Thursday April 11, 2019

Join Us for a Special LWVRV Member’s Field Trip (RSVP necessary)

We will investigate another aspect of Housing Issues: the concept, philosophy and concrete issues of Tiny Houses and their role as we strive for sustainability and reduced homelessness.

**Time:** We hope the time will be the same – 11:30, *but* stay tuned for more information on that.

**Place:** Rice Park in Ashland (near Verde Village and dog park). More information will be provided on meeting location and directions.

**The Plan:** this will include a tour of a tiny house (or more), meeting with the landowner, developer, and contractor/builder, Dana Hopkinson. Hopefully we will also get to speak with residents. *They expect our questions.*

**RSVP NOTE:** This will be limited to 20 members - so act now. Email YES responses only to:

Action@lwvroguevalley.org (2nd best, call 541.479.4486)

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Presidents Pen

—Jackie Clary

We have a very busy rest-of-the-year before us: a fieldtrip, an Annual Meeting, and the LWVOR Convention in Ashland as the finale. In other places in this newsletter you will find specific details about each of these events.

As a devotee of tiny houses for many more years than they have been popular, I am really looking forward to our fieldtrip. This time, though, it will be to see how tiny houses are used to help people in need. At my last job before moving to Oregon, I was a member of a regional consortium on homelessness. About the time I left, agencies were rethinking when someone in need should have housing – to get them in stable housing before addressing other issues, such as addiction, mental health, joblessness, etc. Tiny houses are a way to do that.

Our Annual Meeting this year will be a more reserved affair because we have the convention beginning the following day. We would like this annual meeting to be a celebration of all we have accomplished this year, as well as remembering the League’s 99th year. We need every member to attend for the business part of the meeting, but we expect to have a good time as well.

We want to look back on this year’s LWVOR’s Convention as the best one ever! I know we will think that, but we want everyone attending to think the same. As members of LWVRV, we are the hosts and get to show off our League and our community. I hope everyone is planning to attend. It should be informative and fun. In preparation of the Convention, many of us are busy with the getting-ready-for-the-party part, but there is always room for anyone who wants to be part of the effort. We will have a good time. If you want to get involved, but are not sure how, please call me at 541-479-4486 and we will find a place for you.
Charitable Contributions

As noted last month, the IRS has determined that the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley is exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). In other words, LWVRV qualifies as a charitable organization and can receive tax deductible gifts, bequests and grants.

The LWVRV Board has asked several members to draft policies, procedures and/or guidelines related to this new tax-exempt status. However, while that work is being done, you should know that your membership dues are considered to be charitable contributions. Because you receive no goods or services for this contribution, it is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by U.S. tax law. Please note that you will not receive a receipt or acknowledgement of your dues payment and you are responsible to keeping a record of your contribution.

As always, thank you for your support of LWVRV’s efforts to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

—Rick Bennett, Treasurer

LWVOR State Convention in Ashland
“A Beacon of Democracy... for 99 Years”
May 17—19, 2019

SAVE THE DATE:
The Rogue Valley League will host the 2019 LWVOR State Convention, May 17-19, at the Ashland Springs Hotel in downtown Ashland. Convention will begin with a Friday night Dine-Around and continue until Sunday noon. Scheduled speakers include Peter Buckley for luncheon talk on Oregon finance, and Dr. Dominick DellaSala as the banquet keynote speaker with the topic of climate change in Oregon. We look forward to seeing many of you in Ashland that weekend.

—Kate Culbertson, Convention organizer & Secretary
Juliana v. the United States (AKA the federal Our Children’s Trust suit) scheduled for a hearing.
The constitutional youth climate lawsuit, Juliana v. United States, will have a hearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. Attorneys for the youth plaintiffs and attorneys for the federal government will appear again to argue over whether this historic case gets to go forward. A nationwide mobilization day is planned for the day of the hearing to lend support. (See the chronology and more detail on the challenges the Trump Administration has attempted at www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/.)

HB 2020, The Clean Energy Jobs Bill, has been amended to reflect input gained by the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee during February public hearings around the state. The State and many local Leagues are supporting and working towards the best version of this “cap and trade” bill we can get. The Committee Co-chairs describe the bill as a compromise to both address economic concerns and take action on climate change. More details need to be worked out and several individual legislators have alternative proposals, but the LWVOR and the statewide coalition they’re working with—Renew Oregon—are still working hard to achieve a bill that will make a significant step forward. Watch for ALERTS urging members’ help.

