Unite Oregon
Thursday December 12, 2019
OEA Bldg 2495
11:30—1:30pm

In our usual Holiday Tradition, we have invited a non-profit for the December general meeting: The Southern Oregon branch of Unite Oregon will introduce themselves as an active organization which serves minority groups in a myriad of ways. Please clear your closets of unwanted CLEAN clothes, bedding and towels and bring to the December Meeting. Unite Oregon will distribute these items to families for the Holiday Season. Soup and bread will be provided by the Board, and biscotti orders distributed.

Also Consider LWVRV in Your Year-End Giving

As you know, earlier this year, the IRS approved LWVRV’s request to change its tax status to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. With that change LWVRV can now accept donations that are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed under IRS rules.

As you make your year-end contributions to nonprofit organizations, please consider LWVRV and its mission of education and advocacy. 2020 will be a busy year for us with the possibility of state and local ballot measures as well as voter services such as candidate forums. Your consideration of our mission will be greatly appreciated.

Rick Bennett, LWVRV Treasurer
Co-Presidents’ Pen.......... by Jackie Clary

To all of you who ventured into the hinder lands of Grants Pass for our last meeting, thank you. It was very nice to see so many of you there to learn more about the Harvard Case Study project and the next steps that involve LWVRV. This is a nationwide project involving LWV and the Harvard Business School. At some point in the future, we will be hosting events in Rogue Valley utilizing the case studies to involve our communities in discussions about “decisive moments in American History” (David Moss, author of Democracy: A Case Study). Participants will take on the role of people who were faced with difficult decisions at some point in American history. They will then devise and defend solutions. This should be an exciting experience, even for those of us familiar with American history.

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, The Voters Voice. Editor Kathleen Donham can be reached at 541-772-5044 and KDonham@gmail.com.

LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford OR  97501
541-479-4486

Contact the webmaster
webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org

Website: lwvroguevalley.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Rogue-Valley-301855639862801

Email: pres@lwvroguevalley.org

Ryan Lathen is the teacher giving the Harvard Study presentation in Grants Pass at the November general meeting. Photo courtesy of Lorraine Werblow.

Tuesday December 3 is Giving Tuesday.

Please consider a tax-deductible gift to the LWV Rogue Valley. We receive no funds from the state or national Leagues, and are responsible for our own expenses [which are modest but critical].

General Meeting addendum.....

Biscotti orders will be distributed by president Jackie Clary at the Holiday General Meeting on Thursday December 12, 2019 at the usual OEA Bldg. at 11:30 along with the collection of winter items. Contact Debra Har or Margie Peterson for more information.

pres@lwvroguevalley.org
commembership@lwvroguevalley.org
HEALTH CARE UPDATE

LWV Rogue Valley member Bill Walsh was interviewed on Jefferson Public Radio’s on November 20 along with the guest of Health Care for All Oregon, Warren George. Bill did a wonderful job, and recommends that League members attend an educational event (described below) featuring George Warren.*

Sunday December 1, 2019
OEA Bldg 2495 S. Pacific Hwy
Doors Open 1:30p
Guest Speaker: Warren George

Warren George commissioned Seattle-based Elway Research to conduct a poll of voters last July reflecting Oregon’s political distribution and included voters in all our state and Congressional house districts. Among other queries, voters were asked if they would consider a statewide, universal healthcare plan that converted their current insurance premiums and out-of-pocket healthcare costs into replacement taxes that might double or triple their state income tax. A majority of respondents (62%) said they likely would vote for such a plan. Only 22% were definitely against it. The poll also revealed that nearly two-thirds of Oregon voters feel that health care is too costly and too inaccessible for too many.

The poll results surprised Mr. George, a retired Corvallis management consultant who supports universal coverage that would save money but would maintain a high quality of care. “I thought when I started talking about things like $16 billion or two to three times their income tax that support would be relatively low,” George said. “So part of my motive was to look at alternatives.”

A moderate Republican, George said he’s been frustrated by the reluctance among many politicians who support universal care to discuss how much it would cost. “Our health care situation is becoming dire primarily because of cost,” he added. “It’s time to switch the debate from health care as a human right to what needs to be done to ensure that everyone is covered.”

