Season’s Greetings and a Happy New Year!

GENERAL MEETING—DECEMBER

Our members have an enjoyable event ahead of them on Thursday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m when the Maslow Project staff and clients will talk about this outstanding agency, and the amazing work they do while serving the Medford area. Karen Phillips, the Development Manager, will highlight the history and services to homeless children of all ages, in the Medford School District. Their success will amaze you.

In the LWVRV tradition of giving, we’re asking you to bring some seasonal food, finger food, snack or dessert for a potluck for our members and guests. Please bring a modest gift for the children from about 6 to 20 years old, wrapped and marked for the age and sex. Karen says that gift certificates are most welcome, especially for teenagers. The staff will distribute these gifts appropriately. We also hope to have some quilts and board games to present.

So in addition to socializing, and learning, you’ll get to know our newer members. It will be held at the OEA building, at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, across from Harry and David. Hope you can all come.

~ Joan Rogers (541-531-3523) and Shiena Polehn

GENERAL MEETING—JANUARY

The LWVRV’s January general meeting will be our program planning meeting. More information will follow.

If the need arises to notify League members of events, issues or other pertinent and timely information prior to the February newsletter, a separate email will be sent.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

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.
Hi Leaguers and friends,

What a wonderful half year we’ve spent as a league presenting programs. In September it was the “National Popular Vote for President” by Barbara Klein, in Ashland; in October we had the League of Women Voters representing Oregon, Alice Barlett, explaining how lobbying works and issues on which she is lobbying, held in Medford; In November we had a program “Money in Politics” given by Joann Cleckner, which was held in Grants Pass. In addition, we had another program “Should the LWVUS support amending the US Constitution” given by Barbara Klein, in Ashland.

On two occasions we did a consensus: Money in Politics, and Should the LWVUS support amending the Constitution. Having these studies are the “meat” of a league. Consensus is our input to the State and National Leagues on what decisions we arrive at on issues.

Coming up in December, will be our annual meeting the “Children’s Program”. There will be an article in this edition about that. We hope you can join us on December 10th, 2015, bring a gift for a youngster and share in the holiday spirit.

For 2016: Jan 7th: Program Planning – a meeting asking what issues you would like to see the league study. Feb 11th, The Sheriffs of Jackson & Josephine Counties will be our guests at the new community center in Talent. 

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Board Goings-On. The board met on November 16th and had 15 (!) board and non-board members in attendance. Members are welcomed to attend board meetings. They take two hours, but you may leave when you like. They are:

Tuesday, December 15, 1:00pm at the OEA Building (usually the small meeting room), 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford

Monday, January 11, 1:00pm at the OEA Building.

Fund Raising. Judith Kurinsky and Debra Har reported LWVRV may net several hundred dollars from candy sales. The exact amount won’t be known for a few weeks. We may have another fund raising event with wine, hors d’oeuvres and auctionable art in the spring.

Audibility at Meetings. Lorraine Werblow and others encouraged the Jackson County government to make their meetings more transparent and also improve audibility for observers with a sound system. In addition, the Board approved Susan Orth to purchase a sound system for LWVRV’s use (e.g., at our meetings & forums).

December Meeting. To benefit Maslow House, the manager has suggested a gift appropriate for teens, as they’re the group most often-overlooked at the holidays. Gift cards can be given, in lieu of a gift item.

~Marylou Schnoes, Recording Secretary

PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE

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March 10th: Election Methods – Update – location to be determined.
April 14th: Voters Service – location to be determined
May 12th, our Annual Meeting - luncheon. location to be determined.

I hope you realize that we are trying to go out to as many communities as possible and introduce the league in person with programs that are in the interest of the counties we represent.

We wish you all a happy, healthy, fun, holiday season – celebrating any and all of the holidays December offers, and the best in 2016.

