League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- LWVRV general meeting, Oct. 13. Learn to be an informed voter
- Great Decisions foreign affairs study group returns
- Tutoring and Citizenship Programs helps America gain one citizen

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASHLAND NEWSLETTER INCLUDED**

**Be An Informed Voter**

At our October meeting, League members will be presenting LWVOR’s position on pending 2006 ballot measures.

Please join us and learn:

*What does LWVOR believe?*

Thursday, October 13, 2006
Red Lion Hotel, 200 North Riverside—Medford
11:30am — Buffet lunch, $14.00
12:00 NOON—1:00 FORUM

*Why does LWVOR believe it?*

What’s the color of the sun on the outside? What’s red, juicy and has pits on the inside? **IT’S TIME FOR THE GRAPEFRUIT SALE**

This is the League’s yearly fund raiser. We hope you’ll participate.

More information to follow next month.

Lorraine Werblow, Chairperson of Grapefruits (what a title!), 245-3641

**It is LWV Membership Time**

Tear off the application on page 7 if you are joining the Rogue Valley Branch (Medford) and mail to:

LWVRV
Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501.

Please do it today so you don’t miss out on LWV activities. Thankfully, so far 35 members have rejoined. We have 40 more to go.

Mail in your membership TODAY!

If you are joining the Ashland Branch, use the Blue Application.

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*
I recently attended a Jackson County Board of Commissioners meeting on a proposed revision to rural-use zoning. The huge audience was cautioned that testimony would be limited to addressing scrivener’s errors. Instead, citizens were allowed to freely express their views in an amazing diversity of styles and opinions. The outcome wasn’t changed by the testimony. The commissioners voted 2/1 to allow increased rural density. But, the hearing was interesting and a good example of citizen involvement.

As people testified, I watched the Planning Department director roll her eyes or nod her head depending upon the testimony. I heard judgmental comments whispered about the room. I wished that people could be more respectful and was reminded of a course I took when training to become a mediator. One of our first assignments was a two-part multiple-choice written exam. The first part explored how one would react in a large variety of situations. The second part asked the same questions, but added some stressful element… Would you react differently under stress?

The two sections of the test were scored separately and each section assigned a number value that was translated into one of three colors: blue, green or red. We were given two colored sticky dots that were placed on our nametag … labeled for the entire week! A blue dot indicated a slow very methodical and open processing mode. Greens were more private but also cautious and slow. Reds were quick to conclude. No manner of processing was considered superior to another… just different. This labeling forced us to acknowledge that there are different ways of thinking and to learn to listen to others with patience. A Blue thinking person may judge a Red, for a failure to think things through. A Red thinking person might blast a Blue for being too slow-witted. What I learned in that class is that if we acknowledge the differences, let go of the judging and really listen, we will find that our minds open up a bit.

True citizen involvement in the governmental process includes a governing body that actually listens to everyone, not just those who share the same thoughts. And, in case you were wondering, I’m a double Red.

LWVRV will be sponsoring a Great Decisions foreign affairs study group. It will be held in the Central Medford Library the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month January through May of 2007. The first meeting will be January 12, 2007 It will be in the morning from 10:15 until 11:45 in the Adams room.

The co-leaders are Margaret Keene at 826-6911 and Eileen Adee at 773-4450.

President’s Message

Trish

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Medford, OR 97501

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www.lwrvr.org
Downtown Medford was the place to be on Friday evening, September 15! The new organic restaurant is open six nights a week, and the third Friday Art Walk offered a variety of media and styles created by local artists. To top off the evening, the Medford Market steering committee previewed a new film for the public at the new library.

**THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN** takes us inside the lives, loves, liabilities, losses, and loveliness of a Midwest family farm. Because his mom had an 8 mm. camera; and, because as college students, he and his friends were “into” film, much of Farmer John’s life is documented. Narrated and interpreted by John himself, the film depicts the 50-year saga of a commodity (corn, wheat, soybeans) farmer becoming an organic vegetable farmer, financed by GSA (community—supported agriculture).

