



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



March 2005

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 13 Issue 6

League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

FUNDING OREGON: THE INS AND OUTS OF STATE FINANCE



**Where does the money come from? Where does the money go?
Changes in the system - Proposals for tax reform.**

Speakers:

Vicki Keeney, and Carol Ingelson,

board members of League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Thursday, March 10, 2005

at 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon

**@J.J. North's Restaurant— 1016 N. Riverside
Avenue, Medford, lunch available for \$7.25**

Don't miss the **DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE**, scheduled for **Wednesday, March 16, 2005**
For details please view page 3.



President's Message

Mrs. Dunbar Carpenter, president, inquired whether board members would prefer a longer board meeting...An agreement was reached alternating between day and evening meetings, with the day meetings to be held **all day.** - LWVRV Board minutes, June 16, 1959

We celebrated our 85th birthday quietly; however we received one gift: LWVRV minutes from 1951 to 1960! League was younger then - apparently with more stamina and ambition than we're exhibiting at our advanced age!

Our current board holds the meetings to 1-1/2 hours!

Excerpts follow:

Recommendation for a national study:

A study of U.S. fiscal policy with emphasis on the value of the dollar, the wage-price spiral, the national debt, subsidies, and the cost of government services.- Nov. 1959

Economics professor Howard Hogg speaking to a general meeting on Aid to Emerging Nations:

Because living standards in some countries are so low, for instance Arabia, Jordan and Bolivia's per capita income is less than \$55, aid should be given for purely humanitarian reasons, although this is hard to justify in our present policy of giving aid to countries strategically important to us. - Dec., 1959

Dr. Kenneth Baker, VP of KBES TV:

Are our elections too old-fashioned? The expense is fantastic. There is an indifference on the part of the people." - 1960 Annual Meeting

Sound familiar? The same issues that grip us today are apparently endemic. This makes the League's mission and methods doubly vital today.

May we not grow weary in well-doing.

Eileen Adee , 773-4450

Note: Esther Rabchuk, LWVRV president 1989-92, cleaned out her closet and mailed these minutes to Joan Rogers.

LOCAL LEAGUE LEADERS...

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| OFFICERS: | Eileen Adee <i>President</i> | 773-4450 |
| | Margaret Keene <i>1st Vice President</i> margaret2@postmaster.co.uk | 826-6911 |
| | Carol Ingelson <i>2nd Vice President—P.R.</i> ingrich2@aol.com | 773-3204 |
| | Trish Bowcock <i>Secretary</i> trishbowcock@charter.net | 899-9557 |
| | Cynthia Lora <i>Treasurer</i> | 776-3361 |
| DIRECTORS: | Robin Stroh <i>Voter Service</i> dst1949@aol.com | 779-8117 |
| | Joan Rogers <i>Program Arrangements/Observers</i> rogers4290@aol.com | 772-4290 |
| | Kathleen Donham <i>Grapefruits</i> KDonham2@msn.com | 772-5044 |
| | Vicki Keeney <i>Observers</i> vickee@medford.net | 664-3029 |
| OFF BOARD: | <i>Membership Committee:</i> Mary Carlon m1234c@cdsnet.net | 858-4585 |
| | Mickey Ketchum mketchum@aol.com | 773-2968 |
| | Marcia Smith <i>Bulletin Mailing</i> donhos2@charter.net | 779-7650 |
| | Jean Milgram <i>County Government</i> jmilgramrvm@charter.net | 857-6453 |
| | Helen Scholom <i>Voters Voice Editor/ Webmaster</i> helenpeace@juno.com | 535-8983 |
| | <i>Nominating Committee:</i> Nancy Swan fnswan@mac.com | 770-1689 |
| | Normary Barrett normary@grtech.com | 772-7127 |
| | Jeanne Gang Agnes Chirgwin chirgwins@uci.net | 773-1567 773-3234 |
| | LWV of Oregon Salem, OR 97302 lwwor@lwwor.org / www.lwwor.org | (503) 581-5722 |

