Candidate Forum District 6  
Thursday April 12, 2018  12Noon—1pm  
Medford City Council Chambers Third Floor  
411 West 8th, Medford

Now that Spring is here we can enjoy our sunshine and flowers. For League members this time of year also brings election information for the May primary. We have invited all three candidates for State Representative District 6. This is the local seat that Sal Esquivel had for many years.

The easiest access to the chamber is from the back entrance which is close to the elevators. Most parking nearby is one or two hours, and carpooling is strongly recommended. This is a great opportunity to learn more about these candidates and have the opportunity to ask your questions. You are welcome to email me your questions before the forum, or you will also have an opportunity to ask written questions [Normary @grtech.com].

For additional candidate information please check out VOTE411. Our own League member Mary Sinclair has entered candidate data for statewide elections. Hope to see you there, —Normary Barrett, Voter Service Chair

No food or drink is allowed in the Medford Council Chamber.

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Presidents Pen April 2018

By Jackie Clary

Believe it or not, our year is almost over — a forum in April, the Annual Meeting in May and that’s it for the year - unless you’re attending the Retreat, or working on the local study, or part of a committee with a deadline, or an Observer, or attending the LWVUS Convention in Chicago, or marching, or, or, or. If there is anyone out there that doesn’t know what to do with all their spare time, please join us — on the Board, as an Observer, on a committee, whatever suits your interests or talents. Just ask and you will immediately become our best friend forever (or maybe a week or two).

LWVOR Council is being held in Gold Beach this year, May 4th – 6th. If you wish to attend, please let me know.

The Annual Meeting this May will be held in Grants Pass in the Evergreen Room at the Taprock Grill. I know this is a distance for many of you (well, most of you; on the other hand, I’m 4 blocks downstream), so I hope it will be a good meeting. We will have the president of RCC as our speaker. Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle is relatively new, has been busy with the plans addressed in the recent bond measure, and can tell us about the connection between RCC and job needs in our area. Also, as our guest, she will learn more about LWVRV and how we might make a connection with RCC to reach a new audience and possible members. See you all at the forum April 12th.

Southern Oregon Climate Action Network (SOCAN)

Environmental Issues Candidate Forum

Wednesday April 11th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Medford Public Library.

SOCAN has scheduled a non-partisan candidate forum for primary candidates competing for their party nomination for the general election.

The library is at 205 S. Central Avenue, Medford. It will be free and open to all Southern Oregon residents wishing to learn more about where the candidates stand on environmental issues.

Questions will be developed by the organizing team with input from co-sponsors – followed by questions from members of the audience. This is not a League-sponsored event, and is held the day before the League Candidate Forum which is on Thursday. It is advertised for your interest.
Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser

May 12, 2018 Saturday

Drop off dates for all items big and small May 6-7-8.

394 Arnos, Talent 541 499 7742

At our last meeting May 10 in Grants Pass, bring only items in boxes (no large items)

March for our Lives: LWVUS Position on Gun Safety

“...The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.....” (1990, 1994,1998)

March 24
Spiegelberg Stadium
Medford

Other League members attending included Judith Kurinsky, Kate Culbertson, and probably more!

Announcements

The Local Government Study group will be hosting Jackson County Administrator Danny Jordan to discuss our interview process and review our questions on one of the following tentative dates: April 9, 10, or May 1. The interview process is underway, and chair Barbara Klein has prepared a timeline agreed to by participants for completion around the end of the year.

