Tuesday February 27, 2018

East Fork Cultivars

9953 Takilma Road, Cave Junction

11:00am

This month’s meeting is a field trip to a marijuana growing site. Jackson and Josephine Counties have the overwhelming majority of producers of marijuana in the state of Oregon. Regulation of marijuana growing sites includes expensive oversight of water usage and security issues, and Jackson County has appointed an Advisory Committee specifically to address such concerns. In preparation for this opportunity to hear directly from producers, the League strongly recommends that you watch the following video

“Marijuana in Southern Oregon: Growing Pains”

http://jacksoncountyor.org/County/Video-TV/County-Close-Up/ArtMID/11580/ArticleID/249662/JC-Potpourri-Marijuana-in-Southern-Oregon-Growing-Pains

The video can also be found on the Jackson County Planning Department webpage. We recommend carpooling for this event. The farm is in Takilma Oregon, south of Cave Junction on Hwy 199, about an hour and a half from Medford, and hour from Grants Pass. Take Laurel Rd east just before Cave Junction to Takilma. The road is passable for passenger cars. [More information about marijuana production on p. 2, 5 & 6].
Editor’s Note February 2018

Even though we started the planning process for the February field trip in early December, we postponed the date until the Oregon Cannabis Association could find a grower willing to allow us to visit.

Transparency is an issue for the marijuana industry in Oregon. According to Oregon Business: “The only information the OLCC provides on its website about marijuana licensees is the business name, the license type and the county where the company is located. OLCC spokesman Mark Pettinger said the agency does not provide certain information about licensees, such as physical address, because of security concerns.”

We urge you to become aware of the public issues the marijuana industry presents. Join us on our February Field Trip—maybe we’ll have time for a stop at Taylor’s (in Cave Junction) on the way back for discussion.

—Kathleen Donham LWVRV newsletter

In preparation for February 27 Field Trip...

Car poolers can meet in Central Point at the Pilot Travel Station 1600 E. Pine parking lot near Exit 33 off I-5 by 9:30am sharp. Car poolers leaving from Grants Pass can meet at the Appleby’s parking lot by taking Exit 55 to Redwood Highway & Agness [250 NE Agness] at 10am.

![Marijuana Tax Receipts](chart.png)

Source: Dept. of Revenue

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, The Voters Voice. Editor Kathleen Donham can be reached at 541-77-5044 and KDonham@gmail.com.

LWVRV P.O. Box 8555 Medford OR 97501 541-479-4486

Contact the webmaster webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org

Website: lwvroguevalley.org

Facebook page: facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Rogue-Valley-301855639862801

Email: pres@lwvroguevalley.org

Congratulations to all those who helped pass
Ballot Measure 101
Observer Corps Reports

Medford City Council

Medford City Council Meeting, January 18, 2017

All Council members present.

In addition to a public hearing on an ordinance to vacate a portion of a public utility easement and approval of an ordinance to award a contract for installation of cured-in-place pipe lining of failing sewer pipes, there were two agenda action items to note.

Item 80.2 amends sections of the Medford Municipal Code pertaining to the Oregon Specialty Codes for compliance with state law. These specialty codes are updated regularly by the State to provide for new materials and methods of construction that can improve building safety. The ordinance was approved 8-0. If you’re interested in building codes, check out pages 36-93 of the agenda materials for code changes as well as graphs and photos at the link below.

Item 80.3 makes appointments of city council members as voting representatives to county and regional boards and commissions. These are boards and commissions that are not City of Medford boards and commissions. The resolution was approved 8-0. For a list of the approved representatives, see page 94-97 of agenda materials.

Lastly, under community group reports, Gary Leaming, Oregon Department of Transportation, reported that the Route 62 Expressway project is moving forward, on schedule, and completion is expected in 1 year.

For more information regarding the council’s agenda, please go to http://www.ci.medford.or.us/files/CC%20Agenda%2001-18-18%20Packet.pdf.

