



CASCADE ECHOES

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE 2016



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

Calendar.....	pg.1
2016 board of directors.....	pg.1
President's Message.....	pg.2
Luncheon Speaker	pg.2
Affordable Housing position.....	pg.3
Help Wanted.....	pg.3
LWVOR Children at Risk,,,,,	pg.4
LWVUS Money in Politics....	pg.5
1 st Thurs.Luncheon	pg.6

MAY

4 Candidate's Forum for Deschutes County Sheriff on Wednesday, May 4th at the County State Building, Sawyer Room at 5:00 pm. Please bring appetizers.

5 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, Wayne Metcalf, COCC, would be speaking about "Media Influence on Presidential Elections" 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, 10a.m. County building, Lyons Room

24 Great Schools, Great Communities forum

JUNE

2 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, Nita Belles, Oregonians Against Trafficking Humans, "Human Trafficking and At-Risk Youth in Central Oregon. At **Black Bear Diner (1465 NE 3rd Street, Bend.** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.

9 Board Meeting, 10a.m. County building, Lyons Room

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>	Sara Langton.....	541-382-5158
<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

Hail, really! The weather is certainly 'weirding' out here in Central Oregon. Just minutes after Norman Turrill LWVOR President arrived at my house; it started hailing dime size rocks of snow. Not a super rare occurrence but I am glad the League has a position on Climate change.

We held the Annual Meeting on April 21st. Thank you to all that participated. We passed the motions to become a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax deductible organization from our present 501(c)4 non-profit, non tax-deductible status. We still have our LWVDC Education Fund if anyone would like to donate to our local league and get a tax deduction. It will take months to possibly a year for the change to become a reality but at least we have the process started. We were lucky to have Norman Terrill, LWVOR President at the meeting to answer any questions our members had about the change. His input and update on what is happening at the state level was very appreciated.

We also voted in the updated 'Affordable Housing Position'. Thank you to Dolores and her committee for a job well done. Program for this year will be "Making Democracy Work" action our priority.

Our new slate was voted in. I want to thank Barb and Jim McCormick; our new co-Treasurers, Carol Cavoretto; Social Chair and Eve McFarland; VP for stepping into their new positions on the board and a huge thank you to our continuing board members. We are still looking for a new Secretary and very much appreciate Diane Beathe for stepping in as an interim Secretary until the position can be filled. If any of you are interested, please talk to a board member.

The meeting ended with a wonderful pot-luck lunch and a presentation by Chris Vogel, LWVOR about the "Children at Risk" study.

We will be having a **Candidate's Forum for Deschutes County Sheriff on Wednesday, May 4th** at the County State Building, Sawyer Room at 5:00 pm. It will be interesting to hear their perceptions on what's happening in the Sheriff department. Hope you all can attend. Please bring a finger food item to share if you can.

We will also be co-sponsoring a forum on "**Great Schools, Great Communities**" **Tuesday, May 24th at the downtown Library in the Brooks Room.** This will be presented by the LWV of Oregon and will be about our how we pay for our schools.

Hope you can all make this informative meeting.

Voter's guides are now available for the May Primaries. Thank you to Dolores Ellis for handing out the paper guides. The Voter's Guides are also available online at vote411.org.

Hope you all have a wonderful month and Happy Spring! Remember to Vote!

Kim Smith, LWVDC President

First Thursday Luncheon Speaker

Wayne Metcalf graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a Bachelor of Arts, Political Service and the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law with a J.D. He served as a State Representative and a State Senator in the Hawaii Legislature. In addition, Wayne served as the Hawaii Insurance Commissioner and has served as a per diem judge for both the District and Family courts. He has the unusual distinction of serving in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government.

Wayne served as an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Delegation member for the Bermuda Financial Sector Assessment Mission and was a United Nations Electoral Consultant to Liberia to develop fair and free elections. He presented the US position on insurance issues to the Government of Japan as a US Delegation Member for the US-Japan Trade Negotiations in 2001.

He has taught at COCC, City University in Washington, and Hawaii Community College in Hilo, Hawaii. His topic is: "Media Influence on Presidential Elections."

AT OUR LOCAL APRIL, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING, THE MEMBERS ADOPTED A NEW UPDATED POSITION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

IN A SEPARATE EMAIL TO ALL MEMBERS, I WILL ATTACH COPIES OF THIS STATEMENT ALONG WITH THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT IS KINDLY SUPPLIED BY THE CHAIR, DOLORES ELLIS. I WILL ALSO HAVE COPIES OF BOTH FOR YOU AT THE NEXT FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON.

Marie Gibson, Program Chair

AFFORDABLE HOUSING POSITION

To ensure that Bend maintains an adequate supply of low and moderate income housing especially during times of rapid growth, the Deschutes County League of Women Voters supports the following:

1. Utilizing funding for such housing from a variety of sources including: Federal, State and Local funds; Grants from philanthropic organizations; private nonprofits; builders and other sources.
2. Continuing the City of Bend's Affordable Housing fee.
3. Local government policies which will encourage higher density in residential areas and the application of an "Urban Village" concept of development with housing located in proximity to transportation, employment, shopping (grocery, pharmacy), educational and recreational opportunities.
4. Creation of residential areas which contain housing for all income levels.
5. Encouraging local governmental entities to provide incentives within their boundaries to build affordable housing.
6. Encouraging local government to advocate at the State level for a streamlined Urban Growth Boundary process which would allow communities to respond to local housing needs in a timely manner.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

There is an office that is still in need of filling.

