous economic opportunities. Two of the largest wind power companies, Vestas and Repower USA, have offices in Portland; the wind power challenge is to integrate that power into the existing power grid. Last year, North America's largest solar cell manufacturing facility was opened in Hillsboro. New energy-efficient buildings mean additional power plants won't be needed.

Here at the coast we're working on ocean wave and tidal energy generation, and researching how to gain that renewable energy while protecting our ocean ecosystem. This past year OWET (Oregon Wave Energy Trust) has funded studies to update data on grey whale migration. Studies are trying to characterize the acoustic output of wave energy buoys, and examine stranded marine mammals looking for the effects of buoys. They're searching for acoustic deterrents to buoy / marine mammal entanglements. Experiments are needed to study the impact the buoys might have on birds. There is no proven methodology to determine the avian impacts. The direct effects might be collision, light attraction, entanglement, habitat loss, or oil leakage. Indirect effects could be changes in prey distribution and abundance, or wave shadow effects. Since much bird migration occurs at night, studies may need to use radar techniques and thermally-activated infrared cameras in addition to visual observations. Wave energy extraction will produce lower wave height in the lee of each buoy. To understand if these effects persist to the surf zone, and whether rip currents leading to increased erosion result, additional modeling is needed. A monitoring plan is proposed for Reedsport, comparing the beach and waves before and after to the planned buoy deployment in 2011. All energy sources, including clean energy sources, have impacts.

Despite these green power and conservation innovations, Mr. Duncan stated that we cannot meet our 2020 GHG emission goals without a ten-fold increase in "carbon productivity" (the amount of GDP produced per unit of carbon equivalents). He urged a "carbon cap and trade" system for Oregon, or better, for the region or nation. He argued that the cap would provide certainty in carbon reduction and trades would provide flexibility and lowest costs for the reduction.

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*Coastal Climate Change Continued*

Cathy Tortorici, of the National Marine Fisheries Services, explained that even if we do everything right with regard to carbon emissions, we're in for drastic changes. The Endangered Species Act was only designed to deal with site-specific issues and cannot deal with the global climate change problem. Predicted early-year high water flows, warm and low summer stream flows, and changing ocean conditions bode ill for salmon survival. The Independent Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council suggests that some climate impacts can be partially mitigated, and they call for additional modeling.

Dr. Jennifer Hoffman spoke about helping our marine ecosystems adapt to climate change. As the sea level rises, we need to give marine communities room to shift inland. Slowing climate change will give the marine species more time to adapt. The expected climate change stresses include water temperature rise, a drop in pH (increased acidity), changed salinity, altered current and upwelling patterns, new competing species, and new diseases and predators. Reducing other stresses, such as toxic run-off from the land, will help them adapt. The protection offered by Marine Reserves can help since reduced populations mean reduced genetic diversity and reduced resilience in the face of climate change. In the face of uncertainty, we need adaptive management.

Dr. Jonathan Allen of the Oregon Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries explained that rising sea level and the increasing frequency of extreme storms brings high risk to the coast. In addition, the coast north of Florence is subsiding (and the south coast is emerging), so that here (Newport) the change in the observed sea level will be the combined effect of the rising sea level, higher surge levels, and subsiding land. The most plausible scenario has sea level rising only 0.8 m (2.6 ft) this century, but that (and the storms) can be expected to produce 66—144 ft erosion of the coast. Increasing landslides and erosion may threaten Highway 101. Although rip-rap and other shorefront protective structures may provide short-term solutions, protected properties become increasingly vulnerable peninsulas, and in the meantime we lose the public beach. We must allow both the beaches and the estuaries to move inland. We need to adapt to climate change by considering it in all our planning efforts, including private developments, municipal services such as water supply and wastewater treatment plants, transportation infrastructure, and diked areas and wetlands. The watchwords for climate change are variability, uncertainty, complexity, and vulnerability.

At the end of the program there was an informal exchange between Steve Schell, an Oregon Shores board member and environmental lawyer, and Bob Bailey of Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). In 2008, Oregon Shores petitioned the LCDC to adopt Goal 20, a new land use goal requiring planning for mitigation of the results of sea level rise resulting from climate change. Under Goal 20 LCDC would need to adopt rules to set standards for vulnerability and risk assessments. Among other things, the proposal calls for building moratoriums, zoning changes and a property transfer policy to allow at-risk homeowners to build elsewhere. Bob Bailey stated that LCDC cannot adopt goal 20. LCDC can't implement it without legislation because it affects property rights and development rights.



**DUES!!** It is time to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in LWVLC! **DUES!!**

You may use the form at the back of this newsletter, find one online at [www.lwvlincolncounty.org](http://www.lwvlincolncounty.org) OR , send your check to Frances VanWert, our Membership chair, 742 NW 2nd Ct, Newport, OR . 97365.

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