



CASCADE ECHOES

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2017



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



OCTOBER

5 FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON, the Water Issues, speaker will be Margi Hoffman. She will talk about a draft plan for management of the upper Deschutes River that is being prepared by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control.

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

WEB SITES

Local
www.lwvdeschutes.org/index.htm
State
www.lwv.or.gov
National
www.lwv.org
Nationwide Election Information
www.VOTE411.org

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

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<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>	Carol Cavoretto.....	541-385-8144

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President's Message

Most of us wonder what we can do to make the world a better place. By coming together and working towards a more civil and inclusive society, I believe we are making this a better world. In that vein, I hope that many of you can help with our work on Civil Discourse that our local league will be pursuing during the next year. Thank you goes out to Marie Gibson for putting information together for this edition of Echos about Civil Discourse.

It has been said that unless you are an indigenous native, you are the dream of your immigrant ancestors that have come before you. Most of us are the culmination of that dream. This week, Bend will be having a Welcoming Week to support the immigrant population of Central Oregon. Our league will be participating in 'Welcome Week' that ends this Saturday at the 'Festival of Cultures' at Centennial Park in Redmond where we will be Registering Voters. If you have a chance to come to the festival, please come by and see our booth.

We will be having a speaker to talk about the 'Water Issues of Central Oregon' at the next First Thursday. We have decided at this time that this issue will be better covered at a First Thursday so the forum on Water in October has been cancelled.

If any of you are interested in helping out our league, we are still looking for a Nomination Chair for the next year and someone that would like to monitor local politics. If you are interested in either of these, please let a board member know. We would be happy to have you join us.

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

FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Our main speaker will be Margi Hoffman. She will talk about a draft plan for management of the upper Deschutes River that is being prepared by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control. She will address canal piping by local irrigation districts, small-scale hydropower, stream flows, river health and agricultural water use efficiency.

Margi is a locally based consultant with a decade of experience in energy efficiency and resource conservation. She is currently consulting with the Farmers Conservation Alliance in creating watershed plans for eight Central Oregon irrigation districts that will be called the Central Oregon Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Project.

Our speaker and the river management issue will be introduced by Gail Snyder, spokesperson for the Coalition for the Deschutes.

Civil Discourse by Marge Easley, LWVOR Civil Discourse Portfolio

The dangerously divisive political rhetoric we've been hearing lately underscores the importance of the state League's decision to focus on civil discourse in the coming year. Here's the first in a series of articles on the topic.

Congressional Town Halls

Town hall meetings provide one of the few opportunities to directly pose questions to elected officials. Yet they are becoming increasingly rare, because many are fearful of the media optics of being confronted by angry constituents. Did you know that 167 members of Congress have not held a single in-person town hall this year? Some are turning to virtual or online town halls, while others are forgoing them completely. This does not bode well for civil discourse in our country. Please make sure you're on the mailing lists of your elected officials, turn up to town halls, ask probing questions, and take a leadership role in encouraging thoughtful and respectful dialogue.

Getting a Balanced Perspective on the News

Our political biases often give us a one-sided look at issues, since we tend to choose media sources that reinforce our world view. This can fuel anxieties and increase the "us vs. them" mentality. One of the ways to get a more well-rounded perspective is to step outside our media bubbles on a regular basis. To do this I highly recommend the website www.allsides.com, which provides stories on important issues from the left, right, and center. Give it a try!

CIVIL DISCOURSE

This material is adapted from the LWVOR website.

The need for civil discourse is urgent, given today's extremely polarized politics. The League of Women Voters has always promoted civility in government, calling for more respectful communication among citizens and elected officials at all government levels.

On May 7, delegates to the 2017 LWVOR Convention voted to adopt by concurrence this position from LWV San Luis Obispo, California:

"Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication."

Here in the LWV of Deschutes County, we are considering ways to be a part of this effort to promote civil discourse. In the meantime, we ask you to think about the following questions:

1. How did the level of incivility in the 2016 Election affect you personally?
2. What factors play a role in creating incivility?
3. How does incivility and extreme partisanship affect our society?
4. What ideas do you have for fostering civil discourse on divisive issues in your community?
5. What role might the League play in encouraging civil discourse?

As you think about these questions, you may be wondering how you may be involved in helping the League develop a response. If you would like to be a part of how we address this, I would like you to contact me.

Marie Gibson: jpgmjg@gmail.com

Possibilities range from monitoring public meetings to letters to the editor. This entire topic is consistent with our overall emphasis on Making Democracy Work. We all may become more familiar with **Oregon's Public Meetings Law**.

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO OREGON'S PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW is published as a public service by Open Oregon: a Freedom of information Coalition and the Oregon Attorney General's office.

