General Meeting

Thursday February 9, 2017
OEA Bldg 2495 S. Pacific Hwy
11:30 am Medford

The February General Meeting will include a presentation by “Hearts with a Mission.” Each year the League supports a non-profit, and this year we’re doing it for Valentines Day. Members are encouraged to bring a modest gift for a teenager [e.g., gift card, book, CD, item of clothing, game, etc.] Cookies to share are also welcome.

We will also discuss plans for the Post-secondary Education Study.

Members who do not plan to participate in the Post – secondary Education consensus may want to donate their copies of the report which was mailed last week. Please bring your report to the next meeting to share.

Many LWV members attended the Women’s March in Ashland January 21. Shown from left to right are a few: Lorraine Werblow, Michael Sawicky, Barbara Klein, Shirley Weathers, and Bill Walsh.

In This Issue

- Healthcare Action Report p. 3
- Post Secondary Education executive summary pp. 7—9
- Announcements p.5
- Membership p. 13
- Calendar p. 14
- Review of Legislative Day in Salem pp. 11 –12
- Natural Resources pp. 4 & 6
- From the Archives p. 5
From the President’s Pen ……

“Fasten your seatbelts, it’s going to be a wild ride,” a comment on Frontline the other night about the next four years. This past presidential election has been like no other in my 50 years of voting. My world had been shaken because I believed most Americans viewed the world as I did. Perhaps that’s naïve, or an age thing, but it has been a shock. Then January 21st arrived and so did hope. The marches around the world have been inspirational. It was so exciting to see nieces in Washington D.C., Sacramento, and London; a sister in New Hampshire; friends and a nephew in Seattle and Ashland. Other members of my family have vowed to contact, possibly for the first time, government officials about what they think is important. Even my London niece has written a letter to the British Prime Minister. People are getting involved, nationally and locally, and that makes me happy.

As LWV, we are in a position to speak out, with authority, on any of the issues that were raised at the marches. We are prepared and it is time to go to work. Jackie Clary, President LWVRV

Post-Secondary Education Study Update 2017
League members should have received a mailed copy of the Post-Secondary Education Study from the state League. Contact Kathleen at 541-772-5044 if you did not. We will introduce the study at the February General Meeting. The executive summary is included in this newsletter on pages 6-8.

We ask that members review the study and offer to host small groups to answer the consensus questions. The results from this consensus will provide guidance for our state League Action Team now busily preparing testimony for hearings on this subject. New local State Senator Dennis Linthicum District 28 is vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Education at sen.DennisLinthicum@oregonlegislature.gov and 503-986-1728. The chair of the study is Karan Kuntz at 503-636-2673.

Newsletter editor Carole Levi is recovering from her illness. We extend our deepest regrets for her loss. Services for her late husband will be held in Ashland on President's Day weekend.

From the Editor……

If you have information or letters you would like to share, please contact the interim editor at:

kdonham@gmail.com

541-772-5044
Health Care Action News

Bill Walsh

The LWVRV formed a Health Care Action Group at the January meeting to facilitate advocacy on issues relating the health care in accordance with LWV positions. Initially, the goals will be to support the LWVUS call to combat repeal of the Affordable Care Act and monitor and support positive health care developments during the upcoming Oregon Legislative Session. Bill Walsh facilitates the group and members include; Vanya Sloan, Mary Sinclair, Lorraine Wewblow, Kathleen Donham, Olana Black, Joyce Chapman, Diane Shockey, Bonnie Johnson, and Shirley Weathers, with Jackie Clary and Barbara Klein being kept in the loop.

On January 19, 2017 the group collaborated on and sent letters over Jackie’s signature to Senators Merkley and Wyden. We declared our opposition to repealing the ACA and thanked them for their efforts to the same end. We also sent a letter to Representative Greg Walden, urging him as Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to exert leadership and be mindful of the significant harm to his constituents that would attend irresponsible repeal. We requested a meeting with Rep. Walden (or his Medford Staff Director) to discuss further our concerns about ACA repeal, as well as about possible disruptions to Medicare and Medicaid.

Look for the Health Action Team’s Letter to the Editor in the Medford Mail Tribune coming soon. The MMT has a policy of accepting only one letter per month from an individual or group. We intend to keep up our quota!

