HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

A unique program, "CALL THE MIDWIVES" with a seasonal flavor, is being offered to our members on Thursday, December 11th from 11:30a.m. to 1:00pm at the OEA Building, 2495 South Pacific Highway, Medford. In keeping with the League's interest in women and children's health and a tradition of helping the needy in the festive season, we have invited two or three nurse-midwives of La Clinica to explain their new program of caring for new mothers, babies and all members of the family (their new Centering program).

We're asking you to bring some holiday foods to share and also a gift for the new born babies and/or the new mothers. Some suggestions are new baby clothes, blankets, toilet articles and diapers. For the mothers, perhaps scarves, purses, a book and/or something cheerful. Let's keep up our well-known reputation for interest in the community and generosity to the needy. Thank you, ladies.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Our League looks forward to the New Year with our Program Planning meeting January 8 which sets our areas of emphasis and commitment for 2015-2016. The meeting involves a review of our positions and entertains proposals for new areas of study for the coming year. Potential studies could include an analysis of the new Library District Board, or a revisiting of our Jackson County Government position from 1999. Alternatively, we could become more involved in the Oregon state study of Post-secondary Higher Education, which will be ready for review in 2016. These are only a few possibilities—please share your own priorities.

You will be receiving survey material in the mail which I urge you to return in order to prepare us for that very informative January meeting.
PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

I hope you will be able to attend the December 11 program featuring “Call the Midwives” by La Clinica. Our new Jackson County Health & Human Services building in downtown Medford will house La Clinica, as well as other social services. Such an arrangement was what our League’s 2011 DHSS study envisioned when we advocated for consolidation of services. It all makes so much sense, particularly now that the ACA [Obamacare] can be integrated into other social programs.

I also encourage you to review the Observer Corps reports for this month. In light of the lack of attendance by Commissioner Briedenthal over the past year, the League is concerned about continuity of leadership with two new Commissioners joining the Board of Commissioners in January. Commissioner Breidenthal is the new BOC Chair, but he is also attempting to attend national meetings to address forest issues.

Membership Chair, Normary Barrett, arranged a well-attended New Member Tea in November to greet our ten new members. I am so pleased to welcome so many talented and community-minded individuals—they will have a red-ribbon on their nametag—please welcome each one.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

LEAGUE LEADERS

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Kathleen Donham, President
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Marylou Schnoes, Vice President
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Carol Ingelson, Secretary
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Diane Shockey, Treasurer
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Nominating Committee
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Carole Levi, nomcom@lwvroguevalley.org
Joan Rogers, nomcom@lwvroguevalley.org
Judith Kurinsky, nomcom@lwvroguevalley.org
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Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the OEA Building, 2495 S. Pacific Highway, Medford
Present: Olena Black, Jackie Clary, Kathleen Donham, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Susan Orth, Shiena Polehn, Joan Rogers, Marylou Schnoes

**Approval of Minutes** for 10/14/2014: approved as written.

**Treasurer’s Report** – As of 10/31/2014: Checking: $3,074.32; Money Market: $11,492.59

**Fundraising:** Lorraine Werblow will bring samples from Pete’s Gourmet Confections to the New Members Tea on Thursday 11/20/14. Information and order forms have been given to all LWVRV members and Olena will put on website.

**Library District/November 13, 2014 general meeting**
Suggested that League meetings be put on OLLI calendars

(Carole Levi)

**December 11, 2014 general meeting:** 11:30-1:00 at OEA Bldg.
Topic: women and children’s health issues – Shiena Polehn. Up to 5 speakers (LaClinica, plus). Members are asked to bring unwrapped gifts such as clothes for newborns and items for new mothers. Refreshments will be available.
Advertise on website and Mail Tribune.

**Membership:** Normary Barrett, chair, sent an email including information on new members. Current membership is 68.
Discussion of Membership Tea at OEA building, November 20, 2014, 10am to 12 noon.

