



TAKE NOTE



Learn about Privatization, the topic for our April meeting. See p.7

INSIDE THE COVER

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Includes items like 'General Meeting/ Save the Date' (p. 1), 'President's Corner/ League Leaders' (p. 2), etc.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Medford Library, Carpenter room at noon, March 8, 2012

Voters Education will be the topic for our League meeting this month. To prepare for the May 15th primary we have invited speakers to cover the pros and cons of our two Jackson County Charter Amendments on the May ballot:

- 15-110 Charter Amendment to Declare County Policy Opposing Statewide Land-Use Planning,
15-111 Charter Amendment to Establish County Policy Limiting Local Land-Use Regulations

How would passing these two amendment to our county charter effect land use planning and regulations in our future?

Please join us in learning more about this important topic. As always our meeting are open to the public and we encourage you to bring a friend.

To read additional information on these two amendments go to the Jackson County website, click on Primary Elections - May 15, 2012.

Save the Date graphic for LWVRV Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, May 10, 2012. Includes a calendar icon and the text 'Details to Follow'.

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.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

~Barbara Davidson

March is here and that means that our Oregon Primary election is not far away-May 15. Now is the time to take note of positions to be filled and issues to be acted upon. Enter your local and state League of Women Voters!! We do that! We make information available on the issues so that citizens can make informed and educated decisions when they complete their ballots. Depending on the race and number of candidates, we hold Candidate Forums so that citizens have a chance to get better acquainted with the candidates. Sometimes our programs deal with an issue which may not be on the ballot at the next election, but it could have an impact in our lives and is something about which citizens need to be cognizant.

Some dates to put on your calendar now:

March 8 - Review of two Land-use measures which will be on Jackson County ballot, meeting to be at Medford Library, Carpenter Room, noon

April 12 - Review of national League study of Privatization at 11:30, OEA Building, 2495 S Pacific Hwy, Medford

An extremely informative panel of speakers focusing on Children at Risk occurred Thursday, February 9. The LWVRV represents Jackson and Josephine counties. We appreciate you as a member, and fully understand that you are very busy. However, we feel that we are not reaching you or not extending the appropriate incentives. In other words, what can we do to get you to attend our informational programs? Different times? Different locations? Different topics? We are anxious to hear from you as to your desires. We anticipate doing a survey in the future, but for now, I would appreciate hearing from you by email or phone or normal mail: your comments and/or areas of interest.

1546 Roberts Rd, Medford Or 97504, ph 541-245-2729, cell 541-601-1471

As elections near, be aware of Vote 411, an electronic resource for voter information. *See p.7*

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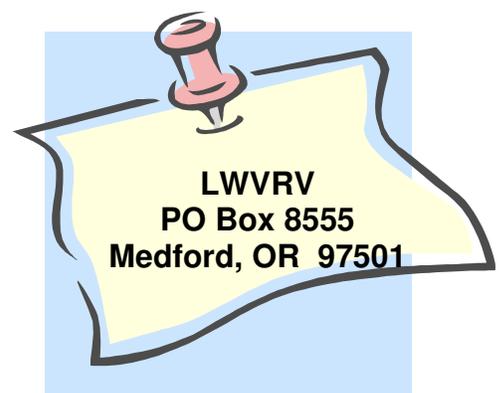
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<http://lwvroguevalley.org>

# LWVRV's BOARD MINUTES EXCERPTS

FROM LWVRV BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

The LWVRV Board met on February 21, 2012, at the Medford Heights Townhouse Clubhouse, Medford. In President's Remarks, Barbara gave the First Call to State Council to be in Eugene, May 11-12. Eileen Adee will speak for LWVRV in support of the proposed expanded bus service at the RVTD hearing on February 22. Her testimony will come from LWVRV's position on Transportation.

Voters Service: Mary Sinclair, a member of the LWVOR Board, gave an update on the VOTE411 project she has been developing for LWVOR. Jackson County is the model she is using for the rest of the state. VOTE411 will provide on-line voter information for offices from County level through state-wide races.

March Program: Normary Barrett, Voters Services Chair, will arrange the March 8 program meeting for LWVRV, Medford Library, noon. The topic will be the two Charter Amendments regarding land-use planning that will be on the May 15<sup>th</sup> primary ballot. She expects to have 2 or more speakers to cover the pro and con of each measure.

LWVUS Privatization Study: Iris Milan is overseeing this study/consensus process and has a committee working with her, studying different aspects of the project as provided by the National study. Members include Agnes Chirgwin, Eileen Adee, Lorraine Werblow, Carole Levi, and Gretchen Hamilton. The issue of privatization will be the topic of our April 12 program meeting.