April 12   Legislator District 6 Candidate Forum Medford City Council Chambers
April 19   Board Meeting  OEA Bldg
May 4      LWV Oregon State Council in Gold Beach [visit lwvor.org]
May 10     Annual Meeting in Grants Pass, Taprock Grill [see Registration & Menu insert.]
May 12     Garage Sale Fundraiser
June 5     Joint Committee on Student Success at Central High School (old South HS) Pawlowski Athletic Center 815 S. Oakdale 5pm–7pm hosted by Oregon Legislature as part of ten public hearings.
Natural Resources Action News

Shirley Weathers, Natural Resources/Climate Change Coordinator

**Juliana v. the United States** (AKA the federal Our Children’s Trust suit), is back on track to go to trial! In December, the Ninth Circuit Court heard oral arguments on the Trump Administration’s writ of mandamus, another legal maneuver to avoid facing the kids in court. Two weeks ago, the three-judge panel unanimously rejected the government’s petition. Although we may see more legal gymnastics by the Administration, we are now awaiting news of a new court date, perhaps this fall. Go to [ourchildrenstrust.org](http://ourchildrenstrust.org) for more information, including the amicus brief filed by the LWVUS and LWVOR.

Our **March General Session** focused on Round 3 of the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline project, the portion of the Jordan Cove Liquified Natural Gas Export project that would impact Jackson County. The Rogue Valley League has actively opposed the pipeline project since 2014 on the basis of national and state LWV positions. After a quick and creative description of the project via a video entitled “36 Inches,” affected landowner and activist Deb Evans provided an update of recent changes to the project. Then she and journalist Juliet Grabel shared the perspectives of individual landowners who have been resisting the pipeline crossing their land for 12 years. Hearing about the program, the Klamath County LWV invited Deb, Juliet, and me to share this message and updates on the regulatory process at a May 12 community meeting the League is sponsoring.

Also on the **Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline** issue, the public comment periods for various state and federal permits still have not begun. The delay is due primarily to determinations by agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and State Lands (DSL) that the proponent’s applications are incomplete. But no one doubts that the time to respond will eventually come. The new Canadian Company applicant, Pembina, has much deeper pockets than the previous one. They are being encouraged by the Trump Administration’s intensely pro-fossil fuel policy direction. Opposition is now statewide and several Tribal communities have joined forces. The LWVRV will submit comments, as will our neighboring Leagues immediately to the west and east of us. We will also urge individual members to weigh in, as well. We’ll need many voices.

We are continuing to investigate the London-based **coal bed methane (CBM) extraction project** in the Coos Bay. In the last month or so, at least Senator Dembrow, Representative Pam Marsh, and the Governor’s Office have been provided with information about the project. DEQ and Department of Gas and Mining Industries (DOGAMI) staff have made contact with Curzon Energy representatives and done site visits. DEQ and DOGAMI issued their own briefing paper and invite questions and comments from interested parties. At this writing, the company is reporting unimpressive gas flow rates at the first two of five existing wells, causing some to predict that commercial viability won’t result. If they were to decide to go to production, they will need several permits that would be time-consuming to obtain. However, Curzon is assuring investors that slow rates early on are normal and that they are on track for 2nd Quarter 2018 delivery of gas for sale. Given the extensive contribution such a project would make to GHG emissions, as well as the potential for water pollution and damage to aquifers and drinking water quality, we are watching its progress closely.
Central Point City Council  [Annie Tekaha]:

I attended the **March 8th, 2018** CP City Council meeting and there was a lot to absorb and learn. All council members and mayor were present, as well as representatives from various city departments. The agenda is provided beforehand on their web site, as well as minutes from previous meetings. As for up-to-date visual/audio presentations and on-line information..., everything was very professional.

Resolutions passed:
1. Discontinue sale of CP municipal water to commercial water providers once the Jackson County Water Sales Center is completed.
2. Urban growth plan approved.
3. Approval of a supplemental budget for one police officer position

Discussion concerning plans for a continued bike lane from Freeman Rd. to pass over I-5 at the CP Exit33; and potential issues/problems to be worked out concerning Country Crossing Music Festival (coming up in July).

Medford City Council Meeting,  [Observed by Rick Bennett]

**March 1, 2018**

Seven council members present (Berenson absent).

Agenda item 40.1, a public hearing (continued from March 1st council meeting) on ordinance to vacate an approximately 50 foot wide strip of public right-of-way, a portion of Evergreen Street running between 3rd and 4th Streets, was again continued to the March 15th council meeting.

