APRIL GENERAL MEETING

PRIVATIZATION of GOVERNMENT: SERVICES, ASSETS AND FUNCTIONS

The LWVRV general meeting will be held on April 12th at the OEA building, 2495 S. Pacific Highway, Medford. The Grange and the OEA building are on the same side of the street, across from Harry & David’s Rose Garden. The catered buffet luncheon, costing $12.50 per person, will include two hot entrees, salad, rolls, dessert and coffee and tea. Please call Joan Rogers at 1-541 704 5344, frogers4290@aol.com for reservations by April 7th and bring your payment to the meeting. We must order at least 20 meals. Bring your friends to this informative meeting. This will be an early meeting, with lunch and the meeting beginning at 11:30. See p. 6 for complete details.

This is the last issue of the Voters Voice until September 2012. Next month, in lieu of the May issue, every LWVRV member will be receiving, via the USPS, a packet, including complete information on the Annual Meeting. Have a great summer and see you in September!

~Carole Levi, Voters Voice Editor

LWVRV Annual Meeting
and Luncheon
Thursday, May 10, 2012.
Annual Meeting Packet to arrive in early April, containing full details.

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.
Dear League Members,

First and most important, I need to express my gratitude to each and every Board and Off Board member (see the list of officers and leaders in the newsletter) plus other members— all pitched in and helped so generously and so capably during the last two years when I had to help my daughter and her family as they dealt with pregnancy and breast cancer simultaneously while maintaining a stable home life for their 4-year old. My last President’s Message for this term!! It hardly seems possible—the time has gone by so quickly.

Our last program meeting for this term will be April 12 and focuses on the National League’s study of Privatization. Iris Milan is chairing this program with the help of a committee of four and they have put in many hours reading and researching material sent from National as well as exploring implications or activity in our region. A special lunch is planned, and we hope many of you will take this opportunity to find out more about the topic of privatization and how it could impact our lives. Please see more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

And thoughts of next year bring me to this special appeal. If you are receiving this newsletter, ask yourself if you have attended any of the programs offered in the last year?? If you value the League’s concern for education and advocacy and citizen participation, could you contribute a few hours to help with League activities? Or maybe you could share a little of your time to take a position of leadership in the League?? Our Nominating Committee called on many of our members but were unable to get a person to agree to serve as President. Our local League has so many capable members who pitch in to get the job done. You are not expected to do everything as President. We could also use another person or two to complete the slate of officers. And it isn’t too late to just volunteer to be part of an Observer Corps for some of the city and county government meetings—an excellent way to be informed. Please give it some thought and consider joining a most amazing group of women who work hard but have fun, too.

continued on p.3
This May will complete a year of activity as a consolidated League representing all of Jackson and Josephine counties. While we have made a good start, we look forward to increased membership and participation from citizens in the areas of Ashland, Phoenix and Talent as well as all the other towns in Jackson County and from Josephine County. Now is certainly a time to encourage and promote citizen involvement in our communities. Please join us!!

This is the last newsletter before fall, so a thank you to all, again, and best wishes for a wonderful summer and safe travels.

**LWVRV’s March 20, 2012 BOARD MINUTES EXCERPTS**

Medford Heights Townhouse Assoc. Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood, Medford OR 97504

**Call to Order:** at 1:30 pm by President Barbara Davidson

Present: Normary Barrett, Willie Bijon, Agnes Chirgwin, Barbara Davidson, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Cynthia Lora, Iris Milan, Shiena Polehn, Joan Rogers, Nancy Swan

**Approval of Minutes:** minutes approved as written

**Treasurer’s Report:** Willie Bijon

**Voters Voice:** Carole Levi – deadline Friday 3/23/12

**Children’s at Risk study: local and state** (state will meet 3/27)

Need for a chair for Jackson County – AAUW has a meeting on this topic at the Medford Library 9:30 am on 4/7/12.

**LWVRV Annual Meeting May 10, 2012**

Location – Red Lion; luncheon $15 charge (rest paid by the League) M/S/P

Program – Judy McGarvey of Old Town Fiddlers ($75 donation) M/S/P

Nominating Committee – Agnes Chirgwin gave the report and slate.

By-Laws – to be presented by Vanya Sloan

Annual Meeting packet to be printed and sent.

**By-law Changes:** President Barbara Davidson left for an appointment and Iris Milan chaired the discussion on by-law changes concerning administration of the LWVRV. A copy of the 3 proposed changes was sent to the board members for their approval.

- **Enumeration of Officers:** The officers of the LWVRV shall be a president or co-presidents, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. In the absence of a president or co-presidents, an executive committee will hold the office of president.