The Annual Meeting for the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley will be a luncheon on May 10. Carole Levi and Lorraine Werblow will assist Joan Rogers, Arrangements Chair, in securing a location and a speaker or program. Member packets need to be mailed 30 days prior to Annual Meeting, which means Nominating Committee and Budget Committees will need to have their reports ready by the end of March.

Membership: Cynthia Lora reported 64 current members, including five honorary women, and provided an updated membership list. Again, the need for a brochure to promote League membership was discussed. LWVUS is no longer printing the form we have used and that form is copyrighted. Cynthia will check with LWVUS before we make our own copies.

Nominating Committee: Agnes Chirgwin, Chair, and Lorraine Werblow, Carol Ingelson, and Carole Levi are in need of an off-board member as they seek a slate of officers for the next term.

Attendance at League programs: Lorraine asked for a discussion of low meeting attendance and possible remedies ensued. Iris mentioned "SurveyMonkey.Com" as a technology tool we might want to use to get feedback from our League members.

The next LWVRV Board meeting will be March 20, 1:30 pm, at the Medford Heights Townhouse Assoc. Clubhouse.

Notes taken by Normary Barrett, Secretary pro tem. \* Excerpts compiled by Barbara Davidson

# FIRST CALL TO COUNCIL, 2012

## Theme: "A Century of Women's Suffrage in Oregon"

Council is the biennial state meeting of the League of Women Voters, held on alternate years to the state Convention. First Call is issued so local Leagues can begin to plan and discuss matters that should be presented at Council.

The 2012 Council will be held **Friday and Saturday, May 11-12, 2012**, at the **Phoenix Inn in Eugene**. Early arrivals on Thursday, May 10 may participate in a dine-around that evening. Council will begin with an optional leadership workshop at 11 am, a luncheon and guest speakers at noon and the opening of Council at 1:30 on Friday. Council will adjourn around 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. League of Women Voters of Lane County will host.

Although our League is usually authorized to send 2 delegates, there is no restriction on the number of members who may register and attend the Council as Observers. It is an excellent way to get better acquainted with other state members and get more details on the State League. If anyone is interested in attending, please check the State League website for registration information or email [lwvor@lwvor.org](mailto:lwvor@lwvor.org), or check with our local League officers to see who is going if you are interested in carpooling.

## FEBRUARY LWVRV in PICTURES



## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE for PEACE

Suzia Aufderhide, a RVLWV member, is attending a Conference at the United Nations. at the end of Feb. and early March. She is representing the Women's International League for Peace. The Study entitled: Shortchanging Women: How the U.S. Economic Policy Impacts Women Worldwide will be a focus of the Conference. The LWVUS co-authored the study. There is a PDF file attached to this email which includes the study. . We hope Suzia will share what transpired at the Conference when she returns.

# UNITED NATIONS/USA

- *Russy D. Sumariwalla*

## UN Women – One Year Later

This brief article is excerpted from a speech by UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, Madame Michelle Bachelet, on the first anniversary of the creation of a new department – UN Women – consolidating various UN programs focused on improving the well-being and empowerment of women and children on earth. She presented six priorities for 2012

♦Advancing women’s political participation and leadership.

“Women’s full and equal participation in the political arena is fundamental to democracy and justice, which people are demanding. When the protests erupted in Tunisia and Tahrir Square, UN Women responded immediately—by providing support for women’s participation in constitutional reform, elections and political transition.... UN Women supported the establishment of the Egyptian Women’s Union, an association of 500 groups, and facilitated the formulation of their demands in the Egyptian Women’s Charter...we are providing \$4.8 million dollars through the Gender Equality Fund to advance women’s empowerment in the Arab world...”

“In 2011, UN Women provided support to more than 25 countries, to candidates, political parties, voters, electoral commissions and legislative efforts to ensure that more women vote and get elected.”

“In 2012, UN Women will support women’s movements in 52 countries for women’s leadership. We will work with parliaments in 20 countries to amend laws to include gender equality. We will organize training sessions in 38 countries along with meetings for parliamentary and legislative techniques to advance women’s political participation.”

“We will support training for women candidates in 27 countries. And we will support reforms of electoral laws in 39 countries to facilitate the inclusion of women in elections as voters and candidates.” Other priorities include:

- ♦Improving women’s economic empowerment...
- ♦Ending violence against women and girls...
- ♦Expanding the role of women in peace talks, peace-building, and recovery....
- ♦Making budgets and plans that benefit women and men equally. ..
- ♦Increasing coordination and accountability across the UN system for gender equality...

“UN Women has been called by governments to lead, coordinate and enhance the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

“A system-wide action plan is now prepared that will provide us with a stronger foundation than ever before for promoting gender mainstreaming and accountability within the UN system.” Madame Bachelet spells out each of the above six priorities with specific action programs for 2012.