This is of interest to League members, because we support preserving farm and forest land, protecting air and water quality, buying locally and cutting transportation distance, while promoting an environmentally-sound local business economy. For me, John’s quirky experiences ring true. Nearly every turnaround and new beginning reflects something that has happened within my Kansas family of farmers since 1950.

Be there the next time Farmer John comes to town!

For information, click on:  
www.realdirt.org    medfordmarket@hotmail.com  

Eileen Adee

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**Land Use Issues in Jackson County**

JC County Commissioners passed the Rural Use Ordinance September 20th in a 2-1 vote after limiting the hearing to text corrections much to the disappointment of the public testifiers. The ordinance will take effect in 60 days. Eligible parcels have been identified by the county and the findings indicate these include farms and vineyards in the Sams Valley, Eastern slopes of Bear Creek Valley and the Jacksonville area, including the vineyard on Bellinger Hill. Subdivision and development of these parcels must prove their land is non-farmable with the help of a unscrupulous soil scientist.

A project to solve where do the valley cities grow in the next 50 years to accommodate twice the population (RPS) wants your input to a survey on the RVCOG website: rvcog.org (click on NowX2 icon). Info on RPS is listed on the left such as maps and population data to click on. The survey icon is on the lower right. The survey also asks for ranking the 50-year growth areas, which can be found on maps of each city designating growth areas numerically. They ask you to rank these for most or least desirable to include in the overall plan. My suggestions are the following order for most desirable: PH3, MD8, TA1, CP6A, EP2, and JK8, since they are committed to development, while the least desirable are: JK10, MD4, CP4D, PH9, Tolo area including CP1B and TA4, since commercial farming would be effected. You may have your own concerns or ideas of which are desirable or not.

Envision Oregon is coming to Medford October 26 at Red Lion Hotel for a town hall discussion of what we care about, our vision for the future and how to help make Oregon a great place to live for us and future generations. A light supper will be served beginning at 5pm. Join other Southern Oregonians for a free event by signing up at www.envisionoregon.org or phoning 503-497-1000. This event is co-sponsored by the Oregon and Rogue Valley LWV, along with others, such as 1000 Friends, Harry & David, SOU, etc. A state Task Force on Land Use Planning has been appointed to take a “Big Look” at our future. Oregonians should expect the Task Force to ask citizens about the future we want for a better Oregon. Your input and participation is vital in this process.

Porter and Corinne Lombard are members of Rogue Valley LWV.
Why the Red Lion Hotel?

To all our members,

The LWVRV Board would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in our choice of a "new home" for our monthly general meetings. When JJ North’s closed, we were confronted with a meeting site challenge. We chose the Red Lion Hotel because of their willingness to provide an excellent meeting facility along with a decent lunch. Please keep in mind that the price of the lunch includes full service, a quality meeting room and state-of-the-art audio-video equipment. Having the hotel provide everything frees us up to do what we do best, which is voter education. We will continue to provide quality programming as well as limited seating for those who prefer to “opt out” of the lunch.

Kudos to Joan Rogers, our Program Arrangements Chair, for exploring the myriad of suggested possibilities!

Land Use Planning – As We Grow ****Your opinion matters

Current plans for development and growth in Jackson County are underway in a process called Regional Problem Solving to “…direct the future of land use in the Greater Bear Creek Valley [and] establish a long-range plan for the wise stewardship of what has historically made the valley an attractive place to live, while also providing for a rational and beneficial pattern of growth.”

You can voice your opinion on how we should grow by filling out the survey at www.rvcog.org (click "NowX2") and by attending this citizen input meeting.

Envision Oregon

October 26, 2006, 5:30 – 8:45 p.m., Medford Red Lion, 200 N. Riverside

Recently an official statewide committee, called the “Big Look” was formed to review and make recommendations to the Oregon Governor and legislature on the continued viability of Oregon’s land use laws. Envision Oregon is holding forums across the state to compile recommendations from everyday Oregonians to provide to the Big Look committee.

If you want your voice to be included in the discussion, plan on attending. To pre-register or obtain more information, go to www.envisionoregon.org or call Greg Holmes at (541) 474-1155.

The League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley supports Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines … These goals provide overall planning standards and establish the framework for land use planning programs of all governmental agencies and bodies in the state.