Below is excerpted from the introductory pages:

"Open government" or "sunshine" laws originally were enacted nationwide in the early 1970s because of growing public unhappiness with government secrecy. As a result, every state and the District of Columbia enacted laws requiring government to conduct its business openly, rather than behind closed doors. Open government laws benefit both government and the public. Citizens gain by having access to the process of deliberation – enabling them to view their government at work and to influence its deliberations. Government officials gain credibility by permitting citizens to observe their information-gathering and decision-making processes. Such understanding leads to greater trust in government by its citizens. Conversely, officials who attempt to keep their deliberations hidden from public scrutiny create cynicism, erode public trust and discourage involvement. Policy Oregon's Public Meetings Law was enacted in 1973 to make sure that all meetings of governing bodies covered by the law are open to the public. This includes meetings called just to gather information for subsequent decisions or recommendations. The law also requires that the public be given notice of the time and place of meetings and that meetings be accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities. The Public Meetings Law guarantees the public the right to view government meetings, but not necessarily to speak at them. Governing bodies set their own rules for citizen participation and public comment.

The full guide is available at the website for Open Oregon:

<http://www.open-oregon.com/publications/guide-to-oregons-public-meetings-law/>

New Members Introduction/Interview

Melody Engstrom:

Melody joined LWVDC in September after moving to Sisters from Sherman County with her daughter, Athena, at the end of May. She is a union carpenter and welder and currently looking for work in her field in Central Oregon. She served as a delegate for Bernie Sanders at the Oregon Democratic Convention and has an interest in politics and law. Currently she is researching the process for writing a ballot measure related to consumer protection related to collections for medical billing and would welcome any advice or assistance in that endeavor. This is a topic that is relevant in this era of high medical costs.



Athena Marvitz:

Athena joined LWVDC in September with her mom. She is a senior at Sisters High School and enjoys writing and music. She is involved in musical theater at SHS as a singer and also plays the piano and saxophone. She works part time in a veterinary clinic while preparing for college applications. Her goal is to be at Willamette University next fall. We are excited to have Athena join us as our first youth member.

Kate Bailey ran into League President, Kim Smith, at the Safeway, in front of the cantaloupes. Old acquaintances, both have twin boys, now grown and as they chatted, Kate said she wanted to join the LWV. Her mother was "a real feminist" who campaigned extensively for women's' rights over the years. The recent Presidential election made Kate decide "you need to get involved, to get back into politics". The League has done forums for Rotary, in which she is active. She is also a member of NOW.

She holds dual Irish and U.S. citizenship. "Ireland didn't Brexit, so I can travel all over the E.U."

Residing in New Orleans, Kate and her attorney husband decided to move elsewhere. The Places Rated Almanac highly touted Bend! They arrived here in 2001.

With a B.S. in Business Administration and Master's in Marketing, Kate is Assistant V.P. Small Business Banking Officer at Washington Federal Bank. "Marketing and sales are my strengths."

Dick Wilson, aka Richard Wardlaw Wilson, (he began using his middle name after a Reno casino called saying "a Richard Wilson" owed an enormous amount of money to "the house"!). Dick grew up in Portland, attended Stanford and retired as a V.P. with the Hayden Corp. of Portland which owns Hayden Island, where Jantzen Beach is located as you drive from Portland to Vancouver, WA. He was the President of the Oregon Apartment Owners Association and West Coast Representative for the National Apartment Association.

Born blind in one eye, Dick was able to pass the flying exam to be a pilot, (the first examiner refused to go up in a plane with him) and the standards of the Harbor Master at Anacortes, WA., before being allowed to sail in the San Juan Islands. Now residing in Bend for one year, he delights in the sunny climate. Married to Bev Wilson for 35 years, they both have two sons from previous marriages and daughters. Dick's: Maryanne; Bev's: Anne-Marie. =

Membership and Leadership Development Conference September 8-10, 2017 Portland, OR

Oregon and Washington Leagues of Women Voters held a conference for local Leagues in the states. Bev Wilson and Mimi Alkire represented LWV Deschutes County at the conference and brought back lots of ideas and enthusiasm. The conference focused on the best practices across the nation for engaging and retaining new members. The highlights of the weekend included networking with other like-minded Leaguers, grabbing tons of good ideas, and listening to inspirational speakers. Elizabeth McNamara, Immediate Past President LWVUS, and a member of her local Atlanta, Georgia, League, was the keynote speaker. Her enthusiasm for and deep knowledge of the League was impressive. Her presentation focused us on engaging in activities that are aimed at “making a more perfect democracy” and a 1924 quote of Maud Wood Park, “*Democracy does not depend on a few people doing great things. It depends on many persons doing small things faithfully.*” These are great words to live by.

As a result of this conference Deschutes County is on the list for a MLD coach and becoming part of the national MLD network. Coaching consists of a monthly telephone conference with any interested parties in the local group to discuss the topics on the “guidance” agenda but also to meet the needs of the local board. The coach acts as a neutral facilitator and is in a position to provide support, while acting as a conduit between ours and other local leagues. While we wait for a coach to be assigned, we are going to be sent the “guidance” documents that describe the topic of discussion for those coach calls each month. These documents are sent out in advance of the call, are usually about 2-pages, and are focused on a single idea. If anyone is interested in getting copies of the guidance documents for the past few months, please let Mimi or Bev know of your interest.



LWV Membership
1072 SE Shadowood Dr.
Bend, OR 97702

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY
FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 5, 2017

The speaker will be

Margi Hoffman

consultant in energy efficiency and resource conservation.

She will talk about a draft plan for management of the upper Deschutes River that is being prepared by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control.

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.