Celebrate Women’s History Month with the LWVRV, while watching the movie, “Suffragettes”, see p. 8

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Date: March 10th
Time: 11:30 – brown bag lunch; coffee, tea and dessert will be provided
Program – noon to 1 pm
Location: OEA Building, 1495 So. Pacific Highway, Medford
Speaker: Hannah Sohl, Director of Rogue Climate
Topic: Ms. Sohl will discuss working with specific communities, businesses, and public agencies. Their plans are to transition to other clean energy efficiency and discuss their role in the campaign to stop the LNG. Hannah will share the Healthy Climate Act, a bill before the Oregon Legislature that would limit climate pollution and help our state to transition to clean energy and greater energy efficiency – creating jobs and boasting our local economics in the process.
Public is Invited

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Women’s History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as “Women’s History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women’s History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.”

From the Law Library of Congress’ guide to the legislative history of Women’s History Month.

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

They stood before an audience of approximately 50 people listening to sustaining applause as they completed an hour of answering questions and giving their opinion at our League’s general meeting on Feb 11th. “They” are the Sheriffs of Jackson County, Corey Falls, and Josephine County, Dan Daniel. I don’t believe anyone who attended our meeting walked away not being impressed by these gentlemen who are effective, cooperative with other peace officers, and role models, for those who would want a career in law enforcement.

Our Nominating Chair and her committee are at a stand-still in finding folks to assist on next term’s Board. Nancy Swan will have an article about that, I’m sure. But I ask you, if you help a little, then those who help a lot will have less to do And you really will find camaraderie, fun and satisfaction with others, that you will miss out on if you don’t help. Does that help by enticing you to expand your horizons? But, just to make certain and to assure you, you don’t have to help on a committee to be a member. We appreciate your membership and hope you will ask a friend to join the LWVRV.

~Lorraine Werblow, Co-President

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UNAMENDED FEBRUARY 15, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

at Lorraine Werblow’s home

In attendance:  Lorraine Werblow, Mary Sinclair, Joan Rogers, Carole Levi, Olena Black, Joyce Chapman, Susan Orth, Diane Schockey, Kathleen Donham, Nancy Swan, Barbara Empol and Marylou Schnoes (note-taker).

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm.

Lorraine will check and find out if an organization such as the Maslow Project, can become a member of LWVRV.

It was noted that Lorraine, Susan, Iris and Marylou worked hard on the public relations and publicity for the sheriffs meeting.  M/S/P to reimburse Susan for the 2nd microphone she bought for our group. These microphones are used at our meetings, allowing them to passed around the room for audience participation.

Kathleen is planning a membership recruitment party, showing “The Suffragettes” at Roxy Ann Winery at 7:00PM March 16th, Wednesday. Kathleen would appreciate hearing about any more prospective members who we could invite. There will be a no-host bar. Contributions of snacks would be appreciated.

For Vote411, Mary Sinclair wants to get volunteers to help gather information from other counties regarding the ballot measures and the candidates in each county, and will write an appeal for the Voters Voice. Volunteers should be able to enter information into an Excel spreadsheet.

Fund raising: Judith and Debra had given information regarding planter-type gardening to encourage some apartment- or condo-dwelling buyers of the flowers. There will be a garage sale some time in May. Date yet to be announced.

Kathleen will continue as First VP or be in charge of Speakers Bureau

Nancy presented the nominations that the Nominating Committee has to date.

For Legislation Day, Lorraine appealed for a volunteer to go. No one present volunteered. Shirley Weathers was mentioned as a possibility as our rep. Her letter to the State regarding the Pipeline Project revealed an articulate person with great critical thinking skills.

For Observer Corps, Joyce brought up the fact that the OR Watershed Enhancement Board is awarding funds to the Nature Conservancy [TNC] to purchase land adjacent to the boat ramp by Dodge Bridge. The county gets grants like this all the time. Recently one was received to purchase the RV Park next to the Jackson Co. Expo Park, & develop it so profits could be used to maintain and improve other county parks. Commissioner Colleen Roberts opposes awarding funds to private organization to develop sites through these channels. TNC will even pay county taxes on these lands. The danger in Roberts objecting to the TNC grant is that funds could be withdrawn if OWEB perceives it’s a contentious issue.

