Universal Coverage - How Do we Get There?

Questions & Answers with Local Health Care Experts

“We Can Fix It” Free Screening – PNHP video See & Hear What is possible?

Thursday November 9 2017

6:30-8:30 pm

Medford, RCC/SOU Higher Ed Bldg. (directions below)

Julian W. Bell, M.D., Pulmonologist

Lauri Hoagland, FNP at La Clinica, HCAO State Board

RCC/SOU Higher Education Center, Presentation Hall (1st floor), 101 S. Bartlett St. Medford, OR (corner of 8th & Riverside).

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Rogue Valley (www.LwvRogueValley.org)

For additional information: call 541.690.7779

Do you need, or can you offer carpooling for this event Thursday evening November 9 at 6:30pm in downtown Medford? Call 541-772-5044 to discuss transportation.

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Editor’s Message........

As you will notice on page 5, Measure 101 is coming up for a special election on January 23, 2018. The election is actually a referendum: that is, the law funding healthcare was already passed by the Oregon Legislature. Referendum 101 [sponsored by Medford’s Rep. Sal Esquivel] simply asks the voters again: Do you want to pay for healthcare in Oregon? A “yes” vote confirms the intention. The state League is planning a voters guide on the subject. Read Bill’s excellent review.

Universal Coverage—How do we get there?

The League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley presents an event on ways to attain health care coverage for all Oregonians on Thursday, November 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center, Presentation Hall in downtown Medford. A screening of a video, Health Care – We Can Fix It will be followed by discussions by Dr. Julian Bell, Pulmonologist at Providence, and Laurie Hoagland, Family Nurse Practitioner at La Clinica. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 541-690-7779.

Bring a Friend!

Local Government Re-study Committee

5:00—7:00pm Phoenix Public Library, Tuesday November 7, 2017

To Do list. Chores taken on before next meeting are as follows:

1. Kathleen D will check on venue for next meeting.
   All will READ report on LWVRV website here: [http://lwvroguevalley.org/wp/?page_id=1055](http://lwvroguevalley.org/wp/?page_id=1055)
   1. We will all consider anyone we think should be on a ‘VITAL to interview’ list, as well as anyone who might be ‘NICE to interview.’ Bring the names and/or offices. Think outside the box.
   2. Jackie C will begin looking into city charters.
   3. Kathleen D may review Assoc. Oregon Counties for relative information they have available.
   4. Olena will act as tech, scanning and posting necessary background materials.
   5. Barbara K will provide a list of the original study interview questions.
   6. All will review these questions and consider changes, edits and additions to the list. Keep in mind that vague / open-ended questions are of more use.
   Everyone will return at a later meeting all documents that they kept from the original study or background.
Observer Corps Reports

Medford City Council  
by Observer Rick Bennett


A relatively short agenda, there was one item of interest (at least to me). Item 40.1 proposed code amendment to regulate the keeping of chickens within the City. In 2007 a Municipal Court judge ruled the City’s prohibition of keeping livestock within residential zoning districts did not extend to a limited number of chickens for non-commercial use; however, the City never adopted formal regulations that define and/or limit the activity. In drafting the proposed ordinance, staff surveyed the regulations of other urbanized cities in Oregon as well as those communities immediately surrounding Medford. Recommendations were also solicited from the Planning Commission.

After a report from staff, a public hearing on Item 40.1 was opened – no one spoke. During the council’s discussion on the proposed ordinance, two amendments were offered and approved: (1) the number of allowed chickens was increased from 5 to 6; and (2) use of the word “chicken” was changed to “allowed poultry.” In addition to limiting the number of chicken to 6, the ordinance also prohibits roosters. It also describes the compound for keeping chickens, indicates the location of the compound on residential property, and outlines certain safety and sanitation conditions. As amended, the ordinance was approved 5-1.

Details of LWV Observer Corps member Rick Bennett’s notes are available at the Rogue Valley website lwvroguevalley.org and meeting minutes at www.ci.medford.or.us

Jackson County Board of Commissioners (BoC)  
by Observer Sara McConnell-Perkins

Work Session September 26, 2017

1. Discussion of Jackson Co. Codified Ordinances Chapter 294 Hearings Officer

Note: Codified Ordinance Chapter 294 is available online at http://jacksoncountyor.org/County/Codified-Ordinances. Commissioner Roberts expressed opposition to Chapter 294 on grounds that it is “unconstitutional” and requested that BoC review its origin and implications; in her view, land use code violations should be heard in Circuit Court

Long discussion with input from administrator, counsel and commissioners

Commissioners Dyer and Strosser agreed to review origin and implications of Chapter 294, review a recent audit of hearings process, and become better acquainted with hearings officers but stated that they do not find Chapter 294 or the hearings process inherently dysfunctional

BoC Work Session October 3, 2017

1. Southern Oregon Regional Development Inc. (SOREDI) Quarterly Report; Colleen Padilla, Executive Director SOREDI: brief summary of SOREDI activities; of note:

