March 17 Meeting

Joan Haffner will present the current issues on which the national LWV and LWVOR are advocating. She will lead a discussion on the interests and opportunities for advocacy by LWV of Lincoln County.
Memories from LWVLC Member Ruby Miller

I was born during the depression to Norwegian parents on a farm in Fairview, Montana, which is located in the lower Yellowstone Valley. My two older sisters were nurses, so because of the limited opportunities, I chose to go to nursing school in Great Falls, MT. I am glad to have done this as I enjoyed bedside nursing for 42 years.

I graduated in 1944 when the call came, requesting young nurses to join the military to give relief to the tired nurses who had served before and during World War II (see note). I remained in the army for a year and a half and this naive farm girl grew up in a hurry!

Dibble General Hospital in Menlo Park, CA was to be my assignment for the next 18 months. This was where servicemen from the Pacific Theater who had horrific burns and injuries were brought. It was also the time when plastic surgery was in its infancy. The memories of the pain and suffering of those young men brought tears to my eyes many years after I served there as a nurse. After the war, the hospital was disbanded and part of it was used as housing for married students attending Stanford University.

After the war was over, I returned to Portland where I met my husband who was a widower with three older boys. After marriage, we had two more boys and moved to Newport in 1971. My husband died suddenly and I became a "single mom" with two teen-aged boys. I continued to work here in Newport at the hospital with my sole purpose being to see my boys get through college. That position lasted for twenty years.

I joined the local League because I was interested in the political system, and am still enjoying the association and the members.

Volunteering at the Newport Library, and the Newport Hospital Auxiliary have been part of my life for the past twenty years. I also have been involved in the Coast Watch for the past ten years. A recent interest has been trying to write Haiku verses, none of which I would show to a Japanese poet!!

Note: Ruby highly recommends the book, *We Band of Angels*, the story of 77 army and navy nurses who worked in the Philippines before and during the early days of World War II. All of these nurses were trapped on Bataan by the Japanese and then sent to a Japanese prison camp near Manila for three years, where they suffered untold fear and malnutrition.

The book was authored by Elizabeth Norman, copyright 1999. (Almost all of the text was gathered by Ms. Norman from personal interviews and diaries of the nurses and/or their families.)

Convention, Council, and Annual Meeting

The national LWV Convention 2016 will be held June 16-19 in Washington, D.C. Our local League is entitled to send one delegate. If you are interested in attending, contact Ruth Kistler.

The LWV of Oregon Council 2016 will be held jointly with LWV of Washington, June 3-5, at the Vancouver WA Hilton Hotel. Our local League can send two delegates and any number of observers. If you would like to attend, please contact Ruth.

The LWV of Lincoln County Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 19. We will provide members with further information on this luncheon and business meeting as soon as it is available.

Voter Service Plans

We have a lot of plans for voter service for the May 17 Primary election.

With regard to voter registration, the plan is to write letters to the local news media explaining that voters must have registered their party affiliation in order to vote in the major party primaries. We'll also remind people that the new opt-out "motor voter" law has not automatically registered citizens who have not obtained or renewed licenses or IDs since January 2016.

Now that the candidate filing deadline has passed, we have the information needed to arrange a candidate forum to take place in Newport. We also would like to have a presence at the Chinook Winds candidate forum in Lincoln City.

We are no longer planning a forum on the Newport Fluoridation ballot measure. It proved too difficult to arrange one in which both sides would be fairly represented.

LWVOR is planning on a Standard version and a Spanish version of the Voters’ Guide for both this primary and the fall general election. They will be available on-line, and we are ordering 300 print copies of the Standard version, and 100 of the Spanish version. We will publicize the availability of the on-line Voters’ Guide and the locations where we place print versions. (The Large Print and Easy Read versions will not be available for this primary, as a test.)

