**GENERAL MEETING**

The LWVRV General Meeting will be:

Date: March 12, 2015

Time: 11:30 optional brown bag lunch; noon - presentation

Location: Medford Main Library

Speaker: Alan Journet, University of Missouri emeritus, speaking on climate change

**VOTERS SERVICE**

Voters Service is planning a “Meet ‘n Greet the Candidates” “meeting the end of April and the beginning of May for those running for the Jackson County Library Board Positions 3, 4 and 5.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with this event. Please notify us, before March 13, of your interest.

~Susan Orth 541-770-7092 and Marylou Schnoes, 541-890-6163
The nominating committee has been very busy this month [kudos to Iris, Debra, & Judith]. And if you have agreed to take an assignment for next year I want to personally THANK YOU! The slate of officers will be elected at our May Annual Meeting. I will stay on as vice-president. Since my husband retired last month, I have some celebratory traveling to accomplish in next this year.

The League has been busy: 1) Membership is back up to 70, 2) Olena Black composed comments for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the LNG pipeline DEIS 3) we received a generous $500 donation from Ogden Kellogg (husband of original member Marjorie) to the Education Fund 4) comments were submitted to the JC Library Board from the Library committee, 5) a letter to the JC Planning Commission was submitted regarding proposals which would change land use rules under Executive Order 12-07, and 6) the Observer Corps reviewed its functions in a public meeting for the Jackson County Commissioners.

The newsletter will not be mailed in February, March and April, so look for email notifications of meetings and notices. Materials should arrive for the state study review on Children at Risk soon, and Jackie Clary and I will set up review meetings for this next month. I hope you will join us.

Work will also be starting on the state Education Study Update in the form of Education Forums held across the state. Nationally, Oregon rates near the bottom in its funding for education, and LWVOR must update it's position in order to lobby for change.

Once again, our local League is proving to be the most credible and responsible local civic organization that can develop bipartisan policy based on research, education, and advocacy. Stay with us.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President
Call to Order: at 9:38am by President Kathleen Donham

Present: Normary Barrett, Olena Black, Jackie Clary, Kathleen Donham, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Susan Orth, Joan Rogers, Marylou Schnoes

Approval of Minutes for 01/13/2015: approved as corrected (under Newsletter: insert “future newsletters will not be coming automatically as a hard copy”).

Treasurer’s Report – no report.

Nominating Committee: Carole Levi: official slate will be ready for the Annual Meeting in May. Susan Orth will be dropping Voter Service; Normary Barrett will complete the term in exchange for being Membership Chair.

Suggestion that Voter Service be an ad hoc position, with various activities be done by different members.

Bill Mansfield has agreed to present a short update at each city/county meeting he attends (i.e. County Budget’)

Fundraising: Final figures to be sent to the Treasurer Diane Shockey.

Observer Corps: Joyce Chapman hosted a meeting at her home for observers to meet to share news on January 30, 2015. She plans to host another in 2 months time.

Kathleen Donham, due to the many reports sent to her, plans to do one update (to mail and/or give out at next general meeting), in order to keep all members apprised.

Budget Committee: Kathleen Donham and Diane Shockey will bring the budget to next month’s meeting.


General Meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2015: Children-at-Risk study update: Jackie Clary. Meeting to be held in Ashland. Scenario: paper copies March 1st; Jackie and Kathleen will set up 1-2 unit meetings to familiarize with contents of study; consensus questions at general meeting, to be sent in to state.

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 arrangements at Inn at the Commons.

Voters Service: Susan Orth: May 19, 2015 election for Library. Suggestion for a “Meet and Greet” format at the library. With many local issues coming up, need to consider evenings as well as daytime meetings.

LNG testimony: Olena Black – letter to Jeff Merkeley – Olena made a motion to add the LWVRV’s name to the letter sent by River Keepers. Seconded by Joan Rogers. After discussion: M/S/P

Vote taken for Olena Black to send 2 letters (1-ask questions regarding O&C lands affected in Jackson County; 2-in opposition, with local Rogue Valley League position on forest lands). Vote from board = unanimous Yes.

New Business: A motion was made by Olena Black authorizing Marylou Schnoes to write a proposal for a grant to pay for royalties of 4 political films and the rental of a facility (such as Tinseltown, Holly Theatre?) plus local speakers to introduce each film; in time for the November 2016 general election. Seconded by Carole Levi. M/S/P.

Kathleen Donham requested permission to send reminder postcards to members about future general meetings. Suggestion and discussion to set up a “phone tree” or telephone committee. Also a suggestion to not provide food/beverages at luncheon meetings; rather, possibly a donation jar for coffee. Instead of having to make arrangements for food, etc. Joan Rogers could instead act as a greeter. Food and beverage service would then be arranged for only at the December general and Annual meetings.

Olena Black made a motion for LWVRV to sign as a participant/supporter for The Food System Network. Seconded by Susan Orth. M/S/P. Greg Holmes would write the proclamation. Olena would make a link on our website.