Oregon Congressman Greg Walden, District 2, is in a very influential position as Chair of the powerful House Committee on Energy and Commerce. He introduced the recent changes to the Affordable Care Act. As chair, Representative Walden influences all the five sub-committees as well: Energy, Environment, Oversight and Investigations, Communications and Technology, and Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection.


Natural Resources Action News
Shirley Weathers, Natural Resources Chair

2017 Oregon General Session (Starts February 1)

SB 557 (Beyer), Clean Energy and Jobs Bill. While a daunting budgetary shortfall and a major transportation package will consume a lot of energy during the Session, the LWVOR, LWVRV, and many other advocates of serious action on climate change will also be working to pass SB 557. A “Cap, Trade, and Invest” proposal, it is the product of months of work by a broad coalition of individuals and groups concerned about climate and committed to address it in ways that create jobs and otherwise shore up Oregon communities.

The state LWV worked with 40 other groups, including environmental, equity, health, and labor groups. Underlying principles drove the drafting process: 1) Reduce GHG [greenhouse gases] emissions at target rates based on science, 2) Invest in the communities that need it most, 3) Create a fair transition to clean energy, 4) Require that all sectors pay their fair share, and 5) Ensure that no communities are left with an unfair burden of pollution or cost.

SB 557 forges a statutory link between reducing GHG emissions, while generating money to be spent on clean energy projects and infrastructure and in the process, creating thousands of jobs, many in Oregon’s more economically depressed rural areas. A two-page summary of the bill can be found at SOCAN’s website (www.socan.info). Currently in Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

Other Bills on the Horizon. We will also be watching and supporting other state League priorities, including, 1) HB 2478, relating to a requirement that the Environmental Quality Commission (within DEQ) assess the impact of state policies or programs on reducing GHG emissions; 2) SB276, relating to the impacts of GHG emissions on ocean acidification and Oregon fisheries; and 3) a “Climate Test” bill that would require measure of the impact of large proposed projects, e.g., Jordan Cove Pacific Connector Pipeline, on GHG emissions.

Our Children’s Trust (OCT) Lawsuits

The U.S. Government (Obama Administration) and fossil fuel industry Intervenors submitted Answers to the plaintiff’s Complaint in the federal OCT lawsuit, Juliana et. al. v. United States et. al. Attorneys for the Plaintiffs indicate that the Government’s Answer admits to a substantial number of Plaintiff’s Claims. They were unsuccessful in their attempt to depose Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson prior to his confirmation hearings for Secretary of State before the U.S. Senate. It appears, though, that the deposition will occur in early February in Eugene, OR. We will review the Answers and report on outcomes and other matters related to this important case in the next issue of the Voters Voice. (Visit www.ourchildrenstrust.org.) [continued on page 6]
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ROGUE VALLEY

From the Archives..... by Nancy Swan, Historian

Although Medford had been one of ten Oregon towns with a League in late 1920, it had dwindled to a study group until the big Medford Mail Tribune headline: "WOMEN VOTERS ARE ORGANIZED IN LEAGUE HERE"...

A front page story on April 20, 1939, noted the organization of the Jackson County League of Women Voters at a meeting in the Medford High auditorium the previous evening. Mrs. Leonard (Winifred) Carpenter became the group’s first president. Mrs. E. W. St. Pierre, LWVOR chairman, pointed out that the League of Women Voters had been functioning in the United States for 20 years as a non-partisan organization of civic-minded women whose aim is to improve governmental administration through intelligent study. While never sponsoring or supporting a candidate for public office, the League pledged itself to support worthy measures such as child welfare and pure food and drug legislation. EARLY DAYS:1939 was a challenging year for the new Jackson County Leaguers as they: 1) began a “Know Your Town” survey, 2) selected officers & a study program which included the role of government in child welfare, education, economic welfare and the legal status of women, and 3) reviewed proposed amendments to the “National Neutrality Act” in reaction to beginning of WWII in Europe.

Announcements

- **State Convention** will be held in Wilsonville May 5-7, 2017 and hosted by the Clackamas County League. Proceedings will be held at the Holiday Inn Portland South. Our League will be able to send four voting delegates and as many observers as wish to go.

- **Action:** Members are encouraged to interview their state and U.S. legislators. Kathleen Donham plans to interview Senator Linthicum District 28. Interviews need to be scheduled with new Sen. Alan DeBoer District 3; Rep. Mike McLane District 55; Rep. Pam Marsh District 5; and Rep. Sal Esquivel District 6, along with Josephine County legislators. Responses to the standard interview questions from state will be used by the Action Team in Salem.

