League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

LEAGUE ASKS for UPDATE on
PARKING SITUATION in MEDFORD

Unclear on where to park in Medford? Which areas require payment? What hours apply for pay to park? What is next regarding parking in downtown Medford?

Lynette O’Neal, Assistant to Medford Deputy City Manager, and an authority on parking regulations in Medford will discuss parking on Thursday, March 14, Noon to 1 p.m. at the Medford Library main meeting room.

She will review past history, recent actions, and some potential future issues.

A member of the Medford Parking Commission Board will be present with Ms. O’Neal, and they will report on the composition of the Parking Commission Board, its meeting schedule, and procedures they follow as parking issues arise.

The meeting room is available at 11:30 a.m. for those who want to bring a brown bag lunch. The public is invited. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Please call 541-245-6920 or 541-488-9493 if there are questions.

LWVRV Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2013
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.
Our Feb. meeting on the Global Economy, co-sponsored with OLLI, was an experience that I hoped all our members could have shared with Professor James Moore, professor from University of the Pacific. And head of the McCall Center. We want to thank Lorraine Werblow who invited Prof. Moore, to speak in Medford. Thanks also go to Virginia Heenan, the OLLI Liaison, who was most valuable in helping to publicize, take reservations, and set up the room. We thank Professor Moore for coming from Northern Oregon and standing in the long line at the parking machine, patiently waiting, as we seniors tried to figure out how to put in the required information and money. We are thankful for the RCC/SOU students who showed us how to figure out the process. Well, maybe they just showed us what to do. (For more detailed parking instructions, see Shiena’s article, page 4).

Our next meeting on March. 14 at the Medford Library at 12:00, noon, including an optional brown bag lunch at 11:30am, is on a timely topic: Medford Parking. How does it work? What are the recent changes? Does it meet the needs of residents and visitors from out of town, the students at RCC and SOU? What do the merchants have to say? We will hear some members of the Medford Parking Commission speak and answer questions. The public is invited.

In April, we are proud to spotlight our local study, *Children at Risk in Jackson and Josephine Counties*, presented by Shiena Polehn and her committee who interviewed children’s service organizations, public and private, to learn what they provided for children at risk. Although originally a State League Study, the leadership of the study was unable to carry through with it for the entire State, the LWVRV, under the leadership of Shiena and her troops, continued. The League Consensus process follows the presentation of the study. Members will have received and read the report prior to the meeting. They will discuss related questions complied by the committee which will lead to

(continued on p. 3)
consensus, that is a general agreement on what we would like to see improved. The Consensus is then written into policy statements at a meeting of the original committee. Our League is then empowered to appear before local agencies who make policies concerning this population and state our position. To help us broaden our perspective our State League President, Robin Wisdom, will share information on what is happening in the present session of the State Legislature. There is also action within the Governor’s office with attempts to reorganize or consolidate some of the programs and agencies dealing with children and youth. LWVRV members have been sent the Oregon League Legislative Report via e-mail. Please check the report for bills that involve Children and Youth.

I am most excited that last summer Lorraine Werblow and I attended a Membership and Leadership Development workshop. The National League is aware, as the famous folk song states, “The Times, they are a changin’” between when women won the vote in 1919 and the League’s recent 90th birthday. Communication isn’t primarily through written reports. We have League Facebook, Twitter, webinars, e-mail, conference calls, and SKYPE. League members need to be able to use these means of communication to reach younger men and women and be part of the action. The question also arises, “We know the League is involved in educating the electorate about elections, holding candidates forums, and encouraging voter registration, but why should I join the LWV? What difference is it going to make in my life?

I am going to end my article with a few questions for you, our members to consider. Please think about them and dialogue with me in an e-mail, irismil@charter.net or by telephone, 541-951-3533.

* What adjectives would you use to describe a thriving organization?
* What do you look for in an organization before you join or give your time?
* What attracts you to particular group or organization and moves you to action with them?
* What keeps you with that organization (after the honeymoon)?
* Does the League have these elements?
* If not, how do we get them? If so, how are we showcasing them?
* In either case, what opportunities does the annual meeting offer?

Let me assure you that we care and wish to keep the LWVRV viable. We have many strategies and new practices that could vitalize our group. With your involvement, we can have fun in the process. You will be hearing more about Membership and Leadership Development. We invite you to join us. Would you like to be a member of this exciting committee?
AAUW—Women in Politics

Several LWVRV members, along with a large diverse group of women and men, attended AAUW Ashland Chapter’s community forum on “Women in Politics: Electing Women to Public Office” February 9th. The meeting opened with highlights of the uphill battles of several female US Senate candidates, all who ultimately prevailed in the 2012 election.

A panel discussion followed with Ashland City Councilor Carol Voisin, a LWVRV member,, Josephine County Commissioner Cheryl Walker, and former Oregon 2nd Congressional District Candidate Joyce Segers. The panel recounted their personal experiences as candidates for governmental offices. All agreed that a candidate first needs to want to win the office she is running for, in other words the “fire in the belly”. Fundraising is an important factor but all stressed it should not stop a woman running for office. The last election proved that some female candidates won despite their opponents having more campaign funds. Panel members talked about a candidate being knowledgeable about the campaign issues and to make sure that in any debate format she is asked the same questions as her male opponents.