Adjournment: 11:18 am

~Carol Ingelson, LWVRV Secretary
Library Director & LSSI contract. Kim Wolfe, an outstanding director, will retire this spring. LSSI will do the screening, and likely keep the board somewhat informed as they consider candidates, but as the Library Director is their employee, they ultimately will decide whom to hire (per the terms of the contract.) At the January meeting, the CEO of LSSI, Library Systems and Services, Inc., the for-profit company that runs Jackson County’s library, described how passionate he was about libraries & made a pitch of how committed the company was to communities. The fact remains that a private company is making an unknown profit from our library revenues, may be making the running of the system more efficient. This may be moot, because the contract clause makes it nearly impossible for the system to easily go back to being run by “public employees” (likely with greater employee benefits.) [The clause says that the system will not contract with any other company for at least 18 months following the termination of the contract with LSSI. An “instantaneous” change with no transition via another company would be very complex to implement. And if the Library directors wanted to do it gradually, LSSI would have to agree to do so.]

LSSI bought by Argosy. A private equity firm, Argosy, recently acquired controlling interest in LSSI. They’ve retained LSSI’s CEO, but changed the Chairman of the Board of Directors. I have no clue about the ramifications of this action.

$130,000 bequest. Programs for “young and mature readers” were specified in a donation by the Hulbert family.

Budget Committee. The board received applications from 12 candidates for the Budget Committee, interviewed six and selected
- Pat Ashley, Eagle Point
- Edwin Budge, West Medford
- Eric Dzuira, East Medford
- George Prokop, Jacksonville
- Catherine Shaw, Ashland

The board had required experience in budgeting for government or a large non-profit. If you attended any of their meetings, you may recall a very vocal audience member by the name of Wright Kieran, who also applied to be on the Budget Committee, but who didn’t get an interview.

Governance & Transfer of Library Buildings. The board approved its own governance policies & is discussing with Danny Jordan & legal counsel the leasing, maintenance & transfer of the buildings. Of course, the transfer will depend on the County Commissioners. The bond that built these beautiful structures will be paid off in 2020.

Non-resident use of the libraries. Apparently the Library gets non-resident "customers" (e.g., at the Rogue River Branch, people from Grants Pass, who, of course, don't pay taxes to support the system). The board is going to discuss at their March meeting, if & how they want to issue non-resident library cards.

Potential new directors. Three of the current board members said they're running for re-election in the upcoming May election. They are Maureen Swift, Susan Kiefer and Carol Doty (who is also a LWVRV member). The deadline for candidates to file for the May election is March 19th. As people apply, the county posts the names on its elections dept. website, and as of this date (19 Feb 2015), no one has.

I've chosen to no longer attend meetings of the Board of Directors, but will read their minutes online for the indefinite future and will report back to the LWVRV membership periodically or when issues of interest arise. Anyone else interested in attending meetings or reviewing their minutes? If so, you can find a link to their webpage where their meeting times and minutes are posted, at the bottom of the Jackson Co. Library’s home webpage at www.jcls.org

~Marylou Schnoes, LWVRV Vice President
Privatization is not a new idea. It has been around as a means to limit the size of government perhaps as long as there has been organized governments. The idea of privatization, however, became popular in the 1980’s during the Reagan Administration. Again, in 2008, with the recession causing an increase in unemployment with the resulting decrease of tax revenue, interest in privatization of government’s activities again became a popular consideration.

Privatization has generally been defined as any process aimed at shifting functions and responsibilities, in whole or in part, from the government to the private sector. This is different for Outsourcing where the government remains in control of management decisions or Contracting out where the government retains management and policy control over the type and quality of the services be provided.

State governments have relied on the private sector for goods and services for many years. Some states have tried to set parameters on the types of activities which could be performed by entities other than the state. Virginia defined “inherently governmental activity” as:

- Act of governing,
- Authority to collect and spend public revenues,
- Entitlements (from the Constitution of Virginia),
- Free elections,
- Intercourse with other and foreign states,
- Taxation and assessments at fair market value,
- Ultimate control over the acquisition, use, or disposition of the property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, of the Commonwealth, including the collection, control or disbursement of appropriated and other state funds and
- Natural resources for the benefit, enjoyment and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

Ohio, on the other hand, choose the “Yellow Pages Test”, you can contract out all public services that are already being performed by private companies and are listed in local Yellow Pages.

A decision to privatize a government service requires thorough analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of privatization to determine whether the public is better served by government or the private sector. The process has three phases:

- Determining if it is appropriate to privatize a service,
- Determining the level of service desired from a contractor and conducting an open, competitive selection process, and
- Negotiating the contract with the selected contractor and monitoring performance over the term of the service agreement.

There are many things to keep in mind when developing the contract. Government entities are statutorily required to conduct their business through open, transparent processes to ensure that they are accountable to the citizenry. The private sector usually does not conduct its business transparently. When government services are transferred into private hands, what becomes of the public’s right to access to information regarding those services? It is also imperative that the service monitoring is conducted thoroughly and with frequent timing.

This material was adopted and summarized from the National League of Women Voters Privatization Study Documents.

