



WAVELENGTHS



League of Women Voters of Lincoln County, Oregon

September 12, 2018

September 20th Kick-off Meeting & Fall Planning

We are all looking forward to our September kick-off meeting on September 20th at the Newport Library, beginning at 11:30 am. Your new Leadership Team has come up with some terrific ideas for this event and will be providing a light lunch, get-acquainted time, welcome for new members and an opportunity to brainstorm more new ideas for the league year.

Carol will be the meeting coordinator, assuming responsibility for inviting potential new members, a planned potluck lunch, and a room arrangement to facilitate good conversation. Ruth will do an introduction to LWV for any new participants, Marta will bring you up to speed on the planned Candidate Forums, Georgia will discuss our outreach to young voters (student memberships), and Patti will lead the brain-storming session on program planning. Come ready to share your ideas!



Dues are due

League dues are due by October 1st. Have you paid your dues this year? If you are not sure, contact Jack Kistler at jackkistler@charter.net or 541-574-8145

2018-2019

Kickoff meeting

September 20

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Newport Public Library



"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."

Moving forward into 2018-19

By Jean Cowan

I am pleased and excited to report on the very productive meetings that your new Leadership Team held this summer, in preparation for the 2018-19 league year. You will recall that I have decided that it is time for me to step away from my role as LWVLC's president and focus on my grandchildren's busy lives – a most pleasurable task that requires Pat and I to travel a great deal.



At our May luncheon we took the necessary steps to provide enough flexibility in our by-laws to allow us to try out the concept of a "Leadership Team," and announced that several dedicated members had volunteered to come together in this role. It has been my pleasure to work Team members: Georgia Roelof (our "main contact" person for LWVOR), Carol Hall, Marilyn Podesta, Ruth Kistler, Ellen Bristow and Patti Littlehales as we have collectively developed ideas of how this new format should work. All have stepped up to take on key roles for the various activities the league has planned to date.

The team also includes Maxine Demory and Marta West, who will take on the roles of league secretary and communications coordinator, respectively. That means Maxine will take meeting minutes and Marta will sift through and disseminate the plethora of electronic communications that come in from LWVUS, LWVOR and many organizations with similar interests and concerns. Jack Kistler will continue to manage our website, while sharing the treasurer/fund raising duties with Georgia.

Many of our conversations have focused on expanding our membership. Georgia, Carol and Marilyn organized a table at the recent showings of "RBG" at the PAC and their efforts generated quite a list of folks interested in learning more about LWV. Great job!! Carol and Marilyn will share the task of tracking and following up with potential new members.

Ruth will continue to manage the production of this newsletter and you can look forward to more in-depth messages from each of the Leadership Team members as the year progresses. Ruth will

also continue to serve as our Voter Service chair – with assistance from the entire team. Patti has agreed to assume our Public Relations workload as we move forward with some public presentations this fall.

Please accept my sincerest thank you for all the support – and join me in enthusiastically welcoming our new Leadership Team aboard!!



Leadership Team. Top: Carol Hall, Patti Littlehales, Ellen Bristow, Georgia Roelof. Bottom: Marilyn Podesta, Ruth Kistler

LWVLC Board of Directors

Leadership Team	Ellen Bristow Carol Hall Ruth Kistler Patti Littlehales Marilyn Podesta Georgia Roelof
Secretary	Maxine Demory
Communications Coordinator	Marta West
Treasurer/Fundraiser	Jack Kistler Georgia Roelof
Bulletin Editor	Ruth Kistler
Bulletin Publisher	Jack Kistler
Voter Services	Ruth Kistler
Membership	Carol Hall Marilyn Podesta
List maintenance	Jack Kistler
Outreach	Georgia Roelof (HS & College) Ellen Bristow (local governments)
Public Relations	Patti Littlehales
Boter Services	Ruth Kistler
Web Page Coordinator	Jack Kistler

Visit our web page at www.lwvlincolncounty.org

Calendar of Events

As of September 11, 2018

Sep 20	11:30 AM	Newport Public Library	Kickoff Meeting & Fall Planning.
Sep 25	National Voter Registration Day		
Oct 11	1:30 PM	Driftwood Public Library	Board Meeting – Members welcome
Oct 16	Last day to register to vote in Nov Election		
Oct 17	6:30 PM	Yachats Common	Yachats Candidate Forum
Oct 23	6:30 PM	Atonement Lutheran Church	Lincoln County Candidate Forum
Nov 6	General Election		
Nov 16		Salem	Legislative Process Day
Dec 13	12:00 PM	Sylvia Beach Hotel	Holiday Luncheon

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

Candidate Forums

October will be dedicated to voter education, as we sponsor two Candidate Forums. Jean will moderate both. On October 23, we will hold a Forum at the Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport, beginning with a “meet and greet” at 6:30 and formal program at 7:00 pm. We are inviting candidates for State Representative 10th District, Lincoln County Commissioner, Lincoln County Treasurer, City of Newport Mayor, and City of Newport Council. Patti and Marta will be the co-coordinators for the Newport area forum, with each of the other team members assuming various responsibilities for the event itself. We are confident that this forum will be the same rousing success as our May Primary forum!