League-ally yours,

Lorraine & Joann
National Issues

Two timely and volatile issues of great importance were the topic of separate LWVRV meetings in November: ‘Money in Politics’ and ‘The Constitutional Amendment Process.’ Members participated in discussion and consensus meetings for two national studies looking at the intricacies of these subjects. Using prepared work of special study committees appointed by the LWV United States, our local league members took on the task of presenting the detailed information in understandable terms.

On November 12th, co-president, Joann Cleckner made an informative presentation on Money in Politics at a rare venue – a League meeting held in Grants Pass. A large number of members attended as did people in the Grants Pass community. Joann took on the task of looking at Money in Politics and as always it showed that such issues are never black and white. She was assisted in the consensus effort by co-president Lorraine Werblow (and Olena Black). Not only were members excited about the subject matter, there was much satisfaction in the effort to better represent the Grants Pass area by holding a meeting there.

On November 21st a meeting was held in Ashland at the home of Olena Black. Barbara Klein facilitated a discussion and consensus meeting on the processes as well as the pro and cons of amending the US Constitution. Again a similar theme appeared, namely ‘the devil is in the details.’ The lively group did a great job looking at the various issues of amendments, including the two different avenues of approach: a legislative one and the rare Constitutional Convention. Examples of different (and possible) amendments caused thorny contemplation and back-and-forth discussion. Consensus comments for both these meetings were sent to the LWVUS.

The League is a great place for learning skills. Sometimes that means from the comfort of your own home (well, your own computer). LWVUS is holding training for all members on COMMUNICATIONS. You may write for your league website, newsletter or speak about the League to others. Two of the three stand-alone sessions have already occurred (Nonprofit Marketing 101 and Communications–Roles and Planning) and the third (Writing for the Web) is scheduled for December 2nd, before this newsletter is received. However, all of these sessions will be recorded and available for you to train yourself. Having viewed some LWV presentations ‘after-the-fact’ I can say you will still get a lot of it. You can download the material and watch on YouTube. Go to the lwv.org website and search on ‘Communications Training’. Scrolling to the bottom you will find links to the materials. Give it a shot!

~Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action—State Chairperson
Jane Carpenter gave a speech to the LWV about Oregon’s system of higher education on October 10, 1983. She had been a League member since 1946 and was a past president. In 1983, she left the state board of higher education after eight years of service. The speech has been transcribed (#313.) She explains the university and state college system and the budgetary process. Her conclusions were an underfunding in Oregon. Spending was less than the national average with a subsequent lack of capital outlay, and salary increases.

The Mail Tribune has given pictures from its files to the Historical Society. This picture is labeled LWV 1959. Do you recognize any of these people? What is the event? The poster states they are selling pamphlets titled, “How Much Do You Know About Jackson County/” for 35¢.

LWVRV at the Historical Society (Medford history.com)

~Susan Orth, Historian Committee Chairperson
Jackson County (JC) Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting – 10/5/15 – Susan Roberts:

A quorum was present. There was a report on the new Community Connect Network whose goal is to make a complicated county social service program easier to use and simpler to coordinate client care with other agencies while maintaining privacy. (Note: On 11/5/15 Commissioner Dyer reported on this meeting and mentioned a success story when a plan was developed for a frequent user under this program and she was diverted to mental health court instead of regular court.) There was a grant of $168,000 obtained to help with the costs of setting it up. Matt Vorderstrasse is stepping down as chair and John Watson will serve as chair next year.