- **Observer Corps:** Rick Bennett has agreed to follow the Medford City Council. Joyce Chapman will no longer be Chair of Observer Corps, but is willing to mentor any member with an interest in following local governmental proceedings.

- **Fundraising:** Save your saleable items for an April garage sale in Phoenix/Talent. Judith Kurinsky and Debra Har are organizing the event with the community. League expenses are all paid with fundraising revenues.
In the meantime, mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, April 13, 2017 when the LWVRV will host Mary Christina Wood, the OSU environmental law professor whose work to articulate and develop public trust law (AKA atmospheric trust litigation) that forms the foundation for the Our Children’s Trust lawsuits. The program is still evolving, but we’re hoping she will be joined by youth Plaintiffs and local youth climate advocates.

Mark Your Calendars — Thursday Evening April 13
Our Children’s Trust

Jordan Cove Pacific Connector Pipeline Project

Southern Oregon appears to be on the verge of again facing a major natural gas pipeline across southern Oregon and a liquefaction facility in Coos Bay. We reported last month that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had denied the applicants’ Request for Rehearing on its earlier Denial Decision, closing the book on the project. But the Canadian Company, Veresen, announced almost immediately its plans (through Jordan Cove LLC) to initiate a new application. Earlier this month there were reports that Jordan Cove was back pressuring landowners to sign right-of-way agreements, presumably to clear away FERC objections to the extensive use of eminent domain. A meeting between Jordan Cove officials and various Oregon governmental entities is scheduled on January 31. Landowners have called for inclusion or a meeting of their own with state entities, but we have not heard that the request was granted. Most recently, it was revealed that the Jordan Cove project was discussed along with the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines in a meeting Donald Trump held with construction union leaders in Washington. The LWVRV opposes the pipeline that would slice through Jackson County and impact hundreds of landowners and 400 waterbodies including the Rogue River. We will be joining others on January 31 to discuss, reiterate, and reinvigorate our resistance. There will no doubt be much more to follow.

Business Letter to President Trump Urging Reversal of His Climate Change Policy

Donald Trump’s Cabinet picks for at least four federal agencies appear consistent with his campaign promise to accelerate fossil fuel development and turn away from the Obama Administration’s efforts to address climate change, both nationally and globally. There is uncertainty about how Trump’s early actions will play out, but interestingly, even before the inauguration major U.S. businesses asserted their opposition to his plans. In a joint letter released in mid-November at climate talks in Marrakesh, Morocco, 365 companies and investors declared their commitment to addressing climate change and urged the then president-elect Trump to leave GHG emissions reduction policies in place. They stressed that the U.S. should not abandon the Paris Climate Deal. “Failure to build a low-carbon economy puts American prosperity at risk . . . But the right action now will create jobs and boost U.S. competitiveness.” Sign-ons to the letter have reached 700. (Source: “U.S. Companies to Trump: Don’t Abandon Global Climate Deal,” New York Times, November 16, 2016. Read the letter with signatories, www.lowcarbonusa.org.)
Jackson County Governance Local League Position Restudy Proposed

At our January program planning meeting, Rogue Valley League proposed a re-study of the our position on Jackson County governance to include the governance of Josephine County. In the light of our study of election methods, a committee is forming to review our position. Formal acceptance of this proposal will be voted on at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN OREGON: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following summary was prepared by the Oregon state LWV to introduce the update of the League’s position. The study conclusions will be used to guide the lobbying efforts of the Action Team at the current legislative session in Salem. Our March general meeting will address this issue.

In 2013, the League of Women Voters of Oregon voted to update their position on Postsecondary Education in Oregon. This study provides information on the current organization of education in Oregon.

Today, three-quarters of the fastest-growing occupations require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Yet nearly half the students who begin college in this country don’t finish within six years. And tuition continues to rise, putting college out of reach for the very families that need it most to join the middle class.

Today Oregon has seven public universities and two centers and affiliates. These institutions include Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University. The centers and affiliates are Southwest Oregon University in Coos Bay and Oregon Health and Science University. In addition, Oregon has 17 separate community college districts with independent governing boards and with campuses throughout the state. The state also has many private universities and over 208 private career schools.