LWVRV Local Government Study Committee will meet Monday February 12, 2018 at the Phoenix Branch Library 5-7 pm

Day at the Legislature—Friday February 23

Registration due by Feb 16, $30 with lunch

9:30am-2pm, OR State Library

Speakers will include Rep. Carl Wilson (who is knowledgeable about marijuana issues). Please let Jackie know if you would like to attend. http://lwvor.org/event/day-legislature-2018/

Crag Law Center thanks LWVOR for their work with the “Our Children’s Trust” lawsuit. (www.ourchildrenstrust.org) Shown: Shirley Weathers, Bill Walsh of LWVRV, and Norman Turill LWVOR State President.
Since the Observer Corps is such a vital function for an area as large as Rogue Valley, a structure may be helpful to all. As part of our policies and procedures, we are adding the following outline regarding the Observer Corps. The goal is to answer questions of how ‘observer’ members can best help serve the League and provide information to other members.

Observer Corps will be listed under Action (overseen by Action Chair).

As with other committees under Action, there would be a “portfolio coordinator” – in this case an “OC portfolio coordinator.”

The OC coordinator will help other observers when appropriate, or direct new observers with general guidelines for neutrality in behavior, and methods of observation.

The OC coordinator will verify that all observers deliver proposed reports to the newsletter editor in a timely manner (when appropriate).

The OC coordinator would not serve on the board IN THAT CAPACITY, but may serve on the board in another capacity.

The OC coordinator (or observer member) may request that the Action Chair consider more immediate steps of action through appropriate channels, or with the president and board, when time-sensitive issues are at hand.

OC coordinator may request public testimony or public letters through the Action Chair or President (without using the observer’s name) by providing background and appropriate statements in writing (or electronic format) to Action Chair, President or Board.

Observers should be aware of public meeting agendas (when possible) to allow for best preparation.

If an observer is requested to speak for the League, or give information about a position the League may hold, 3 responses are most common:

a) “We do have a position; it is……………………………

b) “We do not have a position on this particular issue.”

c) “Can I get back to you?” or "I will find out the answer to that question" (when you are unsure).

As a rule, observers do not speak up at public meetings when observing for the LWV. Nor (as a rule) should observers ‘change hats’ to speak for other groups or themselves during the same meeting. Both of these guidelines ensure the appearance of neutrality at later meetings.

Date: Approved January 18, 2018
Submitted: Barbara Klein, Action Chair
for inclusion in Policies and Procedures
Excerpted from the Josephine County Website for Growers

Where can I grow marijuana?

Marijuana is allowed anywhere agriculture is allowed. That means, the growing of marijuana is allowed in all zoning districts except the Rural Commercial and Community Commercial zoning districts. However, in the Rural Residential and Serpentine districts, accessory buildings for the crop are not allowed unless there is a home on the property. No permit is required for growing marijuana unless in an Industrial zone (Site Plan Review is required to grow in an Industrial zone). For all zones, permits are required for the greenhouse, fence, etc.

Where is processing allowed?

Processing (conversion of the raw product into edibles or other value-added products) is allowed in the Rural Commercial and Community Commercial zones, provided there is a retail or service component that meets the intent of the commercial zone. Also, it is allowed in the Industrial and Farm zones, but no retail or service component is required. In all these districts the use has to be approved by Site Plan Review.

Where can I wholesale or sell marijuana?

Wholesaling and retail stores are both allowed in the Commercial (except Forest Commercial) and Industrial zones; however, retail is only allowed in the Industrial zone if it is incidental to wholesaling. The use(s) must be approved by Site Plan Review.

Where can I conduct research or have a laboratory?

Research and/or labs are only allowed in Industrial zones, but requires Site Plan Review.

You Should Also Know:

Medical Marijuana is regulated by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Recreational marijuana is regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC). CBD refers to “cannabidiol”, the purported medicinal ingredient in marijuana. THC, or “tetrahydrocannabinol” refers to the psychoactive properties.

Oregon collected a total of $108.6 million in state and local taxes between Jan. 4, 2016 and Aug. 31, 2017. The state school fund gets 40 percent, or $34 million; mental health, alcoholism and drug services get 20 percent, or $17 million; Oregon State Police get 15 percent, or $12.75 million, and the Oregon Health Authority gets 5 percent, which comes to $4.25 million.

