



CASCADE ECHOES

League of Women Voters of Deschutes County

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2010



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



January

7 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON: SCOTT LANGTON, County Tax Assessor will speak. 11:30 am to 1 pm at King Buffet. See back page.

14 Board Meeting. 10am, at the County Building, Lyons Room

21 MEMBERSHIP MEETING. LWVUS AND LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING - all members invited. "bring your own lunch", 11:30 to 1pm, home of Pat and Marie Gibson. Details on page 3.

February

4 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON: PAM BORDERS of the BEND CRIME LAB 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at King Buffet.

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

WEB SITES
Local
www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm
National
www.lwv.org
State
www.lwvor.org
Nationwide Election Information

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

- President.....Marie Naidis, 382-4963 & Anita Elliott, 318-6331*
- Vice President.....Nancy Ruel.....593-7493*
- Treasurer.....Pat Gibson.....385-9227*
- Secretary.....Mary Cope.....317-5753*
- ECHOES publisher.....Denise Mahoney.....389-9846*
- Membership.....Dolores Ellis.....617-5901*
- Program (state, nat'l, local).....Marie Gibson.....385-9227*
- Voters Service.....Susie Penhollow.....382-2724*
- Public Relations.....Andrea Blum.....389-6990*
- Voters Guides.....Sara Langton.....382-5158*
- Special Events.....Kim Smith,382-2660 & Eve McFarland, 389-5682*

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Speaker	

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we must report that our Co-President, Marie Naidis, and her husband, Bob Naidis, were involved in an automobile accident just before Thanksgiving. Both had severe injuries and Bob passed away last week. Marie has been in a coma, with extreme brain trauma, since the accident. She is not expected to live.

When my husband and I moved to Bend seven years ago, Marie and Bob were some of the first neighbors who welcomed us to their neighborhood. Marie, a Master Gardener, shared with me all kinds of flowers from her garden to help cover our barren yard. With her tips, the flowers flourished and I think of her every time I look out of my kitchen window. Bob was considered the "mayor" of our street and we enjoyed his many stories about the area. Whenever we went for a walk, we would stop and talk with them for at least a half hour, to catch up with all the news. They were good friends.

We hold them both in our hearts and will remember them as they were - vigorous,

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON TOPIC

How have home property values have changed in the last couple of years.
How have commercial/retail property values changed.

Given the drop in home values, how has that translated into property tax values for tax purposes? What basis are you using to determine current property values?

There have been inequities in the property taxes paid by older home owners versus new home buyers. Are there any plans to correct those inequities.

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

With a staff of 33 we are responsible for generating the annual property tax statements for approximately 100,000 accounts. The office has three primary sections, which are - Appraisal - responsible for annual market valuation of all properties.

Cartography - responsible for maintaining current maps and ownership information for all properties. Assessment - responsible for customer service, implementing Oregon's rather unique and complex property tax system including tax calculation, local taxing district's budget certification, and exemptions.

I started with Oregon property tax 17 years ago in Wallowa County; where I was the Deputy Assessor/Appraiser, then elected Assessor. Moved to Deschutes County in 1999 as the Deschutes County Chief Appraiser; then became Assessor in 2001. I've served as the President of the Oregon Association of County Assessors; serve on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Association of Counties, and on various State & County committees among other things.

Stephanie and I have been married for 21 years, meet at Oregon State University where we both graduated - GO BEAVS !!. We have three wonderful children - 12, 10, & 8 years old. Between work and kids not a whole lot of free time, but when given the chance love to go mountain biking, cross country skiing, and just about any other of the great outdoor activities that Central Oregon offers.

ROSTER CHANGE

Please change the incorrect e-mail address for Sara Langton to sarajim@easystreet.net, .com is incorrect.

LOCAL and NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING

JOIN US on Thursday, January 21st for a "brown bag lunch" to consider our current positions on both National and Local program. For our local program, this will be the time to propose any new subject that you think we should be focusing on. Alternatively, we may choose to update or revise an existing program item.

Currently, two program items are being examined: Carl Elliott is reviewing our existing Education stand, adopted in 1996, and Don Hartsough and Conrad Ruel are looking at the Hazardous Materials Transportation position, updated in 2003. They may suggest updates or restudies, or no changes.

Brief summaries of current local program positions are in this Echoes, and are in full in your "blue book" of local program.

Save the date: Thursday, January 21, "bring your own lunch", 11:30 to 1pm, home of Pat and Marie Gibson, 19530 Mammoth Drive . We will supply beverages and cookies/fruit.