**Nominating Committee:** Carole Levi reported on the committee’s preparations to complete a slate of officers for the 2015-16 year. Major open positions are that of president and secretary. Co-chairing of positions should be considered. A suggestion was made an adopted that the position of Corresponding Secretary be added.

**Voters Service:** Susan Orth reported on making presentations in April 2015 concerning voter registration, mainly at Central High School in Medford. Joan Amaritti has volunteered to assist.

**Newsletter:** Carole Levi reported the deadline for this double December/January issue will be Saturday, November 22, 2014.

**Observer Corps:** Susan Orth reports that the Observer Corps volunteer base has become more active. All meetings are covered. Information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

**Old Business:** Booklet, “What’s What in Jackson County,” should possibly be expanded to include Josephine County and be called “What’s What in the Rogue Valley.”

**New Business:** Jackie Clary reported on the State study of Children a Risk, to be ready in March 2015 with the April meeting for consensus questions. The State League is looking at Phase 2: “Raising of America” a video to pull together all organizations to communicate and coordinate with each other.

**Future General Meetings:**

December 11, 2014 - Women/Children issue: La Clinica (Shiena Polehn)
January 8, 2015 - Program Planning
February 12, 2015 - Agricultural Network (Kathleen Donham)
March 12, 2015- Climate Change (Alan Journet)
April 9, 2015 — Concensus Children at Risk study
May 14, 2015 - Annual Meeting

Adjournment—11:20am

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary
The Nominating committee has been actively meeting since September. In addition to clarifying the job descriptions and responsibilities of the officers and committees, we helped Normary plan and execute the New Member Tea. It was exciting to see that we have increased our membership with 20 new members in the last two years. Two were rejoining and two joined in 2013. Two elected members of our committee, Debra Har and Judith Kurinsky, were new members, last year. Their enthusiasm and work ethic have made the work of our committee easier. Debra came up with the idea to make baskets. At the November meeting, there was a drawing from the names of the new members, for the first basket. In December, there will be drawings for three more baskets. One will be for anyone who has signed up for a committee for next year. The other two will be for Board Members and those who have served on committees or have been a chair person during this year. You need to be present to put your name in for the drawing.

Debra and Judith also offered to help Lorraine with Fundraising projects. They have ideas for fundraisers other than the candy. More to come about that later.

Sign-up sheets for the following committees will be available at the December meeting. Members who have worked on the committees will be there to answer questions about the following committees.

- Voters Service – Susan Orth
- Action – Diane Shockey
- Observer Corps – Joyce Chapman, Susan Orth
- Publicity – Kathleen Donham
- Fundraising – Lorraine Werblow
- Membership – Normary Barrett
- Budget – Diane, Kathleen
- Speakers Bureau – Kathleen Donham, Nancy Swan
- Hospitality – Shiena Polehn
- Arrangements for Meeting – Joan Rogers

We also have openings for the offices of: President, 2nd Vice – President and Secretary. What qualified members would you like to see fill these offices? Are there others whom you would like to see join League and are good leaders? Please send us their names or call Iris, Carole, Joan, Judith or Debra and tell us about your choice.

Timeline for the 2015-16 LWVRV slate of officers:

- January – begin interviewing candidates for Officers and Board
- February – finalize the slate
- March – present the slate to the Board
- April 1: final slate must be in Normary’s hands to present to the printer; mail out to members one month before Annual meeting
- May 14 Annual meeting

Our new members have red ribbons on their name tags. Those present at the November meeting were asked to give a little history about themselves. We are indeed fortunate to have these incredible women join our League community. Shiena will begin featuring them in the Voters Voice. However, I wouldn’t wait until you read about them in print. Introduce yourself to the red-ribbon women at each meeting. You will make them feel welcome and most likely, you will make a new and interesting friend.

~ Iris Milan, Nominating Committee Chair
NEW MEMBERS’ TEA in PICTURES

LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our newest members:

Carol Doty
Tricia Hahn
Susan Roberts
Dee Watts

NEW MEMBER TEA

Last month many of us gathered to welcome our new members to our League. We were fortunate that our State League president, Robin Wisdom, was able to join us. Both Robin and Kathleen gave presentations on how the LWV operates and its guiding principles. Members had the opportunity to learn about our committees that are critical to our success.

