Thursday September 12, 2019
General Meeting OEA Bldg
2495 S. Pacific Hwy
11:30—1:30 pm

The September General Meeting will include the following:

- Update of Action Committee activities—Jordan Cove LNG Project, Healthcare coalition, and Global Climate change action
- Redistricting Initiative Petition [see p. 3]
- 100th Birthday of the League [short video]
- New members introductions
- Overview of plans for the year

Campaign Finance Reform by Rep. Dan Rayfield (Corvallis)
Wednesday Sept. 4 Medford Library 7pm—8:30 pm [see p.3]
Co-Presidents’ Pen

While I don’t have any complaints about my summer, Margie is whiling away her summer in romantic (my impression) Wales. As she gazes out the leaded windows of her stone cottage overlooking the sea (she hasn’t corrected me yet), I will give you all a quick update on events over the summer and what to expect this coming year, or at least, September’s meeting.

Continuing throughout the summer, our local League hero, Shirley Weathers, and her co-heroes (representing Leagues in Klamath, Douglas, Coos counties as well as LWVRV), have taken in hand the Mighty Pen to meticulously confront the Jordan Cove project.

Most of the summer was spent planning the upcoming year’s activities. Here are a few dates to get us started:

- **Campaign Finance Reform** - September 4th
- **New Members Reception** – September 5th
- **General Meeting** – September 12th
- **Climate Strike** – Week of September 20th - 27th
- **Fall Workshop** – October 19th

LWVOR (League of Women Voters of Oregon) will host a Fall Workshop at Lane Community College, Saturday, October 19th, 9 am to 3:30 pm. The event will offer several breakout workshops, with an after-lunch speaker whose topic will be, “Implicit Bias,” and an afternoon speaker who will talk about, “Fake News and Propaganda.” Membership should receive an announcement sometime mid-September.

—By Jackie Clary, President for 2019-2020 with co-president Margie Peterson

**Immigration Facts:** According to a 2008 report from the conservative Americas Majority Foundation, crime rates are lowest in states with the highest immigration growth rates. —Submitted by Kate Culbertson

*We still have League tote bags for sale. Heavy duty canvas with a side zipper pocket for $25.00. All proceeds support the local League. Notify Debra Har at tdrh.1@hotmail.com*
Wednesday September 4
Medford Public Library 205 S Central
7—8:30 pm Adams Room

Campaign Finance Reform

Hear from Oregon State Representative Dan Rayfield (Corvallis) at the Medford Library next Wednesday at 7pm.

In the 2019 Legislative Session, the legislature secured big campaign finance reform wins, increasing transparency and increasing access for voters. While these wins were significant, Oregon remains one of five states without campaign contribution limits.

We’re thrilled to announce a series of seven forums across Oregon in September to hear how Oregonians want their campaign finance system to work. The League believes getting big money interests out of politics is critical to ensuring the health of our democracy.

The forums will begin with a presentation by election policy experts who will present the history and political dynamics of campaign finance reform in Oregon. The presentation will be followed by an overview of recently-passed campaign finance reform legislation. Forums will conclude with a community discussion on various campaign finance limit goals and proposals, so legislators know how we want our campaign finance system to work.

The League is excited to support efforts to pass historic Oregon policy.

Action – Election Reforms

If election reform issues (such as gerrymandering/redistricting, ranked choice voting, independent redistricting commissions, national popular vote, and county/city government reforms) are of interest to you, there is a place for you in the League.

There is no guarantee as to when these issues pop up or go dormant, but you can be part of the action when it happens by sharing League efforts with others interested in the same issues. Send a note to the LWVVRV action chair, Barbara Klein, at action@lwvroguevalley.org with the subject line “interested in LWV election issues.” —Barbara Klein, Action.
LWVRV Climate Change News for September 2019
By Shirley Weathers, Climate Change Coordinator

*Juliana v. the United States* (AKA the federal Our Children’s Trust suit) presented oral arguments on June 4, 2019 before judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and District Court for the Central District of California; outcome pending. Judges Mary H. Murguia and Andrew D. Hurwitz of the former body and Judge Josephine L. Staton of the latter body hears oral arguments on the interlocutory appeal and the preliminary injunction from Julia Olsen, on behalf of the Plaintiffs, and Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark, on behalf of the federal government in Portland., Oregon. (See more, including on the history of this suit at www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/.)