For more information on our position go to www.lwrv.org

GOOD NEWS! WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT FELISA BAEZ, ONE OF THE STUDENTS IN OUR RECENTLY DISCONTINUED TUTORING FOR CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM, HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PROGRAM AND PASSED THE CITIZENSHIP TEST. HER TUTOR WAS BARBARA HOPFINGER. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF THEM!
Friday, October 6  10 AM Speakers Bureau Meeting at Nancy Swan's 2299 Fairfield, Medford

Tuesday, Oct. 10 10AM at the OEA offices 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford  (Trish Bowock)  
OEA Election '06 Forum and presentation of ballot measures - presentations by OEA, AARP and LWVRV

Thursday,, Oct. 12 LWVRV luncheon - Ballot Measures (Speakers Bureau panel)

Wednesday, Oct. 18  7 PM  Phoenix Candidates Fair at Bear Lake Estates Community Center - local and county candidates 
(Moderator Cathy deWolfe, Timer Trish Bowcock)

Thursday, Oct. 19 6:30 PM Talent Community Center - Talent City Candidates Forum 
(Moderator Agnes Chirgwin, Timer Nancy Swan)

Thursday, Oct. 19 7PM RV Manor  - Ballot Measures (Jean Milgram & Lois VanderPloeg)

Saturday, Oct. 21 10AM - 1PM Community Room, Central Library - Medford Candidates Fair - US Congress, State Legislature, Jackson County, Circuit Court and Medford City  co-sponsored by Medford AAUW and LWV of Ashland (Nancy Swan, coord.)

Monday, October 23 Noon    Red Lion  Rotary—Ballot Measures

Thursday, Oct. 26  2:30 PM Fountain Plaza

***************COME TO THE CANDIDATES FAIR***************

Community Room Central Library, Medford

10AM - 1PM     Saturday, October 21st

All League members are encouraged to come to the Candidates Fair and bring your friends and neighbors!! 31 Candidates ranging from US Congress, Oregon Legislature, Jackson County positions, Circuit Court and Medford City have been invited,... We need to get the word out and bring people to the Fair. Have you taken some flyers to distribute and put up?? Do you know some students or teachers? - Encourage them to talk it up with their classes.

We need League members to arrive at 9am to help set-up and "man" the doors and talk with the candidates. (Since the library doesn't open until noon, League members MUST be at/guard the doors until then to let people in. Clean-up after 1pm will be fast.) Thank goodness AAUWMedford and LWVAshland are co-sponsoring.  Please call Nancy at 770-16889  to volunteer.

########SPEAKERS BUREAU########

We need you to help by volunteering to speak OR check with your groups to see if any want us to speak.

This year there are ten initiative petitions which have made it to the ballot. As you know, the League has positions on most of them. The Speakers Bureau, however, goes to groups and presents the pros and cons of all measures impartially to encourage voter understanding. The LWVOR sends a Speakers Bureau kit to us, so that we can see the wording and background of each measure and the arguments on both sides of each issue. We will have a training meeting on Oct. 6th and will be presenting to our LWVRV Meeting on the 12th. Speakers will also carry copies of the LWVOR Voters Guide to the meetings.

Call Nancy at 770-16889

>>>>>>VOTERS GUIDE>>>>>>>>>

The Voters Guides will arrive in early October to be distributed. Trish has placed our order and will work with the newspaper. If you can help Trish and Nancy pick them up and distribute them to RCC, high schools, the library, etc. please call and volunteer. We will have copies for members at the meeting on the 12th.

(Please remember to thank Shiena for all of her efforts helping get the Guide compiled and edited.)
September’s LWVRV luncheon meeting launched our general election cycle with the first of what promises to be a great Voter Services season. On September 14th, approximately 45 members and guests listened to candidates for Jackson County Commissioner, Sheriff and County Clerk answer questions and each explained why they were the most qualified to serve. Invited were candidates for Jackson County Commissioner Position 1: Jack Walker, Tom Winmill and Diane Davidson; Candidates for Position 2: Dave Gilmour and Craig Prewitt; Sheriff: Mike Winters and Tim George; and County Clerk: Kathy Beckett. All attended, except Commissioner Gilmour, who was in Washington D.C. working on federal funding, and Mike Winters. Commissioner Gilmour sent a statement. Although expected, Sheriff Winters did not attend nor did he provide a statement.

