



# CASCADE ECHOES

## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2013

### SEPTEMBER

**5 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, Legislative Wrapup with **Jason Conger our State House Representative**.

At **Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend)**. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.  
*Article on page 4*

**12 Board Meeting**

**19 MEMBERSHIP MEETING: LWVUS Agricultural Study, local emphasis, 3-5 pm at the Social Justice Center, 155 N.W. Irving**  
*Article on page*

### OCTOBER

**3 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, Ballot Measures Shall Bend increase the temporary lodging tax rate from the 9% to 10% and then to 10.4%?"

At **Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend)**. 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

**10 Board Meeting, 10am**

**12 Fall Workshop, Eugene**

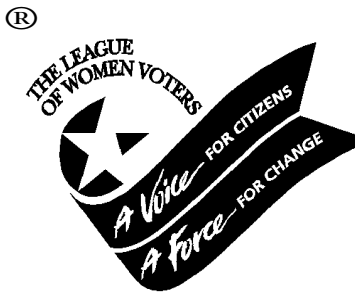
**15 Membership and Public Forum on the Urban Growth Boundary**. 5-8 pm at the downtown Bend Public Library, Brooks Room

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

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<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)

Calendar.....	pg.1
2013-14 board of directors.....	pg.1
President's message.....	pg.2
Memorial Fund.....	pg.2
Mona Kirk, Betty-Marie Baker.....	pg.2
Luncheon topic and speakers.....	pg.3
Book Discussion Group.....	pg.3
Voter Registration.....	pg.3
Agriculture topic.....	pg.3,4,5
1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs.Luncheon .....	pg.6

# President's Message

Welcome to a new program year of the Deschutes County League of Women Voters. Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride! Actually, I think it will be informative and fun as we tackle some important issues.

I hope you all have been faring well through our hot and smoky fire season. We are lucky that cool nights here in Central Oregon give us some relief.

The Board and Committee volunteers have been busy putting together this year's local and state studies and event agendas. First Thursday Luncheons begin in September with our state Representative, Jason Conger. He will present a re-cap of this year's legislative session.

Cont. next column.....

A membership meeting is set for September 19th at the new Social Justice Center in Bend. We will be discussing our part in the state study on agriculture and land use. I hope many of you can attend and be part of the study.

The Bend UGB has been adopted as a local issue for the League to get involved in and help the community understand the complexities and importance it plays for the future of Deschutes County's largest urban area. A forum is being planned for October 15th, with the catchy title, "Is the UGB Strangling Bend?" Thank you, Pat Gibson for coining that!

This edition of Echoes has information on these events and more. Mark your calendars!

With best regards,  
Geri Hauser/Co-president

## Memorial Fund

The League Board would like to honor the memory of our two long-time members, Betty-Marie Baker and Mona Kirk, who recently died. We plan to make a donation to the Des Chutes County Historical Museum. If you would like to make a small contribution to this memorial fund please send a check to our Treasurer, Sara Langton, 61327 Rock Bluff Lane, Bend, OR, 97702. Or you may give cash or checks to any Board member at the First Thursday Luncheon on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Make checks out to LWVDC with a notation, "For Memorial Fund".

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County recently lost two longtime members:

Lifetime member Edythe "Mona" Kirk passed away May 26, 2013 at the age of 97. Mona, as she preferred to be called, came to Bend in 1945, and was a founding member of the League, as well as the Unitarian Fellowship of Central Oregon. She was very interested in politics at all levels and voted in every one of our elections. She was very proud of her Cherokee Indian ancestry, was a weaver creating magnificent Indian-replica rugs and other lovely handiworks and adopted the Indian name of Mona Ripplingwater. She loved hiking in the mountains, folk dancing, animal and bird watching, her Buddhist meditation, and story-telling.

We will very much miss hearing these stories as well as her cheerful disposition. And remember Mona whenever you hear her favorite song: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine."

Betty-Marie Hunt Baker passed away June 5, 2013 - three days short of her 83rd birthday. She was born in Burns in 1930, came to Bend in 1935. Betty-Marie was dedicated to the League, having served on the Board for many years. She was a founding member of the Deschutes Historical Society and served as Secretary as well as its Board of Directors. She also served on the Board of Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living; was, at one time, a Program Aide for COCOA; a social worker working with Seniors; and a member of the American Association of University Women since 1970. Betty-Marie attended Oregon College of Education, graduating in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Special Education.