We have also been requested to again host a forum in Yachats for their city government candidates. That forum will be held Wednesday, October 17, at 6:30 pm at the Yachats Commons. Jean with work with a local coordinator in Yachats for setup there.



“Be an Informed Voter”

On Thursday, October 25th from 5:30 to 7 pm, Georgia Roelof and Jean Cowan (representing Lincoln County League of Women Voters) will be facilitating a discussion on how to become an informed voter this fall. The discussion will be held at the North County Campus of OCCC (North County Center, 3788 SE High School Drive, Lincoln City). It is intended to be an opportunity for all eligible voters to learn how to obtain factual, unbiased information about the candidates and measures on this year’s ballot. LWV members are also encouraged to attend.

This discussion is listed prominently in the Oregon Coast Community College Fall 2018 Course Schedule. Here’s the description from “Catch the Wave”:

What’s the difference between a Referendum, a Referral and an Initiative? How objective is the information found in the State Voter’s Pamphlet? What other sources are there for factual information about candidates and issues? Would you like some insight into campaign use (misuse?) of individual votes and quotes? How much does a candidate’s political affiliation matter and how can it help you make a choice? Come and learn how to become an informed voter in this year’s election.

Second Amendment Preservation Ordinances

By Marge Easley, LWVOR Gun Safety Portfolio – (Reprinted from the current *Voter*)

You have probably noticed the alarming trend to place Second Amendment Preservation (SAP) Ordinances on the ballot in many Oregon counties. This is part of a nationwide effort, led by gun rights groups and spurred on by the Patriot movement and the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), to grant county sheriffs the authority to determine the constitutionality of federal and state firearm laws and thereby decide which gun laws not to enforce.

SAP ordinances have already been enacted in three Oregon counties: by the boards of commissioners in Wallowa County (2013) and Wheeler County (2015), and by initiative petition in Coos County (2015). In 2018, SAPs will be on the ballot in Lincoln, Columbia, Klamath, and Douglas Counties, but initiative petitions in Benton, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, and Jefferson Counties were either denied or failed to gather the required signatures. The Linn County SAP is in the process of being challenged.

The League believes that federal and state laws are clear that the power to interpret firearm laws does not rest with county sheriffs and that SAPs will ultimately be deemed unconstitutional. Under the U.S. Constitution Supremacy Clause (Article VI, Section 2), county and state law cannot supersede federal law. Also, under ORS 166.170, “the authority to regulate in any matter whatsoever the sale, acquisition, transfer, ownership, possession, storage, transportation or use of firearms or any element relating to firearms and components thereof, including ammunition, is vested solely in the Legislative Assembly.”

We applaud local Leagues who have taken part in previous efforts to prevent SAPS from being enacted. In the upcoming election, we urge you to actively oppose SAP ordinances and to educate voters through advocacy forums, op-ed columns, and letters to the editor. If your county already has such an ordinance, please help advocate for its nullification. Ceasefire Oregon is an excellent resource for information and assistance.

LWV Lincoln County Provides Opposition Argument for Measure 21-189

A “Second Amendment Preservation” ordinance is on November’s ballot in Lincoln County. Because the League has positions supporting gun safety, and because we believe this ballot measure title and wording could confuse voters, your local League’s board voted to provide a statement in opposition to this measure for the voters’ pamphlet. This statement (which is copied from one written by a “Moms Demand Action” volunteer in Deschutes County) follows:

Voter’s Pamphlet Argument in opposition to measure 21-189 submitted by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln County.

Vote NO on Measure 21-189. A NO vote helps protect us by continued enforcement of our federal and state gun laws. A NO vote will prevent the county sheriff from violating the Oregon Constitution.

Measure 21-189 would violate Oregon and US Constitutions by giving the sheriff the ability to interpret firearms laws. The state legislature enacts laws after careful review and input. Those laws are further reviewed by the courts to be certain no law violates our rights as guaranteed by the second amendment. The role of the sheriff is to enforce laws. This measure would violate the US Constitution (Article VI, paragraph 2) by giving the Sheriff the authority to interpret the 2nd, 9th, and 10th amendments.

Measure 21-189 is a clear breach of the State preemption statute (ORS 166.170). The statute asserts that the authority to regulate firearms laws, including ammunition, is vested solely in the State Legislative Assembly. Yet, this measure is clearly attempting to undo this statute.

Will the sheriff allow felons to buy guns? Will he decide our Oregon background check system is unnecessary? Will he decide our Extreme Risk Protection Orders are unconstitutional? Will it all change when a new sheriff is serving Lincoln county? We do not know if municipal police departments will follow suit and fail to enforce firearms laws. Uncertainty puts us at risk.

We should enforce state laws in Lincoln County. Maintain our checks and balances. Vote NO on Measure 21-189.