Web Site
Address:
www.lwvr.org

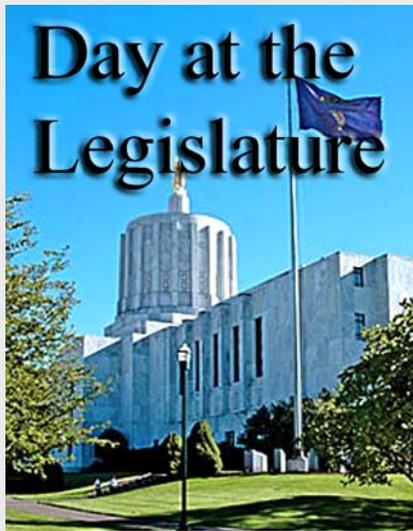
LWVRV Voice
Mail:
(541) 245-6920

February Membership Meeting Summary By Trish Bowcock

The cost of waging a winning political campaign in Oregon continues to skyrocket. Candidates must solicit contributions from interests they will ultimately legislate. Lobbyists, wealthy individuals and organizations give political money to gain access. The system is broken and desperately needs to be fixed. Campaign finance reform leading to clean elections is a top priority for LWV and was the topic at February's General Meeting.

According to Sarah Weatherson, Research and Outreach Associate for Money in Politics Research Action Project (MiPRAP), 91% of the higher spending candidates running for legislative office in 2004 won their race. The message is clear: Big Money wins. There are only six states in America that do not have laws limiting campaign contributions. Oregon is one of them, stated Salvador Peralta with Democracy's Edge.

LWVOR, MiPRAP, Democracy's Edge and others have united resources to formulate viable legislation for reforming the system. The ultimate goal is clean money and clean elections. The first step toward achieving that goal is passage of a constitutional amendment allowing contribution limits.



A Day at the Legislature is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, at the Capitol.

All members are encouraged to attend to

- Learn about the League's legislative priorities
- Lobby your legislator
- Network with other Leaguers
- More!

A program information/sign-up sheet is inserted in this VV issue. Deadline for sign-up is March 9, 2005.

Put the date on your calendar and check with Kathleen Donham, 772-5044, for carpooling.

By Eileen Adee

WANTED:

Applicants for Jackson County Natural Resources Advisory Committee. 14 to 19 members meet once a month to advise Commissioners on management of forests, range lands, mines, and waterways.

Pick up application at Commissioners' Office at the Court House.



OBSERVERS REPORT

by John Ramsey

**January 4, 2005
County Board of
Commissioners
Working Meeting**



This meeting was devoted to Measure 37 discussion. Jack Walker, Dave Gilmour and CW Smith and key county legal and planning staff attended.

It was pointed out that most Oregon counties are moving less aggressively than Jackson. Those other counties appear to be primarily driven by concerns for lawsuits from both claimants and unhappy neighbors and expected court rulings on the early claim dispositions.

The specific focus of this meeting was on development of a county ordinance for processing claims.

Lengthy discussion was held on whether to charge for filing. The majority of the board favored no charge if the claim is approved and a processing charge of \$44 per hour if the claim is considered not valid. There was also discussion on the county's responsibility to notify the state of claims filed. The BoC decided to put a note on the application form advising potential claimants to check with the state on their obligations to file with it. The BoC expects to formally approve the ordinance within the next two weeks.

This was my sixth time to observe an M37 meeting in the last few months. There is clearly a strong appetite by the majority of the new BoC to move out on disposition of claims without open hearings. Despite numerous warnings from county counsel on potential pitfalls they are proceeding aggressively.

**January 14, 2005 County Board of
Commissioners Working Meeting**
Jackson County Board of Commissioners (BoC) Working Meeting was attended by Jack Walker, Dave Gilmour and CW Smith.

Much of today's meeting time was allocated to executive session, observers not allowed. The main topic of the open part of the meeting was Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) management in general and Medford and Jacksonville specifically. County staff and representatives from these cities want to be in sync with the new BoC.