Directions to Gibson's home: *[phone 385-9227]*

From the Century Dr.; Reed Market/Mt. Washington roundabout head out Century Dr. (to the mountain). You'll pass Elder Ridge Dr. and Campbell on your right, and an entrance to Mt Bachelor Village on your left. The left immediately after Campbell is Mammoth Drive. Follow Mammoth as it winds to the Sunrise Village gate. (The gate will open automatically.) Continue 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 Sunshine Way and the tennis courts on your right. Our house is in the middle of the next cul-de-sac after the tennis courts.

19530 is above the garage door. Please park along Mammoth Drive if the driveway is crowded.

Program planning, both State and Local

EXISTING PROGRAMS

When discussing program, members must consider existing programs and whether to retain, drop, update or restudy them. Following are some definitions that may help as League members discuss existing program.

RETAIN: means keep position as is; no change.

DROP: means to remove the position completely from our list. All further advocacy will be discontinued. It may not again be incorporated into the program without a new study.

UPDATE: means to study the position topic for informational purposes only, with no intention to update the position, only to update the knowledge base for the members.

RE STUDY: means to undertake a review of the position in order to potentially change it.

LOCAL PROGRAM

These will be under review at our meeting. Detailed versions are in the blue Local Program Booklet in your file.:

PRESENT POSITIONS	RETAIN	DROP	UPDATE	RE STUDY
AFFORDABLE HOUSING – LOW INCOME FAMILIES:				
ADULT AND JUVENILE Corrections				
COUNTY CHARTER				
EDUCATION				
HAZARDOUS MAT'LS - TRANSPORTATION				
LAND USE - DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST				
TRANSPORTATION				

NATIONAL PROGRAM

You may find extensive details on the LWVUS website, by looking for **Impact on Issues**. The major topics include: Legislative Action: working together to influence public policy; Representative government; International Relations; Natural Resources and Social Policy.

Summaries of LWVDC Local Positions [2009]
see "blue book" for complete positions

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES adopted March 19, 1992

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY: Confirms the critical and continuing shortage in Deschutes County of rental and for-sale housing to meet the needs of low- and very low-income residents including those with special needs; Acknowledges the inability of the private sector unaided to market affordable housing; Supports the establishment of a local nonprofit housing trust fund to leverage available state and federal monies, as well as private funds appropriated for low-cost housing; Urges local city and county governments to commit resources to address this serious community problem which impacts the quality of life for all.

CORRECTIONS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS POSITION 1977

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County believes that the most important goal of a corrections system should be the successful reintegration of offenders back into the community as self-supporting, law-abiding citizens.* Offenders should be prepared for this by means of counseling, closely supervised parole or probation, and/or other rehabilitative programs. Consistency and equity of policy and treatment are essential. Since incarceration should be regarded as punishment in itself, additional punishment should not be necessary.

SUPPLEMENT CORRECTIONS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County commends the County Commissioners for providing a new justice building which will meet progressive standards and will make possible a more creative and effective corrections program for Deschutes County. Since nearly all offenders eventually will be returned to society, programs and policies which will help them prepare for this should be pursued, so that they will not again become an expensive burden on society. We commend the Sheriff for providing written rules and regulations to inmates. We recommend that these rules be reevaluated and rewritten before the new jail is occupied (and periodically thereafter), since some of the present rules may deal with problems caused by limitation of the present facility and may be unnecessarily restrictive in the new one. Rules should be specific, both as to requirements and as to penalties, in order to give inmates adequate notice of what is expected of them and to prevent arbitrary or unfair enforcement.

COUNTY CHARTER GOVERNMENT POSITION October 16, 1997

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County (LWVDC) supports the concept of a charter government as the best possible form of government for Deschutes County. A charter would allow the county government the adaptability needed to carry out the business of the county in a more representative, efficient, economical, responsible and unified manner. Having a home rule charter form of government would allow residents of Deschutes County to decide on issues of local concern through the enactment of local laws; and therefore provide more practical answers to the unique circumstances in Deschutes County. The LWVDC will evaluate any proposed charter against its ability to meet the following criteria: (1) fair representation with responsiveness to the voters and the unique needs of Deschutes County; (2) accountability to the citizens of Deschutes County; (3) adaptability; (4) efficiency; (5) economy; and (6) responsibility.

