The LWVRV’s February 12th meeting will be held at the Medford Public Library.

**BETWEEN THE COVERS….**

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**GENERAL MEETING**

The February 12, 2015 General Meeting, will be a presentation by Greg Holmes about the “Rogue Valley Food System Network”. We will review the position on Agriculture adopted by LWVUS last year, in which our League participated. Greg Holmes is the local representative of 1000 Friends of Oregon, and can also answer some of our questions regarding the new land use proposals prompted by Executive Order 12-07.

The February League’s meeting will be held at the Medford Public Library. Members are invited to gather at 11:30am for brown bag lunch [coffee provided], and announcements begin at 11:45. The speaker begins promptly at 12 Noon.

**SAVE the DATE**

May 14, 2015

**LWVRV ANNUAL MEETING**

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.
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello members:

The front page of the Medford Mail Tribune has recently featured detailed LNG pipeline proposal explanations. Where does the League stand? The Coos Bay LWV board is split on the issue. The contractor in Coos Bay has included Reedsport, Bandon and the surrounding communities, all of which are desperate for community funding and jobs, in the marketing of the LNG. While Governor Kitzhaber is not a supporter, many state legislators are.

Our own LWV board has not been supportive of the LNG, but discussions with State League representatives have shown a reluctance to take on issues if our Leagues cannot concur. State League currently does not think our Climate Change position is adequate to oppose the LNG pipeline. There will be a hearing on January 22, Thursday at 5pm at North Medford High School Commons with the DEQ to discuss the impacts to local waterways by the pipeline construction. League members are urged to participate. Individuals can contact Senator Doug Whitsett (503-986-1728) or Representative Mike McClane (504-986-1400) as state legislators with significant districts for pipeline construction in Jackson County. The conservation group Rogueriverkeepers.org has been a local leader of opposition to the pipeline, and also welcomes your interest.

~Kathleen Donham

LEAGUE LEADERS

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LWVRV
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LWVRV Voice Mail:
(541) 772-5044
LWVRV BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 13, 2015
OEA Building, 2495 South Pacific Highway, Medford, OR 97504

Call to Order: at 9:37am by President Kathleen Donham

Present: Olena Black, Kathleen Donham, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Iris Milan, Joan Rogers, Marylou Schnoes, Lorraine Werblow

Approval of Minutes for 12/16/2014: approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report – no report.

Nominating Committee: Iris Milan presented an overview of an alternative operational model for any local League: ABCs for a Streamlined League Fundraising: Lorraine Werblow: figures yet to be finalized for candy sale.

Library update: Marylou Schnoes – the Director of the Library District Board has resigned. Be aware that the meeting minutes occasionally omit criticisms.

Marylou will write an article for the newsletter.

Observer Corps: - Kathleen Donham reported that the Observer Corps is doing well. Reminder that Joyce Chapman is hosting a meeting at her home for observers to meet to share news (Friday, January 30, 2015). Joyce Chapman has also done a presentation to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to introduce them to the Observer Corps, explain what we do and to make a few observations.

Action items update: Land Use & LNG: Upcoming meeting scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 at a church on Jackson Street in Medford – at 7:30.

General meeting – Thursday, February 12, 2015: Medford Library; brown-bag lunch; coffee provided. Agriculture Network: Greg Holmes will present.

General Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2015: Children-at-Risk update: Jackie Clary. Need study materials before the meeting.

Newsletter: in the next newsletter, attach a note reminding that future newsletter will be becoming automatically as a hard copy; mail only to those without email.

Annual Meeting: May 14, 2015. The packet needs to be ready and mailed by first week in April. Discussion of place and speaker. Joan Rogers will continue to oversee the

Website: Olena Black – discussion of a clear editorial policy for the web page. For now, posting of items will go through Kathleen Donham.

Adjournment: 11:40 am

Carol Ingelson
Secretary

Next board meeting – Tuesday, February 10, 2015
DECEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Since the Board meets regularly at OEA, a motion was made and passed that a donation to OEA be made. Details for the January 8th general meeting were discussed and planned. Diane Shockey brought up the issue of the LNG Pipeline and she is following up with requests for more information. Three or four LWVRV members are planning interviews with local state legislators (Sal Esquivel, McClain, Baumgartner). The LWVRV Observer Corps needs more publicity to let the public know of our role as public body watchdogs. The Nominating Committee will look into the possibility of adding a member-at-large to the board.

