Thursday, March 8, 2017

The Pacific Connector Pipeline Round 3
and Other Causes for Climate Change Action

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

OEA Building 2495 S Pacific Hwy

The March meeting will focus on selected climate change issues. The list is long, so we will confine ourselves to some updates and then zero in on the Pacific Connector Pipeline, which would feed the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal. As a local League whose jurisdiction is slated to “host” a piece of the proposed natural gas pipeline and its potential damage to our water, land, air, climate, and public safety, the LWV of Rogue Valley determined to oppose the project years ago. Now that a new and bigger Canadian corporation has launched a third application, we and other opponents are gearing up again.

Two special guests at this meeting will share landowner stories. Deb Evans owns forest acreage in Klamath County and, along with her husband Ron, has made it her business to fight the project with knowledge. She will share some of her experience. Juliet Grable is a freelance writer who is gathering stories of landowners along the 229-mile, 36-inch pipeline. If you find yourself wondering if the country is terminally divided along party or political ideology lines, you’ll be heartened to remember that people with diverse politics can and do still find common ground and shared values [continued next page].

In order to cover everything and give time for Q and A,
WE NEED TO START AT 11:30 ON THE DOT.
PLEASE BRING A BAG LUNCH.
COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE PROVIDED.

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Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to pass Measure 101! It was an opportunity to see the process from position to advocacy to vote come together. And it worked!
—Jackie Clary, President

Jackie will be addressing the Rotary Club in Grants Pass next week. The League of Women Voters is beginning to truly represent the whole Rogue Valley: 1) several new members have joined from Josephine County, 2) we will hold our Annual Meeting in Grants Pass, and 3) we are folding Josephine County into our County government study.

Welcome new members: David Smith (Grants Pass), Rebecca Cross (Ashland), Shirley Klock (Ashland), Annie Tekaha (Central Point), and Cathleen Katz (Ashland).

LWVRV Local Government Study Committee will meet Monday March 5, 2018 at the Ashland Branch Library 5 - 7 pm

The fields of battle are economic, political, and regulatory. We are excited to be working in concert in with our neighboring Leagues in Klamath County to the east and Umpqua Valley to the west. We are also working with a growing number of individuals and organizations across the state.

Notable among pipeline opponents are landowners. Their refusal to say “yes” to granting 95-foot-wide clear-cut rights-of-way across their lands and share their property with a high-compression natural gas pipeline was a major reason for the March 2016 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denial of the second project application. Their resistance guaranteed massive seizures of private property through eminent domain from Malin to Coos Bay. Then came November 2016. The change in political priorities regarding climate change on one hand and fossil fuel development on the other started the struggle—already 12 years in duration—all over again.
Oregon Coast Oil Drilling Comments Due by March 9th

Submitted by Marylou Schnoes

The Trump Administration’s plan to allow drilling along coasts of the United States (except Florida) will begin moving ahead this year, if not modified after the public comment period. This will take our country in the wrong direction in addressing climate change. There is still time, but not much, to submit comments on behalf of your League opposing the proposed policy shift. All concerned Leagues and members are urged to do so. The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force has developed some background and message points to consider when commenting. Public comment is being received through the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website until 11:59 Eastern on March 9th.
Announcements

March 5   Budget Committee meets
March 5   Local Government Study at Ashland Library 5pm—7pm
March 8   Thursday General Meeting—Climate Change Issues, Clean Energy, Pipeline Issues 11:30 am sharp
March 14  Membership reorganization meeting at Kathleen’s 12 Noon
March 15  LWVRV Board Meeting OEA 10-12
April 12  Election Issues, candidate forum (Voters Service) Venue TBA
April 1   Nominating Committee submits candidates [Annual Packet deadline] Budget due.
May 4-6   LWV Oregon State Council —Gold Beach at Curry County Events Center
May 10:   **THE ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED BACK TO MAY 10** TapRock GRANTS PASS
May 11-13 Weekend Garage Sale Fundraiser in Phoenix-Talent

At the Oregon Legislature:

- As of this newsletter, the **National Popular Vote legislation** [the amended version supported by the League] is stalled.

- Urge your Representative to **disconnect Oregon from the pass-through business deduction** included in the new federal tax legislation.

  The Senate took action to disconnect from the federal tax code sections regarding the costly pass-through deduction for particular business owners (**SB 1528 B**). Read more in the latest LWVOR Legislative Report. Now the House needs to do the same. **SB 1528 B** has a public hearing and possible work session, Wednesday 2/28/2018 1:00 PM in the House Committee On Revenue where League will submit testimony. We anticipate it will then go to the House floor for a second reading then vote, likely on Friday.

- **Support Clean Energy Jobs (CEJ) HB 4001 & SB 1507 Climate Policy Legislation in 2018.**

  This legislation will establish a program to cap climate pollution, price all qualified greenhouse gas emissions under the cap, and invest the proceeds in clean energy, while addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and investing in training workers for new, growing opportunities in a clean energy economy.

How We Advocate

Our democratic system sets the League of Women Voters apart from other organizations when it comes to advocacy. We speak with one Voice. We advocate as a complete unit at the local, state, and national level. After a thorough study of all sides of an issue, action is based on input from our member base, and we form our **official positions**. Being one cohesive unit at all levels makes us a powerful constituency.
Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is presently contacting members to help share the responsibilities of keeping our local league humming along. As an all-volunteer organization, we are dependent on you for offering to help with the chores that are not always visible, but critical to maintain our mission activities. The slate of officers and off-board leaders will be prepared in March -April 7th for the Annual Meeting May 10.

We know you are busy, so if there is work that you are willing to share with another person, let the nominating committee know and maybe the task is something that can be divided. “Think what you can do for your League...” We are looking for: vice-president, newsletter editor, co-president, nominating committee, and fundraising. Notify Lorraine at werbystemp@charter.net

Voters Service—Making Plans

The April General Meeting is planned to be a candidate forum. The state senate 3rd district seat vacated by Sen. DeBoer has numerous candidate filings for the primary by all parties, but may have too many candidates for our forum. Another race to be considered will be Sal Esquival’s seat as Representative District 6, Medford, as well as federal House District 2, eastern and southern Oregon. Members interested in Voters Service should contact Normary Barrett. Learning how to do candidate forums is a critical League skill. Normary has filled this role for many years, and has lots of experience to share.

Newsletter

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, maybe you don’t need a mailed paper copy. Call membership at 541-772-5044 if you would prefer not to get the newsletter by U.S. Mail.

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Areas of Interest:
◇ Land Use Issues ◇ Local Government
◇ Education ◇ Children at Risk
◇ Election Issues ◇ Climate Change
◇ Transportation ◇ National Issues
◇ Observer Corps ◇ Voters Service
◇ Healthcare Issues ◇ Environment

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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