Under Ordinances and Resolutions, the council considered amendment (Item 80.1) to Medford Municipal Code pertaining to interest on assessments related to the city’s foreclosure process. After much discussion and consideration of various motions, the council approved (6-1) a motion that gives the City Recorder the discretion to determine the interest rate on a case-by-case basis, from a complete elimination of interest to maintaining the current 6%.

Other items approved included: granted a public right-of-way easement to Pacific Power adjacent to Fire Station #3; awarded contract for alternative analysis and design of intersection improvements at Crater Lake Avenue and Owen Drive; and authorized execution of an amendment to the lease agreement with Jackson County for use of 6 acres for Public works operations.

For additional information on these and others reports, go to [http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Agendas.asp?AMID=7649&Display=Minutes](http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Agendas.asp?AMID=7649&Display=Minutes).
1. Update from USFS on projects in Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest - Donna Mackey, Siskiyou Mountains District Ranger

**Ashland Forestry All-Lands Restoration Project**: public/private partnership to reduce wildfire risk in Ashland watershed

- Encompasses 7,600 public acres plus 8,500 private/non-industrial acres
- Currently challenged by accumulating slash that can’t be burned consistently due to air quality regulations
- Private/public partnership has created social license for USFS to log in a community that has historically been opposed

**Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration**: USFS/BLM partnership to promote long term sustainability on 52K acres of public land

- D. Jordan noted that BLM has not met coordination and cooperation requirement with Jackson County; highlighted a history of BLM circumventing coordination and cooperation requirement
  
  *Note: federal law requires BLM coordination and cooperation with local governments which may be impacted by management plans*

- D. Mackey noted that all timber sales in her jurisdiction must be subsidized due to terrain and associated difficulty accessing trees

2. Discussion of **Survey Pertaining to New Jail**: Danny Jordan

Discussion re: status of criminal justice system and inadequacy of jail size relative to criminal justice activity in Jackson County

BoC agreed to proceed with a survey to gauge public appetite for funding construction and operation of a new jail, with estimated price tag of $100M to construct and an increase of $14M annually to operate

- BoC agreed to use estimates prepared by D. Jordan for initial survey versus hiring architects, etc. to generate firmer numbers
- Public surveys (re: library levies) have historically provided accurate information about potential for levy to pass

3. Discussion of the Oregon Industrial Site Re-Certification of Industrial Site No. 021-04

4. Discussion on Recommendations for Appointment of New Planning and Code Enforcement

**Hearings Officers**: Ted Zuk, Director, Developmental Services

- Presently three hearings officers, only one of whom hears planning cases (contract allows officers to opt out of planning hearings)

- County began seeking candidates in August 2017: **two candidates recommended** by interview panel (county counsel, developmental services, hearings officers)

- D. Jordan reminded BoC that hearings officers are recommended based on skill and experience to make neutral, unbiased decisions re: land use and code; **not political appointments** and therefore not interviewed by BoC

- C. Roberts noted that she still has misgivings about hearings process and repeated her opinion that code enforcement should occur in circuit court

Order to appoint the two candidates forthcoming
BoC Work Session March 6, 2018  (Absent: Colleen Roberts)

1. Discussion of Survey Pertaining to New Jail: Danny Jordan
   
   Initial public survey will cost $16K, reach 300 registered voters by telephone, include 25-30 questions, take roughly 10 minutes
   
   Second survey of 500 registered voters pending results of first survey

BoC Work Session March 13, 2018

1. Order Authorizing Management Agreement between Jackson Co. and Medford Drag Strip Order No. 54-18: D. Jordan recommends approval of five year lease

2. Discussion Regarding United States Forest Service Airtanker Base: Jerry Brienza, Airport Director
   
   Harvey Bragg provided historical context including review of 1996 proposal to close Medford airtanker base (in favor of maintaining Klamath Falls base) and subsequent (successful) efforts to keep Medford base operational
   