HB 2623, the fracking ban bill, passed the House and is now assigned to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. We’re told it likely won’t get a public hearing in the next week or so as a procedural deadline or two make action in the Senate on a bill originating in the House a low priority, but supporters of the bill are trying to line up our ducks. The committee membership may make getting the bill out on the Floor challenging, but we are hopeful that Oregon can avoid new fossil fuel development, in general, and extraction with the use of fracking, in particular.

Another key comment period on the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) is upon us. At this writing, we’re expecting that on March 29, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This will start the clock ticking on what we understand will be a 90-day public comment period. Public hearings will take place in June. This League and the Coos County, Umpqua Valley, and Klamath County Leagues have three joint comments opposing this project under our belts. Now it’s time to tackle “The Big One.” The Environmental Impact Statement covers a host of aspects of the project and is required for a project of this magnitude and potential impact by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We will be busy and will provide information to assist individual members who wish to participate.
Health Care Resolution for the State Convention

by Bill Walsh, Healthcare Coordinator

On March 21, the LWVRV Board voted to support the following Health Care Resolution, as well as the plan to submit it to the 2019 State Convention to be held in Ashland in May.

Whereas since the early 1990s the League of Women Voters of the U.S. has had a position to promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and that controls health care costs; and

Whereas the current system does not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas an improved Medicare for all type system, a publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan with universal coverage, would be consistent with this goal;

Therefore, be it resolved, we as delegates of Oregon local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVOR Convention, call upon the LWVOR Board to advocate strongly and work for legislation to expand Medicare in ways to achieve universal coverage.

This resolution is timely for numerous reasons.

In the Oregon State Legislature, SB 770, sponsored by Senators Manning, Denbrow, and Beyer, establishes a Health Care for All Oregon Commission to be responsible for planning and oversight of a Health Care for All Plan that would be administered by the Oregon Health Authority. This commission is the first step to design and cost out a single-payer system for our state. It is expected to take some time to develop, but we as Leagues and Leaguers should want to be involved in the process as much as possible. This resolution supports that involvement.

There are additional bills being discussed that warrant our attention: prescription drug bills, a possible Medicaid Buy-in proposal, a Universal Primary Care system design, a resolution to Congress, (SJM 2), urging passage of Rep. Pramila Jayapal’s State-Based Universal Health Care Act, HR6097. These are important state issues to improve our health care system.

In Congress, there are two Medicare for All bills: Senator Bernie Sanders S 1804 and Rep. Jayapal’s HR 676. Both of these bills would minimize private health insurance roles and put the responsibilities of universal coverage, basic services, quality and cost control on government.
There are half a dozen Medicare for More bills that expand on the present Medicare system. These involve incremental additions to the existing Medicare program and would be funded separately from the Medicare Trust Fund:

- Senator Merkley’s S 2708, Choose Medicare Act, is a public option, workers buy-in bill;
- Representative Schakowsky’s HR 635, The CHOICE Act, would allow a Medicare buy-in for small employers;
- Senators Bennett and Kaine’s S 1742, Medicare X, would implement a public option Medicare buy-in for rural areas;
- Senator Stabenow’s S 1742 would provide a Medicare buy-in for adults 55-64;
- Representative Higgins HR 3748 would allow a Medicare buy-in for adults at 50;
- Senator Schatz S 2001 would allow states to design and choose options for Medicaid buy-in programs;
- The Urban Institute is pushing a Healthy America proposal;
- The Center for American Progress is promoting a Medicare Extra for All;
- Speaker Pelosi just announced that a bill would be introduced in the House that would strengthen the Affordable Care Act and stop attempts to sabotage it.

While resolutions at the state convention are non-binding, they are a way to emphasize important issues that require our attention and involvement. If you plan to attend the 2019 LWVOR State Convention, please come prepared to support this resolution. If you cannot come to the convention, please send an email to Bill Walsh, walsh.weathers@gmail.com, indicating your support and you will be listed as a supporter (be sure to identify your local League).

From our scrapbook:

WOMEN VOTERS ARE ORGANIZED IN LEAGUE HERE [Medford newspaper clipping April 20, 1939]

“A local chapter of the League of Women Voters was organized at a meeting in the Medford high school auditorium last night with Mrs. Leonard Carpenter as first vice-president. Election of a president was deferred until the local group attains a more seasoned organization... Other officers chosen last night were Mrs. Ben Starcher, second vice-president Mrs, Paul Janney, recording secretary, Miss Bernice L. Sears, .. and Mrs, Jack Spaulding, treasurer.