Normary is having a Jackson County Board of Commissioners [BOC] Candidate forum. RVTD taping has been paid for in the past through Voters Service item in our budget. This would be the April 14th. LWVRV had a very successful public forum for candidates for the last BOC election.

Kathleen and Normary are going to Grants Pass to do a voters exercise with a Head Start group.

Olena suggested that interest groups could be a way to recruit more members. Units that are subdivisions of LWVRV could pursue special topics.

continued on p. 7
The LWVRV needs a few women/men to serve on the Board for the 2016-17 year.

We are looking for:

- Co-President to work with Co-President elect, Jackie Clary,
- 1st Vice-President
- Treasurer (Diane Shockey is moving!)
- Publicity Chairperson
- Membership Committee off-Board computer - savvy helper

Thank you to all Leaguers who help on our various committees. We are a busy body!

~Nancy Swan, Nominating Committee Chairperson

SPRING FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Bulb orders are due March 10th, 2016. Please place your order online or give it to Judith Kurinsky or Debra Har.

Soon, we will be picking up “stuff” for the Talent City - Wide Garage Sale in May, so get your boxes packed. Everything is acceptable.

Deliver your items to 394 Arnos, Talent, Oregon by appointment - call 541 499 7742.
IN the ARCHIVES—a document meaningful at any time

A declaration by the General Council of the League of Women Voters, produced January 8, 1942.

The emergency council of the League of Women Voters meeting one month after the United States entered the Second World War—the greatest in extent and the gravest in issue that ever faced a civilized world - recognizes that danger threatens, not only our physical territory, but in a more far-reaching and menacing way, threatens our national existence as a self-governing, free people. It recognizes that in the most literal sense of the word the future of government, resting on the consent of men, is at stake in this war. The mechanization of modern life has taxed the social ingenuity of men, almost to a breaking point, and sapped the fervor of their belief in self-government. The Council, moreover, appreciates that even to have the opportunity to develop a democratic future, the war itself has to be won.

With this knowledge, the League looks to itself and asks not just what it may do better or differently, but asks whether it shall continue to exist. Has it a reason for being, sufficient to justify it in times when every non-essential commodity and activity is being sacrificed?

Approaching our situation in that mood, the League Council votes unanimous conviction that if an organization having the purpose of the LWV did not exist today, it should be created. That no grant of executive power in a war emergency, however great, lessens the importance of an alert, understanding, critical body of citizens, active continuously in relation to the functioning of government. Without this, the people would become passive and democracy, at its very roots, dies.

So in a real sense, the League feels it should be reborn to do some of the tasks in some of the ways it has known before, in teaching both itself and others an understanding of government, but adjusted to the new requirements of winning the war, and winning the peace thereafter.

With that rebirth, the LWV commits itself, with a new determination, to reach a larger public than ever in its history, reaching them face-to-face with new methods, including special enrollment and instruction of its members.

The LWV expresses the conviction that at the level of local government, whose importance is often underrated, even in normal times, and whose functions are eclipsed in public attention during war time, lies a task of special importance.

The LWV will devise ways and means to see that a Congress is elected in November 1942, which is capable of dealing with the problems it will face, particularly that of post-war organization for peace. For upon this next Congress may well hang the fate of that kind of civilization for which we are now pledging our all.

~Susan Orht, Historian
In 2013, the State of Oregon began a process of changing the organization of the Higher Education in Oregon.

For 83 years, Oregon had a higher education system with seven universities, the Oregon University System (OUS): University of Oregon (U of O), in Eugene and Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, were the research Universities. Southern Oregon University (SOU), in Ashland, Eastern Oregon University (EOU) in La Grande, and Western Oregon University (WOU) in Monmouth, were regional liberal arts, providing students in rural areas of the State options for local college education in the professions, and for teaching and business. Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), in Klamath Falls, with a branch campus in Wilsonville was designated Oregon's technical university.

By July of 2015, the seven universities were spun off to become Public Independent Universities, with all the power that had been divested in the central OUS entrusted to a Board of Trustees. Southern Oregon University’s board is made up of 12 members, named by the Governor and approved by the Oregon Senate. The trustees have broad authority to supervise and manage the University and may exercise all of the powers, rights, duties, and privileges expressly granted by law or that are incident to the board’s powers, rights, duties and privileges. The mission of SOU, and its strategic plan will be developed.

