



# CASCADE ECHOES

## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2015

### SEPTEMBER

**3 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Speaking will be Bruce Morris, the new development and programming manager for KPOV Radio. The topic is KPOV RADIO--the last ten years, and the next ten years".

See last page for more information

**10 Board Meeting** 10 a.m. at the County Building.1300 Wall St.,Lyons Room  
**17 Member Consensus Meeting: Constitutional Convention**

### OCTOBER

**1 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Topic is CENTRAL OREGON COALITION FOR ACCESS with speaker, Carol Fulkerson, spokesperson for COCA, at Black Bear Diner, on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Olnev Streets in Bend.

**8 Board Meeting** 10 a.m. at the County Building.1300 Wall St.,Lyons Room  
**15 Member Meeting on SDCs and Affordable Housing**

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

### THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

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<i>Vice President</i> .....		
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Susan Meyer.....	562-818-6280
<i>Secretary</i> .....	Andrea Blum.....	541-549-6148
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<i>Membership</i> .....	Bonnie Corley.....	541-330-1752
<i>Program (state, nat'l, local)</i> .....	Marie Gibson.....	541-385-9227
<i>Voters Service</i> .....	Susie Penhollow.....	541-382-2724
<i>First Thursday</i> .....	Dave Stranahan.....	541-350-6496
<i>Public Relations</i> .....	Geri Hauser.....	541-280-2947
<i>Special Events</i> .....	Eve McFarland,.....	541-389-5682



League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy



### WEB SITES

Local

[www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm](http://www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm)

State

[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

National

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Nationwide Election Information  
[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

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# President's Message

What an interesting year to be watching the political scene. You can't turn on the TV without seeing Trump say some 'interesting' thing or gaging on the spin the media puts to everything political. It's going to be another 'gotcha' year no matter what side you're on.

Locally; Our First Thursday this September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be representatives from our local independent radio station KPOV. They have supported the LWVDC by consistently broadcasting our forums and other educational programs. What a great local treasure to have.

For the LWVUS; we have two consensus meetings coming up in September 17<sup>th</sup> for the "Constitutional Amendment Study" and November 19<sup>th</sup> for 'Money in Politics Study'. If you have time, look at the information for these two on the LWV.org website. More information will be sent out as the meeting times for these come closer.

I want to send kudos out to Susie Pennhollow for the massive amount of work she is doing on the 2015-2017 'They Represent You' pamphlets and the State informational website. The pamphlets should be going to the press anytime. These are a great resource and are always appreciated when received.

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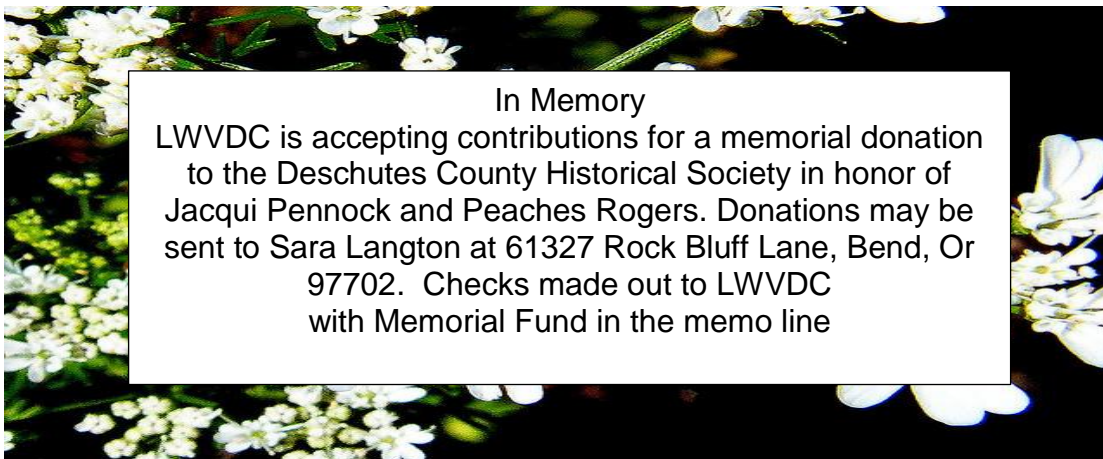
Everyone should grab a couple to give to friends that might be interested in joining the LWV. This way they can see a part of what our great organization does.

Speaking of membership, we need new members! We have a great organization! Let others know by asking them to a 'First Thursday', taking them to a local forum and talking about the great things the league does such as studies. I know studying an issue before just blasting your mouth off about it is not sexy this day and age but hey, it's our way.

Last note:

The LWVDC is taking up a collection for a Memorial Donation to the "Deschutes County Historical Society" in honor of Peaches Rogers and Jackie Pennock. Both of these women were long time, ferocious supporters of the League and will be greatly missed. If you are interested in donating to this fund, please see Sara Langton at the 'First Thursday' or see item below. Thank you.

Kim



## IF YOU WANTED A CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION, HOW SHOULD IT BE DONE?

Some of us remember the frustrations during the failed attempt to pass an ERA amendment. Now we are seeing public interest in at least two possible amendments: Balancing the Budget and overturning the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. In November, our local LWV will be meeting to discuss a topic relevant to the latter: "Money in Politics". The National LWV is asking us to consider the process of amending the Constitution, since there is no current position on how we could be involved, should that become a possibility.

JOIN US – ALL members - as we discuss questions that will help the national LWV reach consensus on how we may support a proposed Constitutional amendment.