*This event is sponsored by The Jefferson Center and Healthcare for All Oregon.

EMAIL FROM CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE LNG PIPELINE PROJECT

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is out--hot off the presses. I haven't cracked it open yet, but click below if you want to see what it looks like. The actual FEIS narrative is in three of the entries, Part 1 is entry #4 (includes T of C), Part 2 is #33, and Part 3 is #45.


[You can contact Shirley on this subject at climateaction@lwvroguevalley.org]
State spends money in Southern Oregon?

Governor Kate Brown uses a system of Regional Solutions hubs to explore making investments in local projects to help communities and regional entities write grants for consideration. The LWV Rogue Valley is fortunate to have Observer Corps member Annie Tekaha following those proceedings and reporting back. Board Convener Bill Thorndike officiates in Central Point.

Regional Solutions update......Annie Tekaha

As follow up to last meetings Community Forest Project in Butte Falls report, Alex Campbell covered history concerning the development of the project to the present. Currently Butte Falls community participants have set up a Trust for Public Lands with the intention of purchasing the three parcels surrounding the city of Butte Falls. This is all in progress at this time.

Larry Graves reported on progress made at the Illinois Valley Airport by securing the use of a required fire suppression pond outsourced by a local business. He also spoke about needs at the Grants Pass Airport and the community work being done there especially concerning the Southern Oregon Air Academy.

An Advisory Committee Roundtable ended the meeting. Southern Oregon Regional Solutions Center in Medford can be contacted for meeting minutes and further information. https://orsolutions.org/projects

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

—Kathleen Donham

The NRAC is one of several Jackson County Committees that reports directly to the Board of Commissioners. As a member of NRAC, I do not speak for the League, but I can give an Observer Corps report. The committee includes members of the public and agencies with an interest in managing water, forests, air quality, land use and soils. This year, fire management is a primary concern, and our attention is on the governor’s new report: www.oregon.gov/gov/policy/Documents/FullWFCReport_2019.pdf

Commissioner Colleen Roberts (committee liaison to the BOC) reports that the AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) was hoping the report would recommend more salvage logging.

There was also considerable discussion about the designation of special assessments for EFU and Forest Reserves that reduce property taxes if agriculture is being actively practiced. The Jackson County Soils & Water Conservation District reports that much of their consultant work is advising landowners about special assessment restrictions, and considering how they can promote the intended spirit of the rules and designations.

The Southern Region includes both Jackson and Josephine County. Past funded projects have included the Butte Falls Community Forest endeavor.
People Not Politicians – Ending Gerrymandering

As most local LWV members are aware the League of Women Voters of Oregon is one of many groups in a broad-based coalition which endorses a new initiative to combat gerrymandering. Specifically, the new initiative “People Not Politicians” is advocating for a process of drawing legislative and congressional voting districts that are fair and by the people – not by politicians.

The initiative would amend Oregon’s constitution to ensure that the 2021 redistricting process (and each to follow) is fair to all voters, impartial and transparent by establishing an (independent) citizens’ redistricting commission to ‘draw the lines.’ Currently, like in most states, legislators draw district lines. This can be inherently self-serving, despite the best intentions of individual legislators.

The Citizens Redistricting Commission would consist of 12 Oregonians. The first 6 selected and vetted by Administrative Law Judges, the second set of 6 chosen by the first group selected. The ultimate composition of the commission would be 4 from the largest party, 4 from the second largest party and 4 from a third party or independents. There will be strict requirements for applicant qualifications, just as there will be strict criteria for the drawing of maps. These are other details are available online at People Not Politicians.

Drawing new maps is the goal of redistricting, and occurs every 10 years after the census. Based on Oregon’s population growth, it is probable that we could gain a Congressional district after the 2020 Census, thus a new seat, making 6 representatives for Oregon. Such representatives should be picked by a fair vote of the people. To paraphrase League member, Norman Turrill (co-chief petitioner of the initiative), the process should allow the voters to select their politicians, not the politicians selecting their voters.

Along with the League of Women Voters of Oregon, the initiative has already been endorsed by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Independent Party of Oregon, NAACP Eugene/Springfield Branch, Common Cause Oregon, Taxpayer Association of Oregon, OSPIRG, American Association of University Women of OR (OR AAUW), Oregon’s Progressive Party, and many others.

