



# CASCADE ECHOES

## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015

### NOVEMBER

**3 VOTE**

**5 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, Speaker Darcy Bedortha, Rural Program Coordinator, of the Heart of Oregon Corps  
At **Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend.** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. See last page for details

**12 Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. County building, Lyons Room

**19 Membership meeting on Money In Politics** 10AM to NOON.  
WHERE: the home of Kim Smith

**26 Thanksgiving**

### DECEMBER

**3 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**, Shirley Metcalf will speak about COCC

**6 HOLIDAY PARTY, 2PM AT AWBREY GLEN**, separate invitations will be sent

**10 Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. County building, Lyons room



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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### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

|  |                      |              |
|--|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>President</i> .....                     | Kim Smith,.....      | 541-382-2660 |
| <i>Vice President</i> .....                |                      |              |
| <i>Treasurer</i> .....                     | Susan Meyer.....     | 562-818-6280 |
| <i>Secretary</i> .....                     | Andrea Blum.....     | 541-549-6148 |
| <i>ECHOES publisher</i> .....              | Denise Mahoney.....  | 541-350-8039 |
| <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 |

# President's Message

It has been a busy month for the Deschutes League.

Thank you to the Affordable Housing Study Committee for putting together a very ambitious and informative meeting on October 15th. They have been working very hard and have accrued an ambitious amount of material on the Affordable Housing Issue in Deschutes County. The committee is going to be having a forum in February that should be very interesting and informative in its own right.

Great job to Susie Penhollow! The "They Represent You" booklets are printed and are out. Get yours today. It is also available on our website thanks to Geri Hauser!

I would like to ask that all of our members consider coming to and inviting friends to the 'First Thursday Luncheons'. The attendance at the Luncheons for the last couple of months has been less than stellar. If we are going to ask these people to come and talk to our group, we need to support with more commitment to attend. These are such great speakers and have such great knowledge to share. Even if I haven't been all that interested in a particular event, I have always come away with being very glad I came to listen and always learn more than I thought I would.

We have a date for the "Great Schools, Great Communities" forum that the LWVOR is presenting. It will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 6 pm in the Brooks room at the Library. More information to come. Happy Fall!

Kim Smith, President LWVDC

## First Thursday Luncheon Speaker

Darcy Bedortha is the Rural Program Coordinator at Heart of Oregon Corps, a local non-profit whose mission it is to inspire and empower positive change in the lives of young people through jobs, education and stewardship. She is also the newest regional coordinator for Oregon Strong Voice, a project of Oregon AFL-CIO dedicated to building and strengthening alliances between labor unions and community-based organizations. Through her jobs and in her volunteer work Darcy is an advocate for the rights of all people to have a voice in processes and policies that impact them.

Darcy's volunteer world has immersed her in issues that are impacted by poverty, equity, racism and human rights. As an educator, she is an advocate for purposeful and relevant education in which students, teachers and families have a voice and the right to create education that is locally and personally meaningful.

She has gone to battle with corporate, for-profit forces that are intentionally dismantling and launching an often silent but hostile takeover of public education.

As a board member for the Rural Organizing Project and a voting member of the Homeless Leadership Coalition, Darcy is committed to grassroots advocacy and work that furthers democracy and dignity for all people.

Darcy Bedortha, MS, MA  
Teacher/Rural Program Coordinator, Heart of Oregon Corps  
Central Oregon Strong Voice Coordinator, Oregon AFL-CIO  
Rural Organizing Project - Advancing Democracy in Oregon

**2016 Paid Members of  
League of Women Voters of Deschutes  
County as of 10-8-15**

Welcome to Carol and Will Cowin, Karen Forte

## LWVUS MONEY IN POLITICS (MIP) REVIEW AND UPDATE: BACKGROUND

As adopted by delegates to the 2014 LWVUS Convention, Leagues from across the nation are engaging in a review and update of the national LWV position on campaign finance to consider First Amendment-political speech issues. The LWVEF Board tasked the Money In Politics Review and Update Committee to:

- Conduct an update of the League’s position on campaign finance.
- Evaluate the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment.

This scope of work requires member understanding and agreement about these issues. The Money in Politics Committee is providing members and the public with information and facilitating member study and consensus.

In Fall 2014, LWVUS set this timetable for the MIP Review and Update:

- Spring to Summer 2015: Education materials are posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues can use these materials for member and community meetings;
- Fall 2015: A study guide and consensus questions will be posted for the Money in Politics Review and Update. Leagues will hold consensus meetings to obtain member agreement on the consensus questions;
- February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS; and
- April 2016 national LWV Board meeting: Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, will be approved.