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to noon

**WHERE:** Home of Marie and Pat Gibson, 19530 Mammoth Drive, Bend.

**WHAT:** Take part in considering questions related to:

- developing guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals
- aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a Convention
- how the League might put these guidelines into practice and asks two overall balancing questions between process and positions.

### Directions to Gibson's home

19530 Mammoth Drive: [phone 385-9227]

*From the Century Dr.; Reed Market/Mt. Washington roundabout head out Century Dr. (south to the mountain). You'll pass an entrance to Mt Bachelor Village on your left. The next left turn is Mammoth Drive. Follow Mammoth as it winds through the Sunrise Village gate. (The gate will open as you pull up to it.) Continue straight on Mammoth up the hill, and after about 1/2 mi from the gate you will come to our cul-de-sac on the right. You will have passed the intersection with Sunshine Way and then the tennis courts on your right. Our house is in the middle of the next cul-de-sac after the tennis courts. There is parking on the street, and just a few in our driveway.*

### Background: Article V.

Here's what Article V of the U.S. Constitution says about amending the Constitution:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; . . .

So Article V provides two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter. Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. OR, the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution; this is commonly called an Article V Convention. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, 38 at present.

Perhaps it goes without saying that the League of Women Voters believes it is right and permissible to amend the Constitution of the United States when circumstances demand. The League was born from the successful, decades-long effort to pass the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The question for us today is: what are the shared values and beliefs within the League – what consensus do we have – regarding the circumstances that might allow or compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V Convention?

### Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions

#### Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

##### 1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?

a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

**PRO:** Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.

**CON:** When public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of change, restraint based on veneration of the document is misplaced.

**Should**       **Should not**       **No consensus**

b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.

**PRO:** Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective or have unintended consequences will not work to achieve the policy objective.

**CON:** It's all right to deliberately put something in the Constitution that will need to be interpreted by courts and legislatures over time.

**Should**       **Should not**       **No consensus**

c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.

**PRO:** Most amendments have sought to make our system more democratic by extending voting rights, for example, or to protect the rights of minorities from powerful interests.

**CON:** What has been typical in the past is not a good measure of what's appropriate or necessary today or in the future, especially since there have been relatively few amendments.

**Should**       **Should not**       **No consensus**

(d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.

**PRO:** Due to the difficulty of amending the Constitution, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment, in order to achieve the objective and to expend resources wisely.

**CON:** Important policy objectives should sometimes be pursued through a constitutional amendment even though it may be difficult for it to be enacted and even when other options are available.

**Should**       **Should not**       **No consensus**

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

**PRO:** It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.

**CON:** Getting action on an issue is more important than how a policy objective can best be achieved.

**Should**       **Should not**       **No consensus**

## **Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention**

### **2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?**

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

**PRO:** The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.

**CON:** The lack of public scrutiny and the ability to negotiate in private may enable delegates to more easily reach agreement.

**Agree**    **Disagree**    **No consensus**

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

**PRO:** The delegates represent citizens and should be distributed by U.S. population.

**CON:** The U.S. is really a federation of states that must agree by state to any change in the Constitution.

**Agree**    **Disagree**       **No consensus**

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

**PRO:** Delegates represent citizens and therefore need to be elected by them.

**CON:** Appointment allows for experts who wouldn't run in an election.

**Agree**    **Disagree**       **No consensus**

d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

**PRO:** *As at the Articles of Confederation Convention, delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.*

**CON:** *Because any amendment proposal will go to the states for ratification, voting by state blocs—however the delegates are originally chosen—reflects the probability of eventual ratification.*

Agree  Disagree  No consensus

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

**PRO:** It is important to guard against a “runaway convention”.

**CON:** The convention alternative was provided for a time when Congress was not listening, so the delegates should not be constrained.

Agree  Disagree  No consensus

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

**PRO:** *Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a convention, and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process.*

**CON:** *There is no requirement for Congress to count state requests by topic and when enough states are unhappy enough to ask for a convention, it should happen.*

Agree  Disagree  No consensus

g) The validity of state “calls” for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

**PRO:** *A state legislature should be free to determine its position in regard to an Article V Constitutional Convention. A rescission should be equally acceptable to Congress as a state’s call for a convention.*

**CON:** *A state legislature’s call for a Convention can not be overturned because the process may never end.*

Agree  Disagree  No consensus

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

**PRO:** *The Constitution is too important to trust an unknown or uncontrollable process. It is unclear whether conditions or safeguards regarding powers and processes for a convention can be successfully put in place.*

**CON:** *A convention is intended to be an unrestrained process to propose amendments to the Constitution.*

Should  Should not  No consensus

### Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

**PRO:** *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the evaluation guidelines we support under Part I.*

**CON:** *If the League has a consensus on the evaluation guidelines outlined in Part I, then the League should not campaign on an amendment when it is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Should consider  Should not consider  No consensus

b. It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

**PRO:** *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the process criteria we support under Part II.*

**CON:** *If the League has a consensus on the process criteria outlined in Part II, then the League should not campaign for an amendment when the process being proposed is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Should consider  Should not consider  No consensus

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There is a lot of information on the website of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Much is available at the following: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

LWV  
124 NW Utica  
Bend, OR 97703

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

**FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**

*September 3, 2015*

**"KPOV Radio--the last ten years, and the next ten years "**

**Speaking will be** Bruce Morris, the new development and programming manager for KPOV Radio and Jill Maher, the new station manager

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

at **Black Bear Diner,**  
on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Olney Streets in Bend.

There is a separate dining room for our use and there is no cost to hear the speakers; however those wanting lunch should arrive about 11:00 a.m. and order off the menu.

The speakers will begin at noon and allow time for questions from the audience.

**No reservations are needed.** This event is open to the general public.