The Board of Trustees meets once each three months. At SOU there are three sub committees that meet monthly. They are the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the Finance committee, and the Executive and Audit committee, currently working on the recruitment of a new president.

The committees report to the Board of Trustees (BOT), bringing them data on enrollment numbers, student recruitment, retention and graduation. The Finance committees, besides preparing budgets, reviews Funding models, (newly developed after the change from a central to a public independent model) and funds from endowments and informs the BOT of financial standing, and building projects.

Southern Oregon University (SOU) Faculty is unionized, Association of Oregon Faculties, along with a Staff Union, Service Employees International Union. The contract negotiations were recently completed and reported by the Administrator to the Trustees. Future observer reports will detail the issues that evolve as a result of the organization and management policy. Any member interested in participating in the observer corps of the SOU Board of Trustees meetings in Ashland at the SOU library, please contact Joyce Chapman.

~Olena Black, Webmaster
Deadline is March 9 for candidates to register for primary races! LWVOR needs to gather the candidate and Ballot Measure information for Vote411.org! Do you have a couple of hours to spare to help get the information from the County Clerks? Training/hand-holding/cheer-leading provided personally by Mary Sinclair. You will need to be able to search on a computer and put the information in a pre-formatted Excel file that will be provided. We have 36 Counties and if you would be willing to contact up to 5 Counties in the rural areas of the state IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

When the information is entered into Vote411, voters will be able to:

1. Go to Vote411.org, enter an address and get the candidates on the ballot for that address.
2. On LWVOR.ORG candidates will be in accessible files by Name or Race or County.

We anticipate over 1000 candidates in Oregon in the Primary.

Let me know if you can help.

m.sinclair@awvor.org
541-772-2372

Marylou expressed frustration in our declining ability to recruit younger members. Noted the difficulty the Nominating Committee had and that we can’t even fill key roles. It’s mostly the same handful of people who do multiple positions year after year. She wants to recruit working-age members, but feels strongly they’ll not join in great numbers as long as we hold our meetings during the middle of the normal workday. She proposed polling the membership regarding what other days, times-of-day or months they’d be willing to meet.

Marylou drafted a questionnaire, read it to the board and took comments for improvement. She will revise the questionnaire and send it out to the board. Would give a hard copy to attendees of our March general meeting, and also to non-attending members.

Lorraine adjourned the meeting at 3:45.
MEMBERSHIP

Celebrate Women’s History Month with the League!

See the 2015 film “Suffragettes” Wednesday March 16

No charge. Bring a friend. No host bar.

The Membership team is hosting an evening at Dunbar Farms Tasting Room to welcome potential new members to the Rogue Valley League. The League has purchased the 2015 film “Suffragettes” [Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Meryl Streep]. Join us at 7pm and bring a friend to honor Women History Month. No-host bar. The film is one-hour forty-six minutes.

We will begin at 7PM ON WEDNESDAY EVENING MARCH 16 AT DUNBAR FARMS. The Tasting Room is on the north side of Hillcrest Rd (2881), between Pierce Road and Foothills Road. The driveway is just west of the irrigation canal. Call Kathleen at 541-772-5044 for questions. An RSVP would be very helpful, but not necessary.

This handbill is reprinted with permission from the Oregon History Project. It was published in 1912 – before the League of Women Voters was formed.

Women's suffragists parade in New York City in 1917, carrying placards with signatures of more than a million women.

The first national suffrage organizations were established in 1869 when two competing organizations were formed, one led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the other by Lucy Stone. After years of bitter rivalry, they merged in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) with Anthony as its leading force.

After a hard-fought series of votes in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures, the Nineteenth Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. It states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_the_United_States
Positions on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

Below, please find the inks to the positions on the Constitutional Amendment that are the result of the LWVRV’s November study at Olena Black’s home. The study was conducted by Dr. Barbara Klein, a LWVRV member and the chairperson of our National Action committee. Olena Black produced the following document using the links provided.