Jackson and Josephine County currently have 300 and 230 OLCC-regulated operations respectively. Julie Schmelzer, Josephine County’s Community Development Director, said in addition to OLCC farms, her jurisdiction has nearly 3,000 registered medical marijuana facilities.
Brief notes on current news, updates, and some upcoming happenings:

**Juliana v. the United States** (AKA the federal Our Children’s Trust suit), scheduled to begin in the U.S. District Court on February 5, has been postponed. The Ninth Circuit Court heard oral arguments on the Trump Administration’s *writ of mandamus*—another attempt to avoid the case going to court—and has not yet issued a decision. Stay tuned and cross your fingers that the youth prevail so this can move forward.

The complex permit process for the **Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline** and Jordan Cove Liquified Natural Gas Export project Phase II continues and the LWVRV is still in the game. The public comment period on the DEQ 401 Water Quality permit is expected to begin any day and more will follow. The LWVRV, LWVUV, and LWVKC are collaborating on another join comment opposing the pipeline. Individual comments will be encouraged, as well.

Work to convince the Oregon Legislature to pass a **cap and trade bill** during the 2018 Session is continuing. The state League is part of a Coalition working for passage and we are involved with that, including by working with local advocates such as Rogue Climate and Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN). Governor Brown has declared strong support for passage, but opponents are gearing up as the Session begins.

We learned very recently that a London-based company—Curzon Energy LLC—is moving forward with plans to resurrect a **coal bed methane (CBM) extraction project** in the Coos Bay area first initiated early in the Century. The company has an ambitious three-Phase plan with the end goal of further lease acquisition for a total of 400 producing wells that will produce for up to 30 years. We are working with others to research this project.

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**Regulating Marijuana Water Use** [From the Jackson County Planning Dept. Website]

**How is water regulated for commercial marijuana production?**

The land use application process requires the applicant to disclose a lawful source of water. This can be in the form of a water right, irrigation contract or water delivery service contract. If an approved marijuana grow site is found to be in violation of the water conditions set forth in the land use approval, civil enforcement action may be taken.

**Can a well be used to water a commercial marijuana grow site?**

Water for cultivation/growth of marijuana, whether in a greenhouse or not, does not require a water right permit provided that the irrigation is no more than one-half acre in area and the cultivation is non-commercial. Use of groundwater to grow marijuana plants where there is intent to profit requires a water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department. Please contact the District 13 Watermaster at (541)774-6880 if you have questions or visit our web page at [http://jacksoncountyor.org/Departments/Watermaster/Home](http://jacksoncountyor.org/Departments/Watermaster/Home).

**How do I file a complaint about a grow site I believe is not utilizing lawful water?**

The Oregon Water Resource Department has jurisdiction over all Oregon water related violations [see above].
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new members Amanda Casserly [Ashland], Sheila Mc Ginnis, David Smith, Rebecca Cross, and Annie Takaha. We look forward to meeting you at League events. Hospitality coordinator Shiena Polehn also interviewed member Margie Peterson of Ashland:

A Woman for All Ages - and Places

One of our newer members, Margie Peterson, attended one of Lorraine Werblow’s teas and impressed us all with her intelligence and enthusiasm, but we had to wait until her return from yet more exciting travel. The latest one was to Europe including Italy, Vienna, the Czech Republic, Helsinki, and Wales. Now she’s back in Ashland, she has joined our LWVRV branch, meeting new people and new challenges.

Born in Vancouver, Washington State, Margie was raised in the historic little town of Sitka, Alaska where she attended High School. Moving to Hawaii, she graduated from the University of Hawaii and later the University of Oregon, with an MFA, and finally an MSEd from the Bank Street College of Education, in New York City.

Margie’s career has been just as varied – she worked in the theater in New York City for 4 years, pre-school special education and the textile industry. Besides her traveling, her hobby is hand weaving.

After retirement, she finally had the time to engage in something else that interested her, so she joined our League, and our branch. For her special interest she has chosen health care and a change in the popular vote. Margie has joined our County Government Update Committee. How fortunate we are to have Margie – she’s friendly, experienced, enthusiastic and what’s more – fun! Let’s make her welcome!

Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

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**Membership Application**

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00     Spouse/student—$32.50

May we publish your information in the LWV Directory?
Y  N

Send check /application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford  OR  97501
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