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary

JANUARY PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING SUMMARY

The diversity of suggestions expressed at the January program planning meeting follows the personal interests of members the Rogue Valley League. A listing of the priorities mentioned includes the following:

National issues LWVUS: All positions were retained; the following were seen as needing updates—Selection of the President, Citizen Right to Know, Natural Resources/Resource Management, Land Use, Education, Employment and Housing, Health Care, and Immigration. Issues about which action should be emphasized included—Privatization & Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.

Oregon State Issues LWVOR: Support for the new state proposal to study open primaries was accepted, along with stressing the need for the present Higher Education study to proceed. Members also emphasized continued action on the Land Use position of the state LWVOR. Other positions were retained.

Local Issues: Members recommended that our Jackson County government position re-evaluate the recommendation of appointment rather than election for Department Heads (e.g. surveyor and assessor). Members would like to see all of the Rogue Valley, including Josephine County, be included in our studies of local governance. Our position on amendments, including non-partisan county commissioners, was designated for Action. Action was also recommended for Land Use issues locally regarding agriculture, forest lands, and the Comprehensive Plan in view of proposed new land use rules following Executive Order 12-07. In regard to Ashland Land Use positions, action was recommended for Parks & Recreation in trail construction and maintenance. All positions were retained for Social Policy, and expanded to include Josephine County. Members would like to tour the new HHS Building for which we lobbied and begin monitoring Adult Mental Health in Josephine County and Homeless in Ashland.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

VOTERS VOICE UPDATE

As a result of the Board’s review of the high cost for all members to receive the Voters Voice in hard-copy form, it was decided to lower our expenses. Beginning with this issue, the newsletter will be sent out electronically, except for those members who do not have email. They will receive a hard copy by mail. We hope all members understand that we feel it is preferable to spend the league’s budget on programming and needed publications. If this new system causes you a problem, please contact a member of the Board. Thank you.

~Carole Levi, Voters Voice Editor
AN INVITATION from AAUW MEDFORD

“Our League members are invited to a public meeting sponsored by the Medford branch of AAUW (American Assn. of University Women) on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 9:30a.m.

The meeting is free will be held at the Medford Public Library, Community Room. The speaker will be Brad Avakian, Commissioner for the Oregon Labor and Industry Bureau, and the topic will be "Women in the Workplace and other subjects. Mr Avakaian will be speaking from 10am - 11am. All are welcome and the meeting is free."

I hope our members will take advantage of listening to a speaker of this caliber, talking about Oregon employment, especially for women.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

JACKSON COUNTY LAND USE DEVELOPMENTS

January 2015

In 2013 Governor Kitzhaber issued Executive Order 12-07, which gave Jackson, Douglas, and Josephine Counties an opportunity to re-evaluate their land use designations. Local residents have long complained that resource land was inaccurately zoned, and should be reviewed. The state grant money and time restrictions on the grant for 12-07 will be ending in June, and only now are the results of the reviews been made public.

The Jackson County staff presented this land review in the form of a rule change—or rather the choice of two rule changes. One alternative would be for all the small Jackson County communities to establish zones around their perimeters that would allow development in 10, 20 and 40 acre concentric circles respectively outside of towns like Butte Falls and Prospect. The other would allow development on newly designated "Rural Use" lands as defined by the county as non-resource lands in 10 acre parcels, or tax lots. Both proposals would require changes in the Comprehensive Plan.

I have recommended to the Jackson County Development staff that perhaps the Citizens Involvement Committee, which was created to explain land use to county residents, should be re-established. The County Commissioners have this on their agenda for Jan 20.

Rogue Valley LWV also wrote a letter to the Planning Commission reminding them of our concerns about placing residences in fire-prone forest zones, and giving the public adequate notice of these hearings.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President
MEMBERSHIP

Our newest member is Bonnie Johnson. Please help us make her feel welcome!

Our next few programs will be very interesting:

March 12, 2015 - Climate Change with speaker Alan Journet
April 9, 2015 - Concensus meeting on Children at Risk
May 14, 2015 - Annual Meeting

Please consider asking a friend to join you at our monthly Thursday League meetings or call a League member you haven’t seen for awhile and ask her/him to join you.