## CHILDREN at RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The LWVRV Board agreed to update our position on Children at Risk since the State League is updating theirs. Our work began with a panel of speakers but we have other agency heads and sources to review. If you are interested in Children at Risk and what is happening in Jackson/Josephine County, please let me know. We can use people with a little time or lots of time, people with computer skills, and people who like to talk to others. I would like to have a meeting with members who are interested in working on this study by March 15. Please let me know if you are interested ASAP.

Barbara Davidson, 541-245-2729 or [barbdav@charter.net](mailto:barbdav@charter.net)

# LWVRV ACTION

~Eileen Adee

With President Barbara Davidson's permission, Eileen testified as a representative of the LWVRV at the RVTD's public hearing on February 22, 2012. The topic was the possibility of extending transit service to evenings and Saturdays.

If you are interested in seeing what the LWVRV's position on this issue is, please refer to the LWVRV's *Member Handbook*, p.42. Eileen added that, therefore, the LWVRV supports the expansion of transit services.

After a vote was taken, the motion was passed.

LWVRV



BOOK CLUB

*"You cannot open a book without learning something." -Confucius*

March 2, *The Key to Rebecca* by Ken Follett at the home of Carole Levi, 541-664-9943

April 20, *The Woman Who Heard Color* by Kelly Jones at the home of Agnes Chirgwin, 541-773-3234      May 4, *Little X*, by Sonsyrea Tate Montgomery at the home of Mary Sinclair, 541-772-2372

June 1, *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand at the home of Lorraine Werblow, 541-245-3641

You are cordially invited to join our *League's Lively Literary Group*. We enjoy stimulating discussion of the book read and segues to related topics, and not-so-related topics. We meet on the first Friday of each month, at our club members' homes. If you are interested, please contact Carole Levi, 541-664-9943, for more information and addresses of hosts.

## Register to Vote or Make Corrections On-line!

**Deadline to register for the primary election: April 24**

If you're not registered, do it now. If you've moved, you need to re-register to vote and update your mailing address. Do it now on-line! Simply click on <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do>, have your Oregon Driver's License handy, and 5 minutes from now, you cross this "to do" off your list!





It's coming....

The last week of March, the League of Women Voters of Oregon and every local League will launch the 2012 Voters' Guide on Vote411.org . We should have all of the races down to County Commissioner in every County of the state and additional races at the local level. Join the fun, volunteer to help. Contact Mary Sinclair at [m.sinclair@lwvor.org](mailto:m.sinclair@lwvor.org)

## LWVRV April 12th Concensus Meeting

~Iris Milan

To learn about Privatization and its effect on your life, join us.. Details to follow in the April *Voters Voice*.

Since the 1970's, there has been much deregulation of private industry, as well as, a trend to transfer many governmental services, assets and functions previously fulfilled by the Federal, State and Local governments, to private industry. This activity is referred to as Privatization. The purpose of our study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in the transfers. What are the goals and how is the community impacted? What strategies can be identified to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good?

Privatization can range from a simple contract with a private vendor to the sale of a public asset, such as the sale or lease of toll roads, lotteries or utilities. Governments have often turned to privatization due to cost concerns, a need for greater expertise, a time constraint, to transfer risk, or a need for a new revenue source.

An article about the Ryan Plan which came before Congress in 2011 explains the proposal for privatizing Social Security and Medicare. It will be sent out to our members in the April Newsletter as a PDF file. On the local level, we will also be looking at our County Libraries and what Privatization has accomplished and why it was necessary

## LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**HALF-PRICE  
DUES!!!**

2011/2012 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

### *Membership Application*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make out a check for \$28 for half-year dues from February 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012. Spouse dues are \$16 and should be included with an Application.

Send to Box 8555, Medford 97501

Check which of the following about which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting. List as many as applicable.

- Land Use Planning
- Local Government
- Transportation
- Children at Risk
- Education
- Election issues
- Health issues
- Environment
- National issues

Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

March

LWVRV Calendar

2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
			1	2 LWVRV book club, s see p.6	3/4
5	6	7	8 LWVRV General Meeting, see p. 1	9	10/11 Daylight Savings time begins
12	13	14	15	16	17/18 St. Patrick's Day
19	20 First day of spring LWVRV board meeting	21	22	23	24/25
26	27	28	29	30	31



March 8 - Review of two Land-use measures which will be on Jackson County ballot, meeting to be at Medford Library, Carpenter Room, noon

April 12 - Review of national League study of Privatization

May 10 - Annual meeting and luncheon

May 15 - Primary election.