She had no family in Bend and considered the members of groups she belonged to as extended family. Very close to her, as 'family,' were her Spanish-speaking families who called her "grandma." No services were held, at her request, but her Spanish families held a Catholic Mass in her honor.

## First Thursday Luncheon Topic

Representative Conger will give an overview of the 2012 Legislative session including "Budget and Spending", "Jobs and the Economy" and "Campaign Finance Reform".

## Luncheon Speaker

Jason Conger lives in Bend with his wife, Amy, and their five children. He is privileged to represent Bend in the Oregon House of Representatives, where he has fought for the needs of Central Oregon and racked up an impressive list of accomplishments since taking office.

While earning his JD at Harvard Law School, Jason served as a teaching fellow in the Harvard University Department of Government and the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. He was also an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Today, Jason is a partner in the law firm Miller Nash specializing in mergers and acquisitions, corporate, securities, and venture capital law.

Conger serves on the Business and Labor Committee, the Healthcare Committee and as Co-Vice Chair of the House Education Committee

## Book Discussion Group

Anyone interested in participating in a book discussion group? If you are, please contact either Geri Hauser or Dalyte Hartsough. We will have to get together to decide on a time and place so let us know soon so we can get started.

## Voter Registration

We will have some voter registration activities soon. If you could help, even if only for an hour or so, please let us know. No prior experience is necessary. We can give you all the information and materials needed. It is a great service for the community and a fun way to get to know other League members. Call or email Dalyte or Geri if you would like to help.

## Come all members and join us for a new topic, at a new place and a new time!

**NEW TOPIC:** An update of the LWVUS position on *AGRICULTURE*. This will be an organizing meeting to plan how we wish to focus on this enormous topic. The consensus questions will be coming from the National League later on, with a return by early April.

**NEW PLACE:** Social Justice Center at 155 NW Irving, Bend

**NEW TIME:** 3-5pm on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

### **LWVUS Proposed Scope:**

Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

*Yes, your Board agreed that this "narrowly" focused scope is a bit too much for us to handle, so we wish to concentrate on the topics in 1) above, with a focus on our local issues and challenges.*

Do consider joining us, whether you have strong opinions on any of these topics, and especially if you wish to learn more about what they mean or how they affect us.



Excerpt from Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture [LWVUS website]  
(Chapter 8 of the *Economic Report of the President- 2013*)

As their real incomes rise, most Americans do not need larger quantities of food to satisfy their nutritional needs. They are, however, changing their food choices to include higher value foods, such as better cuts of meat, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and organic and specialty food items. A mature U.S. food market will require the agricultural sector to focus on innovations that produce value-added products for the domestic market in order to satisfy rising U.S. consumer demand for specialty goods.

New Markets in Agriculture

Organic farming has been one of the fastest-growing sectors in agriculture, and double-digit growth in sales of organic foods has provided market incentives for the U.S. agricultural sector across a broad range of products. The retail value of the organic industry grew to \$31.4 billion a year in 2011, up from \$21.1 billion in 2008 and \$3.6 billion in 1997. Between 2002 and 2008, acres under organic production grew by an average of 16.5 percent a year. Organic sales currently account for more than 3 percent of total U.S. food sales, and provide a larger share in categories such as produce and dairy. Growth has been particularly evident in the organic dairy sector, which accounted for 16 percent of organic sales in 2008. The number of organic milk cows on U.S. farms increased by annual average of 26 percent between 2000 and 2008. As demand for organic food has increased, the U.S. agricultural sector has taken steps to meet it; the number of operations certified as organic grew by 1,109—or more than 6 percent—between 2009 and 2011.