The Medford issues discussed were the desire of some companies in the UGB but not annexed to retain that status. Also potential residential owners in the UGB but not annexed may want to be to get city services such as water. Smith voiced concern that Boise, Bear Creek and Timber Products would not like Medford taxes.

Jacksonville issues were the city's desire to annex more land because it is about out of room to grow. Walker was concerned with traffic movement through the city since the city doesn't have a specific plan for a bypass. Smith voiced concern that the Quarry Road intersection needs to be improved to allow for significant traffic flow to the new four wheel drive area.

A more comprehensive discussion will be scheduled for the near future.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (UNA):

**The Roles of the United Nations in
Africa and Latin America
Speaker: Joseph Friedman**

**Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 3 PM at the
Medford Public Library**

Joseph Friedman is a current worker for the United Nations Development Program in South Africa, Botswana, Senegal, Gambia, Ethiopia, and Cuba.

For more information please contact
Selma McAlaster, president UNA @482-9646



from LWV of Oregon Board Reports

By Margaret Noel, LWVOR State President
mrgtnoel@earthlink.net

The New Year brings a lot of challenges for Oregon and America. Our Action Committee is already hard at work monitoring the Legislature. I have been introducing myself to legislators, giving them copies of the *Funding Oregon* report. **Please encourage your interested members to help out our Action Committee by volunteering to monitor one of the legislative committee from home on their computers or by coming to Salem.** Our Day at the Legislature will be March 16: this will be a good opportunity for members to learn about the issues and to lobby their representatives. I also encourage you and your members to subscribe to our Legislative Report, which we are redesigning for this session. It is full of important news about state issues that will affect all of us. (Contact address: LWV of Oregon, lwvor@lwvor.org for on-line copy, or call 503-581-5722).

By Marge Easley, LWVOR Board, Action
marge.easley@verizon.net

We applaud Paula Krane’s and **Jean Milgram’s** recent efforts on behalf of citizen access to the legislative process, and we’re very pleased by the positive response by the press. As you might expect, Measure 37 issues have also been a priority. As more and more claims are filed, it becomes clearer that many voters didn’t truly understand its broader land use implications. Liz Frenkel (lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com), our Natural Resources Coordinator, is encouraging you to give her names of those who will experience negative impacts from Measure 37 or those who voted for it and now regret that decision. The next *Voter* will have more information about these efforts. Remember that action is one of the best ways to keep your members involved, and we would love to have more input from local Leagues as the session progresses.



2004/05 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Give a copy of this to a prospective member or send the person’s name to the address below

Send this application with \$24.50 (spouse/student \$12.25) for 1/2 of 2004-2005 membership to:



**LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501**

For more information call Mickey Ketchum,
Membership Committee, at 773-2968

March 2005 Calendar

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday | March 1 | 6 PM | Rogue Valley Women's Alliance Annual Networking Dinner "Women in the Visual Arts" - contact Jan Waitt at 482-8249 |
| Thursday | March 3 | 10:00 AM | LWV of Ashland Board Meeting, for info call Vanya Sloan at 482-4544 |
| Thursday | March 10 | 11:30 AM - 1 PM | LWVRV General Meeting: Funding Oregon The Ins and Outs of State Finance @ J.J. North's Restaurant—Riverside Ave., Medford |
| Tuesday | March 15 | 11:30AM - 1PM | LWVRV Board meeting at Eileen's home |
| Wednes- day | March 16 | 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM | Day at the Legislature in Salem - contact Kathleen Donham @772-5044 for carpooling - see insert for program and sign up - sign up deadline March 9 |
| Thursday | March 17 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM | LWV of Ashland General Meeting: State Budget, Local Im- pact @ Ashland Elks Lodge, for details please call Kate Cul- bertson at 488-8693 |
| Monday | April 4 | | LWVOR Convention Registration Deadline |