A panel of LWVRV members prepared questions, which were not released to the candidates in advance. Robin Swan served as the moderator. County Commissioner candidates were asked their views on: (1) rural development, (2) funding “life quality” services in Jackson County, (3) allowing voters to decide whether 3 commissioners or 5 would be preferable; and (4) whether the public should be allowed to watch commissioners deliberate Measure 37 claims. The candidate’s answers varied greatly. Jack Walker and Craig Prewitt favor more rural development. Diane Davidson and Tom Winmill cautioned restraint. All believed that county services, such as the libraries, ought to have funding. Walker and Prewitt opposed allowing an initiative that would let voters decide whether there should be 3 or 5 county commissioners. Davidson and Prewitt supported the notion. Winmill and Davidson believed that government meetings ought to be open to the public, while Prewitt and Walker voiced concerns about allowing members of the public to watch Measure 37 deliberations.

Tim George, Sheriff’s candidate, had the floor to himself as he urged greater cooperation between law enforcement divisions and expressed grave concerns about ensuring adequate space in Jackson County jails to avoid early release. He also stressed the fact he would serve in a leadership role as Sheriff, rather than as a “road deputy.”

Kathy Beckett, who is running unopposed for County Clerk, explained the strains that the new federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) have placed on her office and the challenges she has faced as they phase in the requirements of the new law. She stressed her desire to run an efficient office and praised her long-term employees. She urged everyone to make sure their voter information is correct, not waiting until the last minute to do this. “There aren’t any lines now, but will be as election day nears,” she stated.

Many thanks to Nancy Swan, for organizing this event and to Robin Swan for her even-handed moderator skills! If you missed this one, you can catch these candidates and more at the Candidates Fair on October 21st (details elsewhere in this bulletin).

Trish Bowcock

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions, a foreign policy discussion group, will begin holding meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, starting in January and continuing through May. They will be held at the Medford Library, 10:15—11:45, and non-League members are welcome. More information to follow.

LWV is the organization where your hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to tangible civic improvement.
In early 2006, I interviewed troubled youth and officials, in both law enforcement and social services, for the Homeless/Runaway Youth committee. Through this and another League committee I learned I enjoy doing interviews and then writing reports.

In early April, I saw an ad in my local newspaper for a part-time reporter. My experience in League got me the job.

Recently, while covering a Shady Cove City Council meeting I learned a councilwoman had become a foster parent for the 34th time. The subject interested me because of the youth study. I wrote a story on the councilor and then a story on "regular" foster parents.

Through interviews, I realized a large percentage of children in the system are from "meth" parents and I began talking to women who are, or have been, addicted to meth. What I heard was shocking and graphic and I have had to clean it up somewhat for my family-oriented newspaper. And “meth” is just the "tip of the iceberg."

Writing these type stories is an eye-opener and it can be depressing at times. But fortunately, there are "happy" stories too. Obviously, LWVRV has had a significant impact in my life.

Margaret Bradburn

Question of the Month

Who said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich"?

Answer: John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

2006 / 2007 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley Membership Application

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________ City: ____________________________
Zip: ____________ Phone: ____________________________ e-mail: __________________________

Make out a check for Year Dues $56. Spouse dues $28 and include Application.

☐ Land Use Planning
☐ Election Issues
☐ Local Government
☐ Health Issues
☐ Transportation
☐ National Issues
☐ Children at Risk
☐ Other (list):
☐ Education
<table>
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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>8:30—11:30am</td>
<td>Homeless Task Force meeting, Medford Library. Free admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>State Ballot Measures Presentation &amp; General Meeting</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>10:15—11:45am</td>
<td>Board Meeting, Central Library, Adams Room</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Talent, LWVRV will moderate a Talent Candidates Forum</td>
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<td>Meet the Candidates, Community Room, Medford Library</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>ELECTION DAY</td>
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