2pm  Saturday February 15, 2020*
IMMIGRATION PANEL AND DISCUSSION

Jackson County Library Medford Branch
205 S. Central  Large Meeting Room

The panel will explore issues facing our immigrant community and consist of representatives from Unite Oregon, Unete: Center for Farm Worker Advocacy, the Center for Non-Profit Legal Aid Services, and the Southern Oregon Education Services District. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community.

(This event is not sponsored or endorsed by the Library.)

*This event is in lieu of our February Meeting.

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February 2020 President’s Pen……

It was lovely to see so many people at January’s Program Planning Meeting! Becoming involved in studies, reviewing established positions, joining action committees and volunteering for jobs which need doing are just some of the ways to meet members and understand how the League works towards better government and the common good.

And just to let you know, we are looking for someone to be our publicist. Bill Walsh has kindly stepped in to distribute news releases and articles to the press, but we need one person who would like to write announcements and small articles about our accomplishments—we would like to expand our profile as an active and growing organization.

If you were voted ‘most friendly’ by your high school class, perhaps you would like to help Shiena on the hospitality committee? It’s simply a matter of coming a bit early to put on the coffee, being ready to talk to people as they arrive, helping Shiena with biographies of new members for our newsletter and perhaps delegating people to bring refreshments.

February brings a special event in lieu of our regular monthly meeting (which normally meets at the OEA Bldg. on the 2nd Thurs. of every month). Please note that we are mounting an Immigration Discussion with a panel of people from the Rogue Valley who are active and knowledgable on the subject. This event is open to the public, so bring your friends! February 15th at 2:00, Medford Public Library, large meeting room.

Margie Peterson, Co-President

(See next page for Jackie’s addendum)
I would like to add to Margie’s comments. The LWVRV nominating committee will be meeting very soon to begin the process of forming a board for our 2020-2021 League year. This process has been very difficult in the past. In my experience, some of the busiest people in our community are League members so it is hard to find members willing to volunteer for one more job. This year though, we have increased our membership to such an extent that hopefully, we can look at each position being filled by two members, such as this year’s position of president. Being part of a team can be fun (right, Margie?) and it makes any job so much easier. It would be great to see new members sign on to a team (board position) and learn about our League from behind the scenes. We have even been known to laugh out loud on occasion (a lot, actually).

Health Care Reform Update

The Governor has appointed eleven members from across the state to the Universal Health Care Task Force (SB 770), with two more still to come. Senator James Manning and Representatives Cedric Hayden and Marty Wilde are also members. No one from Southern Oregon. The Task Force is to report in 2021 on the best way to provide universal health care in Oregon and how to fund it.

While Oregon has done exemplary work in providing access to insurance to its citizens, there are still healthcare issues that need to be addressed: drug prices, opioid addiction, improving access to mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery, quality and affordability, and legislators continue to work on these problems. Related legislation is expected.

*Bill Walsh, LWV Rogue Valley Healthcare Coordinator*
Climate Change News

Shirley Weathers, Climate Change Coordinator

Jordan Cove Energy Project. The Jordan Cove Energy Project (JCEP) situation has been heating up in multiple directions in recent weeks, so that’s all we’ll get to this issue. Recall that the current (third) iteration of the proposed project was initiated in the fall of 2017 after the previous try had been denied by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a year before. If built, JCEP would install a 36”, 230-mile, highly pressurized (fracked) natural gas pipeline called the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline (PCGP) across southern Oregon, from a hub in Malin in Klamath County, through Jackson, Douglas, and Coos Counties to Coos Bay on the coast. The transported gas would feed a 200-acre gas liquefaction and storage facility and an LNG (liquefied natural gas) export terminal (JCLNG) on the largest estuary in Oregon to ship in super-cooled LNG form what is almost certainly primarily Canadian gas to Asian market. The four local Leagues (hereafter called the 4LL) of Women Voters (Rogue and Umpqua Valleys and Coos and Klamath Counties) have been working together against this project since 2017. Our focus is on the regulatory processes required for such a project to be approved (or denied). We also work and share information with many other opponents across the state. The LWVOR is also opposed. Here are some of the current highpoints:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) administers two major permits. One would permit construction/operation of the facility in Coos Bay and the other would allow construction/operation of the pipeline. The latter permit conveys on the company the power of eminent domain to take land from private landowners. Three Commissioners are scheduled to decide on these two authorizations on February 13, 2020, although it could happen later.