SOREDI Quest: a pilot program at area high schools to introduce students to regional companies and provide scholarship opportunities

State emphasis on “grow your own” efforts to support entrepreneurs and existing businesses vs. expending resources to attract relocating businesses
BoC Work Session October 10, 2017

1. Discussion of Placement of POW-MIA Flags on County Property

Danny Jordan reviewed requirements, engineering, cost and aesthetics of placing POW-MIA flags/flag poles; commissioners weighed in on various aspects

Discussion focused on demonstration of respect, honor and appreciation of veterans via the flag display, wish for proportional display and cost of display

Jordan to seek bids on installing three flag poles (one to replace an existing flag pole) to fly the American, Oregon and POW-MIA flags

BoC Work Session October 17, 2017

1. Discussion with Rick Whitlock, Hearings Officer: Whitlock reviewed professional background, invited questions from commissioners and discussed hearings process:

- Whitlock believes that hearings officers are better positioned than circuit court judges to hear land use code violation cases due to intricate knowledge of, and interest in, Land Development Ordinance (LDO) and Jackson Co. codes
- Whitlock estimated 75-80% of defendants do not show for their hearings; Jackson Co. staff work diligently to gain compliance prior to hearing

BoC Work Session October 24, 2017

1. Discussion with John Bukey and Donald Rubenstein, Hearings Officers: Bukey and Rubenstein reviewed professional backgrounds, invited questions and discussed hearings process:

- Bukey and Rubenstein echoed value of hearings process, calling it “indispensable” (Rubenstein) to code enforcement and echoed faith in code enforcement staff’s dedication to gaining compliance prior to hearings
- Rubenstein confirmed that all cases that have undergone writ of review in circuit court have been upheld; i.e. due process was upheld by the hearings process
- Discussion about influence of BoC policies guiding code enforcement, versus hearings process itself, in reference to gaining compliance from violators

2. Bureau of Land Management Obenchian Project: BoC agreed to submit comment

3. Engagement with Federal Agencies on Coordination Process

- In 2012, BoC developed Coordination Ordinance and distributed a related letter to 70+ federal agencies stating right to coordinate on federal land use plans and requesting engagement
- Current BoC will resend letter to USFS, Department of Agriculture, BLM, Department of Interior and respective secretaries to reiterate wish to engage

4. Request for Resolution of No-Confidence

- Oregon Senator Baertschiger has circulated a letter faulting USFS fire management for 2017 fire season
- Josephine Co. BoC has drafted a related no-confidence resolution
- BoC opted to table this issue until more data available

Note: Video of meeting Board of commissioner meetings is available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhuP_lmea_g
Healthcare “Heads Up” – Vote YES on Ballot Measure 101

January 23, 2018 Special Election

Bill Walsh, Healthcare Action Coordinator

**Background:** The 2017 Oregon Legislature passed the bipartisan Oregon Health Care Protection Bill (HB 2391) to preserve funding for Medicaid. The bill requires an assessment on hospitals, some providers, and insurance plans. It had the blessing of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, the Oregon Medical Association (docs), Providence Health and Service, Kaiser Permanente, and Mota Health. These organizations agreed, knowing that that Oregon must first raise its portion of Medicaid funding to qualify for much larger matching federal funds (25% state for federal 75% match). Everyone knew that the money will filter back to hospitals as payment for services to Medicaid patients. Without these funds, people in the Medicaid expansion group will either go without care or their medical services will increase the hospitals’ overall costs which in turn will increase everyone’s hospital bills. Forty-nine other states use this funding mechanism, often called “seeding.” Post-session, some lawmakers began a petition drive to rescind or recall this funding mechanism, labeling it a tax, even sales tax, on health care. They want to repeal the Medicaid funding bill. This will be on the ballot for a special election on January, 23, 2018.

**Analysis:** The passage of HB 2391 last session meant that 95% of Oregonians and 100% of Cover All Kids would have continued access to the Medicaid expansion. If Ballot Measure 101 fails (with a NO vote), Oregon would suddenly lose $320 million – plus the federal match of $1.3 billion – from its budget and put upwards of 350,000 low-income and low-wage working Oregonians at risk of healthcare benefits loss or eligibility. That’s one in 12 of us.

**Bottom Line:** The League of Women Voters of Oregon has taken a position in favor of Measure 101 (vote YES) in the January election. With its long history of favoring national health insurance and coverage of all citizens, failure of Ballot Measure 101 to pass would send Oregon’s healthcare progress back enormously and constitute a threat to the overall health status of the people who live here.

