Welcome back, LWVRV’ers! Hope you had a great summer!!

Note our new email address, see p. 5

GENERAL MEETING

On September 10, the LWVRV will be meeting at the Ashland Elks Club, 255 E. Main Street, Ashland. (541-482-3911 (if you need directions). Parking is available at their site.

As the media starts the ‘horserace reporting’ for the 2016 presidential primaries and elections, we will take a different look. Do we really understand the oddity of the US Electoral College? Do we know there are alternatives? The LWV supports changes to the way our US president is elected. Learn more about it, what you can do – and where the state of Oregon stands.

We will present an overview of the ‘National Popular Vote’ and have time for questions and answers.

A buffet lunch, beginning at 11:30 sharp, will be available for $11.00.

Menu:

Vegetarian Lasagna or grilled chicken salad
cookies/brownies/tea and coffee.

We promised a minimum of 20 people for lunch. Please contact Joan Rogers at 531-3523; or rogers4290@aol.com with your reservation.

Please arrive about 11 or 11:15 so that we can introduce ourselves to folks we haven’t met before.

If you are attending only the program, it will be starting promptly at noon.

at noon.”  OPEN PROGRAM - PUBLIC IS INVITED.

We are delighted to begin our monthly programs in Ashland, as their League and Medford had merged a few years ago and for some it's going home again, and for others, it'll be good to be back with our League family.

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.
IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Dues for Rogue Valley League are now due in May. If you have not renewed for the coming year your name will have a blue star* on the address label. Please send your dues, using the application form in this newsletter with a check made out to LWVRV to the following address:

LWVRV
PO Box 8555
Medford Oregon 97501

The annual rate has been raised to $65.00 in order to cover the costs of payments to state and national.

Thank you for contributing—expect your new Directory in October or November, courtesy of member Diane Murdoch. And please consider bringing a guest to the interesting monthly meetings. Questions for membership?—call 541-772-5044.

LEAGUE LEADERS

OFFICERS
Lorraine Werblow, Co-President
pres@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-245-3641
Joanne Cleckner, Co-President
pres@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-500-8382
Kathleen Donham, Vice President
vp@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-772-5044
Marylou Schnoes, Recording Secretary
secretary@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-890-6163
Diane Shockey, Treasurer
treasurer@lwvroguevalley.org, 989-501-0013

DIRECTORS
Normary Barrett, Voters Service
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Joyce Chapman, Observer Corps
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541-878-3890
Jackie Clary, Speakers Bureau
speakers@lwvroguevalley.org 541-479-4486
Carole Levi, Voters Voice Editor
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Joanne Haddad, Publicity,
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541-535-1284
Olена Black, Web administrator
webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-261-1929

OFF BOARD
Barbara Empol, Corresponding Secretary
541-899-1932
Membership Committee Team: Diana Murdoch, Joan Amaratti, Ione Kohn, Joan Rogers, Kathleen Donham
membership@lwvroguevalley.org
Nancy Swan/Susan Orth, Historian
historian@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-770-1689
Shiena Polehn, Hospitality
hospitality@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-773-4177
Barbara Klein, Action - National
541-780-0518
Bonnie Johnson, Action - State
541-541-708-0153
Judith Kurinsky, Fundraising
fundraiser@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-499-7742
Debra Har, fundraising
fundraiser@lwvroguevalley.org, 541-301-4028
Nominating Committee
Nancy Swan, Susan Roberts, Mary Sinclair, Carole Levi, Shiena Polehn
nomcom@lwvroguevalley.org
CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGES

I’m really delighted to be the LWVRV’s co-president along with Joann Cleckner.

The reason for my delight is the team that’s on the board, and the folks who are working with that team on various committees. What wonderful people who I look forward to working with.

In 1972 my husband, Bernie, and I moved from The Bronx to New Rochelle to raise our sons. Before we moved a friend gave me advice: “When you get to New Ro, join the LWV! They are a very bright group of women who do wonderful studies on issues. Issues and studies included were children’s education, voting rights, voter’s service, studies on water and environment, parochial schools vs. public education, among others”.