~Sally Grady, LWVRV member
THE FRESH AND THE SEASONED - A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

One of our members, Joan Amaratti, is new to LWVRV and the area and is already enjoying her new life in Jackson County. Born in Dayton, Ohio and raised in Hartville, Ohio, where she attended Lake High school. She earned her B.A. in Wooster, Ohio in Studio Art in 2000. She has both parents now living in Lake Stevens, Washington and an older sister in San Jose, California. All Westerners now!

Her varied career began with hospitality/event planning in Grace Cathedral in San Francisco for 3 years, also working at the Humane Society Silicon Valley and Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley. Then Joan spent 6 years working in Development at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. Currently she’s in her third year as the Development Officer for Planned Parenthood in S.W. Oregon. She is also a certified dog trainer, specializing in puppy training and socialization.

Joan’s hobbies include working with animals, especially strays and she spends Sundays volunteering in Sanctuary One. She enjoys reading and baking (especially decorating cupcakes) and she’s an avid fan of Downton Abbey. Joan joined the League because she was new to the area and wanted to get involved in her community. Because of the League’s “great reputation”, when she met Olena Black in Eugene, she was encouraged to join and participate. She is still finding out the opportunities that are available in our group. Her schedule is rather hectic but she’ll do as much as she can. Welcome, Joan.

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By contrast, Bill Mansfield is a long-time member of our Rogue Valley League and he has spent many years working for our branch. Born and raised in Redmond, Oregon, he is a true Oregonian, attending the University of Oregon for his B.A. and Law degree. Bill has three grown sons, one of whom is also a lawyer.

His career began in the U.S. Air Force in the legal Department, and then in the State of Oregon Attorney-General’s office, Dept. of Justice. When Bill moved to Medford he worked on the City Council for 12 years, and now serves on the Planning Commission. His hobbies are based on his love of all levels of government. Classical music is also one of his favorites.

Bill enjoys the League’s Observer Corps, and currently attends a weekly meeting, especially planning, transportation and also funding and taxation. He firmly supports the League’s awareness in local issues, education and public affairs.

Thank you Bill, for your volunteering over the years and willingness to keep us informed of the local situation in Medford and the Rogue Valley.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality
The Nominating Committee's has been adjusting to changes in acceptance of Board assignments, a resignation and breaking down positions into smaller and shared responsibilities. It has been a pleasure to speak with so many members to discover what their passions are, what experiences they bring and what time they have to give to League activities. For those who have accepted positions or are considering acceptance, we thank you. We also know that you will find volunteering very rewarding. We found that breaking down the jobs into smaller and shared responsibilities makes the jobs more appealing. However, it also means we need more members to be involved. It is a win/win situation. We are building friendships and community, sharing in reaching solutions, creating backup to assure the job is covered and assuring succession in the future with mentorships.

Voters Service is always important, but with elections looming 2015-16, and our present chair, stepping down, our very experienced Normary Barrette, offered to return to her passion, Voters' Service. Some of our Ashland members will support her in Ashland election events. Many of our members volunteer when the call goes out to help with registration or Candidates or Ballot Measure forums. This leaves a vacancy in Membership. We were reminded that when the job was separated into three responsibilities a number of years ago, it functioned very smoothly. We have divided it into four. The responsibilities of the Membership Committee are:

1. Computer skills: Create data base of members. (one or two women can do this; we have one volunteer)
   Use to produce new Member directory each year to go to all members (Send updated list to State and National Leagues)
   Send updated list monthly to members via Voters’ Voice or e-mail
   Inform treasurer how much PMP to send to State and National Leagues

2. Contact new members to welcome, integrate and give directory and memberships materials. Invite to meetings, coordinate with treasurer.

3. Collect dues from present members at Annual Meeting in May. Collect new member dues at anytime; coordinate with treasurer.

4. Welcome members to meetings; sit at membership table. (hospitality),

Other responsibilities are shared and assigned to the committee as a whole or individuals:
1. Provide a monthly report of activities to the Board.
2. Plans and executes a new member orientation meeting with help of Board.
3. Provide Chart of sign up sheets for committees with brief definitions, available at each meeting; Send names to committee chair.
4. Telephone tree for encouraging attendance for new members;
5. Find ride sharing
6. Mentorship to new members

We need three members to sit on Nominating Committee for 2015-16; two others will be appointed by the Board. Please phone me if you would like to serve or want to know more. I will also be phoning members if I don’t receive your calls

~Iris Milan Nominating Committee Chair, 541-897-0406

LNG PIPELINE ACTION

The LWV took an action by submitting a letter in opposition to the LNG pipe line. In the next few days, you will be getting an email with the letters attached so you can read them. Olena Black, Joyce Chapman and Diane Shockey did a study of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Our local league has a position on Forest Resources and that was used as our guide regarding the opposition. The board approved the letters and they were submitted February 13, 2015.

~Olena Black, Webmaster
GET WELL WISHES

Please keep Mary Carlon, long-time League member in your thoughts and prayers for her surgery, March 18th. I’ll keep in touch with her.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

FEBRUARY MEETING in PICTURES

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
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