

Women

March-April, 2024



Candidates Share Their Vision for Oregon

We knew the March meeting was going to need to be longer than usual, but it was definitely going to be worth it. The room was completely full.



They'd come to hear Representative Christine Goodwin and Noah Robinson, both candidates for Oregon Senate District 2 and Oregon Attorney General candidates Will Lathrop and Michael Cross each



tell their ideas for making our state a better place to live. The



issues of drugs was high on the list of questions asked by our moderator, former Representative Lily Morgan. She had written five questions covering a variety of topics including the homeless crisis, the effects of the



southern border and influx of illegals in Oregon, how each would improve on their predecessor.



Bryan Iverson wrapped up the meeting with his detailed analysis of how Oregon can be flipped RED and Republicans can be in charge of the state again.

JoCRW Youth Outreach- Constitutions for Students & Educators

Our club's newest Special Committee has already gotten a great start! The students and teachers at Pursuit Elementary, a private school with students in grades 1- 10, were given pocket Constitutions the last Monday of February. Janice Watson did the honors of leading the presentation, but remarked that, after handing out several thousand

small Constitution booklets to students and educators over the past 2 years, it will now be the JoCRW group, with



Indra Nicholas as Chair, who will carry on.

The next goal is to get requests from at least a dozen educators for students in their classes. It includes all public, private, Homeschool situations, and Charter Schools.



We're looking for several volunteers to help make the presentation to the educators who request

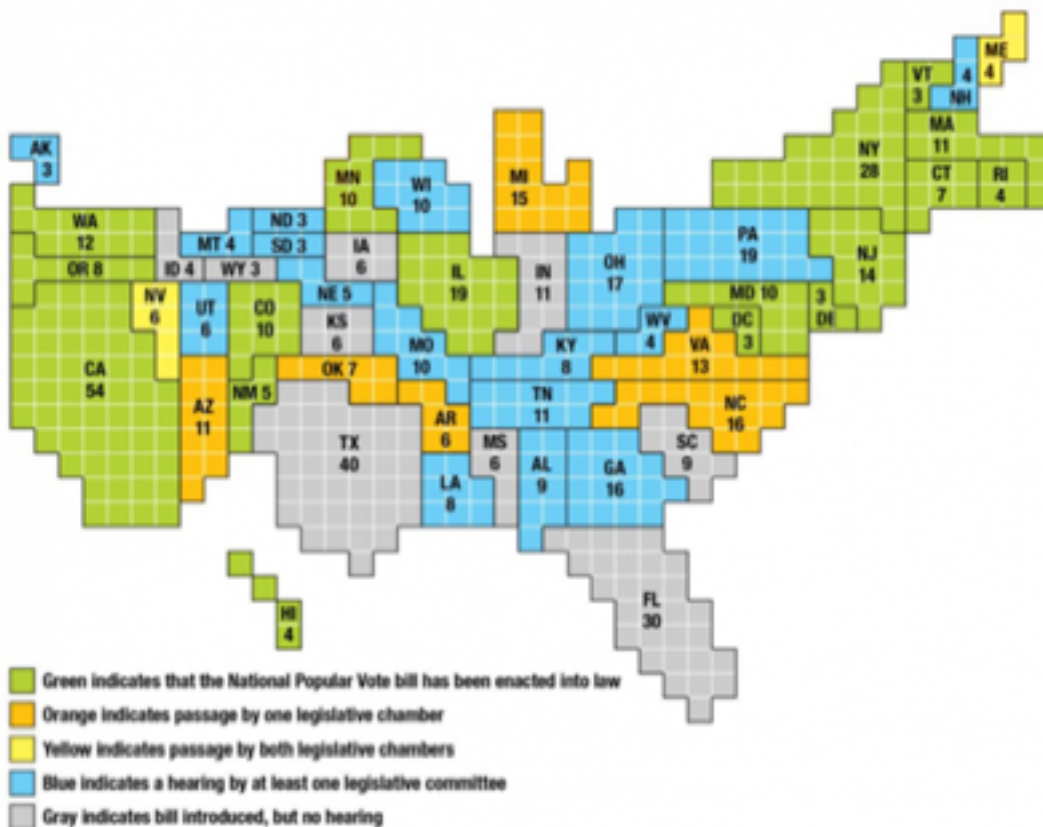
booklets for their classes. Constitution Day is Sept.17, and we want as many classes of students to have these in their hands to learn about our grand and glorious Constitution!