I became a member of the board after I attended a meeting and wrote the president a note making a suggestion. It was my first meeting! I was hooked and happily hooked.

I’ll be writing more as we go along together on this year’s journey together attending interesting programs and presenting interesting studies.

I promise if you write to me or Joann we will not pressure you to be on the board…ha! Let’s have fun and a good learning experience together.

League-ally yours,

Lorraine Werblow

*      *      *

Welcome continuing members and new members. I am excited to be working with and learning from Lorraine as well as the wonderful, smart Board that we have here at the RVLWV.

I am relatively new to the Rogue Valley and before I even actually moved I was taking a mediation class at what was formally known as Mediation Works. Lorraine was one of our instructors during that week. She asked if I would be interested in the League, so, when I arrived I looked up the league and the rest, as they say, is history.

Our retreat/planning session went well last week. We have some great, interesting ideas for programs for the coming year. Since nothing has been booked yet, I cannot say more . . . watch this space.

Both Lorraine and I are conscious that communication is important. We are in the process of setting up a phone tree, so do not be surprised when you get a call from a board member. From time to time, we’ll give a call just to check in and solicit suggestions, gripes, and maybe even a few “atta-gals.”

As we are marching toward the presidential election next year, we are looking forward to an informational journey that should be both fun and interesting.

Best ~ Joann Cleckner
The LWVRV’s Retreat was held at Joyce Chapman’s home on August 14, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30am by Co-President Lorraine Werblow. Presiding: Lorraine Werblow & Joann Cleckner. Also present were Ione Kohn, Normary Barrett, Carole Levi, Shiena Polehn, Joan Rogers, Joyce Chapman, Jackie Clary, Olena Black, Kathleen Donham, Joanne Haddad and Marylou Schnoes (note-taker).

Lorraine will talk to Diane Schokey as to whether board member sare personally indemnified for liability.

LWVRV is grouped with the State LWV as a 501(c)4. Joann C. knows how to do the paperwork for us to file as 501(c)3 organization, if we so choose.

Lorraine will ask Barbara Klein or Joanne H. to write a letter to the Mail Tribune in support of National Voter’s Registration Day, September 22nd. She will ask Barbara Klein & Bonnie Johnson to check w/ the LWVOR as to what they recommend local leagues to do on that day

Kathleen will talk to Mary Sinclair to see if Vote411 has a new online platform, enabling us to notify voters.

Joyce will write a brief entry for the Voter’s Voice on what’s been observed and inviting more Observer Corps recruits, and will especially try to get new members interested.

Kathleen reviewed what the Membership Committee will be doing. Each board member is encouraged to write a letter or telephone a friend and ask them to join the league, with a note to Kathleen that a letter was written.

Joanne H. will write a concise article for the Mail Tribune, Ashland Daily Tidings & Grants Pass Daily Courier regarding when our meetings for the year will be. As each general meeting approaches, she will write a blurb about the program for these newspapers, the JPR online Community Calendar and perhaps other outlets.

Kathleen will do a general mailing to thank the people who signed up at the LWVRV’s OLLI desk. Joyce will use the OLLI list so to contact them regarding the Observer Corps to see if they’re interested.

All board meetings will be held the Monday after each general meeting, except for September when it will be Tuesday, September 15th, and the January meeting, which will be January 12th, 2016.

Carole L announced the deadline for August issue will be August 21st. All members will receive a hard copy of the VV. Membership will make sure that visitors to meetings will get the VV for two months. Membership will advise Carole L and Olena, as well as the co-presidents, who the new members are.

Kathleen will send Jackie the Speakers Bureau kit. Speakers Bureau involves outreach to other organizations, both initiated by the League and also invited by others. Often it’s a forum regarding pros and cons of initiatives, candidates or other issues as well as what the League’s accomplishments have been in the past.

Lorraine will ask Susan her ideas regarding a quick list of League accomplishments to put on brochures. Jackie will be asking at each Board meeting, who will do the brief description of a past study in the next VV.