HB 2020, The Clean Energy Jobs Bill, died without a vote in the Senate, but proponents are still hopeful for some action to address greenhouse gas emissions. Precise plans or even options are not yet known, but a recent news story reports that Gov. Kate Brown’s administration has been looking into executive action over the past year, apparently in the event that the legislative outcome of the 2019 session came to pass.

HB 2623, the fracking ban bill, passed during the 2019 Session after an amendment to shorten the moratorium period from 10 to five years. Further work to educate Oregon about the harm fracking would bring to the state will need to be done during this time window. It is not a front burner issue for the time being. We are pleased to be able to continue to say that the Curzon Energy effort to revive coal bed methane extraction in the Coos Bay area has subsided. The company announced it was turning its attention to potential assets in Texas last November and the company’s share prices have plummeted. If you’ve not experienced what a drilling operation is like, here’s a video the company posted months ago.

Two more key comment periods on the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) are upon us. Since the last Voters Voice, the four local LWVs opposing the project submitted substantive technical comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). At this writing, we’re working with our LWVCC counterpart to wrap up a comment on behalf of the four LLs to the US Army Corps of Engineers on supplemental information about the project that has arisen since the first comment period that ended in August 2018. We just learned of an extension on that deadline to September 24, 2019, but will push ahead to submit the one to the Corps in order to turn our attention to another comment that’s due three days earlier. This latter one is on the Coastal Zone Management Act consistency certification. What that means is that Oregon and other states with oceanic or lake coastal territories have responsibility to determine whether major projects like Jordan Cove would be consistent with state laws designed to protect coastal resources. There are many moving parts and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has been working with other partnering state agencies to look into project impacts. The LWVOR recently granted $10,000 to the LWVRV to help fund challenges to some local land use permitting processes that are involved. We have special concerns about this process because the Secretary of Commerce has recently received new authority to overturn DLCD’s decision. Past comments are posted at the LWVRV website.

LWVOR responds to revelation that the FBI and state and local law enforcement has been surveilling Jordan Cove Energy Project opponents. This story is still unfolding, but on August 8, *The Guardian* revealed that surveillance of groups and possibly individuals has been ongoing for some time. We’ll let you read for yourselves here and here for a following story by OPB. By the end of the weekend, the LWVOR sent a letter to Governor Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, decrying the action and the state’s involvement in it. The ACLU is reportedly looking into possible violations of Oregon law (ORS 181.575, Specific information not to be collected or maintained).
The following is the Letter sent to Governor Brown regarding reports of surveillance of persons advocating against the Jordan Cove LNG Project:

Re: Allegations of law enforcement entities engaged in surveillance of citizens and groups opposing the Jordan Cove Energy Project

Dear Governor Brown and Attorney General Rosenblum:

Last year the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) joined four local Leagues in areas that would be affected by the Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) in opposing the project. They and we took that stance on the basis of numerous League positions, including this by the LWVUS: to “preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.” Our opposition stands firm and we are committed to persisting, but we write to you today to express our deep concerns about what appear to be actions by various entities, including some under your direction, that we believe exert a chilling effect on the First Amendment rights to “freedom with respect to religion, expression, peaceful assembly, or the right of citizens to petition the government.” They may also violate ORS 181A.250.

State and federal laws require agencies to provide opportunities for comment on various project permit applications and our Leagues have used those opportunities with regard to the JCEP. Volunteer members of the four local Leagues—Coos and Klamath Counties and Umpqua and Rogue Valley—have poured countless hours of research into producing technical comments to the state Departments of Environmental Quality and State Lands, as well as to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and most recently to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These comments highlight numerous negative project impacts and deficiencies in the respective application materials. The four Leagues have provided information on the project to community and local decision makers, and members maintain ongoing contact with other project opponents. The LWV is as committed to protecting the right to participation in public processes as we are to protecting the right to vote.