EDUCATION POSITION 1995-1996 *[under review, 2009-2010]*

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County agrees with the philosophy of the Oregon 21st Century education Reform Act in its desire to improve education (K-12) in the state of Oregon, understanding that this Act is still evolving and has not yet reached its final form. The number of school days, which remains for students between 159-1/2 and 163 and for teachers 180, is of concern. We regret the repeal of the gradual increase in the number of school days students would have been required to attend. The configuration of the number of school days should be taken into account. Longer days to put in the necessary number of hours of schooling does not amount to the same education as when days of schooling are spread over a longer number of days. We recommend the investigation of Year Round Education (YRE) as well as other modifications of the traditional school year schedule which might be of benefit to students.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION POSITION 1981 [UPDATED 2003][*under review 2009-2010*]

David Howe, Battalion Chief, Bend Fire Department, kindly provided us with a comprehensive update in January, 2003

"In sum, it appears that many of the issues of concern expressed by the League have disappeared in the last 20 years. Prevention of spills and releases is where money needs to be funneled, and I believe that municipal public works, wastewater treatment, solid waste and water departments have a tremendous role to play as part of the response team. Fire departments are becoming busier, and in reality, it is the public works departments that are charged with ensuring that the roads and streets are safe for driving.

In Bend, we have been working with Public Works and Deschutes County Solid Waste in response to hazmat spills at motor vehicle accidents: they bring in the absorbent for the spills and transport the material to the landfill, where, with the proper documentation, it is accepted without testing or charge. It is a great example of cooperation at the local level to get the otherwise intractable job handled with ease."

JUVENILE STUDY POSITION

1971

WE SUPPORT Guidance and Counseling including: Special education classes, Vocational programs, Meeting the needs of dropouts and potential dropouts, Prevention of problems. We support counseling and guidance programs at all levels of education and especially the need for such at the elementary level. We feel it is vitally important to maintain good counseling services for the social health of our community.

Juvenile Justice: Establishment of local juvenile facility for temporary shelter/secure care, Intensive counseling, job training, GED or Diploma completion for those in long-term commitment facility.

LAND USE POSITION

LAND USE - GENERAL

APRIL 1995

The **League of Women Voters of Deschutes County** continues to support statewide planning goals and the City of Bend and Deschutes County General Plans, especially where they relate to the preservation of the rural/scenic nature of our community. Since the goals established in the previous League positions have essentially been realized, the goal now is to monitor the implementation of land use laws and to protect the gains which have been made so they are not eroded by efforts that would place more emphasis on private property rights and less on the preservation of land use regulations for the good of the public. As the population increases in Deschutes County, there is an accompanying increase in pressure on all resources. Therefore, it becomes ever more important that the County Commissions and the City Commissions cooperate in setting policies that will protect or enhance the livability of this area for all citizens.

Areas which especially need watching: preservation of prime forest lands; prime farm lands; open space; the pristine, abundant water supply; wetlands; and wildlife habitat.

Areas for advocacy/promotion: urban density versus rural development; and urban development with less dependence on the automobile

LAND USE: DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST amended May 1981

Public lands are a public trust, to be managed for the benefit of all citizens, present and future. Citizen participation must be built into planning and management of public land at every step. Wilderness provides benefits which make it a natural resource to be protected as such. We urge minimizing use of chemicals in the forest. We oppose any degradation of quality of streams, rivers, lakes, watershed, or groundwater. We support planning and control over resource use (mining, timber, etc.) and land use (recreation, grazing, etc.) through regulation, monitoring, strict enforcement, and penalties to achieve the following: the prevention of ecological damage, the preservation of aesthetics, the maintenance of even-flow sustained yield, and adherence to the principle of decreased conflict over use.

TRANSPORTATION POSITION

Modified 2001

The League of Women Voters believes the automobile will be the major means of transportation in Deschutes County for the foreseeable future. For this reason, we feel it is important that we explore all transportation possibilities: development of more neighborhood shopping areas which should offer a broad range of services, take an active role in promoting educational programs for the public regarding better use of all transportation options. The League of Women Voters supports the use of a variety of available alternatives, some immediately and some as they become economically feasible. Among these are bicycle and walking trails, use of carpools, expansion of Dial-a-Ride, interurban buses and city bus system. Many transportation plans will also require greater use of funding available through Federal grants and state and local funding sources. We support a local gasoline tax to help finance solutions to traffic problems.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY
FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON
JANUARY 7, 2010

SCOTT LANGTON, COUNTY ASSESSOR

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at ***King Buffet*** (formerly J.J.North's)
2050 N.E. Third St., Bend (behind McDonald's)