- **Executive Committee:** The board of directors may appoint an executive committee which shall consist of no fewer than 3 members. The executive committee shall be comprised of at least 2 board members and another as designated by the board. The executive committee shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of president and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

- **The past president** is to be an ex-officio member of the Board the year after she serves as President in order to preserve continuity and help the new president or executive committee.
INVITATION to MEMBERS

The Medford branch of AAUW (University Women) is inviting LWVRV members to a meeting honoring three women, Rita Sullivan, DeeAnne Everson and Mary-Curtis Gramley for their work leading non-profit agencies which help local children and their families. The topic is “Services for Kids in Crisis” which should be of great interest to those members of the League preparing for a study “Children at Risk”. Our own Mickey Ketchum will be the moderator – it will be so good to see her again.

This event is on Saturday, April 7 at 9:30a.m. (social time) and program 10-11:00am in the Medford Public Library, Community Room. Parking is free across from the library and behind it on Saturdays. The back door closes at 10:00 a.m.

Hope to see some of you there, Shiena Polehn LVWRV, AAUW.

BOARD MINUTES EXCERPTS, continued from p. 3

Voter Service: Normary reported a possible Candidate’s Fair in September. Election Forum – possibly in October.

April 12th LWVRV Program: LWVUS Privatization Consensus: - Iris Milan
Location: OAE Building – 2495 S. Pacific Hwy. Medford 97504
Catered luncheon by Quality Catering (Café Dejeuner) -$12.65
Need a minimum of 25 – suggested each League member try to bring one other person.
Lunch buffet and meeting begin at 11:30; Timer – Nancy Swan, Publicity – Normary Barrett, Overhead for consensus questions– Iris Milan

Adjournment: 3:40

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary

MARCH LWVRV in PICTURES see article, p.8
Forfeit American Leadership at the UN at our Own Peril

The following statement [slightly modified by me] was put out by The United Nations Foundation for public information purposes:

"After more than two decades of congressional controversy over the payment of U.S. contributions to the UN regular budget, peacekeeping, and UN specialized agencies and voluntary programs, the United States in recent years has fully funded its commitments to the United Nations system. In FY 2012, for example, Congress provided over $3 billion to UN peacekeeping and the UN regular budget as well as other UN specialized agencies and voluntary programs, such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the UN Population Fund. However, growing concerns over the size of the federal budget deficit, combined with a less than clear sense among most Members of Congress about the full scope and effectiveness of the UN’s activities around the world and/or their relevance to US national security, will likely lead some on Capitol Hill to propose ways to reduce our commitments to the UN.

As the U.S. is the UN’s largest contributor, Congressional funding shortfalls will significantly impact the UN’s ability to carry out its operations. At a time when the United States and United Nations are working together to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges—from the humanitarian needs of survivors of devastating earthquakes in Japan and Haiti, to political crises and violence in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Afghanistan—it is more important than ever that the U.S. maintains its longstanding commitment to global leadership and engagement by continuing to fully fund the UN.”

If you – readers of Voters Voice – agree with the above statement would you kindly consider spreading the word. Specific accomplishments of the UN will be provided in future issues of VV.

~Russy D. Sumariwalla, Advocacy Co-Chair, UNA-USA Southern Oregon. www.unausa.org/join

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members BRAND NEW to LWV of the Rogue Valley are Gretchen King of Ashland, C J Lipski of Talent and Wendy Wiedenman of Eagle Point.

“Introducing NEW LWVRV Member” articles re Gretchen and C J for our September/October issue of Voters Voice; in THIS issue we introduce:

First time Member - to any League of Women Voters—WENDY WIEDENMAN

Wendy attributes her recent interest in joining LWV as she has moved/transitioned from a career of supporting people with disabilities to one of supporting elders and, that she would like to become an advocate for elders and others who may be among the vulnerable. Born and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Wendy graduated from South Dakota State University and obtained her Masters Degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota. She notes having enjoyed living and working in several different areas of the United States since that time, often among a diverse populace that included Native Americans and/or Cambodian refugees.
Consensus Meeting on LWVUS Study:

**PRIVATIZATION of GOVERNMENT: SERVICES, ASSETS AND FUNCTIONS**

at Oregon Education Association, HWY 99 across from Grange Co-Op. Lunch and working meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. See p. 1 for details.

According to the LWVUS website:

“Privatization is a movement to deregulate private industry and transfer many government services, assets and functions to the private sector.”

Will Privatization reduce costs and create more efficiency?

or

Will Privatization cause less accountability and transparency, endanger the public safety, lower wages, cut jobs and increase corruption?