   Klamath County BoC beginning to promote investment in Klamath Falls base over Medford base; D. Jordan encouraged BoC to make a case for Medford base
   
   Emphasis on Medford’s infrastructural advantages including fuel storage capacity, passenger airline service and capacity to accommodate larger aircraft

3. Discussion of Errors and Controls over the Tax Certification Process in the Assessor’s Office: Dave Arrasmith, Jackson Co. Assessor; Shannon Bell, Jackson Co. Finance Director/Treasurer/Tax Collector
   
   D. Arrasmith certified 2017 tax roll despite two apparent errors:
   
   Verified levy for Fire District No. 4 at 9.9 cent tax per $1,000 versus the 99 cent per $1,000 tax approved by voters
   
   Incorrectly diverted urban renewal funds in Central Point
   
   Lengthy discussion to brief BoC re: ripple effects of the errors and the assessor’s efforts to correct them, including:
   
   Potential legal implications associated with Arrasmith’s “re-certification” of a new tax roll in an effort to correct errors
   
   Copious staff hours spent by tax collection office on corrections, fielding phone calls from tax payers, issuing new tax statements/refunds, etc.

BoC Work Session March 20, 2018

1. Briefing on the Medford Urban Renewal Agency (MURA) Substantial Amendment: Kelly Madding, Deputy City Manager, City of Medford
   
   MURA has proposed increasing max indebtedness by 20%
   
   Review of planned distribution of MURA funds with majority of planned spending in Liberty Park neighborhood (street improvements, sidewalk additions, updates to sewer main lines) and remaining money toward seismic retrofitting of downtown buildings to incentivize development of housing

2. Discussion on Displaying Board Recognition Awards
   
   BoC agreed to display newly received POW award in lobby vs. board conference room (where awards have historically been displayed)

   [continued]
BoC Work Session March 27, 2018

1. Discussion of Vacancy in the Legislative Assembly, State Senate District 1: Joel Benton, County Counsel

As one of five counties represented by Oregon Senate District 1, Jackson Co. will participate in electing replacement for Jeff Kruse (who resigned March 15)

According to statute, three nominees have been selected by District 1 Republican precinct committee members

Each Jackson Co. commissioner has one third of one vote (votes are proportional to registered voters with one commissioner vote per one thousand registered voters); voting will take place on April 9, 2018 in Roseburg or via phone

2. County Administrator’s Annual Performance Evaluation

BoC rated D. Jordan as Exceeds Expectation or Far Exceeds Expectations on all eight categories of job review including knowledge and skills, planning/organization, leadership, production, initiative, dependability, customer service and safety/health

Individual comments from BoC emphasized support and leadership skills consistently demonstrated by D. Jordan; R. Dyer specifically mentioned lack of coercion on D. Jordan’s behalf in response to potential public perception of same

D. Jordan complemented Jackson Co. staff including counsel, support staff and department heads who facilitate his work and make it possible to succeed

Observers Needed

LWV Rogue Valley member and Treasurer Rick Bennett will be joining the LWV Oregon Board of Directors this spring, and will attend the LWVUS National Convention in Chicago this summer. We wish him well in his new role. He will no longer be following the Medford City Council as an Observer. Rogue Valley members who would like to be part of the Observer Corp are encouraged to let the LWVRV Board know if they are interested in this position.

Annual LWVRV Garage Sale Fundraiser

May 12, 2018 Saturday

Drop off dates for all items big and small May 6-7-8.

394 Arnos, Talent OR 541 499 7742

At our last meeting May 10 in Grants Pass, bring only items in boxes (no large items)
LWVRV Annual Meeting Registration and Menu Choices
Thursday May 10 Taprock Grill, Grants Pass

Please mark the salad you would like and specify if you prefer Vegetarian. We are limited to 30 people for lunch so please return this form to the address below with payment of $19.00 by April 25, 2018.