“Pickled Octopus Isn’t My Choice for Lunch”

By Linda Smith

You’ve likely heard some people say, “One person, one vote”. People are familiar with a political race being won or lost by popular vote. That’s how outcomes are determined for Governor, Representatives, seats in Congress, etc. However, a lot of people don’t realize that when we’re casting votes for President, that’s not what’s happening. After you cast your ballot for president, your vote goes to a statewide tally. That’s where the Electoral College comes in to play. But there is a group who are diligently working to eliminate the Electoral College. The [National Popular Vote Bill](#) would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It’s been passed into law by 16 states and DC with 205 electoral votes ([Map of states](#)). It needs an additional 65 electoral votes to go into effect. Having those races be determined by only the popular vote would be a huge mistake!

On the map, each square represents one electoral vote (out of 538, the most allowed). The map shows the number of electoral votes for each state according to the 2020 census. Map design (various versions) courtesy of Craig Barratt, Victor-Bobier, Jeff Pfoser, and Chris Pearson



The Electoral College was created by the Founding Fathers as a compromise at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 after months of arguments that finally hammered out how America was going to be governed. During that Convention, the Articles of the Confederation were thrown out and a new

constitution was written with **Article II explaining the Electoral College**, which is a process, not a place.

Here’s my own very simplified analogy of how the Electoral College works. I’ll use a lunch group to explain. You’re part of a group that goes out to eat every Friday. The whole group gets together to vote on where to go. At this meeting, rules have been written to explain how the vote will happen: The number of votes you have is determined by how tall you are. If you’re over 6 feet tall, you get more votes. Shorter people are given votes according to their height- the shorter you are, the smaller number of votes you get.

It just so happens that there are many members of your lunch group who are tall. Really tall. Your ‘short group’ is never going to have that many votes because you can’t get taller. Just a fact of life. And the group can’t have more members either. It’s in the rules.

Voting Day is every Tuesday. As you look around the room, you see the group that loves to go to places that serve really unappetizing things, like pickled octopus, in my opinion. They outnumber you and your short friends by a lot. You really don't like it and would love to go to some place that has hot turkey sandwiches (who wouldn't!?), but the pickled octopus eaters carry the vote. There's no way you can win against them. If you can't eat it, or just don't like it, too bad. Everybody goes to lunch. That's in the rules, too. They outnumber you. It goes that way week after week after week. You're forced to go along with whatever the other group decides. And they choose someplace that serves things for lunch that are far from what you'd like. Too bad. They win every time. Because they have the numbers.

OK, I admit that's a very simple analogy of the Electoral College that has a lot of holes in it, but it's the basic principle I'm getting at here. The facts are that states are given votes according to the number of Senators and Representatives (and the Census plays a part, too). States with a large population get more votes because they have more Representatives and Senators. A couple of examples, and not surprising, I'm sure, are Texas with 40 electoral votes, California with 54 and New York having 28, are given a LOT more votes than states like Oregon that only has 8.

We used to have 7, but with redistricting, we gained 1. And, oh my goodness, North Dakota and Alaska only have 3. If the Lunch Group I wrote about above were the ones in charge, you can see who would make all the decisions.

How was it that the Founding Fathers could almost see into the future and problems that might arise? There are those who also argue that the entire Constitution needs to be "overhauled", however, that's a whole different discussion. As for the Electoral College, we're so fortunate that this group of brilliant, dedicated men were able to create a compromise in how our elections are handled, and those who want so badly to eliminate it obviously don't understand why it was created in the first place. It was created to secure balance in our elections for President and Vice President.