If you have time on the second Thursday of each month, August-May, I am asking that you become the LWVDC Secretary.

The job entails coming to the board meetings, usually for an hour each month on the second Thursday at 10 am and the annual meeting and writing up the minutes of these meetings. It takes less than a couple of hours a month. We are losing our present Secretary Andrea Blum to the Sister's City Board.

If you can do this and help us out, please call Carol Ann Cary at 541-306-4832.

Thank you, Kim Smith President LWVDC



Update April 2016-Children at Risk Early Learning Intervention

The League of Women Voters of Oregon "[Children at Risk—early learning, early intervention.](http://voteoregon.org/lwvimages/Children-at-Risk-CAR-Study-Final.pdf)" document found online at <http://voteoregon.org/lwvimages/Children-at-Risk-CAR-Study-Final.pdf> was released in early March 2015 following a two year process where committee members considered substantial changes in federal funding, state legislation, and reorganized departments at the state and regional levels. Senators and Representatives in Oregon's State Legislature each received an electronic version of the League study. Local Leagues throughout Oregon met to discuss this complex information and reached consensus so Positions could be developed that guide the LWVOR Action Team legislative testimony and advocacy <http://lwvor.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Children-at-Risk-Study-Position.pdf>

=====

Since the Study release, the Oregon Legislature has completed two sessions in 2015 and 2016 where policy bills further refined how at risk children were to be reached and funding was allocated. While these dollar amounts seem staggering when viewed from the state composite level, **the on-the-ground local services that actually reach kids needs to be monitored and watched at a local level.**

The Early Learning Division within the Department of Education oversees funding for regional HUBs throughout the state. It also works closely with the State Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority to encourage coordination of services at the local level. **The hope is that families in need may enter "any door" and be offered appropriate intervention services that will help children thrive.**

This new structure was brought about, in part, by how federal funding is distributed and by federal grants that encouraged states to focus on early learning, identifying risk factors and coordinating health, social services and education. **In Oregon, this is being accomplished by creating laws that require departments that once operated in "silos" without considering how their services could be coordinated to streamline access for families.** While some counties had done an excellent job in encouraging schools, the health department and DHS to work jointly, other counties did not. Thus, many children with special needs and high risk factors went unnoticed until well into their elementary school years where it was more difficult to provide effective remedial services. **Early identification and intervention, with restructuring, is hoped to catch vulnerable kids earlier.**

Local Involvement, Following Children at Risk, Early Learning

While dollars are allocated at a federal and state level for programs, when it comes to hands-on services for children at risk, each child matters. League places a high priority on **following funding streams down to the local level.**

Each of sixteen statewide Early Learning HUBs are charged with contracting for local services. Their plans and budgets are accessible on their local websites and the state's Early Learning Division web site. <http://oregonearlylearning.com/current-early-learning-hubs/> shows local contact, web site, HUB Strategic Plan, and HUB Work Plan.

Data for county or city populations highlight some risk factors such as poverty and homelessness <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#OR/2/0/char/0>

More detailed Information Available Online

A summary of legislation in 2015 and 2016, Updates from Early Learning Council, Early Learning Division and other state agencies is further detailed in a longer document found in the Dropbox for Children at Risk and the LWVOR website:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6p0f1zcbkbt9fy/April%202016%20update%20LWVOR%20Children%20at%20Risk%20Report.pdf?dl=0>

<http://voteoregon.org/children-at-risk/>

Contact for more information on LWVOR Legislative Action, Children at Risk:

Chris Vogel, 503-586-8314 chrisvogelvolunteerlwvor@gmail.com

Contact Co-Chairs for more information on LWVOR 2015 Study, Children at Risk:

Linda Clary lindaclary1@gmail.com

Chris Vogel chrisvogelvolunteerlwvor@gmail.com

The National LWV has assimilated the results of the member meetings around the country, and has now released the new position as of April, 2016.

LWVUS POSITION ON MONEY IN POLITICS

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Enhance political equality for all citizens;
- Ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process;
- Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns;
- Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices;
- Ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections;
- Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office;
- Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and
- Combat corruption and undue influence in government.

The League believes that political corruption includes the following:

- A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution;
- An officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors;
- An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them;
- A candidate or office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and
- The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, the League supports:

- Public financing of elections, either voluntary or mandatory, in which candidates must abide by reasonable spending limits;
- Enhanced enforcement of campaign finance laws that includes changes to ensure that regulatory agencies are properly funded, staffed, and structured to avoid partisan deadlock in the decision-making process;
- Abolishing Super PACs and abolishing spending coordinated or directed by candidates (other than a candidate's own campaign committee); and
- Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists, which may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.

Until full public financing of elections is enacted, limits on election spending are needed in order to meet the League's goals for protecting democratic processes. Among the different entities that spend money to influence elections, the League supports the following comparative limits:

- Higher spending limits for political parties, genuinely non-partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote organizations and activities, and candidates spending money raised from contributors;
- Mid-level spending limits for individual citizens (including wealthy individuals), Political Action Committees (with funds contributed by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers), and candidates spending their own money;
- Lower spending limits for trade associations, labor unions and non-profit organizations from their general treasury funds;
- Severely restricted spending by for-profit organizations spending from their corporate treasury funds; and
- No limits on spending by bona fide newspapers, television, and other media, including the Internet, except to address partisan abuse or use of the media to evade campaign finance regulations.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON

May 5, 2016

**Wayne Metcalf,
COCC Community Education
"Media Influence
on Presidential Elections**

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.