



WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

December 2017-
January 2018

President's Message

This will be a combined December/January newsletter, so I'd like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year! Once again, the Sylvia Beach Hotel provided a delicious December luncheon feast and my thanks go out to Marilyn for all her hard working putting these functions together! Georgia's special music on her Bell Tree was delightful and I'm very pleased that all three of our 50-year members, Janice, Sue and Maxine, were there with us. This event is always a special part of our league year and gives us an opportunity to catch up with the members we don't see as regularly.



Ballots for the upcoming Special Election will be mailed January 4, so we should have them in hand if any questions come up before our **January 11th** meeting, which will be held at the **Driftwood Public Library in Lincoln City**. Ballots are due on January 23.

There will be only one question on the January ballot: Ballot Measure 101. Ballot Measure 101 is a veto (repeal) referendum. A veto referendum is a citizen-initiated measure addressing a law that the state legislature and governor approved. A successful signature-gathering effort placed the question before the electorate. It will ask whether the electorate wishes to enact legislation passed in 2017 that continues (and funds) the existing expansion of the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports a "YES" vote on the measure. More detail can be found in a separate article in this newsletter.

For me, the simple question is whether we should overturn the deliberative process that goes into passing legislation, especially controversial legis-

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January Program

Lincoln City Warming Shelter

Affordable Housing

11:30 AM

Thursday, January 11

Driftwood Public Library
in Lincoln City



"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 statewide."

LWVLC Board of Directors

President	Jean Cowan
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Joan Haffner
Treasurer	Jack Kistler
Committee Chairs	
Voter Services	Ruth Kistler
Membership	Marilyn Podesta

Visit our web page at www.lwvlincolncounty.org

Calendar of Events

Jan 4	1:30 PM	Umpqua Bank, Newport	Board Meeting
Jan 11	11:30 AM To 1:30	Driftwood Public Library in Lincoln City	General Meeting – Program: Patrick Alexander on Lincoln City Warming Shelter & Bill Hall on affordable housing
Jan 20	11:30 AM	Newport City Hall	Resist and Persist: Women’s march of Lincoln County
Jan 23			Special Election
Jan 26	10:00 AM To 3:00	Church of the Nazarene, Newport	Project Homeless Connect
Feb 1	1:30 PM	Umpqua Bank, Newport	Board Meeting
Feb 5		State Capitol, Salem	Legislative session begins
Feb 8	11:30 AM To 1:30	Newport Public Library	General Meeting – The future of our local league and Program Planning
Feb 13		Capitol Building, Salem	Day at the Legislature
Feb 27	6:00 PM To 8:00	Newport Public Library	Joint meeting with NOW – Omar Hernandez of Centro da Avuda will speak on immigration
Mar 1	1:30 PM	Umpqua Bank, Newport	Board Meeting
Apr 5	1:30 PM	Umpqua Bank, Newport	Board Meeting
Apr 12	11:30 AM TO 1:30	Newport Public Library	General Meeting
May 3	1:30 PM	Umpqua Bank, Newport	Board Meeting
May 4 to May 6		Gold Beach	LWVOR Council 2018
May 10	TBD	TBD	Annual Meeting

Please see our website – www.lwvlincolncounty.org – for updates.



Ballot Measure 101

Ballot measure 101 will come before Oregon voters on January 23, 2018 (ballot will be mailed January 4) and it will be the only question on the Special Election ballot. The measure specifically targets healthcare funding under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Oregon's Medicaid program.

A "Yes" vote will allow House Bill 2391 to go into effect in its entirety as enacted by the 2017 Oregon Legislature. It upholds specified assessments on health insurance companies, managed care organizations, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and some hospitals. These assessments will provide Oregon's non-federal portion of funding for the OHP and directs that insurance companies cannot increase premiums by more than 1.5% because of the assessments.

A "No" vote rejects temporary assessments outlined in HB 2391 and removes the funding sources for continuation of the Oregon Health Plan expansion, which was put in place in 2014. The proposed assessments would produce an estimated additional \$673 million for the OHP in the 2017-19 budget cycle, and would leverage about \$1.9 billion in federal matching funds.

In 2014 the federal government's Affordable Care Act provided federal funds to Oregon and other states to expand Medicaid coverage. As of 2017, this resulted in OHP providing coverage to 350,000 previously uninsured low-income Oregonians. Starting in 2017, Oregon was required to pay 5% of the expansion costs in order to release federal funds to cover the Medicaid Expansion coverage. Oregon's required percentage contribution will increase in 2018 to 6%, 7% in 2019, and its share will be capped at 10% in 2020 and beyond.