Joanne C & Lorraine met with Rayna Reyez, an organizer for Our Oregon (OO). OO is working on a number of ballot measures, sometimes multiple measures for the same subject, getting signatures. They include getting corporate taxes to go to Education, minimum wage, the elimination of anti-immigrant laws. OO works with Oregon business, Chamber of Commerce, PTAs, the timber industry and others. We said we’d work with them to set up a public panel discussion where representatives of the other side of the issue would be present.

Barbara Klein and Jackie are both on the Election Methods Study Update Committee. The LWVUS and LWVOR are studying voter methods.

Marylou will talk to Chris Walker, Jackson County Elections Clerk, regarding what the Oregon convention of county electors has decided. They were supposed to have taken a stand on the potential change in state law, that absolves municipalities for paying part of the Voter’s Pamphlet when the municipality proposes ballot measures.

Potential Meeting Programs were discussed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30PM.

~Respectfully submitted by Marylou Schnoes, Recording Secretary
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

All monthly executive board meetings will be on Mondays at 1 p.m. except:

- the first meeting that is in September. Due to a religious holiday for some of our members, this meeting will be on a Tuesday.

Our meetings are held at the OEA Building - 1495 S Pacific Highway, Medford (Rt 99 - opposite the Harry & David Building.)

* indicates that the OEA Building will be closed, and meeting will be held at a co-presidents home (see below)

2015

September 15, Tues at 1 p.m.- at the OEA Building -

*October 12 at 1 pm at Lorraine Werblow's home, 3017 Pineview Court, Medford, 541-245-3641. (It is Columbus Day)

November 16 at 1 pm at the OEA Building

December 14 at 1 pm at the OEA Building

2016

*January 18 at 1 pm at co-president Joann Cleckner's home, 3681 Windgate, Medford, 541-500-8382. (It is Martin Luther King Day)

February 15 at 1 pm - OEA Building

March 14 at 1 pm - OEA Building

April 18 at 1 pm - OEA Building

May 16 at 1 pm - OEA Building

All LWVRV members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

Due to the LWVRV’s former one’s having been spammed, a new general email address has been created, for the LWVRV. It is:

rvleague@lwvroguevalley.org
INSPIRATION FOR A NEW LEAGUE YEAR

2014-2015 has been an outstanding year for gaining new members for our League of Women, Rogue Valley branch. Two intelligent and talented women (I’ve called them the Jay-Cees) have been in this number. Both are highly educated, with careers in a variety of jobs and also they are friendly, humorous and willing to serve. What more can you want?

Joann Zallen Cleckner: received her B. A. at The Ohio State University (Comprehensive Social Studies), her B.S. at Sonoma State University (Accounting), her M.A. at The Ohio State University (Public Administration), and her J.D. Empire College of Law, Cum Laude, Licensed California & Oregon Certified Public Accountant. After a successful career in corporate accounting, Ms. Cleckner built a successful accounting practice in Alameda County. Ms. Cleckner subsequently sold the practice, moved to Sonoma County and decided to pursue her life-long aspiration of attending law school. During her tenure of Empire College of Law, she earned the Witkin Award for academic excellence in Contracts. She was honored for her work in the Small Claims Clinic with a Pro Bono Award. While at Empire, Ms Cleckner participated in the Elder Law Clinic for two semesters. She interned in the Sonoma County District Attorney’s Office. Ms Cleckner relocated to the beautiful Rogue Valley in early 2014 where she is pursuing her various interests, not the least of which is semi-retirement. Joann is very happy with her new position.

Joyce Chapman was born in Glendale, California and raised in Sunland, CA. After graduating from Verdugo Hills High School, she attended the University of California in beautiful Santa Barbara, with a major in History and a minor in Anthropology.

After college the only job Joyce could get was as a legal secretary. Eventually she went into Workers Compensation insurance and was the Manager of a self-insured claims adjusting agency. She started working on her MBA and when finished, she went into legal administration. She spent 30 years as the Administrator and then as Executive Director of large corporate law firms in Southern California. Joyce’s hobbies are reading, especially with her book club and she also loves walking and hiking. She volunteers at Providence Hospital. Kathleen Donham who is in her book club, invited her to help registering voters and also to join LWVRV. Here she began participating in the Observer Corps. “I was looking at a way to serve and to use my brain before it rotted completely” she admits. She has since become the chair of Observer Corps, and enjoys this position.