JC Commissioner Meetings: 8/13/15 – by Kathleen Donham:

Danny Jordan absent but Harvey Bragg attended in his place. Administrator Input: Bragg reported on liability limits of $25,000; Receipt of tax money ($300,000) for the Sobering Unit; Receipt of $72,000 grant money for Stop Violence Against Women; and an Airport improvement grant. Discussion with Breidenthal re perceived value of his trips to attend meetings about changes to “payment in lieu of taxes.” Breidenthal believes that more than half of his expenses are being covered by the organizations he is serving: National Association of Counties, and the WIR (Western Interstate Region) which is a subgroup of NACO which lobbies for changes to the Endangered Species Act, increased logging which benefits the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding, and changes to the Forest Management Act. Breidenthal is recommending that the county press for increased “coordination” with the BLM and Forest Service allowing the counties to be included in forest management decisions by those agencies. Ordinance 2011-15 created a new chapter 1231 which defined the interests of the county. [Copies were provided.] Dam removal: A discussion was held regarding a letter sent by Roberts as a private citizen to the Governor regarding dam removal. The discussion was difficult to hear but all members present discouraged Roberts from this activity.

10/20/15 – by Joyce Chapman:

All present. 1. RVCOG (Rogue Valley Council of Government) Plans for Grants Pass Senior Meals Facility by Michael Cavallaro, Executive Director: They are going to purchase a property in Grants Pass because they are being kicked out of their present location. No money from Jackson County will be used for the purchase. He went on to describe the arrangements in detail and they will apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) money. 2. Forest Service Draft Decision on Motor Vehicle Use by Rob MacWhorter, Forest Supervisor Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: MacWhorter gave a lengthy explanation of the history of roads, funding sources for maintenance and types/use of roads. The majority of roads, while on public lands, are not public right of ways, they are used for resource management. He emphasized that public roads are not part of this discussion to close roads. He described efforts being made to allow campers to reach dispersed

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closing the entire forest; no private landowner will be landlocked; the Sheriff will be allowed access for fire, search & rescue, law enforcement, etc. without prior permission. Roberts objected to the plan; Dyer was not sure he liked the plan; Breidenthal wanted to instruct the staff to prepare an MOU, but after discussion, changed it to instructing staff to develop recommendations to the Board on objections to the plan regarding administrative and legal standards. Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: MacWhorter says the plan for the forest will be revised and mentioned “cooperating agency status.” Jordan objected and insisted on “coordinating agency status” (these are legal terms apparently). County Counsel Benton will come back to the Board with an agenda item on “coordinating.” 3. Newell Barber Field Recognition Project -- Bern Case, Airport Director, reported on the efforts being made to identify the exact location of the Newell Barber Field and to provide recognition such as a plaque or small monument of some kind. He thinks the location is near Walmart, the Marriott and Rogue Credit Union. Delisting of Wolves in Oregon -- Roberts wants to encourage the delisting of wolves in all of Oregon. After discussion County Counsel Benton was asked to write a letter in support of delisting solves for the Board to sign.

10/29/15 – by Jan Craigie:
All present. 1. Chairman’s Award – Roberts suggest Joyce H?? (Last name inaudible) who is active in volunteer work and wrote a grant for the Library. The decision will be left to Chairman Breidenthal. 2. Input from County Administrator – Public Safety and Community Justice have separate funding but the State has provided a $30 million grant over 2 years for them and has very specific spending rules. The State’s goal is to keep more inmates in the counties and fewer in State facilities. JC Investment Policy – No change recommended. JC earns 1.5% which is the highest in the State. Body Cams – JC is a minority signer with Medford on a grant for body cameras. Medford will get $51,742 and JC Sheriff will get $18,000 for body cameras. The Audit Committee has finished an update and are dismayed that many costs are double or triple in some areas. Jordan explained that this first draft did not capture costs especially needed by the Sheriff for overtime. This is a 5 year review project and the Sheriff feels this is a bad time for an audit. The District Attorney will add .5 FTE to its staff.