RECENT CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN OREGON

Since 2011, in recognition of the need for more advanced education for future employment and community well-being, the Oregon legislature has set educational goals and reorganized the higher education landscape. In 2011, the 40-40-20 goal (SB 252) called for a population in 2025 of which 40% of Oregonians achieve a bachelor’s degree or higher, 40% achieve an associate’s degree, technical degree or certificate, and the remaining 20% have a high school diploma. Many see the goal as aspirational. Others emphasize that that the goal drives the push to improve access to higher education and provide support for successful completion.
SB 242 established the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), consisting of 14 volunteer members appointed by the Governor. The commission appoints an executive officer. Currently HECC is an independent education unit answering directly to the governor and legislature, coordinating with other state education units. Legislative action transferred administrative authority of the Oregon Student Access Committee to the Office of Student Access and Completion under HECC, and moved authority over community colleges (Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Development) from the Department of Education to HECC.

In 2013, (ORS 352) the Legislature authorized independent boards for the University of Oregon and Portland State University. By 2015 all the universities had independent boards nominated by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The Oregon University System, Office of Chancellor, and the Board of Higher Education were abolished, and their responsibilities were divided by the Legislature between the independent boards and HECC. The new boards were given the power to manage the affairs of the University, such as choosing a president, fund raising, budgeting, and managing tuition and fees. The Boards must work with HECC, including submitting mission statements, annual evaluations, and budget requests. Substantial academic changes must be reviewed by HECC. The individual budget requests are submitted to HECC, which, in turn, compiles a combined budget request. This is then sent to the Governor to be considered as part of the Governor’s budget for recommendation to the Legislature.

HECC duties touch on all aspects of higher education, including public and private universities, colleges, career schools, community colleges, and student financial aid.

THE EQUITY LENS AND THE 40-40-20 GOAL

The disparity of student opportunity in higher education is a major focus in discussions of public postsecondary education in Oregon. Oregon’s Equity Lens was established to focus on these issues at all levels of education, recognizing the achievement gap between populations of communities of color, immigrants, migrants, and low income rural students, when compared to the majority population. All public higher education institutions are being asked to address these issues in their programs and supply support to allow these underrepresented groups to progress.

To meet the 40-40-20 goal, HECC is working with the universities, community colleges, and career schools to design educational programs. To meet the goal and honor the Equity Lens, the state, through HECC, the Legislature, and post-secondary institutions, is developing programs both to encourage pursuit of postsecondary education and to improve student outcomes.

A variety of programs to speed student progress and achieve better outcomes are in the early stages of implementation. These including Accelerated Learning programs beginning in high school, dual credit programs that allow the transfer of credits between institutions, credit for prior learning (allowing credit for appropriate experience and other training), Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, and better transitions between community colleges and universities.

DECREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ITS IMPACT ON TUITION

One major challenge for the achieving the 40-40-20 goal is the cost of higher education. State support for higher education has decreased significantly. In the 1980s, state support accounted for approximately 15% of general fund, but had dropped to about 5% by 2014. Institutions have made up for this loss of state funding through increases in tuition, which now provides approximately 60%. Although the state has increased higher education funding in recent years, state support still falls well below past levels.

Increased tuition rates provide an even greater challenge to meeting the goals of the Equity Lens. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) under HECC administers numerous grants, scholarships, mentoring, and financial outreach programs for students. Funding support for low-income students is provided on a federal level through Federal Student Aid and the Pell Grant program. Oregon has a number of programs that build on the federal programs, including the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG), the largest state grant program, which has operated in various forms since 1972, and currently is funded through the general fund. This grant can be used in any Oregon higher education institution, public or private.

In the 2016-17 academic year, high school students attending a community college within six months of graduation are eligible for a new program, Oregon Promise. This “last dollar” award is currently serving 6000 students. Students must first accept all federal and state (OOG) funding. The 2015 Legislative budget provided $10 million for this program. Additional funding will be required to extend the program for the future.
Individual universities also have developed programs to support students, such as the PathwayOregon program at the University of Oregon, Western Tuition Promise at Western Oregon University, Bridge to Success at Oregon State University, and a new “Four Year Free Program” at Portland State University.

OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HECC is responsible for measuring the effectiveness of state funding for public higher education institutions. Under ORS 251, HECC is given direct responsibility for determining the distribution of funding from the Legislature to community colleges, public universities, and student access programs. Prior to 2015-16, funding for the seven universities relied heavily on enrollment (70%). In 2014, HECC initiated a new approach, the Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM). The model has three major components: Mission Differentiation Funding, supporting regional, research and public service mission; Activity Based Funding, investing in credit hour enrollment of Oregon resident students; and Completion Funding, focusing on program completion for Oregon residents with emphasis on underrepresented populations. Community college funding continues under the Resource Allocation model. The complex nature of community college roles has made development of a SSCM model for the community colleges much more difficult.

A number of high-profile activities, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, online education, research, and athletic programs, are among the complex aspects that HECC will continue to revise and coordinate.

In addition, HECC, in its Strategic Plan: 2016-2020, continues to monitor progress toward the 40-40-20 goal and plans to present modifications to the Legislature that better reflect needs not originally covered by the original goal. For example, HECC plans to propose a modification of the goal for Oregon’s adult population. Goals for research and graduate level education may also be addressed.

IMPLICATION AND CONCERNS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Funding is a major issue. With the state providing a lower level of funding, institutions must seek alternate sources of revenue. One major source is increased tuition. Also, institutions are recruiting out of state students to take advantage of higher tuitions for non-residents. Funding needs for faculty and facilities may redirect university educational priorities.

College preparedness is also a concern. Numerous programs have been developed to offer students opportunities to gain college credits in high school. However, postsecondary institutions have found that many students are inadequately prepared for college, particularly in math and written work. The need for remedial courses leads to greater expense and time to completion. Often, this leads to a student dropping out of college.

Educators see a need for a support network of mentors and advisors to identify problems for students before they enter or early in their college experience and help them to progress.

The Internet is impacting the academic and social structure of colleges. Students’ expectations and communications are changing with the increased access. The technology age will change the classroom both physically and conceptually, with more online course and degree offerings. Institutions are also facing campus security challenges that may require different levels of staffing and reduce campus flexibility.

Oregon is facing the challenge of making our higher education institutions the best possible at reasonable cost and with maximum diversity. The level of state support will reflect the commitment of Oregonians to move forward towards goals of a better-educated population.

Washington, DC — The League of Women Voters president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement in response to the unsubstantiated claim from the White House that millions of illegal votes were cast in the past election:

“President Trump is calling for a major investigation into voter fraud - in an election that he won! We know that wide-spread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that restrict voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our election process. There is no need for an investigation into a non-existent problem. The issue has been studied and put to rest.”

Health of the Second Congressional District

- Population 770,403
- Persons on Medicaid — 347,000
- Marketplace enrollees—29,500
- 17% of the non-institutionalized population is disabled
- Median household income is $46,793
- Of persons >25 years of age, 39% have only high school diploma or less

Five LWVRV members attended this session put on by the Oregon State League to explain how the state legislatures works. Speakers included several LWVOR leaders:

**Peggy Lynch**, the LWVOR **Natural Resources** lobbyist. She advised us to act locally; go to town hall meetings; meet your representatives and senators. If you want to represent the League, you need to clear that status first. Her “bible” is *Issues for Action*, which is online (Search the following terms: League of Women Voters “Issues for Action”.)

*Issues for Action* include: 1) Revenue and tax reform 2) Protecting democracy 3) Addressing climate change, and 4) Anti-poverty programs.

Gov. Brown has now presented her budget (which is online) for the 2017-2019 biennium. The Legislature will take it as a starting point and will be sympathetic. Peggy Lynch is working on natural resource agency budgets, land use and water. Claudia Keith is heading up work on climate change, and several other leaguers are working on other battle fronts.

There are potentially one to three new State Scenic Waterways being proposed, including the upper South Umpqua River.

**Karen Nibler** works on **Social Policy** (Human Services, Health Care and Public Safety). These subjects cover most of the budget, except for the School Fund.

The state budget situation is dire. Everyone should talk to her/his legislator about raising revenue. We need to fund day care and the child welfare system well. The Senate Human Services Committee consult with child welfare professionals. They’re working on increasing shelter placement for teens. This effort hasn’t been funded as well as that for younger kids. Shelters do provide stability and birth control.

Low-cost housing is badly needed. Food bank programs need to be kept up. Community Action Agencies (by various names) currently get federal anti-poverty dollars for food, shelter and fuel for heat.