Our members welcome these two talented women and look forward to working with them.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality
As the new head of the Observer Corps, I would like to thank our Observers: William Mansfield, Susan Orth and Kathleen Donham – Jackson County. Susan recently resigned and we will miss her; Tricia Hahn – Ashland City Council; Carol Ingelson – Medford City Council; Diane Shockey – Eagle Point City Council; Sue Roberts – Jackson County Mental Health; and Jackie Cleary – Josephine County Commissioners. I would like to thank Olena Black for the work she does with the SOU Board of Trustees. We are off to a good start.

Our Observers have reported on a number of issues such as, the Jackson County Mental Health committee meets once a month and failed to have a quorum three months in a row. We brought this issue to the attention of Danny Jordan, Jackson County Administrator, who said he would look into it.

Observers report that out of 41 meetings reported on by Observers, Commissioner Breidenthal has been absent 12 times, Commissioner Dyer has been absent once and Commissioner Roberts has had no absences. In addition, numerous Work Session and Staff meetings have been cancelled. We will be looking into and reporting more on this in the coming weeks.

Jackson County Health and Human Services will be adding 120 to 150 more employees, currently has 30 vacancies, and has an 8% vacancy rate. The department received good marks in its recent triennial review by the State of Oregon.

Observers report that Jackson County Commissioners have received two quarterly reports from the Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development (SORED). SORED received $200,000 from Jackson County and their total budget is approximately $500,000. We learned that the Commissioners made the contribution in 2014 without the knowledge of the Budget Committee and that the Budget Committee now has the SORED contribution as a specific line item and will be carefully reviewing the contribution. The Commissioners expect SORED to attract other contributions and decrease its dependency on Jackson County. We learned that SORED feels that obstacles to attracting new business to Jackson County include a lack of inventory of industrial buildings, a limited skilled/knowledgeable workforce, and that asking prices for real estate are higher here than in other West Coast locations. SORED advises that despite the limitations they believe they are on track to attract at least three new businesses and at least 100 new jobs to the area by the end of 2015.

We plan to report on Observer Corps activities every month. If you would like more information on how to join the Observer Corps, please contact me, Joyce Chapman, at chapjp01@msn.com.

We need more Observers and it is a terrific way to learn more about what is going on in your community.

~Joyce Chapman, Observer Corps Chair
The LWVRV’s Annual Meeting took place on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at Larks at the Inn of the Commons. Dr. Peter Angstadt, President of the Rogue Community College was our guest speaker. His informative talk was entitled “What’s Next for Community Colleges in Oregon?” Norman Turrill, President 2015-2017, LWV of Portland was introduced.
The board suggested the following topics to be presented at the 2015-16 LWVRV general meetings:

- Ballot Measures
- Money and Politics
- Program Planning
- Children’s Program (including donating seasonal gifts for children)
- Election Methods Updates
- Voters Service Discussion
- Meeting with Jackson and/or Josephine County Sheriffs

More information will follow as meeting dates approach. If you are particularly interested in any of the above topics and would like to help the meeting’s chairperson prepare for that meeting, please contact either Lorraine Werblow, 245-3641, or Joann Cleckner, 541-500-8382, for information on whom to contact.

INVITATION to JOIN

2015/2016 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name__________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________City:__________________

Zip_________Phone_____________e-mail____________________________

Single membership — $65.00 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
Nationally, two studies are in the process which will call for consensus this upcoming League year. The first is ‘Constitutional Amendment Process’ study (consensus due December 1, 2015). The second, which follows quickly on its heels, is the MIP (Money in Politics) study (consensus due by February 1, 2016). The issue of redistricting is not a study, but the work continues and is overseen by the LWVUS Task Force on Redistricting (on which one of our LWVRV members, Barbara Klein is serving).