11/5/15 – Joyce Chapman:
All Present. Lorraine Werblow, Co-President of LWVRV, with help from Susan Orth and Joyce Chapman, made a presentation to the Board requesting the Commissioners use microphones to amplify their voices during Staff Meetings and Work Sessions; and to publish an audible video and/or recording of these meetings on the county website. The Commissioners agreed to obtain and use microphones. Unfortunately, the Commissioners feel it is too expensive and burdensome to review all recordings and redact them prior to publishing them on the website. Oregon Revised Statutes 192.501–503 require such a review. Roberts would like to continue to look into the possibility of publishing recordings on the website. (Win – 1/ Lose – 1) Good job Lorraine!!! Governor’s Order 12-07 – Roberts reported that Douglas County will move forward with JC and Josephine County. She will give an update once a month.

Liaison Reports
– Roberts reported on Gold Hill. Dyer reported on the Mental Health Advisory Board and their success in dealing with a frequent user by developing a comprehensive plan. The user ended up in mental health court rather than regular court. Next Breidenthal said that he had received a letter from the BLM regarding clean-up of Howard Prairie. Jordan stopped the discussion because the topic was not “noticed” on the agenda and indicated it should be put on a future agenda for discussion. Fair Board -- Breidenthal reported that they discussed their financial position and it is looking better. They may end up $400,000 in the black. Siskiyou National Monument (Monument) – Breidenthal was contacted by a “lady” from Washington, DC BLM who asked him to come to a meeting to discuss management practices. Breidenthal set a meeting for Saturday, November 14, at 8:30 a.m. at the BLM offices. The Monument covers land in Oregon and California and apparently there is a long and controversial history related to the management of the Monument.
Breidenthal was strong in his belief that he could attend this meeting alone. The other Commissioners did not share his view. After a long and sometimes heated debate, the matter was deferred to Tuesday, November 10, for further discussion as a specific agenda item. AOC – Dyer and Roberts will attend the conference Monday through Wednesday, and Breidenthal will attend Monday through Thursday.

11/10/15 – Joyce Chapman:
All present. There were several people in the audience, including former Commissioner, C.W. Smith. The two agenda items, 1. BLM – Dayne Barron, District Manager, -- Discussion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and 2. Discussion of Meeting with BLM re Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument were blended into one discussion. Barron says that the meeting under discussion is a program review of both internal and external management of the Monument program and its future. In addition to the meeting scheduled with Breidenthal, BLM will also meet with various interest groups such as the Tribes and conservationists. Breidenthal wanted to attend the meeting alone. Roberts and Dyer appeared to disagree and expressed concern about having only one Commissioner representing the county at such an important meeting. Jordan pointed out that the current Board has not been informed regarding the issues surrounding this Monument and there is a coordination ordinance which states the official position on how the Commissioners want to be informed. Concern was raised that all Commissioners need to be informed and have input into the answers to the list of questions that BLM is seeking to obtain answers to. At one point Roberts strongly objected to Breidenthal attending the meeting alone saying something to the effect that she did not like the appearance of a meeting behind closed doors without the public present – that it is important for the people to know what was happening. After lengthy discussion, Roberts and Dyer insisted that the meeting with BLM regarding the Monument be attended by at least one other Commissioner and be made a public meeting. The meeting was preliminarily set for 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the county offices in the Jackson Room. Susan Orth agreed to attend as an Observer. Susan followed up and discovered that the Saturday meeting was cancelled with no alternative meeting being scheduled. We will keep you apprised of developments as best we can.

~Joyce Chapman, Observer Corps Chairperson

NOVEMBER MEETING in PICTURES

At Climate City Brewing Company in Grants Pass, on November 12th, LWVRV co-president Joanne Cleckner, presented an extremely informative lecture on “Money and Politics.” Thank you to Lorraine Werblow and Iris Milan for your photographs.
Please welcome the newest members to the LWVRV:

Shirley Weathers 435-548-2630 walsh.weathers@gmail.com

Jan Craigie 541-488-3710 craiglejan1@gmail.com

and our returning member:

Pat Gordon  (541-899-7655 phg@jeffnet.org

We welcome all three of you and look forward to meeting you at our December meeting!

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
### December LWVRV Calendar 2015

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### January LWVRV Calendar 2016

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