* * * * *

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;

b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;

c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;

d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a “runaway convention” which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;

e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and

f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

Here are the links to the USLWV websites:

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/constitutional_amend_position_1doc.pdf

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/con_con_position.pdf
A more articulate and complete answer about the Electoral College

When presenting at the September general meeting on the National Popular Vote (NPV) I was asked a great question, not exactly about the NPV compact, but about the Electoral College. The member quizzed me on why, if the Electoral College is not in the constitution, does eliminating it (to have direct elections) need a constitutional amendment. I admitted to not having the most articulate answer. I said that it would be more a matter of addition, putting in the right to vote for president and eliminating the phrase “exclusive and plenary,” giving rights to the states to decide how electoral votes are used (a phrase which the NPV compact is based upon). I spoke about administrative changes, but those are not related to the constitutional issue. Two things I realize need(ed) clarification. First and foremost, the Electoral College AS IT STANDS is not in the constitution, but the CONCEPT of the electors IS – and it does state a fixed number of electors. Additionally, there is an amendment which gives Washington DC voting electors and other amendments addressing issues such as timing of the seating for the office. Thus these things would need a constitutional change. Secondly, I neglected to say the word ‘uniformity.’ To have a direct election of the president we would have to have a uniform system for all states (and again, the actual declared right to vote). As I mentioned, the states have ‘exclusive and plenary’ rights over their electors and that would have to be changed to enforce uniformity. The NPV compact would NOT need these constitutional changes. A reminder that the NPV compact itself does NOT eliminate the Electoral College and simply works within its bounds to make sure every vote is equal, in every state and in every presidential election. Hope this clarification is helpful.
~ Barbara Klein, Action Committee Chairperson

LWVRV FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING in PICTURES

The LWVRV’s February 11th meeting, was an informative discussion with Jackson county’s Sheriff Corey Falls, and Josephine County’s Sheriff Dave Daniel. A question and answer period followed the discussion. Thanks to Iris Milan for taking these photos.
A big thank you to Jan Craigie for her Jackson County (JC) Board of Commissioner (BOC) Observer Reports (primarily on Thursdays) and to Kathleen Donham who has filled in at the BOC when I could not attend. In addition, this month we have a report from Kathleen regarding the JC BOC Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC). Thank you, thank you. It is so important to report what we observe. – Joyce Chapman.

NRAC Meeting – 02/16/16: Commissioner Breidenthal is liaison to this committee. He wants the committee to create a “statement of Purpose” of the county’s natural resources plan that would serve as a document to deliver to other land management agencies requiring coordination with the county. He submits the Baker County Natural Resource Plan as an example. This is part of an ongoing effort by the county to urge the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other state and federal agencies to let the county advocate for management that could replace the loss of timber payments and Secure Rural Schools monies. Subcommittee meetings will begin next week.

There are also many issues to be addressed with legalization of marijuana growing and selling. County land use rules may need to be amended depending on the status of marijuana as an agricultural crop.

JC BOC Meeting – 01/26/16: All Commissioners present. Mike McArthur, Executive Director of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) gave a legislative update. This was the only public agenda item. Also present was David Brocksmith, a Commissioner from Curry County. AOC is a lobbying group for Oregon Counties. Mr. McArthur pointed out that the state legislative session is only 35 days long and that things will happen very quickly. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the status of various bills including minimum wage, funds coming to the counties from the Justice Reinvestment Act, the proposal to increase the corporate tax, and the marijuana tax formula. Mr. Jordan speculated that Jackson County would only receive approximately $30,000 a year from the marijuana tax. Due to the quickly evolving nature of the short legislative session, we have not included a detailed report on the discussion.

JC BOC Meeting – 01/28/16: All Commissioners present. 1. Discussion of Requested Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO) Vote – At the last RVMPO meeting a draft legislative concept was discussed that would allow for group funding (such as grants from the federal government) to the state for various transportation needs. Commissioner Breidenthal is primarily against it as he considers it a subsidy to local counties and he does not believe permanent subsidies are the answer. Mr. Jordan indicated that AOC if following this and appears to be in favor of it. At the moment it is not a bill and it will be clarified as the issue moves along. RVTD is in poor financial shape and this concept may provide some help. After further discussion the BOC voted to support the concept subject to continued review.