Memorial for Bob Hall

Carol Hall is in town to arrange a memorial for her recently deceased husband Bob. If you would like information about the memorial, please contact Marilyn Podesta.
Calendar of events

Mar 17 -- 11:45 AM to 1:45 PM -- Newport Library -- General Meeting: Local, State, and National LWV Advocacy
Apr 4 -- 1:30 - Columbia Bank in Newport -- Board Meeting.
Apr 7 -- 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM -- Newport OCCC -- "Great Schools, Great Communities"

Women's History Month

Women's History Month can be traced to the first International Women's Day on March 8, 1911. In 1978 the Sonoma California school district celebrated Women's History Week around the week of March 8. The event was quite successful; several women's organizations decided to celebrate Women's History Week and to support an effort to secure a National Women's History Week. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. Schools across the country also began to have their own local celebrations of Women's History Week and even Women's History Month. By 1986, fourteen states had declared March as Women's History Month. In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress designated the month of March 1987 as Women’s History Month. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women’s History Month. Here is President Obama's recent proclamation:

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2016

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Throughout history, women have driven humanity forward on the path to a more equal and just society, contributing in innumerable ways to our character and progress as a people. In the face of discrimination and undue hardship, they have never given up on the promise of America: that with hard work and determination, nothing is out of reach. During Women's History Month, we remember the trailblazers of the past, including the women who are not recorded in our history books, and we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set.

For too long, women were formally excluded from full participation in our society and our democracy. Because of the courage of so many bold women who dared to transcend preconceived expectations and prove they were capable of doing all that a man could do and more, advances were made, discoveries were revealed, barriers were broken, and progress triumphed. Whether serving in elected positions across America, leading groundbreaking civil rights movements, venturing into unknown frontiers, or programming revolutionary technologies, generations of women that knew their gender was no obstacle to what they could accomplish have long stirred new ideas and opened new doors, having a profound and positive impact on our Nation. Through hardship and strife and in every realm of life, women have spurred change in communities around the world, steadfastly joining together to overcome adversity and lead the charge for a fairer, more inclusive, and more progressive society.

During Women's History Month, we honor the countless women who sacrificed and strived to ensure all people have an equal shot at pursuing the American dream. As President, the first bill I signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, making it easier for working American women to effectively challenge illegal, unequal pay disparities. Additionally, my Administration proposed collecting pay data from businesses to shine a light on pay discrimination, and I signed an Executive Order to ensure the Federal Government only works with and awards contracts to businesses that follow laws that uphold fair and equal labor practices. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurance

(Continued on page 4)
companies can no longer charge women more for health insurance simply because of their gender. And last year, we officially opened for women the last jobs left unavailable to them in our military, because one of the best ways to ensure our Armed Forces remains the strongest in the world is to draw on the talents and skills of all Americans.

Though we have made great progress toward achieving gender equality, work remains to be done. Women still earn, on average, less for every dollar made by men, which is why I continue to call on the Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act -- a sensible step to provide women with basic tools to fight pay discrimination. Meanwhile, my Administration has taken steps to support working families by fighting for paid leave for all Americans, providing women with more small business loans and opportunities, and addressing the challenges still faced by women and girls of color, who consistently face wider opportunity gaps and structural barriers -- including greater discrepancies in pay. And although the majority of our Nation's college and graduate students are women, they are still underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which is why we are encouraging more women and girls to pursue careers in these fields.

This May, the White House will host a summit on "The United State of Women," to highlight the advances we have made in the United States and across the globe and to expand our efforts on helping women confront the challenges they face and reach for their highest aspirations. We must strive to build the future we want our children to inherit -- one in which their dreams are not deferred or denied, but where they are uplifted and praised. We have come far, but there is still far to go in shattering the glass ceiling that holds women back. This month, as we reflect on the marks made by women throughout history, let us uphold the responsibility that falls on all of us -- regardless of gender -- and fight for equal opportunity for our daughters as well as our sons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2016, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also invite all Americans to visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the generations of women who have left enduring imprints on our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

BARACK OBAMA

501(c)3 Status

The LWVOR / LWVOREF consolidation is complete; LWVOR is now a 501(c)3 organization.