A numbers of our members volunteered to make this a special event. Shiena Polehn, guided us on how to have proper tea. Our nominating committee assisted with making our Tea a fun occasion. Debra Har created a beautiful basket of tea goodies that was won by a new member. In addition, our board members prepared some delicious treats and Lorraine was able to offer us delicious samples from our candy fundraiser.

Thanks to all of you who made this a fun and educational event. I am hoping that many new friendships were created at the Tea. (See p.9 for pictures)

PROPOSED LWVRV STUDY

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley is undertaking a "Library Project".

Task: To write a 1- or 2-page "white paper" for the LWVRV membership on the advisability of doing a full-blown study of the Jackson County Library System. It will be sent to the membership by January 1st, to vote on it at the January general mtg. Two meetings are scheduled (Nov. 25th and Dec. 8th.) Any member interested in contributing by doing simple research or by writing, should plan on attending both meetings and may contact Marylou Schnoes, LWVRV vice-president, for more information. Thank you for your interest.

~Marylou Schnoes, LWVRV vice president
Welcome to a Talented Newcomer - Barbara Klein

One of our newest members is Barbara Klein who was born in Vermont and raised in upstate New York. Her education has been varied and colorful: Undergrad work in music and special education (she's a registered music therapist), pre-med at Brenau College, a Master's in Hospital and Health Care from the New School and a doctorate from Life University (school of Chiropractic). Her work history is as varied, and she jokes about having had as many professions as she does fingers!

After selling her chiropractic practice in West Virginia, she spent time working on a book (currently out of print). Barbara has partnered with her husband in several professional adventures, including Solar Savant, a solar broker business. In keeping with her love of variety, her hobbies range from birds, riding her recumbent bicycle and, "of course," reading and education.

She joined the League in 2000 because of her interest in election reforms and overpopulation. Quickly, she served on the board and as co-president of on the LWV Metro Phoenix, then 6 years for the Arizona League as State Vice President and Action Chair. Barbara became State President, completing two years and being re-elected for a term uncompleted before moving to Oregon. Now she is working on the LWVUS national task force for redistricting. You'll agree she's a talented, giving woman.

I asked her about her interests in our local League and her main concern is still election reform. She states she is more the activist and educator type than the voter service type, although she's done her share of both.

Already Barbara has attended the Ashland meeting in September and in October she volunteered to be on the panel explaining some of the measures on the upcoming November election. All agreed that her presentation was intelligent and her delivery outstanding.

Thank you, Barbara, and welcome again.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality.

ACTION

The LWVOR state League has invited us to attend the Climate Change event on Sunday December 7 at 1-3pm at KOB- TV Studio C at 124 Fir St Medford OR. It is titled "Price Pollution, Cut Carbon". The Rogue Valley League has also scheduled Dr. Alan Journet to speak on climate change in April.

~ Kathleen Donham for Diane Shockey, Action Chair
OBSERVER CORPS

Highlights of this reporting period for the County Commissioners’ Staffing Sessions are:

- The Fair Board came to the Board meeting to present a ten-year plan of expansion and repair, which was prepared with a consultant’s aid. The plan contained a 1.4 million dollar request from the commissioners. These funds would be paid installments for three years. The first year’s installment to be $670,000.00 The Fair Board’s budget contained an intended bond issue which would be used to double the size of the Compton Arena to increase indoor seating to 5,000 persons. Jackson County does $185,000 in maintenance yearly at the Expo. The Fair Board’s budget contained many maintenance features, such as parking-lot paving. The Commissioners asked for increased clarity in how money would be used and for what the proposed, full-time equivalents would be used. Further discussion is planned.

- The Southern Oregon Historical Society’s newly-formed board represented by Robert Esterlein, its chairperson, presented a highly-articulated budget. He asked for $300,000 to bridge their expenses until they can qualify for a ballot initiative for Special District status in the Spring of 2016. Their activities and income flow was presented. Further discussion is planned.