The meeting was addressed by Mrs. E. W. St Pierre of Portland, state chairman, who came here to assist in the formation of a Jackson county chapter.

Pointing out that the League of Women Voters has been functioning in the United States for 20 years, Mrs. St. Pierre explained that the league is a non-partisan organization of civic-minded women who aim to improve governmental administration through intelligent study.

The League, Mrs. St. Pierre said, studies and openly discusses all phases of governmental operations, but never sponsors or supports a candidate for public office. It does, however, pledge itself to support worthy measures such as child welfare, pure food and drug legislation.... she reminded the group that ‘the fate of our civilization lies in the hands of our citizens’.

1939 was a challenging year for the new Jackson County League as they 1) began a “Know Your Town" survey, 2) selected 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 the beginning of WWII in Europe!

—Contributed by Nancy Swan, Historian
April 29 Day at the Legislature, Salem

Join us on April 29th, from 9:30am-3pm at the Willamette Heritage Center! Day at the Legislature is hosted by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Registration begins at 9:30, lunch at noon. Deadline to register is April 21st.

9:00 am: Registration begins, pastries and coffee
9:30 am: Senator Tim Knopp
10:00 am: Legislative Action Team Reviews
11:00 am: Kristen Sheeran, Energy and Climate Change Policy Advisor to Governor Brown
11:45 am: Lunch catered by Sassy Onion and small workgroups
12:30 pm: Representative Carla Piluso, Criminal Justice Reform
1:00 pm: Jim Carlson, Coalition for Common Good
1:30 pm: Representative Dan Rayfield
2:15 pm: Senator Jeff Golden

Event details:

April 29th, 9:30-3pm
Willamette Heritage Center
Dye House Room
1313 Mill St SE, Salem, OR 97301

Event Schedule (subject to change):

Registration $30 includes lunch: go to the LWVOR website to register or call

League of Women Voters Rogue Valley Annual Meeting

Thursday May 16, 2019 11:30 am

Potluck

The Annual Meeting will be held at the OEA Bldg at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy rthis year rather than at a local restaurant, which has been our tradition. This is in order to simplify our activities in preparation for the State Convention to be held in Ashland. We hope members will try to attend both events. In addition to approving the new board for the coming year, we will be approving our Local Government Study, the annual budget, and celebrating our new non-profit status. It is important to have a quorum.

Please bring a dish to share, and be advised that the OEA will allow us to serve alcohol if you would like to bring wine. Many members’ anniversary dates come up in May. While there is no fee for the Annual Meeting this year, you may want to pay your dues and make the membership committee’s job much easier.
A HARD-WORKING PAIR

Our membership has been refreshed in the last few years with a couple of new members with different skills: Shirley Weathers and Bill Walsh.

Shirley has stimulated us with her education and her leadership in National Resources (Action). Bill’s specialty is the Healthcare Portfolio (Action). He is also a talented speaker for groups and larger audiences.

They are both good organizers. We find that they can keep us interested in new subjects. This leads to new members becoming involved too, and cooperating with other organizations.

We have to thank them for their energy and involvement in the League’s activities in various subjects. They don’t spare their own energy and have willingness to involve new members. Please continue to inspire us, Bill and Shirley. We can’t thank you enough,

—Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

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Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Single membership — $65.00     Spouse/student—$32.50

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

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

Would you like a phone call reminder about meetings? Yes No

Areas of Interest:

◊ Land Use Issues    ◊ Local Government
◊ Education    ◊ Children at Risk
◊ Election Issues    ◊ Climate Change
◊ Transportation    ◊ National Issues
◊ Observer Corps    ◊ Voters Service
◊ Healthcare Issues    ◊ Environment

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If you are reading this newsletter on-line, maybe you don’t need a mailed paper copy. Call the newsletter at 541-772-5044 if you would prefer not to get the newsletter by U.S. Mail, or leave a note at KDonham@gmail.com.

Membership Committee: Lorraine Werblow, Debra Har, Iris Milan, Judith Kurinsky

These members can answer questions about dues, anniversaries, and changes to addresses and phone numbers. Email them at membership@lwvroguevalley.org.

Directories were distributed in January. Let membership know if you didn’t receive one.
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