



CASCADE ECHOES

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE 2017

MAY

4 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, Rebeckah Berry, Operations and Projects Manager at the Central Oregon Health Council. See page 2.

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

11 Board Meeting, 10am at the County Building. All members welcome

20 Annual meeting—more information to follow in separate mail

JUNE

1 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the topic will be THE LOFT and J Bar J Youth Services with speaker Amanda Gow.

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

8 Board Meeting, 10am at the County Building. All members welcome

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

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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

State

www.lwvor.org

National

www.lwv.org

Nationwide Election Information

www.VOTE411.org

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President's Message

I have to say, welcome Spring. It's been a long winter. This year spring is full of activities that we can do as a League. The 'March for Science' on April 22nd and the 'Climate March' on April 29th are just two new examples of where we can support positions the LWV holds. I hope I see many of you out there. Our Annual Meeting was this month. This is where we do the business of the league by updating where we stand on new or old positions, induct members of the board and show appreciation for those that have really made our local league shine.

During part of the meeting, the membership is asked to give direction to the board. The board was directed to do more for members that may not be able to make many of our day meetings so we are looking at adding some evening activities so that some of our newer members will be able to join us if work or other considerations make our day meetings difficult to attend. Ideas included having more speakers at evening Forums or movie nights with social action or political documentaries at member's houses. We will send out a survey to our members to see what of these is of interest during the next month.

We have many ways people can become more involved in the local league: First Thursday Luncheons, helping with Candidate and Issue Forums, helping with Voter registration at the Cultural Festival for new Citizens and being proactive in calling your representative about legislation. To educate yourself on state and national issues, be sure to look at "The Legislative Report" from the LWVOR and 'The Voter' emails from LWVUS. They are full of what is happening with legislature in our state and around the country.

We are still looking for a Nominations Chair for the next year. It is job that is limited in its hours and really helps you know the membership well. If this sounds interesting to you, please let a board member know.

Looking forward to some warmer weather, especially if people keep having these marches. Happy Spring!

Kim Smith, President, League of Women Voters of Deschutes County

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON TOPIC AND SPEAKER

Rebeckah Berry, MS, CHES, is the Operations and Projects Manager at the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). She has been in her position for two years. Rebeckah has supported projects like the Pain Standards Task Force, a regional group of providers committed to educating their peers around the topic of safer opioid prescribing and evidence-based alternatives for individuals living with chronic or persistent pain. She managed the development of the 2016-2019 Central Oregon Regional Health Improvement Plan, and supports the work of numerous committees and workgroups striving to serve our communities in their effort toward creating a healthier Central Oregon.

Rebeckah received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, her Masters of Science at the University of Kentucky, and is credentialed as a Certified Health Education Specialist. Rebeckah moved to Bend, Oregon in 2006. She spent eight years working at Deschutes County Health Services as a Programs Coordinator and Health Educator, where she worked closely with school districts and non-profit organizations throughout Central Oregon, increasing the accuracy, consistency and comprehensive nature of their sexual health education among students and consumers of varying ages and backgrounds. Rebeckah enjoys mountain biking, all kinds of trail running, and backpacking. She looks for opportunities to be outside as much as possible. Before she began working at the COHC, Rebeckah and her significant other traveled the US and Canada in their minivan for a year exploring and enjoying nature.

Meet Our New Member

Nichole van Eikeren is married and they have a daughter, Arya 2 1/2, and one set of grandparents in Bend, which is most fortuitous, as you will see.

In school at SOU, Nichole took a Criminology course that has shaped her life ever since. She graduated, with honors, in 2000. Nichole points out that, even with her academic standing, it took her eight years to find a full-time position in her field. During that time she took part-time work in her field in addition to holding down a full time job.

Her part-time positions included juvenile corrections and detention and juvenile work crews. It was while working in the Deschutes County Juvenile Detention Center that she realized that for some of these teenagers, it was the first stability they had had in their lives: regular meals, a bed of their own, predictable schedules for their lives.

Recently a four year position as Executive Assistant to District Attorney Patrick Flaherty gave her the chance to learn more about the law, its practice and implications thereof. It was also her introduction into learning about local politics.

After the 2016 election Nichole felt she "had to do something". At a February training, "Emerge Oregon", a organization whose focus is to support women to enter into politics, Nichole was impressed by the sort of women there and "energized". She considered running herself, but decided "not to run myself but to have a greater impact by helping multiple women run". She emailed outlines of the multitude of things candidates here who were running needed to do. It was two weeks until filing and she assisting with the filing on time for the three candidates for whom she chose to work. This is all volunteer work on her part, she is "not doing it for the money". Nichole is gratified to see the candidates are all supporting each other to succeed.

Asked what qualities she thinks are most important in candidates, the list was: having the knowledge and experience to know what they're doing, thoughtfulness and openness to others ideas. Candidates have ideas and so do voters - no one person knows everything. Having diversity in leadership from experience in governing, business: more views brought to the table creates better solutions.

"Women are a minority in politics and they can bring about positive change."

Nichole, the LWV welcomes you!

Bev Wilson, Co-Chair, Membership



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON

MAY 4, 2017

With speakers

Rebeckah Berry

**Operations and Projects Manager at the
Central Oregon Health Council**

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

at Black Bear Diner,

on the corner of 3rd 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.