Now is the time to join the observer corps. New members of city councils and the commissioners’ board will be seated in the new year.

I started observing when Commissioner Briedenthal was sworn in and had the advantage of listening to frequently-appearing staff and community entities being introduced to him. Also, background information was given often with handouts explaining goals and budgets. I heard BLM, RVCOG (Rogue Valley Council of Governments) and Avista give historical settings for what was their current concerns in those first days. This is invaluable to an observer.

Volunteer now!

Also scheduled is Dr. Alan Journet to speak, in April, on climate change.

~Susan Orth, Observer Corps member

Observer Corps: More than just Jackson County

In addition to the League Observers that attend Jackson County functions, member Olena Black from Ashland also attends the ASSOU student leadership meetings. In October, students registered 2456 new voters and subsequently contributing to the largest voter-turnout in the country. They are also examining the fee schedule at SOU, and in turn, learning the rules of self-government and Roberts Rules.

Many thanks to Olena for following along with the future decision makers in Oregon. Her connections with students will be extremely valuable as we begin our involvement in next years Post Secondary Education study sponsored by LWVOR.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President
LAND USE UPDATE

The Jackson County Agriculture Task Force presented its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners two weeks ago, and the reception was cool. The Task Force was formed as a requirement for approval of the Regional Problem Solving [RPS] process two years ago. Quality agricultural land in the Rogue Valley that was conceded to development compromises with the cities was to be “mitigated”, that is, agricultural interests were invited to suggest ways to contribute to the continued success of Agriculture in this valley despite the loss of land. The report suggested the following: 1) a review of the comprehensive plan to support agriculture, 2) consideration of a half-time ombudsman position that could advise beginning farmers in land use law, 3) a review of agricultural easement programs, 4) Support for the Rogue Valley Food System Network, 5) Review of the City Zoning Ordinances 6) Support business organizations that provide capital to agriculture commerce e.g. “Aggie Bonds”, 7) Direct Development Services to review integration of these suggestions.

The Board of Commissioners responded that they didn’t believe that agricultural interests required this many county resources—especially the hours that would be needed by the Development Department to undertake these strategies. This view may be solidified if Jackson County must defend the local GMO ban in court. At a separate meeting with NRAC, Commissioner Skundrick indicated that he saw no support on the BOC for the ombudsman position, even though the position would be funded through separate taxing districts—(JCSWCD) and OSU Extension Service.

Since last year’s Agriculture Study is complete, the League has a position to comment on these proceedings. The discussion may go into the new year to be discussed by the new commissioners, who do not have the history with the RPS. Call me for questions or comments

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV

NEW MEMBER TEA in PICTURES
CANDY FUNDRAISER

1. Cocoa Kit in a Tin $9.00
   A quarter pound of Pete's deluxe blended cocoa with a touch of spice, rich dark chocolate chunks and includes lots of our world famous original mini vanilla marshmallows in the mix. Two chocolate-dipped peppermint stirring rods come with the kit too. ~6-8 servings.

2. One pound Gift Box $12.00
   One gorgeous pound of assorted confection delights, may include; divinity, marshmallows, chocolate dipped cherries, caramels, rocky road bites, mint melt ways and others.

3. Medium Basket $18.00
   This beautiful basket holds two chocolate dipped peppermint rods, one white & one dark chocolate dipped marshmallow snowflakes, two single servings of our hand blended cocoa and two Seymour's S'Mores.

4. Large Basket $27.00
   This basket holds four chocolate dipped peppermint rods, two white & two dark chocolate dipped marshmallow snowflakes, half-pound of our hand blended cocoa and four Seymour's S'Mores.

If you have misplaced your order form, please contact Lorraine Werblow or send your orders to Carol Ingleson.

INVITATION to JOIN

2014/2015 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
### December LWVRV Calendar 2014

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### January LWVRV Calendar 2015

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