But this letter is not about touting or defending the LWV’s actions. It is about evidence that state law enforcement, along with local and federal law enforcement, is engaging in a formal project to surveil and possibly intimidate thousands of private citizens and scores of organizations as we exercise our right to participate. As far as has been revealed in media coverage of documents obtained, a task force interconnecting the Oregon State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, the Coos County Sheriff’s Office and other municipal police departments, and a private contractor with a background and current activities focused on antiterrorism has been operating for an unknown amount of time, collecting information in post-9/11 antiterrorist fashion on individuals and groups solely because we oppose the JCEP. We expect that more will become known about these clandestine and unwarranted activities and with that, outrage over this inappropriate example of over-reach will grow. It is hard to imagine that there will not be a cost in terms of public trust.

This project has huge ramifications for our communities and our state—as our research has shown, primarily and on balance, negative. We ALL have a right, and arguably a responsibility, to try to stop its installation in our midst. Given our mission and history, the League feels a special charge to stand with youth as they fight for a livable future; the JCEP would directly thwart that goal.

We have made clear our profound respect and gratitude for the thorough and competent work your state agencies have done in considering the various critical permitting processes over which they preside. The recent combined public comment they produced for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the project is another example of the kind of response citizens should expect from their government.

SEE ACTION OPTIONS PAGE 6 CLIMATE STRIKE LOCATIONS
To be clear, we support appropriate law enforcement activity to protect life and property and when public safety is at risk. In fact, we and other organizations have raised many serious public safety concerns related to the JCEP. We have noted in the state’s comments on the DEIS, revelation that the latest owner, Pembina, actually scrapped a comprehensive safety plan developed in consultation with Oregon agencies prior to their acquisition of the project and replaced it with one that has been rejected by state and federal agencies. But it is unacceptable for local, state, and federal law enforcement to surveil and intimidate private citizens—even organizations—as they exercise their peaceful right to express concerns about this huge project.

We ask that, as Oregon’s elected leaders, you order an immediate stop to these surveillance activities and offer a public statement of apology to all those who might have been affected by this unconscionable action.

Regards, Rebecca Gladstone LWVOR President

THREE REGIONAL EVENTS PROMOTING GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE SEPTEMBER 20

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<td>Pear Blossom Park Downtown</td>
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<td>Bandshell Lithia Park</td>
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Take Advantage of Olli’s Open Registration Period!

If you are looking for more intellectual stimulation, social connections with people your age, or just more fun, try taking classes with Olli at SOU!

Olli is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute with daytime classes in Medford and Ashland. Most students are aged 50 and over. Courses range from the Sciences to the Arts, Theatre, Films, History, Literature, Bird Watching and beyond!

There are no tests, requirements or grades, just the pleasure of learning new things with interesting people. To learn about the class offerings, go to olli.sou.edu and click on Take Courses. Go to the bottom of that page and click on a course category, such as history. Then click on the different courses for a description of the class and the teacher. You can take all the classes you want for just $125 a year. You will not be disappointed. The first class begins September 9, so register soon!

Member Olena Black [Webmaster] highly recommends members ask about the course Voting: History and Politics. It is in Medford on Thursdays from 1 to 3 at the Med RCC campus. Details: Class ID: F19SOC122M; Instructor: Mary Coombs. Class Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM on Thursdays, Medford Higher Ed Center, October 3 — Nov 14, 2019, Rm 311.
New LWV Oregon State Study: Privacy and Cybersecurity

The study is in full swing with issues popping up everyday. We are to the point of needing folks to read for content and grammar. Want to get involved? It is actually very interesting reading......even without edits. We can use your help. Contact Mary Sinclair cksinclair@gmail.com

Cybersecurity = codebreaking=Elizebeth Smith Friedman

“All democracies ride the line between security and transparency, secrecy and disclosure. What do people have a right to know? What must stay secret and why?” from The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America’s Enemies, Jason Fagone, 2017 page xv.

Elizebeth Smith Friedman...” was a member of the League... not just a member but she ran her local chapter, hosted meetings in her house, and wrote for the League of Women Voters newsletter." Jason Faragone, personal communication, 2019 08 20. This is a great read!

— by Mary Sinclair

Vote411 Help Needed!

Vote411.org (an online resource for voting information, accessed by your address) It is also the basis for all printed Voters guides and online information by candidate and by race.

