



PLEASE NOTE

• This will be the last issue of the *Voters Voice* until September 2016. The Annual Meeting Packet arrives soon.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 14, 2016 NOON

Medford City Hall 411 W. 8th St. Medford 3rd floor

Jackson County Commissioner Position #2

Primary Forum

The Medford City Council Chambers-- Public Welcome

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Our League is sponsoring a live forum with Geoffrey Riley, from Jefferson Radio, as our moderator. The candidates for this position are incumbent Doug Breidenthal, Gordon Challistrom, Bob Strosser and Jeff Thomas.

The forum will start promptly at noon with RVTV televising it for our League. Please plan to come early to get seating before noon. City Hall is located on a one-way street.

Most parking around Medford City Hall is one-hour. Oakdale, across from City Hall, has a free County parking lot. Note-- it is on the right side of the lot by the red fish sculpture. Use care crossing Oakdale Ave.

Our League is formulating questions for the candidates and you are welcome to submit yours by email to me, phone or at the forum where we will take written questions.

This is a great chance to bring a neighbor or friend. Many voters do not know much about these candidates, and this is a great opportunity to evaluate them. Plus our League guidelines require us to be fair and impartial.

Hope to see you there! Normary Barrett Voter Service

SAVE THIS DATE
Thursday May 12, 2016
LWV Annual Meeting
Rogue Regency Inn

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I love the League of Women Voters! I've been a member since 1971 and I never cease to be impressed and inspired by the work this organization does and by the people who do it.

Why, you ask, am I writing about this now? Well something did trigger my reflecting on this organization

Recently, our membership chair, Kathleen Donham, showed the movie Suffragettes. It was the story about women led in the late 1800's by Emmeline Pankhurst, Great Britain's feminist who fought against social inequality and the right for women to vote. She led women, at first on a peaceful path and when not being taken seriously, on a more volatile road to get attention from the government. These actions caused great hardship for the women who were her followers, including imprisonment, loss of their job, and sometimes loss of their family.

In the movie the actress portraying Emmeline gave a stirring speech to woman gathered to meet and hear her. I got goose-bumps watching and listening. I wondered if I would have had the courage to face such opposition, the courage to be an outcast, lose my friends, being challenged by my husband, and would I have had the nerve to challenge the government. I truly don't know.

I do know that I'm grateful to women like Ms. Pankhurst, America's Mary Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth and their followers for their strength of character, for their courage, and to the many men who did support the women's movement which we are enjoying now.

And of course I'm grateful to the LWV which has built on the work of the suffragists and suffragettes to engage all voters – men and women – to become informed voters.

-Lorraine Werblow, Co-President

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MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

LNG pipeline. The permits for the Jordan Cove LNG pipeline were not approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but there are appeals possible. So, while that was good news, it's not over yet.

Budget. The LWVRV's budget is in the black. Diane Shockey reminded us we have to approve a budget for the coming year.

Nominating Committee. Nancy Swan said that even though she's worked on many nominating committees over the years, this was the most difficult time she's ever had getting people to agree to serve. Even trying as much as they (Nancy Swan, Carole Levi, Shiena Polehn, Susan Roberts and Mary Sinclair) doggedly did, they weren't able to get anyone to step forward as Co-President (to serve with Grants Pass member Jackie Clary as a Co-President), Publicity Chair, and members of the following committees: Publicity, Membership, Voters Service, Speakers Bureau, Observer Corps and Nominating.

Kathleen said she'd also be 1st VP. Someone expressed the idea that it'd be great if we could get an Ashland person, perhaps, as a co-president.

Mid-year membership or less-than-full membership? Like a "friend of the League" type of membership in which one would have to pay less in dues and would get the newsletter, but not be a voting member. A "sustained membership", in which a member would have dues automatically withdrawn from an account, might be possible. Kathleen and the Treasurer will look into it. Lorraine asked if we could have dues paid in thirds or some fraction.

Joan Rogers will be working on the preparation for the Annual Meeting in May.

Jackie Clary will be going to the State Convention. LWVRV gets a vote, but may send more representatives. The LWV National convention is June 16th – 19th in D.C. Lorraine would like to go, and perhaps Jackie, too.

Voters Service. (Normary Barrett, chair) Jackson County Board of Commissioners Candidates' Forum will be our general meeting at noon on April 15th at the Medford City Hall Chambers on the 3rd floor.