The USDA has taken steps both to promote and to regulate the growing organic food industry by establishing the National Organic Program (NOP), whose mission is to ensure the integrity of USDA-certified organic products in the United States and throughout the world. The NOP accredits nearly 50 domestic organic certifying agents who are authorized to issue an organic certificate to operations that comply with the USDA organic regulations. Between 2009 and 2011, the USDA has also supported its own scientists and university researchers with more than \$117 million in funding focused on improving the productivity and success of organic agriculture. For example, USDA research on weed management for organic vegetable production has produced techniques and tools that can help control 70 percent of weeds at 15 percent of the previous cost for weed control. Spreading the USDA organic research findings to people in the field is critical, and the “eOrganic” electronic extension service funded by the USDA has become an essential tool for compiling and disseminating knowledge about organic production.

The increasing demand for organic foods has been accompanied by a growing “local” movement. The markets for organic and local food regularly overlap: organic farmers are much more likely than conventional farmers to sell their products locally, with about a quarter of all organic sales in 2004 made within an hour’s drive of the farm. Similarly, 82 percent of all farmers’ markets had at least one organic vendor. Sales of locally produced foods make up a small but growing part of U.S. agricultural sales, particularly for small farms. The USDA estimates that the farm-level value of local food sales totaled nearly \$5 billion in 2008, or 1.6 percent of the U.S. market for agricultural products.

An estimated 107,000 farms, or 5 percent of all U.S. farms, are engaged in local food systems, with small farms (those with less than \$50,000 in gross annual sales) accounting for 81 percent of all farms reporting local food sales in 2008 (Low and Vogel 2011). Examples of the types of farming businesses that are engaged in local foods are direct-to-consumer marketing, farmers’ markets, farm-to-school programs, community-supported agriculture, community gardens, school gardens, food hubs and market aggregators, kitchen incubators, and mobile slaughter units, among a myriad of other types of operations.

Local goods are also good for the economy. A USDA study found that produce growers selling into local and regional markets generated 13 full-time operator jobs for every \$1 million in revenue earned, for a total of 61,000 jobs in 2008. Farmers that did not sell into these markets generated only three full-time operator jobs per \$1 million revenue. To foster exposure to and growth in local foods, the USDA has created the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food management and communications initiative, which helps stakeholders navigate USDA resources and efforts related to local and regional food systems. Future growth of the agricultural economy can be enhanced by growth in those sectors.

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## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE AG? [excerpt from Union of Concerned Scientists]

“Sustainable agriculture” as legally defined in U.S. Code Title 7, Section 3103 means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will over the long term:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs.
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends.
- Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls.
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations.
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

The basic goals of sustainable agriculture are environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity (sometimes referred to as the “three legs” of the sustainability stool). The University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program has a helpful explanation of some of the common themes woven throughout various definitions of sustainable agriculture on their [website](#). The following is an excerpt:

Sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore, stewardship of both natural and human resources is of prime importance.

Stewardship of human resources includes consideration of social responsibilities such as working and living conditions of laborers, the needs of rural communities, and consumer health and safety both in the present and the future. Stewardship of land and natural resources involves maintaining or enhancing this vital resource base for the long term.

A systems perspective is essential to understanding sustainability. The system is envisioned in its broadest sense, from the individual farm, to the local ecosystem, and to communities affected by this farming system both locally and globally. An emphasis on the system allows a larger and more thorough view of the consequences of farming practices on both human communities and the environment. A systems approach gives us the tools to explore the interconnections between farming and other aspects of our environment.

A systems approach also implies interdisciplinary efforts in research and education. This requires not only the input of researchers from various disciplines, but also farmers, farmworkers, consumers, policymakers, and others.

Making the transition to sustainable agriculture is a process. For farmers, the transition to sustainable agriculture normally requires a series of small, realistic steps. Family economics and personal goals influence how fast or how far participants can go in the transition. It is important to realize that each small decision can make a difference and contribute to advancing the entire system further on the “sustainable agriculture continuum.” The key to moving forward is the will to take the next step.

Finally, it is important to point out that reaching toward the goal of sustainable agriculture is the responsibility of all participants in the system, including farmers, laborers, policymakers, researchers, retailers, and consumers. Each group has its own part to play, its own unique contribution to make to strengthen the sustainable agriculture community.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

**FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**

*September 5, 2013*

**Jason Conger, our State House  
Representative**

will be giving an overview of the  
2012 Legislative session  
including "Budget and Spending",  
"Jobs and the Economy" and  
"Campaign Finance Reform".

**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.

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.