Let’s get organized so we can maximize the coverage of the 2020 elections! We do have an election on November 5 for ballot measures. Learn how to gather information for Vote411.org. Be part of the monumental effort we will make in 2020 to make sure folks are registered to vote and that they are informed. Contact Mary Sinclair cksinclair@gmail.com

Election/Vote411/Registration Help Needed

National Voter Registration Day Wednesday September 25, 2019

The League will be registering voters on this day, hopefully at Rogue Community College. We are awaiting clearance from Administration Services [absent for late August] to have a table at the Welcome Week events planned for the new Fall term enrollment. Please contact Kathleen Donham KDonham@gmail.com if you are interested in helping register new voters and help students evaluate their status. Voters will need to be reminded that new rules will provide paid ballot return (i.e. do not throw away that postage paid envelope!).
The ladies of Oregon fought for the vote for decades through the Equal Suffrage Alliance and Oregon branches of the National Council of Women Voters and the National Suffrage Alliance. Becoming a state in 1859, Oregon granted female property owners the vote in school elections in 1876 and in 1912 became the ninth state to support women’s suffrage. The first lady to register in Oregon was Abigail Duniway who had led the fight since 1873!

The National Council of Women Voters organized in Washington State in 1911 and expanded east and joined forces with Carrie Chapman Catt’s National Women’s Suffrage group into the LWV. At the 1920 LWV National Convention Helen Ekin Sarrett of Oregon was the only woman there who had also attended the first suffrage convention in 1869. The first Oregon State Conference of the National LWV was held in Portland 1920.

Did you know?

- Before the American Revolution, women could vote in MA, NY, NH, and NJ—by 1807 that right had been lost!
- In 1848, at the 1st Women’s Rights Convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s equal suffrage proposal was adopted.
- In 1868 the 14th Amendment specifically defined citizens specifically as male for the first time in the Constitution.
- In 1869 Wyoming’s Territorial legislature passed the first unconditional law in the U.S. permanently guaranteeing women their inherent right to vote and hold office.
- Sept. 6, 1870 Louisa Swain became the first woman to cast a vote in a general election. When invited to join the Union only if women’s suffrage was revoked, Wyoming’s legislature said, “We will remain out of the Union one hundred years rather than come in without the women.” In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state with the women. Wyoming had the first female justice of the peace, jurors, and governor.
- Having originally been part of the NW Territories which had allowed women’s suffrage, women in Utah and Idaho regained suffrage in 1895. Washington followed in 1910, California in 1911, and Oregon in 1912. Finally Oregon was the 25th state to ratify the “Anthony Amendment” in January 1920 which was ratified August 26th.
Sally, Our Sagacious Secretary

Sally Grady recently became our LWVRV secretary, and has a long history of family education beginning in Buffalo, N.Y. where she was born. Her father became a PhD when he was only 22 years old. Sally was the youngest of three girls and two boys, all of whom studied seriously. Sally attended a small Catholic college and became a Medical Technologist for 22 years, and then earned her M.S. degree. She subsequently had charge of Medical Surveillance for the Chevron Corporation for 11 years. She later worked at OSHA for the Dept. of Labor and at the EPA in Alexandria, VA.

Sally married, had twin boys, moved the family to San Francisco, and then later retired.

While volunteering at the Haight Asbury Medical Clinic, she met a young woman who was an enthusiastic member of LWVSF. Sally attended a few meetings and became a member. "They got me!" she said. While in San Francisco, she gave presentations about election propositions as a Speakers Bureau member.

At the recent LWVOR convention in Ashland, Sally spoke with the Washington County representative on pesticides. Aren't we lucky? Having a skilled and knowledgeable secretary with a background in science. Besides that, Sally is gentle and patient, and she can enjoy a joke.

Hospitality: Shiena Polehn, August 2019

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.

**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
◦ Education
◦ Election Issues
◦ Transportation
◦ Observer Corps
◦ Healthcare Issues
◦ Environment

◦ Local Government
◦ Children at Risk
◦ Climate Change
◦ National Issues
◦ Voters Service
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League Activities September 2019

League of Women Voters
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Medford, OR 97501
P.O. Box 8555