Facing a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall for Oregon's mandated programs, the 2017 legislature worked with stakeholders on HB 2391 to fund the Oregon Health Plan for another 2 years. It passed with a three-fifths majority vote and was signed into law on July 3, 2017. Measure 101 protects the 94% federal share of the funds for Medicaid. Since the Medicaid healthcare provider organizations are the primary beneficiaries of federal Medicaid funding, such assessments are used in 49 states to fund health care. Oregon has used similar assessments since 2003. The measure is supported by hospitals, insurers, nurses, doctors and consumer groups.

In objection to these new assessments, a statewide veto referendum was launched by State Representatives Julie Parrish, Cedric Hayden and Sal Esquivel, and adequate signatures were gathered to contest certain sections of HB 2391 as passed by the Legislative Assembly. A "yes" vote on Ballot Measure 101 would uphold HB 2391 and retain the assessments. A "no" vote would overturn sections 3, 5, 8, 9, and 27 of HB 2391. Removal of these sections eliminates the funding for HB 2391. Opponents state that rejecting Measure 101 forces lawmakers to "find other ways to cut costs".

LWVOR has taken a position in support of Measure 101 and is part of a large coalition working for its passage. While our local league board does not feel we have the time to organize a public forum on the measure, individual members are encouraged to write Letters to the Editor or express their personal viewpoint any way they see fit. Additional information can be found on the main websites:

CON: Stop Healthcare Taxes <http://stophealthcaretaxes.org>

PRO: YES for healthcare <http://yesforhealthcare.org/>

Comprehensive background information is available on "Ballotpedia" at:

https://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_2018_ballot_measures

Immigration Issues

On November 14th, Jean and her daughter-in-law Jana Cowan, attended the Corvallis League's program on Immigration Rights and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. The speakers included Yema Measho, a Corvallis Attorney specializing in immigrant rights and two "DREAMers" – Oregon State University students who are registered through DACA.

Since taking office, President Trump has signed a series of Executive Orders limiting the rights of immigrants. Most recently, he has announced plans to do away with DACA, the program created by the Obama administration that gives temporary protection to undocumented migrants who arrived in the U.S. as children.

Ms. Measho came to the United States from Ethiopia via asylum. Her knowledge of the process and challenges facing immigrants who are currently undocumented and wish to seek citizenship is extensive and she is a very passionate speaker. She explained the almost insurmountable roadblocks to obtaining a VISA, primarily because, to get "legal", the applicant must first return to their home country. That individual is then barred from applying for a VISA for 3-10 years and most often faces extreme hardship in their native country. She maintains that most undocumented individuals currently residing in the US want to be legal, but find the process almost impossible.

In addition, she talked about how families should respond if ICE knocks on their door. First, they should never allow the agent to enter the home because that leaves everyone inside vulnerable. Instead, the agents should be asked if 1) they have a search warrant and 2) if, and for whom, they have an arrest warrant. The same applies to one's workplace. Only after these questions have been answered should the individual for whom the agents have a specific warrant step outside alone and speak with the agents.

Ms. Measho conducts "know your rights sessions" for immigrants, teaching them how to respond if they are arrested. She advises such individuals: don't say anything; don't sign anything; and don't say where you are from.

The two student speakers had powerful personal stories. Pricilla Narcio completed her first two years of college at community college and is now an OSU student, currently on the DACA program. She noted that undocumented students are not eligible for federal grants or student aid, so financial difficulties and food insecurity are big problems. DREAMers were brought here as little children and have only known life in the U.S. However, without a social security number, they cannot get driver's licenses, take the SAT's, or apply for any sort of assistance.

Juan Navarro is a graduate student at OSU whose parents brought him to the US at age three, seeking better medical care because he was born with Cerebral Palsy. With treatment from the Shriner's hospital, he walked for the first time at age 15. He said, very simply, if the DACA program goes away, "my dreams are shattered".

Both students recently travelled to Washington DC, where they joined others to lobby for the "CLEAN DREAM Act." They feel strongly that any movement to help students in their situation must also provide a path for their parents to gain legal status. They fear being allowed to find a path to legal status themselves, only to have it mean their parents will be discovered and deported.