Other practical information included having a strong support group of family/friends, a simple wardrobe complete with COMFORTABLE shoes, and hopefully having a volunteer who can pitch in with household obligations while the candidate is campaigning (this means you, partners).

The meeting closed with AAUW members sharing information of local, state, and national organizations that are specifically intended to help get more women elected to office. Organizations like http://www.emergeor.org/ are committed to helping more Oregon women candidates get elected.

Attendees left the meeting with the knowledge that running for office is very doable and we now have more tools than ever to run for office. Now we just need the candidates. How about you?

~Diane Shockley

UNSURE HOW to PARK in DOWNTOWN MEDFORD?

Planning on parking in the Downtown area of Medford? You'll find the blue "plate" machines in places like the library parking lot. The plate does not refer to your best dishes but your car's license plate number !!

If you're like me and don't remember it for sure, write it on a card to be kept in your car or purse. Only quarters or credit cards are accepted in the machine. It's 50¢ an hour . You can alternatively use a credit card but that becomes more complicated. Find where you want to park, walk over to the parking machine and type in your license plate number and put in your quarters. Your information will be recorded for the parking attendant to peruse and there's no paper receipt you have to display on the dashboard. If your car is locked, you're done and off you go !! You'll feel like a winner - you won the parking battle. Good luck!

~Shiena Polehn
Dear members, we had a very productive board meeting this morning and we have some exciting and worthwhile programs planned for you. Of course, good programs and events usually cost money and we brainstormed some good ideas. Here are a few:

1. A leader who enjoys raising money and being creative.

2. Possibly a co-leader to make it easier - and fun !!!

3. Splitting it into smaller tasks - for instance if we sell the grapefruit again three or more people cut take a small part each. Carol Ingelson has already promised to handle the money yet again, thank you Carol. That would leave some one to supervise sales and some one to be in charge of delivery and pick up.

4. Do grapefruits and also something different - an idea you've had that worked.

and so on. We'll guarantee you plenty of help, just come up with the ideas and supervision.

Get it touch with any board members - I'm only the typist !

~ Shiena Polehn

“You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result.” ~Mahatma Gandhi.

Please join us for stimulating conversation, book reviews and just plain camaraderie. All members are welcome.

March 21, 2013 10am at the home of Barb Beaupain, 541-734-5793. The topic is a book on any First Lady.

April 18, 2013 10am at the home of Iris Milan, 541-897-0406. The book to be read is about any famous woman in politics.

May 16, 2013 The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, 10am at the home of Agnes Chirgwin, 541-773-3234.

June 20, 2013 10am at the home of TBD. The book to be read is Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger.
On April 11, we will welcome our State president, Robin Wisdom, from Roseburg. She will give us an update on League affairs, especially on Early Childhood Education and Children at Risk matters. You are all aware that our branch has completed our local study on this topic. Shiena Polehn, who has chaired this committee, will give you a brief run down on the 14 agencies we studied. You’ll be surprised and I think, pleased by the achievements of these agencies helping local children at risk and their families.

Robin will help us through the consensus process, the results of which will help us write our position statement. Your important part is to read the study and the consensus questions which will come to most of you by e-mail, in two separate mailings. Those without computers will receive them by mail.

Finally we want you at the meeting on Thursday, April 11, at 11:30am at the OEA building. Joan Rogers will be ordering a delicious catered lunch and she will be in touch nearer the time. The meeting will end with the introduction of our hard working Children at Risk Committee members who interviewed agency representatives. They did a fine job, and we should acknowledge their achievements.

Thank you for supporting the League of Women Voters, Rogue Valley.

~Shiena Polehn

The Rogue Valley LWV fundraiser will be flowers this spring. Using the supplier Flower Power®, the flowers will be shipped later this spring after orders are collected in late March. Send order to forms to Kathleen Donham in Medford, 3776 Devils Garden Drive 97504 (541-772-5044, email KDonham@gmail.com). If you need a brochure, contact Kathleen. Be sure to include $5 to pay for shipping. Please contribute to this fundraiser for the important work of the League. Many thanks to Carolyn Wilhite for arranging this opportunity and good wishes to her in recovery from surgery.

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. It is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The theme for 2013 is: Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Click on the U. S. Census Bureau’s website, http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts, for interesting facts about women in the United States.
LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2012/2013 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name____________________________________________
Address:_________________________City:______________
Zip________Phone _______________      e-mail_________________________

Single membership    —  $56.00          Spouse membership  —  $28.00            Full-time Student— $28.00

*May we publish the above information in our LWVRV Membership Directory? *  Y   N

Check all areas below in which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting:

☐  Land use planning.  ☐  Local Government  ☐  Transportation
☐  Children at Risk     ☐  Education     ☐  Election Issues
☐  Health Issues      ☐  Environment    ☐  National Issues
☐  Observer Corps      ☐  Other_______

Please send your completed membership application, along with your check, to:

LWVRV, P.O. Box 8555, Medford, OR, 97501
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May 9 Annual Meeting Luncheon