Uncertainty surrounds several key state permits.

Last May, with a statutorily established deadline approaching and lacking vast amounts of information from JCEP, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) denied the critical Section 401 Clean Water Act certification. Reapplication was allowed and JCEP finally indicated they would resubmit on January 15. However, they did not.

After numerous extensions on a “Removal-Fill” permit administered by the Department of State Lands (DSL), a decision date of January 31 was coming. But after months of missing commitments to provide information, JCEP asked for yet another extension. DSL Director Vicki Walker said no—enough is enough. JCEP withdrew their application.

JCEP has long disputed the Department of Land Conservation and Development’s (DLCD) interpretation of information needed to decide on another key permit—Coastal Zone Management Zone (CZMA) certification. The deadline for that decision is February 28, but it is clear that JCEP will not have what it needs and DLCD has said they will not grant certification without it. Outcome on that one is pending.

Governor Brown has stood behind her early commitment—including to the LWVRV—to ensure that state permitting processes will proceed in accordance with the letter of Oregon’s laws and that work is proceeding, even in the face of delays, resistance, charges of unfairness, obstructionism, and activism leveled by JCEP personnel and project proponents. The 4LLs have provided reams of information to those agencies and monitored their interactions with JCEP. The future is uncertain, but we are extraordinarily impressed with the diligent, arduous, and high quality work being done by all involved state agencies.
Observer Corps Report: Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Rick Bennett, Observer

I have been attending meetings of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners (BoC) since mid-December. The meeting agendas (on Wednesday mornings) usually include orders, often on the consent calendar, that involve contracts, easements, intergovernmental agreements, appointments and so forth, and items that require a public hearing. It should be noted that testimony is allowed only during public hearings. All board meetings begin with a public comment period; however, only issues or concerns not on the agenda may be discussed.

With regards to the regular BoC meeting agendas, the only information easily accessible to the public is staff summaries (usually one page) of a proposed order. All other relevant information of agenda items must be requested from the appropriate office or department using an information request form. There is a fee for copies of documents. Due to the limited information available for the BoC regular meetings, I have determined that a person often needs to attend the BoC work sessions (on Tuesday mornings) and the BoC staff meetings (on Thursday mornings). These meetings, attended by the three county commissioners as well as the county’s administrator and county counsel, involve discussions of the upcoming regular Board meeting agendas and other issues and concerns.

At a recent work session, the commissioners discussed their attendance at city council meetings. Commissioner Strosser suggested that attending city council meetings would better inform the commission of various issues that cities are dealing with and would allow the commissioners an opportunity to build relationships with city councilors. With consensus of the commissioners, the city councils were divided up between Commissioners Roberts and Strosser (Commissioner Dyer is not available for evening meetings). While commissioners will not attend every meeting, they will try to attend at least one of each city council’s meetings a month.

Welcome new members Barbara Hinds [Ashland] and Barb Barasa [Ashland] to LWV Rogue Valley! COUNT UP TO 100 MEMBERS - WE'RE NOW AT 95

Virginia (Ginnie) Deason was born in Chicago and raised in Park Ridge, Illinois. After high school she graduated from the University of Iowa. She has been married to her husband Jon for 52 years, and has three children and three grandchildren.

Ginnie has had several careers, a teacher and a local book store owner (called Lion’s Tale). She has been a buyer for Harry & David and also worked in Human Resources. In her talent for variety, she was employed in that capacity at the Mail tribune newspaper. She has had several hobbies, especially gardening, with peonies her favorite flowers.

We are fortunate to have a member who previously joined the League of Women Voters. Asked why, Ginnie claimed it was because she supports our stands and beliefs. Her special interest is immigration. Not to our surprise, she served as a volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps in Colombia, South America. Here in S. Oregon she belongs in the Latino Coalition and speaks some Spanish. You will enjoy meeting Ginnie, such a varied, talented woman. —Hospitality, Shiena Pohlen
### February Activities LWV Rogue Valley: Jackson & Josephine Counties

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<tr>
<td>Friday February 7</td>
<td>LWVOR Distance Board meeting [state league]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday February 15</td>
<td>Immigration Panel Medford Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday February 18</td>
<td>Day at the Legislature, Salem 9:30—3pm</td>
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<td>Thursday February 20</td>
<td>LWVRV Board Meeting 10:30 OEA Bldg</td>
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