This complex question demands much more conversation. As a first step, LWVLC will join NOW in a meeting on February 27, 6:30 pm at the Newport Public Library, where we will hear from Omar Hernandez of Centro De Ayuda.

Project Homeless Connect to Take Place January 26, 2018

This year, as in the last several years, the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County will participate in Project Homeless Connect. We'll be there telling people that having all citizens vote is important to our democracy. The homeless population is less likely to vote or to be registered to vote than the general population. We'll help people find out whether they are registered to vote in Oregon, and help them register or update their registration. Many people are unaware that they don't need to have a residence address in order to register to vote, or that a prior felony conviction or being on probation or parole does not disenfranchise a person under Oregon law; citizens only lose their vote while they are incarcerated.

Here's the press release with more information about this event:

NEWPORT, Ore. – Lincoln County Public Health is proud to participate alongside other community agencies in Project Homeless Connect, Lincoln County's annual homeless outreach event, held January 26th, 2018 from 10AM-3PM at the Church of the Nazarene. The event offers immediate goods and services to those experiencing homelessness and families in need, such as energy and housing assistance, pet and dental care, eyeglasses, insurance enrollment, and a warm meal.

Approximately 160 individuals participated in Project Homeless Connect in 2017, a figure that serves as a reminder of the importance of this event and the need that exists on the coast. Lola Jones, Director of Samaritan House and head coordinator of the event, described the positive impact it has on the community, "Project Homeless Connect, now in its 11th year in Lincoln County, provides access to critical services and resources in an efficient and effective setting. The partnerships are what make this event successful; we are engaging people and organizations at every level."

Project Homeless Connect is a fine example of how our community can come together and work towards improving the lives of those who are in need. Those interested in contributing can donate items to collection bins at various sites throughout Lincoln County, including at Toad Hall in Yachats, Oregon Coast Bank in Waldport, and Wal-Mart in Newport. Recommended items for donation include new and unopened socks, underwear, warm layers, and hygiene products.

Individuals interested in volunteering at the event can apply online at <http://tinyurl.com/PHCvolunteer> or on the Lincoln County Project Homeless Connect Facebook page. Thank you to the Church of the Nazarene for hosting this event and to all the volunteers and donations that help make Project Homeless Connect possible. We are looking forward to another year of this great event!

Contact person: Robert Bauman, Lincoln County Public Health VISTA, rbauman@co.lincoln.or.us, 541-270-4652.

Resist & Persist: Women's March set for Jan 20

NEWPORT—A group of local women are again gearing up for another march to protest the current Administration's anti-woman, anti-immigrant, anti-democratic and anti-environmental policies. The Jan 20 date was picked to coincide with sister marches nationwide with similar themes including the #MeToo movement.

The Resist and Persist: Women's March of Lincoln County will take place in Newport Saturday Jan 20 starting at City Hall at 11:30 am with introductory remarks. The march will start down Hwy 101 at noon. Exact march route and destination are still being worked out. Organizers are hoping for an even bigger crowd than last year's Stronger Together March which drew nearly 1,700 people.

Organizers are a coalition of NOW members, members of the Diversity Committee of Lincoln County, PFLAG and the Lincoln County Democratic Central Committee. They stress that anyone interested in preserving our democracy, equality and human rights come join the march.

"There is even more urgency this year to rally for change in our country now that we've seen what the Trump administration is capable of", said Nell Austen, from the March's public relations committee.

Jeanne St John from PFLAG, says she will be the poster child for the march.



Membership Matters

Marilyn Podesta, Membership Chair

At our recent holiday luncheon, we honored our three 50-year members. They are our collective memory of League history and traditions. A few years ago, Maxine Demory, one of our 50-year LWV members, and one of the charter members of the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, provided this brief history of our local League:

"The League of Women Voters of Lincoln County was incorporated in 1971. In the early years there were three units that met monthly – in Lincoln City, Newport, and south county (Seal Rock/Waldport/Yachats). The Newport unit met in the evenings at a central location and the other two met in members' homes in the daytime. One of the first responsibilities of the new League was hosting a state League Council meeting at the Inn at Otter Crest.

"A 'Know Your County Government' was completed and printed into a booklet in 1974. It has been revised several times since then. Other studies and positions adopted over the years have included ones on a county-wide library system, liquefied natural gas, domestic violence, legalized gambling, education about alcohol abuse, Port Districts, and the Lincoln County School District.