PA System. Susan Orth is moving to Boise and will be gone by June. Will need someone else to take care of the PA system, which can actually also be used to broadcast the movie sound at Wednesday's membership recruitment event.

Membership. At Kathleen's Annual Membership Recruitment Meeting Wednesday night, free membership free for the rest of the year will be offered. The movie "The Suffragettes" will be shown.

Scholarship. Debra Harr: Each year the committee can suggest benefitting organizations, present it to the board and then help decide which organization should get the scholarship. Picked Maslow this year because Debra thinks it'll be good PR for LWVRV. A letter will be required by a certain date from the student.

(continued on p. 6)

Fighting Climate Change Locally: Our March Meeting



Note: The League of Women Voters has a national position to “limit future climate change and protect the planet.”

March 10th the well-spoken Hannah Sohl spoke to about 25 LWVRV members about several fronts of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now [SOCAN]. Hannah originally studied Sociology and Fisheries Science and got a grant to study six indigenous fishing areas, ending up in Bangladesh. There, rising sea levels have already begun swallowing up entire communities.

Since 2013, SOCAN has rallied impressive numbers of people locally to learn what they can do to help save the planet. (At the end of this piece is contact info, to let Oregon’s decision-makers know what you think.)

The action [called Rogue Climate] focuses on organizing, city-by-city, what municipalities can do to make a difference. So far, Talent has committed to purchasing only renewable energy for city functions, and will hire an AmeriCorps worker to develop action and energy plans. Young people in Ashland are following Eugene’s example, where young people have a city ordinance to make the changes legally binding.

The Healthy Climate Bill in the Oregon Legislature didn’t make it out of committee during this past short session, but compared to the last time such legislation was considered, awareness and the potential for passage in the future has improved. The bill would have 1) capped pollution “cap & trade”, 2) offset increased energy costs for low-income residents, and 3) provided for re-training for workers currently employed in coal energy. Rep. Peter Buckley added \$250,000 into the budget for the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to begin studies for what would have to be done for any future cap-and-trade system. Such a bill was expected to spur economic development and create jobs in renewable energy (primarily wind and solar) in the state.

16,000 jobs were created with such a bill in the Northeast U.S.

SOCAN got 30 citizens to turn out for a meeting in Gold Hill! Seventy farms, hundreds of businesses and many groups signed on to support the Healthy Climate Bill. They had 70 Southern Oregonians go to Salem to help lobby. Currently, 69% of the electric power in the Rogue Valley is derived from coal (33% state-wide). The legislature did pass the Clean Energy and Coal Transition Plan. This requires all major utilities in the state to stop using coal entirely by 2030 and to get half of their energy from renewables by 2040.

Our Children’s Trust is international, but based in Eugene. It has brought a lawsuit against the federal government and has youth plaintiffs in every state. They assert the federal government has violated the right to life, liberty and property for young people by causing climate change; and yet it has failed to yet protect public trust resources. (continued on p.5)

Fighting Climate Change Locally, Our March Meeting

(continued from p. 4)

*(Please see paragraph at bottom of this piece regarding events that took place the day after our meeting.)**

Much discussion took place related to Oregon's potential as the West Coast's fossil fuel hub. Regulations are stricter in California, Washington State and the Canadian provinces; so two major ports for fracked natural gas have been proposed for Oregon, one in Astoria and the LNG Jordan Cove Pipeline which includes building a gargantuan terminal in Coos Bay/N Bend, within the tsunami zone. In addition to enabling greater greenhouse gas emissions abroad, the system could have health impacts including gas fumes and water pollution. The pipeline will cross four major rivers: the Umpqua, Klamath, Rogue and Coquille; all at risk from horizontal directional drilling. Huge tanker ships would affect oyster farms, other fishing and local shipping. Dredging of 5.6 million cubic yards of river bottom would occur. Though the construction would provide 2,000 jobs over the course of two years, only 150 permanent jobs would be created in Coos Bay.

The DEQ and Department of State Lands have the ability to deny the project permits. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues permits—possible any day now*—SOCAN is asking Gov. Kate Brown to sue them.

The use of *eminent domain* (the taking of private property for public use) is necessary for construction of the pipeline and may be a rallying cause for local landowners. Some leaders in Portland and Salem have strongly opposed the Astoria port construction, but not the Jordan Cove project. Ron Wyden favors the project; Jeff Merkley is not opposed. Gov. Brown has said she wants to allow the state agencies to do their jobs. At this point, the Department of State Lands is supposed to decide in May, whether to issue its permits. The DEQ must also issue permits.