2. Discussion of Senate Bill 1551 and House Bill 4147. Commissioner Roberts expressed the opinion that these bills endanger Second Amendment rights and asked the BOC to oppose the bills. The other commissioners agreed and instructed Mr. Benton to draft a proclamation. 3&4. Nothing to report on 3 and on 4 it was mostly housekeeping issues. 5. Liaison Reports – Commissioner Breidenthal reported on the Public Safety County Committee (PSCC) which is concerned with preventative human services. The goal of routing offenders to services instead of jail appears to be working. Commissioner Dyer reported that the airport is on schedule to finish the snow removal building by August, that there is an historical display under construction and the next project is a reconfiguration of the taxi area. 6. Community Service Award Nominations – No decision was reached.
JC BOC Meeting – 02/02/16: All Commissioners present. 1. Proposed Road Closures within the Cascade – Siskiyou National Monument – Joel Brumm, Assistant Field Manager, for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lead the presentation. Mr. Brumm gave a detailed history of the Transportation Management Plan process. He presented four alternative plans. Lack of funding is a significant part of the need to close roads since they all cannot be maintained. BLM looks at abandoned roads, roads where culverts are fouling the watershed, public access, user needs, firefighting needs and access, search and rescue, among a myriad of issues and concerns. 2. Discussion Regarding the Stepping Up Initiative – Mark Orndoff, Health and Human Services (HHS) Director, and Stacy Brubaker, HHS Program Manager lead the discussion. Mr. Orndoff provided a historical background of the Stepping Up Initiative and provided a handout describing the program. The program includes jail diversion, crisis intervention training for police/sheriff’s officers, crisis staff available to the jail 24 hours a day 7 days a week who are able to help with suicidal prisoners, and set up a Mental Health Court. Mr. Jordan said that if the BOC supports this initiative, staff would come back to the BOC with a proclamation for approval and he recommended they support it. He indicated that this program will help create a framework and structure so that all services can work together. The BOC approved the drafting of a proclamation in support of the Stepping Up Initiative. 3. Discussion of Billtracker Legislative Tracking System. Mr. Jordan explained the options to provide the BOC access to this system. The BOC discussed and selected the most economical way to provide the commissioners access to the system.

JC BOC Meeting – 02/04/16: Commissioner Dyer absent. Discussion of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Land Acquisition Grant Program – Commissioner Roberts raised the topic and began the discussion. The BOC had previously discussed the OWEB grant in connection with the acquisition of 325 acres of private land by the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) and had declared the BOC neutral on the project. There was a lengthy discussion during which Commissioner Roberts stated her philosophical opposition to have private land purchased with the assistance of public money for public or nonprofit purposes. Mr. Jordan explained that OWEB manages federal pass through grant money. A great deal of the Jackson County Park inventory was purchased through the use of OWEB grants, including the Bear Creek greenway project and the RV Park next to the Expo. Commissioner Roberts expressed her desire to revisit the neutral position on the acquisition of 325 acres by SOLC. Mr. Jordan pointed out that SOLC has so far taken the position that, even though they are a non-profit, they pay property taxes on all of their lands. Commissioner Breidenthal said that he agreed with opposing the use of public funds to purchase private property. After more and lengthy discussion, the BOC instructed Mr. Benton, the County Counsel, to draft a letter expressing disapproval of the use of OWEB funds for the purchase of private property on philosophical grounds. A draft will be brought back to the BOC. 2. Discussion of Increased Audio Accommodations – Commissioner Roberts again raised the issue of providing the audio file of the Tuesday and Thursday sessions on the JC website. The estimated cost is approximately $10,000 per year, of that amount, $1750 is for the licensing fee for software and the balance is the estimated cost of staff time. Concerns were raised by Mr. Jordan and Commissioner Breidenthal about the possibility of increased costs over time and adding to the work load of already busy staff and detailed minutes are on line. There was lengthy discussion and issues of transparency raised by Commissioner Roberts. It was agreed to bring the matter back to the agenda when the full BOC is present. 3. Discussion of the Use of Staff Time and County Resources for Non-County Business – Commissioner Breidenthal raised the issue in the context of insuring that
commissioners don’t inadvertently show up together at private or public events, causing a quorum of the BOC, without proper notice. Apparently the issue came out of Commissioner Breidenthal asking JC staff to RSVP himself and his wife to an event and to make reservations for both of them. Mr. Jordan pointed out that there is a policy that prevents staff from assisting with personal work and weekly the commissioners coordinate calendars at their Thursday meetings. Commissioner Roberts pointed out that she handles her own personal calendar and there has been no confusion. No action was taken. 4. No action. 5. **Input from County Administrator** – Mr. Jordan went over the agenda for the Wednesday meeting which included: **Wolf Committee** will be considered emergency legislation so that they can implement the committee and deal with the grant application that is due February 29. JC will likely only qualify for around $500 the first year. The **Motorcycle Riders Association** (Commissioner Breidenthal said he is a lifetime member) is becoming a non-profit and wants an exemption from paying property taxes on 1715.11 acres of land it owns at a cost to the county of $3,874.72 per year in lost taxes. 6. **Liaison Reports** – Commissioner Breidenthal reported on the **AOC Public Lands Committee** – AOC is taking the position that we need to start discussion of moving federal land to state control and is promoting a study of the issue. AOC has taken the lead in urging the federal government to coordinate with the state. Commissioner Breidenthal said that he was approached by Jeremiah Stromberg, Community Corrections Assistant Director, to have the **Department of Corrections** perform a peer review of the County Corrections program. Commissioner Breidenthal asked Mr. Stromberg to submit something in writing that he could take to the appropriate people. Mr. Jordan said he was not interested in having a peer review at this time, and that Jackson County Department of Corrections is considered one of the top programs in the State. 7. **Citizen Committee Nominations** – The Recording Secretary said that there were three appointments, one reappointment (Dr. Ayers) and two new appointments. It wasn’t clear who was being appointed to which committee but Veterans Advisory Committee and Vector Control were mentioned.