~Normary Barrett, Membership Chairperson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

The nominating committee must have a slate of officers ready for the Annual Meeting, and that announcement goes out in April as required in our by-laws. You will probably be receiving a call asking for your involvement. I hope you will consider a leadership position with League (Iris reminds me that if you call her at 541-951-3533 she won’t then have to call you). I look forward to working with you.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

FEBRUARY MEETING RAFFLE

At our February meeting, a raffle will be held for a gorgeous martini basket with all the makings for great martinis. Please bring dollar bills to enter the drawing!
A Friendly Two

It is my pleasure to introduce two women who joined our LWV branch about the same time in 2014. Both are very friendly and have interesting backgrounds. In alphabetical order:

**Barbara Empol** was born in Chicago, moved at age 11 to Los Angeles for 45 years, then to Ruch, OR and later to Jacksonville in 1999. She received a BS in business, (accounting) in Los Angeles, now Cal State LA. Sadly her husband of 56 years passed away in February last year. She now lives with her dog Gidget, a miniature schnauzer. Barbara has two children, a daughter in California who has 3 children and a son, living in Medford. He has 2 children whom Barbara babysits as much as possible.

Barbara worked in Los Angeles CPA firms as a staff accountant, and later in Oregon she started her own business as a Tax Preparer. Before moving here, she received her Enrolled Agent license and later her Licensed Tax Consultant license.

Barbara's hobbies are vegetable gardening, cooking, reading, music and she admits she loves to shop, especially when good bargains are involved. Since her husband had many allergies, she became very aware of how important it is to read labels, and to cook with many different kinds of grains.

Right now Barbara is still trying to figure out what she wants to do with the remainder of her life. She hopes to make new friends at LWVRV and mix with its members as they study interesting material. I think she has made a good start !!

**Joanne Haddad** was born in Inglewood, CA and raised in Torrance and San Marcos. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education at the University of Hawaii. At SOU, Ashland, she completed her Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Accountancy. She has had a career in medical sales and Human Resources Services. Since 1995, she has had her own business as a tax accountant, offering tax and financial counseling services. Joanne is an Enrolled Agent and licensed Tax Consultant.

Joanne and her life-partner, Ron have a family of three cats and two chickens.

Her hobbies are bicycling, taking many tours but the most spectacular was biking across the USA from Oregon to Maine. She also enjoys camping, hiking and cross country skiing. An athletic lady !!!

Joanne joined LWVRV to help educate the public on the importance of being well-informed voters and being involved in the political process. She feels the need of becoming knowledgeable about the League and its functions. Conservation and environmental issues interest her the most. Helping with publicity would probably be the most likely activity she would choose, as her time would allow.

Welcome to these two talented women.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality
The Nominating Committee has begun its quest for leadership for the LWVRV for 2015-16. Our five members began making phone calls this week and are pleased to report many of our experienced Rogue Valley League Members, as well as new members, have stepped up to leadership positions. We thank those who have said, “yes” to us. We have not yet filled all of the positions so will still be calling next week. Our goal in filling the Offices and Board positions is to pair new members with more experienced members in order to create leadership that will be ready “in the wings” to play their part each successive year. We also look to each position of leadership to have an understudy who is prepared to substitute when necessary.

We have been fortunate to have fifteen new members this year. They bring us their experience in public relations, bookkeeping and finance, law, research, writing and public speaking, a willingness and enthusiasm to attend governmental meetings and leadership skills from other organizations. They have brought a spark that has spread among our seasoned members and ignited activation because they, too, are very talented.

We need you seasoned members to be mentors.

Many of the new and experienced members have signed up for committees. It feels like we are off to the races, figuratively and actually, as we look toward to the Presidential and Congressional Election of 2016.

Although this is not part of Nominating Committee’s job, we think it is important to mention this opportunity for League members, perhaps some of our retired teachers. Have you ever wondered how much Civic Education youth get in school? Are 18-year olds being registered to vote in high school? You have the opportunity to join the Voters’ Service Committee and observe or help with League-sponsored Mock Election activities used by teachers in our area schools.

~Iris Milan, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Thank you to all members who sold gift boxes of Pete’s Gourmet Confections for our LWVRV fundraiser, making it a successful one. The delicious candy, in gift-wrapped boxes, was a hit with all who ate it.

~Lorraine Werblow, Fundraising Chair
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
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February 2015 LWVRV Calendar