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The LWVUS MIP Committee formed in Fall 2014. Our all-volunteer Committee includes eight League leaders from across the U.S. and national board members, with support from national staff. The Committee is providing ready-to-use resources and strategies to help understand the campaign finance system. These materials, which we call “Meetings-in-a-Box,” are available on our webpage

(<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>) for Leagues to use for member and community events. They are intended to engage members and the general citizenry on MIP issues as they are evidenced nationally and in states and communities. In addition, they will help prepare members for the LWVUS update of its campaign finance position. Resources include a PowerPoint presentation with script, outside readings and issue papers prepared by the MIP Committee.

So, why is the League updating the position on campaign finance? Our current position dates back to the 1970s and predates Supreme Court decisions that changed campaign finance law significantly. The MIP Review and Update will address a gap in our current position. It aims to get League member understanding and agreement as to the extent to which our organization believes that financing a political campaign is speech protected by the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider through the consensus process: the rights of individuals and organizations to express their political views through the financing of political campaign activities; and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current LWV position.

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The current League position takes a collective approach to financing political campaigns. It focuses on achieving political equality in areas of combating corruption and undue influence, ensuring equitable competition, and protecting the rights of citizens to know and to fully participate. This position has enabled the League to advocate strongly for transparency in campaign finance and against big money and its influence on elections and government.

But there are still questions to consider and this is why we are studying the issue: What about the First Amendment interests of candidates and donors particularly as compared with equitable competition; preventing corruption and undue influence; enhancing voter participation? These are questions that the position update is considering.

The First Amendment has been at the center of the campaign finance debate since the 1970s. A key provision says, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..."

Before the 1970s, the Supreme Court rarely heard cases on campaign finance regulation. But the issue of money in politics has a long history in the U.S. The 1907 Tillman Act banned contributions from national banks and corporations, in response to corruption in the Gilded Age. The 1947 Taft Hartley Act extended the ban to labor unions.

The 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act and its 1974 amendments put further restrictions on campaign contributions and spending, expanded disclosure, and created the Federal Election Commission to oversee compliance. The 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (McCain-Feingold) tried to remedy the explosion of soft money we saw in the 1980s and 1990s.

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The activities that the Court focused on largely involve free speech. Election campaigns develop messages for publication, from speeches and debates to paid advertising in various media. Money is required to coordinate the messaging and pay for the advertising. Under the Court's approach, a system of campaign finance protects the rights of a candidate to disseminate her message as well as the rights of her donors to express their own views through her message -- It also protects the rights of other political actors who may wish to make election expenditures independent of the candidates or to advocate in support or opposition to particular public policy issues. To the Court, this campaign speech (as opposed to campaign finance) is central to American democracy and is what the First Amendment was designed to protect.

Whatever else it may or may not have done, the Supreme Court's decisions in the 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and 2014 *McCutcheon, et al. v. FEC* cases galvanized the campaign finance reform movement. Any education and discussion of these issues must attempt to be comprehensive, which means complex. The task of the Money in Politics Committee is to make the issues understandable to the members of LWV and all citizens.



## Who's paying for all those political ads? Who SHOULD be paying???

### **MONEY IN POLITICS MEMBERSHIP CONSENSUS MEETING**

**JOIN US ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER  
19<sup>TH</sup>, AT 10:00 AM AT THE HOME OF KIM  
SMITH, 3211 NW Starview Dr., Bend.**

We'll be discussing the issues involved in campaign spending, and builds on the League's current position on campaign finance. This meeting's topic will be introduced by Kim with a PowerPoint presentation that lays out some of the topics, and that helps to get us thinking about the issues. Barbara and Jim McCormick, Anita Elliott and Corol Ann Cary will help fill in background.

We'll have detailed copies of the consensus questions available at the meeting, but the following is an outline:

- The questions in Part I address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values
- The questions in Part II relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context.
- Part III asks about methods of campaign finance regulation.
- **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court's current views on the First Amendment.**

### **PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns**

1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?
2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption

### **PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns**

1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?
2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

### **PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process**

1. In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?
2. How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?

*Should you wish to do more reading in advance, please see other pages in this Echoes, or you may look over the material linked on:*

*<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>*



LWV of Deschutes County  
T-shirt order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Order: Size (circle): Small Medium Large Extra Large XXL

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 each

Make checks payable to LWVDC

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF DESCHUTES COUNTY**

**FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON**

*November 5, 2015*

The topic is **Heart of Oregon Corps**  
with speaker Darcy Bedortha, Rural Program Coordinator

**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.