To express your view on the subject, you may contact:

Gov. Kate Brown. <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/share-your-opinion.aspx>

State Capitol Building 900 Court Street NE, 160 Salem OR 97301

Senator Jeff Merkley. <https://www.merkley.senate.gov/contact>

313 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ron Wyden. <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

221 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

*Author's note: On March 11th, the day after the above discussion, the FERC denied the permits requested because the public benefits did not outweigh the adverse effects of taking of private lands for the right-of-way. (See <http://www.ferc.gov/CalendarFiles/20160311154932-CP13-483-000.pdf> for actual order.) Of course, there are several means by which this decision can be appealed (administrative appeals, alternative dispute resolution, and actual litigation that can go all the way to the Supreme Court). Considering the moneyed interests involved and our society's perceived need for any and all energy sources, this writer suspects the decision is not yet final.

—Marylou Schnoes

HAPPY DAYS , HAPPY WAYS

In lieu of a bio of a new member this month, I have chosen to salute the efforts of all our members. Think back to the exceptional programs we have enjoyed over the past few months: every subject from topics led by our own members, to a friendly discussion between our own local sheriffs. Our usual non-profit December social event appealed to everyone, with a presentation by the Maslow Project, an outstanding organization for the betterment of youth. This resulted in a collection of quilts, clothes, food, gift-certificates and the largest amount of money we have ever received for the children. Thanks for your generosity and for a scholarship to be used for the “kids” education. This welcome addition has been organized by a new “money raising” committee which has completed two projects and more are in the planning. Every worker is a jewel.

Our membership has increased steadily upward, with more joining from Ashland and some of the smaller cities around Medford. Most are willing to service in offices, but Nominating Committee chair, Nancy Swan would welcome more. My delight is the melding of our women and watching friendships grow. A few more men would be stimulation.

Occasionally, we are treated to a movie, such as “The Suffragettes,” which is free to the public and a chance to raise our membership.

Thanks to all those who organize and work on these events. We all win!

~ *Shiena Polehn, Hospitality*

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (continued from p.3)

Study Groups. Jackie: Members could take up an issue and have a study group in various locations (e.g. in Grants Pass, so it would be easier to attend.) Studies are in the archives & Olena has been posting them online. Kathleen mentioned that it gives people a chance to discuss issues. Everyone thought this was a very promising idea.

Fund Raising. Debra: Not sure when the garage sale can be. City of Talent hasn't figured it out yet. Could be in Phoenix, if Talent doesn't come through. Jacksonville will have one in September if all else fails.

Voters Voice. Carole Levi: This is the last *Voters Voice* [VV] for this year. (Membership packet is May's mailing.) This Sunday March 20th is the deadline for the April VV.

VV costs approximately \$200 to print and send. Olena was concerned that it was taking a lot of time to print and send hard copies. Most people present wanted to continue to get it hard copy. Kathleen will try printing the May packet with cheaper paper for the inside pages, to see if that's a potential money saver for the VV.

~*Submitted by Marylou Schnoes, Recording Secretary*

FROM the ARCHIVES

On April 19, 1964, the Medford paper reported that the national League of Women Voters, representing 900 state and local leagues, is adding a new discussion topic for members. For the following two years, Equality of Opportunity would be included as a choice for local and state leagues' focus. This topic included evaluation of United States policies and programs to provide for all citizens equality of opportunity for education and employment.

On April 12, 1968, the president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Mrs. Robert I. Stuart, issued a statement concerning "the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and its implications in this country." The Medford League had it published in the local paper.

The statement follows: "Words will no longer do. The efforts we have taken so far will not suffice. Now is the time for vigorous and constructive action by the Congress, the state legislatures and by every community to see that Negro citizens take their rightful place in American life. Every individual has a part to play. Civil rights issues are basically personal issues: they call for personal impressions of beliefs -not only to law-making bodies on every level of government, but in answer to the bigoted in our communities, whether they be relatives, neighbors or friends.

If each of us takes on the same kind of personal commitment that characterized Dr. King's life, his goals can be achieved. They must be achieved."

~Susan Orth, Historian

FUNDRAISER

Saturday May 7, 2016 Talent City-Wide Garage Sale

Last year we made \$900.00. Let's do it again!!!