**JC BOC Meeting – 02/09/16**: All Commissioners were present. Harvey Bragg filled in for Danny Jordan. **Fair Board** – the first part of the session was the semi-annual meeting of the BOC and Fair Board. A lengthy discussion was held. Among items of interest, one of the Fair Board members asked whether there shouldn’t be a more formal agreement regarding how the new RV park will operate. Mr. Bragg indicated that park staff were working on it. The discussion generally concerned future plans and budgeting for the Expo. The BOC then went into session. 1. Discussion of **State Marijuana Legislation** – Kelly Manning started the discussion of pending legislation at the state level. Among the areas of discussion – **Right to Farm Act** – getting clarification from the state on whether or not marijuana fall under that act would be helpful in doing land use planning and developing ordinances. The BOC asked that Ms. Manning provide an update on what the state is doing at each Tuesday and Thursday work and staff session. 2. Discussion of **Possible Program Review of Corrections Department** – Commissioner Breidenthal raised the issue. He wants to move forward with a review (see discussion on this topic at the 2/4/16 BOC meeting above). Commissioner Breidenthal indicated that in light of recent problems he wanted to move forward. Mr. Bragg said that until pending matters are resolved and the structure is certain, it didn’t make sense to do a review. Mr. Benton explained the differences between peer review and audit and indicated that an audit had been performed six months ago which found only minor deficiencies that had already been corrected. He pointed out that it would be difficult to do a peer review during a transition period Commissioner Dyer expressed the opinion that it would be a distraction to do a peer review at this time and favored putting it off and observed that our department is one of the best. Commissioner Roberts favored waiting until all investigations were complete.
Commissioner Breidenthal continued to favor doing a review. Mr. Bragg pointed out that if there are specific problems, there is an internal audit department and people can report anonymously. The internal audit department is independent and there is a strong non-retaliation policy. After further lengthy discussion Commissioner Dyer suggested that the issue be put back on the agenda when Mr. Jordan could be present inasmuch as Mr. Jordan has significant insight into the issue. 3. **Input from County Administrator** – Mr. Bragg proposed Order No. 15-16 to transfer 2.0 FTE’s (Full Time Equivalent employees) from County Administration to the Expo Department. After discussion, the transfer was approved.

**JC BOC MEETING – 02/11/16:** All Commissioners were present. Harvey Bragg filled in for Danny Jordan. 1. **Continued Discussion of Increased Audio Accommodations** – Board approved the request for recording the meetings and posting them on the JC website with a motion from Commissioner Breidenthal and seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Dyer questioned the $10,578 expense for a service he doubted few would use, but did approve. Commissioners agreed to re-evaluate in one year. 2. The board directed a letter be drafted which would serve as a proclamation that the BOC supported the **prohibition of additional background checks for gun purchases** in Jackson County. BOC has agreed to a **Wolf Depredation Committee** at the request of the Cattlemans Association to be established according to state rules and for possible compensation in the future. The board approved the licensing agreement with Parks reservation service and the **Jackson Care Connect** which provides data for the Coordinated Care Organizations until 2019. 4. **Liaison Reports** – Commissioner Roberts---Al Densmore will be placing a transportation tax of 13.5 cents on the May primary ballot. Commissioner Roberts met with OR Metropolitan Planning Consortium—most representatives are Portland & Eugene. She also met with Stockman’s Association re: **wolf committee**.