**Be Prepared**

We are sending you the information in 2 PDF files and one Word file which you need only double click to open. For those of you who do not have a printer or want a hard copy before the meeting, we have printed extra copies. To obtain copies in Ashland, contact Iris Milan: 541-488-9493 or in Medford: Normary: 541-772-7127.

The topic may be new to you as it was to many of us, and the material is packed with information. Try to read through it at least once before the meeting.

In the pages you received The LWVUS has provided a history and background of privatization, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing are also provided.

*continued on p. 7*
As a League of Women Voter’s member and citizen, Privatization is an important issue upon which you will want to be informed. We hope you will join us for the discussion and consensus, however, please read the material even if you cannot be at the meeting.

Come with your questions and concerns for a lively exchange. We will also share information we have gained on how the collaboration of the County Library System and the private company, LSSI, is working out.

The LWVRV Privatization Committee

Iris Milan, chair

Eileen Adee, Carole Levi, Gretchen King

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

*At the May 4th LWVRV Book Club meeting, we shall be having either a conference or Skype call with Sonsyrea Montgomery Tate, author of Little X. It should be a very interesting conversation, as we discuss her book and she answers questions we may have regarding the book or her as an author. Everyone is welcome to attend this unusually-formatted meeting.
This is our League summary from the speakers’ presentation:

**15-110 Charter Amendment to Declare County Policy Opposing Statewide Land-Use Planning**

This Charter amendment would establish a new Jackson County policy regarding land-use laws and would include the following provisions:

- An historical view of state and local land-use laws;
- Statements in opposition to current statewide land-use laws;
- A statement that state law ought not to preempt local authority in land-use matters absent a compelling reason to protect the public from serious risk to health or safety, and only by legislation narrowly tailored to achieve those ends;
- A directive that Jackson County annually invite state legislators to assist in the adoption and implementation of a local control policy;
- A severability clause if any provision of the Act is held to be unconstitutional.

**Argument for**: to establish a policy that the county will first look to the needs of Jackson County before imposing the “one size fits all” centralized state land-use regulations. Also, a ‘yes’ vote would send a message to legislators to consider some changes.

**Argument against**: Jackson County, along with all other counties in Oregon, must comply with statewide land-use laws; therefore, cannot have total local control. Counties are given some leeway; recently, Jackson County adopted a 50-year plan.

**15-111 Charter Amendment to Establish County Policy Limiting Local Land-Use Regulations**

This Charter amendment would establish and implement a Jackson County policy limiting the ability of the County to enact or enforce certain new land-use regulations unless compensation is paid to the property owner and would include the following provisions:

- A procedure for a property owner to claim compensation and a definition of just compensation;
- A statement that just compensation is measured by diminution in fair market value as a result of a land-use regulation;
- A listing of exceptions to which the Act shall not apply;
- A statement that the Act is intended to protect rights established by Measure 37.

**Argument for**: this will amend the county charter to reflect the strong support for private property rights expressed by Jackson County voters and provide that Jackson County will honor the relief granted by the Measure 37 orders; it will restore the protections of Measure 37 in the future.

**Argument against**: Measure 37 was poorly written and Measure 49 was passed overwhelmingly. The County cannot go against Measure 49 (to actively violate state law). No financial allocation is made for litigation costs.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS STATE POSITIONS**

**Statewide Planning** - Support the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) as the statewide planning agency.

- Support the 19 state-wide land-use goals. Support policies that promote both conservation and development of land as a natural resource in accordance with Oregon’s land-use goals.

**Regional and Urban Growth** - Support a system of local government based upon constitutional home
rule for metropolitan districts, counties and cities. Recognizes certain principles of good, local government. 1) Democratic representation and control. 2) Basic simplicity with power to plan for future growth or change. 3) Consideration of the interdependence of land use, transportation and environmental quality in all comprehensive plans. Support the establishment of a regional government in an area where planning and delivery of services can be more efficiently and economically provided by such a government.

Candidates Needed for the LWVOR Board

We are so lucky to have a strong current Board with the leadership continuing on through next year. There are people willing to serve in all the officers’ spots for 2012-2013. However, we need new Board members willing to take on Membership, Voter Service and Development positions. The Membership position will be backed up by an Oregon team trained by LWVUS. There is already an experienced Voter Service co-chair for next year. There is a Development Committee in place to advise and assist a Development person. We know it is difficult to loan your hard-working members to a larger cause; but remember the LWVOR Board supports and represents all of our members around the state.

Please contact Lorie James @503-638-3207 or email latjames@comcast.net with suggestions for the above three positions.

Thank you very much, Lorie James, Nominating Committee Chair

League of Women Voters of Oregon and League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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)_________________________________
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April 12 - Review of national League study of Privatization
May 10 - Annual meeting and luncheon
May 15 - Primary election.