It has been decided that the best way (i.e., least work and cheapest) for local Leagues to convert to 501c(3) status is via an LWVOR Group Exemption. LWV Lincoln County and about half of the other Oregon local Leagues have responded favorably to this plan; the state League is waiting to hear from the other local Leagues before taking action. We expect that the cost of filing that group exemption will be about $3,000, and that it will be paid for by a one-time PMP assessment for local Leagues that join the Group.
A Letter From Membership Chair Marilyn Podesta

(Members have recently received this letter in the mail.)

March 7, 2016

Dear LWVLC Members:

At the February general meeting there was a short discussion about the future of the Lincoln County League. None of our current officers is willing or able to continue next year, and we need to come up with a slate of officers and directors, or some other leadership structure, to present to our membership at our annual meeting. There were six members present at that February meeting, three board members and three other members. Perhaps it is time to see if members who were not in attendance (as well as the six who came to the meeting) want to express their interests or concerns.

This year we have 18 active / paid members; one lives in Santa Cruz and does not attend meetings. This is down from the 26 members of a year ago. General meetings since September have attracted 10-12 members, a good percentage of the group. There were 23 people at our December luncheon and 20 at last year's annual meeting ... does this tell us that socializing, an interesting speaker / FOOD gets our members out?

When we concluded our League workshop with consultant John Baker last spring, it was apparent that we, as a League, had a lot of work to do. Identifiable goals were: 1) attracting new / younger / diverse members, 2) identifying "hot button issues" in the community which we could build programs around, 3) make ourselves more visible in the coastal communities (not just Newport), 4) learn more about our communities by establishing an "observer corps" in which our members would visit community boards and committees and report back on a regular basis, 5) concern about Oregon and Lincoln County schools.

To date, we are tackling the Observer Corps with Joan Haffner's guidance; several of our members have already expressed interest. Steve Boynton, Lincoln County School Superintendent was our speaker at the December luncheon and gave us a ready list of ways our members can help district students. We are sponsoring a "Great Schools, Great Communities" forum (April 7, from 6 - 8:30 pm, at the Oregon Coast Community College) about the education funding crisis in Oregon. This forum is part of LWVOR's advocacy program.

It is difficult for the present board to continue operating in the traditional way, with traditional officers. Perhaps it is time to consider "thinking outside the box" with a less traditional type of board. One idea might be to have an "executive committee" with chair duties to be decided upon before the traditional Sept-June year begins. There is no one model that must be followed, but communication would be key.

I am willing to chair a discussion group about possible changes with any interested members. I am available during the three summer months (Jun-Aug), and feel that it is possible to have a full year's calendar set up before September 2016. But, as the saying goes, "It takes a Village", to have a successful output ... I need your help!

Please return the "Member Interest Profile" I have included with this letter to me by April 3, and indicate ways you could help revitalize our group. (Marilyn included the survey form and a SASE with her letter to members.)

After 45 years, perhaps it is time to do some updating and rethinking. I do not want to see our League disappear.

Sincerely,

Marilyn L. Podesta

Membership Chair
League of Women Voters of Lincoln County

**Membership Form**

Name____________________________________ Phone___________________ E-Mail__________________
Address______________________________  City_______________________  Zip________

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<th>Annual Membership Dues (Circle one.)</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Low income: Individual</th>
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<td>I am interested in working with the League.</td>
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I wish to make a contribution 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 of Oregon (Separate Check Required. Make check out to “LWVOR”.)

Only contributions to LWVOR are tax deductible. These contributions assist LWVLC’s Voter Service activities and education projects. *(Tax deductible Contributions to LWVOR must be on a check separate from payment of dues and LWVLC contributions.)*

**Total Enclosed:** $____________

Please mail to: LWVLC P. O. Box 1648, Newport, OR 97365

For information call Marilyn Podesta Membership Chair, 541-765-4422

League of Women Voters of Lincoln County