If we eliminate the Electoral College, then the likes of New York with 28 votes,

California with 54, will be telling us who the President and Vice President will be and we'll all have to eat pickled octopus, like it or not.

There are many sources for more history and explanation of The Electoral College. Here are a couple to begin your study:

<https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation>

<https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/the-electoral-college>

<https://www.history.com/news/electoral-college-founding-fathers-constitutional-convention> <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation>



A Message from Your President

We've had such a busy couple of months, and there's still more to come until voting day, May 21st. So, I hope you're all ready for what we'll learn while we have more candidates share their plans for a better Josephine County and important city employees we never get to meet share what they do to keep things running smoothly.

The article I wrote on the Electoral College was done first as a tribute to John Chambers, an Associate Member of our club who passed away a



few weeks ago. He was affectionately known as Mr. Constitution and he shared his love of our

*country's most important document by teaching classes to students and adults. His life-long work with the Constitution "was to help people understand it, no matter which side of the political aisle they happen to be on." The second reason I wrote that article was to shed a bit of light on exactly what the Electoral College is, how it came to be, and why it's so very important to our election process. It's a funny thing about researching information to share with others. I ended up learning a lot more about it - and it's a fascinating process. This is actually going to be happening right here in Oregon May 25th! ***

We have a unique opportunity available to us May 21st. We all have the chance, and the responsibility to vote in this upcoming election. I know you read about the issues, listen to the candidates, and make your selections carefully. Vote early and please help all your friends and neighbors turn in their ballots as well. A ballot lying on the counter helps no one.

Thank you for all you do for your club and your county. — Linda Smith

Your Executive Board -

President
Linda Smith
photolinda58@gmail.com
1st VP-Vacancy
2VP/Membership
Marian Szewc
marianandsusan@windermere.com
Secretary-Vacancy
Treasurer
Susie Wheaton
susie.wheaton@yahoo.com
Past President
Terri Millard
timterrimillard@gmail.com

Thank you to our Committee Chairs!

Kathy Coelho - Volunteer Hours Chair & OFRW Awards Chair

Felicia Lovett - Bylaws Chair

Indra Nicholas - Chair Youth Outreach; Education Constitutions in the Schools

Meeting Information

to put on your calendar-

11:15 AM- 1:00 PM Grants Pass Golf Club
230 Espey Rd.

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st (Voting Day)

June 18th

July 16th - District Director's Meeting;

August 20th

September 17th

October 15th

November 19th

December 17th - Club Christmas Party

Meeting times can run a bit longer during candidate presentations.

Executive Board meetings are held the **last** Tuesday of each month, 11:30 AM, at the Grants Pass Golf Club.

If you have questions or concerns you would like the board to discuss, please get them to any board member at least 2 days prior to our meetings.

**** OREGON'S REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS**

At the Delegate Selection Convention on May 25, 2024, PCPs will also elect Oregon's eight Presidential Electors who will cast Oregon's Electoral College votes if we win Oregon for our Presidential nominee in the General Election on November 5, 2024.

Advertise in our Newsletter!

Rates are really reasonable!

A 2 x 3.5 inch space is \$50 for the entire year. I'll guarantee at least 4 issues, but my goal is to have 8-10 issues a year, building to one every month. I will reproduce your business card, your photo or insert any information you'd like. Just send it to me, Linda Smith at photolinda58@gmail.com. **3 lines to describe something you have for sale = \$5 for each newsletter until you sell that item.**



YOUR
BUSINESS CARD
COULD
BE RIGHT
HERE!

Since I want people to see both sides of my card, I took 2 spots for front and back. This will be charged for 2 spaces.



**SPRING BOARD MEETING
APRIL 18-20, 2024
BAKER CITY, OREGON**



41 Days til

Our See's Candy Storefront Link!

We keep 20% of all orders as profit!