Commissioner Breidenthal—Noted that Roberts & Dyer now have official positions in the **National Counties Association** on transportation committees [congratulations]; Will be meeting with Region 6 public lands fire issues OAC on Feb 24, predicted transportation costs of $60 were reported. Commissioner Breidenthal has been involved with the OLCC and OAC counsel Rob Bovett to clarify marijuana commerce and agriculture. The legislative adoption of considering marijuana an agricultural crop will be key to establishing ordinances for growth. Commissioner Roberts remarked that she would like more coordination of efforts among the commissioners in dealing with the public and lobbyists in this matter. CommissionerDyer—met with **SOREDI**, Ron Fox has retired. C. Roberts would like an update on SOREDI’s progress in meeting its unmet goals from last year. He said that attracting new business will be difficult with the new **minimum wage proposals**. A letter from the commissioners was suggested opposing such legislation and approved by the commissioners. He also met with county mental health advisors about the “**K plan**” for funding the developmentally disabled.

**JC BOC Meeting – 02/16/16:** All Commissioners present. Former Commissioner Rachor was in the audience. 1. **Discussion of the ACCESS Leader’s Group** – Jackie Schad, Executive Director, invited the BOC to have a member participate in the 40th Anniversary brainstorming session. Commissioner Dyer volunteered. 2. **Travel to Forest Service Meeting** – Commissioner Breidenthal requested authority to attend the meeting in Portland as an add on to his trip to Washington, DC for the **AOC**. After discussion, the additional expenditure of either a rental car or taxi was approved. 3. **Discussion of Drafting a Letter of Opposition to the Minimum Wage Increase and the**

continued on p. 15
Gross Receipts Tax – Commissioner Dyer raised the proposal and read some statistics regarding the costs of these taxes. Mr. Jordan advised that Senator Buckley disputed those statistics and had requested specific information on the increase in cost to the county, which Mr. Jordan was getting ready to prepare. After lengthy discussion staff was instructed to prepare a letter of opposition and the BOC approved having Commissioner Dyer approve and send out the final letter that day. 4. Discussion of AOC Oregon Counties – China Council – Commissioner Roberts went to the meeting and reported that Oregon is trying to set up something like a “sister state” arrangement with China. Roberts expressed concern that China is not our ally, jobs are going to China and their products are substandard in her opinion. A lengthy discussion continued during which Commissioner Breidenthal claimed that he had set this up and he had worked on finding investors for a destination resort in Medford. Mr. Jordan pointed out that opening economic relations with China had been a longstanding effort that included efforts by the Chamber of Commerce, St. Mary’s and Dennis Richardson. Commissioner Skundrick and Mr. Jordan were authorized to make a trip to China in the past in an effort to help local businesses. Commissioner Roberts opposes foreign investment specifically from China. Commissioner Breidenthal said he would not go on record opposing investments from China. It was difficult to follow, but apparently there AOC plans an economic development trip to China on March 24th. Dyer and Roberts expressed concern on how the trip was being paid for. AOC indicated that it was not coming out of dues, but other funds, and they want to know the source of the funds and what are the goals of the trip. Mr. Jordan was asked to draft a letter to AOC asking the source of funds and the goals of the trip. 5. Discussion of State Marijuana Legislation – Kelly Madding provided an update on the current state of the legislation.
After considerably more discussion, the BOC asked Mr. Jordan to pursue the possibility of an NIC review after leadership has been stabilized and to report back. Again, we urge the reader to listen to the entire conversation for a more complete understanding of this important issue.

Following is the link to the county website where the recordings are made available:

http://jacksoncountyor.org/Board-of-Commissioners/Meeting-Audio-Recordings

~Joyce Chapman, Observer Corps chairperson

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**INVITATION to JOIN**

2015/2016 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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**LOOKING AHEAD**

March 16, 2016 Membership party at the Dunbar winery. See p. 8