**Postscript—What you can do:** The LWVOR will put out a Voter’s Guide on Ballot Measure 101. It will be educational. It will not support or oppose the measure. 101 is a referendum and is considered a recall of the legislation that was passed in the session. However, Local Leagues and League members doing advocacy can appropriately join with the State League to support a YES vote on Measure 101. Our LWVRV Board is considering sponsoring a special event prior to the special election to argue for support and inform voters of the critical importance of a YES vote on Measure 101. Stay tuned to learn how you can help!
Shirley Weathers, Natural Resources/Climate Action Coordinator

- **League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley and other Local Leagues file as Intervenors on the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline’s application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).** With a deadline of October 26, LWVRV, Umpqua Valley, and the Klamath County League filed as Intervenors acting in the public interest on the PCGPL project. Our involvement in, and opposition to, this project is not new, but filing as an Intervenor allows us to submit comments and documents “on the record,” plus it gives us legal standing to state our case in court if the project is approved and we wish to support subsequent legal challenges. Notice of filings from other groups and individuals are coming in by the minute. The count may reach over 400. So far, the vast majority of filers are opponents, Oregonians who are tired of over a decade of threats posed by the construction and operation of this 36-inch, Class 1 (read lowest legal standard for pipeline construction and materials) to our landowners, neighbors, tribal communities, water, air, local economies, forests, climate, fish and wildlife, and safety with more than the lion’s share of the benefits going to shareholders of a Canadian corporation.

- **Here’s your chance to help get the Clean Energy Jobs Bill over the finish line in 2018!** Since the LWVUS Convention 2014 passed a resolution to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the LWVOR has been working hard on effective legislation that will attain that goal, including since 2015 working in a coalition called Renew Oregon. The legislation they’re working on—SB 1070, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill—would establish a program that will cap climate pollution, price all qualified greenhouse gas emissions under the cap and invest the proceeds in clean energy, while supporting low-income and rural Oregonians as they transition to clean energy and meet other justice goals. Governor Brown has announced her hope that the bill will pass during the 2018 session and the bill currently has 29 sponsors/cosponsors in the House and 13 in the Senate.

**ACTION ALERT!** LWVOR is asking for League members to help by holding a house party or attending a local rally on November 4. Renew Oregon is planning a statewide DAY OF ACTION November 4. League members and/or local Leagues can support this Day of Action in a number of ways. Please consider hosting or co-hosting a house party (materials and statewide Facebook livestream are provided by Renew Oregon) and/or a Community Clean Energy Jobs campaign party. Here are a few ways you can support the Clean Energy Jobs (CEJ) statewide campaign. Go here [http://lwvor.org/2017/10/24/action-alert-support-clean-energy-jobs/](http://lwvor.org/2017/10/24/action-alert-support-clean-energy-jobs/) for the full text of the LWVOR Action Alert and for links to information as noted in the items below:

- First and foremost, Renew and LWVOR would like to encourage you to hold a house party. They hope to have a party in every county. [Go to the URL above for a link to helpful information on how to hold a house party.](http://lwvor.org/2017/10/24/action-alert-support-clean-energy-jobs/)

- Second, you can post on social media on November 4 (or any other day!) about Clean Energy Jobs. [Go to the URL above for a link to the social media toolkit.](http://lwvor.org/2017/10/24/action-alert-support-clean-energy-jobs/)

- Third, you can attend the rally in Portland on November 4, noon to 2 pm at the PCC Cascades campus student union building, 2nd floor. More rallies are being planned for Salem and Eugene as well as other communities.

- Fourth, please sign up for Renew Oregon ([www.reneworegon.org](http://www.reneworegon.org)) emails to get the latest information.

- Sony Mehta of Renew Oregon (sonny@reneworegon.org) can answer questions about house parties.
Update of Non-Partisan Policy of the Rogue Valley League

Board member Barbara Klein reviewed and re-wrote the League’s policy after questions were posed last year. The LWVRV board approved that update this month. The entire policy is available at the local League website lwvroguevalley.org. An excerpt from that policy follows, and applies to the general membership. Board members have more stringent restrictions.

“All members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the political process as individuals. That includes partisan activities such as running for public office, working actively for a candidate (canvassing, displaying a lawn sign, making campaign contributions, fundraising, etc.), as well as non-partisan activities such as speaking or writing in support of, or opposition to, government issues and policies.”

November Election Issues & Local May 2018 Candidates

Phoenix-Talent School District Bond Levy 15-171
Shall Phoenix-Talent Schools improve safety, security, and learning environments by issuing $68,000,000 in principal amount of general obligation bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.


Grants Pass City Local Option 17.83
Shall Grants Pass levy $1.79 per $1,000 assessed value, continuing City Police and Fire services three years beginning July 2018? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Jackson Co Sheriff and Commissioners file candidacy
Commissioner Roberts [Pos.3] Republican and Commissioner Dyer [Pos.1] Republican have filed for the May election, along with Nathan Sicker for Sheriff [non-partisan].

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00 Spouse/student—$32.50

May we publish your information in the LWV Directory?
Y  N

Send check /application to P.O. Box 8555 Medford OR 97501
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