Deliver your donations for sale to:

394 Arnos Street, Talent OR from May 1st to May 6th.

If you need to drop off stuff earlier than May 1, please contact

Debra Har. She will arrange for an earlier pick up.

Fundraising Chairperson, Debra Har

2312 Fairfield Dr. Medford



SOME IDEAS REGARDING LWVRV MEMBERSHIP and MEETING TIME OPINION POLL

Questionnaire. This is being emailed & as a page in the paper issue of the Voters Voice. If you did not fill one out at the March general meeting, please take that page from your April issue, fill it out & mail it by April 5th to LWVRV, PO Box 8555, Medford 97504. Thank you!

Name (optional) _____

1. I attend LWVRV meetings ___every month___ usually___ occasionally___ never

2. I intend to—or in the last 2 years I’ve had the time to—

___continuously serve on a committee

___occasionally help out at events

___none of the above. (Just not possible or not interested.)

3. “LWVRV needs some younger members.” ___Agree___Disagree___No comment

4. I’m willing to attend meetings___Any month OR only the following

___January___February___March___April___May___June

___July___August___September___October___November___December

5. I’m willing to attend meetings on at least some of these weekdays (depending on time of day, the month or the season)

___Monday___Tuesday___Wednesday___Thursday___Friday___Saturday___Sunday

6. ...but my availability for those days may depend on

___which week in the month___which month___which season of the year___no

other factor (I can meet on that day of the week any time of month or year.)

7. I’m willing to attend meetings

___Only at mid-day___Only during daylight___Only during daylight or as a passenger in a carpool___Any time

8. If you agree we need younger people (those not yet retired, but whose kids have left home), specific actions by which we can recruit younger members are:

9. To accomplish the above suggestion, I’m willing to step forward and do:

MARCH GENERAL MEETING in PICTURES



Ms. Sohl discussed the Healthy Climate Act and how specific communities, businesses, and public agencies have roles in the campaign to stop the LNG.



Hannah Sohl, Director of Rogue Climate



NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jackson County NRAC meeting March 15, 2016 [LWV Member Kathleen Donham attends]

Jackson County NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory Committee) is presently studying the status of collaboration and coordination between the Federal Land Agencies (BLM and Forest Service) and Jackson County. Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding for Jackson County, which comes from timber receipts from the O&C Counties, has decreased since the eighties and is expected to create a financial hardship for the county. NRAC believes that a more concerted effort to coordinate with the federal agencies will force the BLM and Forest Service to consider the interests of the county in timber sale planning and executing.

Commissioner Briedenthal also believes that the loss of the LNG pipeline project will deprive the county of up to \$5 million dollars annually. He hopes to support an appeal to the FERC decision.

VOTERS SERVICE IN GRANTS PASS

On February 16 RV League spoke to the local Headstart parents and offered voters' service to individual Headstart Centers in the Rogue Valley.

The Rogue Valley League has several members in Grants Pass, and rising interest in that community for Voters Service. The Josephine County elections office lists ten candidates for one county commissioner position, and eight for another in the May 17 primary. The desperate financial situation in the county is of growing concern, and voter education could be critical. League members with ties to neighbors in Grants Pass area are encouraged to recommend the League as a way to begin community dialogue

~Kathleen Donham

Membership News

Congratulations to our newest League member Tammy Westergard, Jackson County Library Director, on her "Mover and Shaker" award!

And we *love* hearing our SOU student member Emily Pfeiffer on JPR mornings!

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL in PICTURES

On March 16, 2016, the LWVRV held an Annual Membership Recruitment Night at Dunbar Winery. Wine was served and the film, "The Suffragettes," was shown. Thank you, Olena, for the pictures.



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

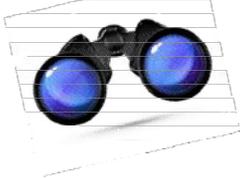
April

LWVRV Calendar

2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
					2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10
11	12	13	14 Jackson County RVLWV Forum Medford City Hall	15 Taxes Due	16/17
18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day/ Passover begins at sundown	23/24
25	26	27	28	29	30

LOOKING AHEAD



The LWVRV Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016. at the Rogue Regency Inn in Medford. The luncheon selections, speaker information and proposed slate of LWVRV Board and Off-Board Officers will be coming to all members in the Annual Meeting Packet.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ROGUE VALLEY
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MEDFORD, OR 97504