"Alice Sim of Lincoln City was one of the original incorporators and an early leader of the Lincoln County League. She later served as mayor of Lincoln City and was instrumental in the development of a women's shelter for victims of domestic violence, which has evolved into 'My Sister's Place', and is still in operation.

"In later years, Jean Cowan served for a number of years as local League president before becoming first a County Commissioner and later our State Representative. In recent years Health Care, Homeless Youth, and Land Use and Natural Resource Issues in Lincoln County have been studied. The League has regularly sponsored Candidates' Forums for Lincoln County elections to allow voters to hear the candidates for local and state offices."

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lation. Debate is enthusiastic, and compromises are necessary before a final product is delivered to the Governor for her signature. All this happened during the 2017 Legislative session, producing HB 2391. Healthcare funding is complicated, to say the least, and such a complex question should not be decided by a short, heated political campaign, such as occurs with ballot measures, yet the decision is now before us. I strongly urge your "Yes" vote.

It is important to note that this measure is supported by the very entities who will fund it: large healthcare providers such as Kaiser, Legacy, PeaceHealth and Providence Hospitals, AARP Oregon, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and dozens of other organizations.

This is not an easy measure to explain, but I urge our members to learn all that you can and share your opinions in whatever way is comfortable. Unfortunately, time and the season will not allow us to organize a public forum on the issue.

As noted, our January meeting will be held in Lincoln City at the Driftwood Public Library, beginning at 11:30, as usual. We are reaching out to encourage participation of our north county members. I'm looking forward to hearing updates on the **Affordable Housing** issues facing Lincoln County. We will hear first from Patrick Alexander, Board President for the Lincoln City Warming Shelter. County Commissioner Bill Hall will join us at 12:30 to share his perspective on this ongoing challenge. I understand that the location change will require extra travel for some of us, but we can arrange carpools and I hope that we will have a good turnout to update ourselves on this timely and important issue!

And stay tuned for more information about our **February** meeting schedule. As of now, we plan to hold our regular 2nd Thursday meeting at the **Newport Public Library** to do some **Program Planning** and talk about **Planning our Future** for LWVLC. It is likely that we will not meet in March, because we are also looking forward to joining together with NOW for second a February meeting on Tuesday, **February 27, beginning at 6:30 PM**, also in the Newport Public Library.

Both NOW and LWVLC have been looking at having a discussion of the impact of current immi-

gration issues here in Lincoln County. NOW has already enlisted Omar Hernandez of Centro De Ayuda for their meeting on February 27 and has invited us to join them. I recently attended a meeting of the Corvallis LWV to hear speakers on Immigration Rights and DACA, and have summarized that meeting in a separate article. It is a critically important issue for many of our valued community members and I look forward to hearing from Mr. Hernandez!

We have an exciting and interesting few months ahead of us and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018! Happy New Year!

Jean



Fundraiser Successful

By Ruth Kistler

It was a busy, busy time, but our efforts were fruitful.

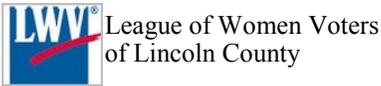
Fourteen members sold 114 boxes of grapefruit and oranges to 75 customers. (The customer count may be low because some sellers just reported totals.)

The big truck arrived in Corvallis after sunset Monday, December 4. Early Tuesday morning, Maxine and her grandson Zach helped Jack and Ruth pick up the fruit in Corvallis; the Corvallis League crew had unloaded the semi and were a great help loading our trailer.

This year there were fewer damaged fruit and the oranges were juicy. The fruit has been delivered to our customers; extra boxes that were not sold have been donated to the local Food Pantries.

Our League made \$996.52 after expenses from this sale (after we get all the checks that are supposed to be coming). Last year we made \$936.


 League of Women Voters of Lincoln County
 P. O. Box 1648
 Newport, OR 97365



Membership Form

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

Name _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

	Individual	Household	Low income: Individual	Household
<u>Annual Membership Dues</u> (Circle one.)	\$60	\$90	\$40	\$60

I am a new member

I am renewing my membership

The membership year begins October 1.

I am interested in working with the League.

Please call me.

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 to assist LWVLC's Voter Service activities and education projects. (Separate Check Required. Make check out to "LWVOR".) \$ _____

Only contributions to LWVOR are tax deductible.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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