Getting all the ducks in a row can often take time with a citizens’ initiative, this includes things like having the state approve a title. It is likely that the signature-gathering phase won’t start before February or March. For more information visit the website above, or email me at Action@LWVRV.org

Barbara Klein
LWVRV Action Chair
Directory of Committees and Officers

action@lwvroguevalley.org
membership@lwvroguevalley.org
newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org
observercorps@lwvroguevalley.org
pres@lwvroguevalley.org
secretary@lwvroguevalley.org
treasurer@lwvroguevalley.org
voterservices@lwvroguevalley.org
fundraiser@lwvroguevalley.org
historian@lwvroguevalley.org
hospitality@lwvroguevalley.org
nomcom@lwvroguevalley.org

The Fall Workshop announced that there is a plan for the LWVOR to partner with Oregon libraries to become hubs for promoting the 2020 Census. Members with connections with the library can collaborate with the League on efforts to encouraging participation with Census Count programs.

Together, we can ensure that our community receives the resources it needs.

United States Census 2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

LWV Rogue Valley through the Decades

*By Historian Nancy Swan*

12/8/1939 newly organized chapter met with the Medford School Superintendent and began studies of International Relations and Child welfare.

12/3/1941 U of O Pres. Erb spoke on economic policy & the US facing "heavy sacrifice."

12/15/1942 UP correspondent Virgil Pinkley spoke on the “Meaning of Total War” after his reporting tours of 43 countries, noting “a 40 hour week will not win the war.”

1953 reports on studies of U.N., city government, and state meat inspection.

1964 Medford and Ashland Joint Board Meeting and presentation of Ashland booklet.

1967 new “How Much do You Know About Medford” booklet presented and the meeting featured Child Development.

1969 program honored past presidents and featured report on China.

1971 solid waste disposal presentation and display of revised booklet on Jackson Co.

1972 LWVRV set education goals1983 funds for higher education.

1985 Air quality

1987 NATO and a “safer world” (name change from Jackson Co LWV to RVLWV).

1988 Ashland program featured human needs and hillside land use planning.

1989 reports on the “war on drugs” and the needed study of oceans & coastlands.

1990 70th anniversary celebration (wearing of vintage dresses)

1993 The UN’s Role

1995 Celebration of 75th anniversary
MEMBERSHIP MEMO -------- COUNT UP

Most groups have Count Downs, we on the Membership Committee for the LWVRV have a Count Up. Our goal is to have 100 members during this 2019-2020 year which is our 100th anniversary. We began this year with 64 members and now have 87. We are counting up and hopefully counting on you to help by inviting a friend, relative, neighbor, in-law to join us. If you would like you can give the name of person you would like us to contact. It would be our pleasure to do so.

Warm thanks and welcome to our new members. And we would never forget to thank those of you who have been members for a short to a long time. We appreciate the support of all as you are so valuable to help sustain the League’s integrity and prestige.

We hope to see you all at our December meeting.
Membership Committee,  
Oleana Black, Debra Har, Judith Kurinsky, Iris Milan, Lorraine Werblow

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 KDon-ham@gmail.com. You should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National.

Membership Committee: These members can answer questions about dues, anniversaries, and address changes.
and new phone numbers. Email them at membership@lwvroguevalley.org.

Directories were distributed in January. Let membership know if you need one.

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City___________________________________________
Zip______________Phone________________________
Email__________________________________________

Areas of Interest:  
◇ Campaign finance  ◇ Local Government
◇ Education  ◇ Newsletter
◇ Election Issues  ◇ Climate Change
◇ Redistricting  ◇ National Issues
◇ Observer Corps  ◇ Voters Service
◇ Healthcare Issues  ◇ Environment

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
### December Activities LWV Rogue Valley: Jackson & Josephine Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday December 1</td>
<td>Healthcare for All Lecture, OEA Bldg  1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 3</td>
<td><strong>GIVING TUESDAY</strong> — We would appreciate your tax-deductible contribution to LWV Rogue Valley.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday December 12</td>
<td>Holiday General Meeting—Unite Oregon, bring clean warm blankets, clothes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Happy New Year—Get ready for program planning for 2020</td>
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