Membership Notes

By Marilyn Podesta

I was thrilled to meet and talk with our immediate past LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, last September at the WA/OR Leadership conference in Portland. She is a dynamic individual and at the end of her speech, everyone rose to their feet and cheered! We all knew that this organization is for every person who values our Democracy.

The Transformational Journey

A speech by Elisabeth MacNamara

The League has been on a transformational journey since it was founded in 1920. A League of Women Voters was a unique concept. It was founded upon a belief in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. The overarching goal of the new organization was to harness the new voting power of over 20 million women to refocus the political conversation on the greater good.

The League inherited an organizational structure from the suffrage association. It was a structure that depended on the time and talents of women volunteers and it was well suited to communication across a federation of state Leagues in the early 20th century.

Within that structure, there were three ways to pursue the goal. The League could work within the existing two-party system to change the platforms and priorities of the parties by encouraging women to get active in the parties. The League could form a new political party. The third option was to work outside the party system altogether by adopting a strategy of never supporting or opposing candidates or parties.

Initially, Carrie Catt proposed a hybrid approach of being nonpartisan but working with the parties. It quickly became apparent that while the two major parties wanted women's votes, they were not at all interested in listening to women's voices. Alice Paul's Woman's Party which was pursuing an equal rights amendment was not meeting with much success.

The third strategy was to remain outside the party system, never supporting or opposing candidates or parties. This meant that the League would have to focus on issues and use grassroots mobilization to influence the political process rather than working to directly influence elections or the party platforms.

A focus on grassroots activism and mobilization required a focus on what the League has come to call voter service. Activists, particularly new women voters, had to be registered and educated on issues (including the positions of elected officials and candidates for office on those issues) and where to go vote.

For the grassroots to have maximum influence, the nonpartisan strategy required a way to determine issue focus (program planning) and to speak with one voice from positions that grassroots members understood and agreed with (study and consensus).

Over its first fifty years, the League defined and refined the procedures necessary to operate as a nonpartisan, political organization both during and after elections.

In the 1940's, responding to the changing role of women in America after World War II, the League became a membership association and local Leagues formed as families moved to the suburbs. The last major structural change occurred in 1970 when the per member payment system was substituted for a complex system of state League financial pledges which was the origin of the Roll Call of States at national convention.

After 1970, the League struggled to adapt to yet another change in the role of women in America. As more women entered the workforce in the wake of the second woman's movement, volunteer time and talent became increasingly scarce. That change coupled with the impact of rapidly changing communication technology made an organizational structure that had efficiently managed civic engagement increasingly obsolete.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, the history, from which our core beliefs, goals, and strategies arise, gets lost over time. This is not unusual for mature organizations like the League. Not knowing where we came from or where we have been, we easily confuse traditional structures and procedures with traditional

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beliefs, goals, and strategies. The latter continue to have merit even if the former need to adapt to the current culture for the League to continue to pursue those core beliefs, goals, and strategies.

The current transformational journey is unfolding in a manner unfamiliar to many of us but which would be very familiar to our founders.

When the League first met in convention in 1921, there was no established program planning process. No procedures for achieving member understanding and agreement through a process of study and consensus had been created. But a program of work (the origin of the term program in current bylaws) had to be sorted out from the more than 60 resolutions adopted at that first convention. Once sorted, a consensus had to be created among the various League stakeholders if the program of work was going to be carried out.

The process started with the national board. For several years, an executive council of state presidents was convened before annual convention to get input for a proposed program of work and then after convention to plan how the program ultimately approved would be carried out. When conventions became biennial in 1927, executive council or council as we now call it met in the interim year to keep the organization aligned behind its program focus.

The same process has been employed in the current transformational journey. In the 21st century, there are more stakeholders than 100 years ago, but the process of developing proposals, getting input, and building a strong consensus around a path forward is the same.

As stakeholders have convened over the past two years, there has been no discussion or desire to change the core beliefs, goals, and strategies of the League of Women Voters. In fact, those beliefs, goals, and strategies are coming into much clearer focus as we pursue this journey together.

Which leaves a focus on the creaky, 20th century organizational structure and procedures that have simply not kept up with the increasing diversity of the population, the changing role of women, or the changing role of communication technology in the public arena.

If we accept that our core belief is our power to create more perfect democracy; if we accept that our overarching goal remains changing the political conversation to reflect the needs of our increasingly diverse community; if we continue to pursue a core strategy of never supporting or opposing any candidate or party, then we should measure those organizational structures and procedures against our core belief.

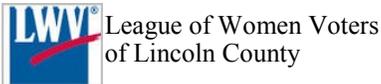
Are we creating a more perfect democracy because of when we use a particular program planning process, or because we organize our grassroots members into local groups defined by geography? Does it matter to our democracy where and how our members join the organization or how we define membership? If the answer is no, then we can change those things.

That is what the transformational journey has been and always will be about.



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 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 Student Low income: Individual Household
Annual Membership Dues (Circle one.) \$60 \$90 \$5 \$40 \$60

I am a new member

I am renewing my membership

The membership dues are due 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