**Health care.** Since implementation of the Affordable Care Act, increases in expenses have been small, but steady. These are federal dollars, for which the future is uncertain. Issues include the rising costs of pharmaceuticals and mental health treatment.

**Public safety.** The prison population is increasing. Mandatory minimums have been with us for 20 years now, and institutions are working on returning people to productive lives. Hopefully, the county corrections can continue to get dollars to reduce recidivism. Hiring people after their release and having adequate drug treatment resources are key.

Senate Bill 232 is aimed at reducing gun possession.

Women’s health and wellness are also issues of interest.

**Paula Keene** works on **Access.** Anyone who believes they have had access blocked to any level of government should contact her.
OLIS. Oregon Legislature Information System. This is a very informative website. (To find it, search the terms: OLIS Oregon). Short, useful descriptions of each of the 738 bills being considered this session appear, as you scroll your cursor over each numbered bill. LWVOR suggests Leaguers go to town hall meetings, ask questions of legislators and let the LWVOR Action Committee know what they said.

Chris Vogel deals with Education. The high school graduation rate in Oregon is 74%. Half of the 570,000 K–12 students qualify for free lunches.

Students of color comprise 35% of Oregon school kids. About 10% or our students are non-native-English speakers. Both of these groups have lower graduation rates.

Becky Gladstone has the lead on Governance. In 2000, 125 bills were introduced. In 2015, over 500 were, and this year it’s 738! Not all will be considered in depth or acted on.

There’s a $1.7 billion shortfall in the Oregon budget. Revenue generation is a need recognized by all. PERS will need action. Tobacco and alcohol lobbyists fight in the name of “mom & pop” corner businesses. SB 106 is of interest to us, because it creates a Public Records Advocate and a Public Records Advisory Council.

Non-LWV Speakers.

Legislative staff also spoke to us. Of particular interest was the newly created LPRO (Legislative Policy and Research Office), which is comprised of two leaders, 22 policy analysts and a bunch of committed assistants, and by the interim period (between sessions) will have on staff about 50 professional researchers. They staff out questions for legislators and are non-partisan. They also manage committee processes and have a mandate to make the session run smoothly and inform the legislative process. This office is overseen by a bipartisan, bicameral committee, the Legislative Policy and Research Committee. When asked if they have subscriptions to search engines of peer-reviewed, scientific journals, they said they’d be working with the Oregon State Library for resources.

The Ways and Means, Revenue, and Legislative Council Committees aren’t staffed by LPRO. Most committees of the legislature have one staff researcher and one assistant. The staff create measure summaries, which appear on OLIS at least a day before a bill is considered.

LPRO responds to inquiries by legislators and sometimes to constituent requests.

Lori Brocker, the Secretary of the Senate, and Timothy Sekerak, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, spoke about how they keep things running smoothly. They are responsible for the balance and order of the legislative processes. They also interpret the rules that have been devised in the past. Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure is the guide used.

Dennis Richardson, the new Secretary of State, spoke at length about his personal history and answered questions.
Membership Update

The League has been experiencing an unprecedented increase in membership queries and registration in the last few months. Please welcome the following new members to the Rogue Valley League:

Kate Culbertson  
Ashland

Margie Peterson  
Ashland

Ronna Smith Hileman  
Ashland

Carol Rugg  
Medford

Corren Hileman  
Ashland

Chris Turner  
Medford

Kimberly Hoyt  
Ashland

Laura Katz-Huntington  
Shady Cove

Annette McGregor  
Jacksonville

Pat Nichols  
Ashland

The Nominating Committee will be calling members in the next few weeks. Please consider what help you can give our volunteer workers. Help is particularly needed in publicity, office duties, and research.

LWV of the Rogue Valley Membership Application

Name___________________________________                     Areas of interest:
Address_________________________________                     Education_____________________
Phone__________________________________                     Government_________________
Email__________________________________                     Natural Resources___________
May we include your contact information in the Directory? Y N  
Voter Services______________
Annual dues  $65.00                     Other_________________________
Additional family member $32.50

Please send this completed application to Rogue Valley League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 8555 Medford 97501 with your yearly dues. Thank you for your interest.

Welcome!
# February 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Sat/Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 9 General meeting OEA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 16 LWVRV Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>President's Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 24 5-7p Town Hall meeting in Ashland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LWVRV  
P.O. Box 8555  
Medford OR 97501