All salads will have the dressing on the side and can be made vegetarian. Drinks will be coffee, iced tea, lemonade.

___ **BBQ Ranch Chicken Chopped Salad**  Vegetarian ______
Rotisserie-Style Chicken  Chopped Romaine  Avocado  Tillamook Cheddar Cheese  Black Beans  Tomatoes  Corn  Sliced Black Olives  Green Onion  Tortilla Strips  Onion Strings  BBQ Ranch Dressing

___ **Strawberry-Apple Poppyseed**  Vegetarian ______
Romaine and Radicchio  Fresh Strawberries  Apples  Char-Broiled Chicken  Rogue Creamery Blue Cheese Crumbles  Bacon  Oregon Hazelnuts  Poppyseed Dressing

___ **Salmon Caesar Salad**  Vegetarian ______
Hearts of Romaine  Parmesan Cheese  Garlic Croutons  Fillet of Wild Sockeye Salmon Caesar Dressing

___ **Dungeness Crab BLT Chopped Salad**  Vegetarian ______
Dungeness Crab  Chopped Romaine  Tomatoes  Avocado  Bacon  Hard-Boiled Egg  House-Made Seafood Dressing

___ **Savage Creek Cobb**  Vegetarian ______
Char-Broiled Chicken  Chopped Romaine  Bacon  Tomatoes  Olives  Avocado  Rogue Creamery Blue Cheese Crumbles  Hard-Boiled Egg  Dijon-vinaigrette Dressing

___ **Organic Greens with Smoked-Grilled Chicken**  Vegetarian ______
Smoke-Grilled Chicken Breast  Organic Baby Greens  Candied Oregon Hazelnuts  Sweet Cranberries  Granny Smith Apples  Rogue Creamery Blue Cheese Crumbles  Dijon Vinaigrette

Please mail with payment to  Jackie Clary  Questions?
253 SW Central Ave  Call 541-479-4486
Grants Pass, OR 97526

*Join us on the Rogue River*
Newsletter & Membership Notes

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

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

A VITAL MEMBER: NORMARY BARRETT --submitted by Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

I was born on the East coast on Long Island NY. After several relocations in my younger years my family moved to Santa Barbara CA. My parents were very politically-minded, and that is where the seeds of activism were nurtured in our family. During my college years at San Jose University I met my husband. I majored in Sociology and Psychology, which helped me during my jobs in Silicon Valley in Human Resources. I loved working there because of the diversity, and I made many friends that came from all over the world.

When I was a youngster, I learned that the women abolitionists believed that after the Thirteenth amendment was passed, they would have a good chance at securing voting rights. Sadly, it would take another fifty years of dedicated action. I remember the strong feeling of injustice. Another major influence in my political formation was learning about the relocation camps my husband grew up in as a child during WWII. Civil justice for minorities is very different than for the white majority in our country.

My husband and I have two daughters and two granddaughters. Our older granddaughter is at Tulane and has become a political activist. We are proud of our fourth generational feminist. For relaxation I teach water aerobics at the local YMCA and volunteer at Britt. Being a 20+ member of our League has been a great learning opportunity (plus one makes great friends!).

Normary Barrett, Voter Service Chair  Normary@grrtech.com

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________          Areas of Interest:
Address__________________________________________          ◇ Land Use Issues ◇ Local Government
City_____________________________________________          ◇ Education          ◇  Children at Risk
Zip__________________________ Phone_____________________          ◇ Election Issues ◇ Climate Change
Email__________________________________________          ◇ Transportation          ◇ National Issues
Single membership — $65.00   Spouse/student—$32.50          ◇ Observer Corps          ◇ Voters Service
May we publish your information in the LWV Directory?          ◇ Healthcare Issues
Y  N          ◇ Environment

Send check/application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford  OR  97501
# League Activities April 2018

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League of Women Voters
Rogue Valley
P.O. Box 8555
Medford Or 97501