



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

# VOTERS VOICE



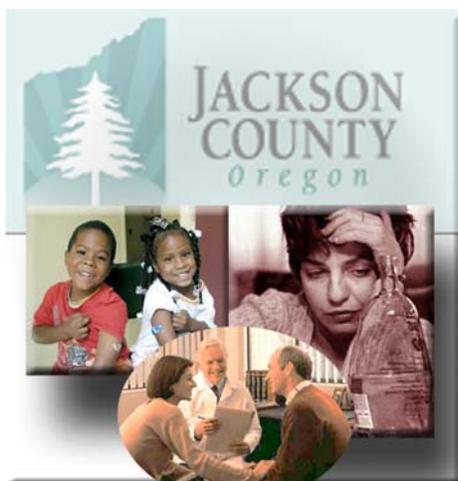
April 2005

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 13 Issue 7

### League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

## Health Care Survey of the Rogue Valley 2003 - 05



The April meeting of League of Women Voters--Rogue Valley will feature the Health Survey of the Rogue Valley on which members have been working for the past 18 months. It combines research done by the committee as well as incorporating information from more than two dozen other sources.

Besides showing a shortage of doctors in some areas, the lack of insurance options for many people, and low Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, it also lists many successes in the area, community clinics, advanced technology available and sources of information on decreasing the cost of medicine.

One thread running through the report is the problems drug use and manufacture are causing locally and what impact this has on local government, law enforcement and state and federal spending to overcome the situation.

### Guest Speakers:

**Dewey Patton of JACKNET and Dr. Rita Sullivan, Director of ONTRACK**

**Thursday, April 14, 2005  
at 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon  
@J.J. North's Restaurant— 1016 N. Riverside  
Avenue, Medford, lunch available for \$7.25**



### President's Message

“Human health is inescapably intertwined with other forms of life, big and small, with whom we share the planet.”  
— Mark Jerome Walters in  
**SIX MODERN PLAGUES AND  
HOW WE ARE CAUSING THEM**

One of the many beauties of being a League member is that we are a multi-faceted group. This past year we’ve focused on health care access and affordability, but we’ve also had programs on land use and transportation, juvenile services and crime prevention, campaign finance reform forums for local and state candidates for public office, and, of course, FUNDING OREGON. We know these are all inter-related. In the real world, there are no “separate” issues. Transportation policy, my specialty, affects the physical and mental health of humans, animals and plants; air and water quality; law enforcement - try naming some aspect of modern life that is NOT affected by transportation policy!

Twelve LWVRV members served on subcommittees to research and produce SURVEY OF HEALTH CARE IN THE ROGUE VALLEY, 2003-05. Mickey Ketchum was able captain of the project, and Shiena Polehn the editor and producer of the final 12-page report (now on-line at [www.lwvr.org](http://www.lwvr.org), studies). Plan to hear all about it at our April 14 meeting. Bring friends. You will be shocked, amazed, surprised, hopeful, or thankful—perhaps all of the above.

Meanwhile, you ARE what you eat - physically and mentally. Come to lunch and food for thought.

Eileen Adee , 773-4450

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**Web Site  
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[www.lwvr.org](http://www.lwvr.org)**

**LWVRV Voice  
Mail:  
(541) 245-6920**

**March Membership Meeting Summary**  
**By Trish Babcock**

The Oregon legislature is in session with daily news reports hi-lighting the financial quagmire facing legislators in funding state services. At March's General Meeting, we learned how and why Oregon's tax structure has changed, altering the relationship between state and local governments. LWVRV Board members Carol Ingelson and Vicki Keeney adroitly presented the harsh realities of Oregon's changing tax system. Before 1990, 70% of K-12 school operating costs were covered by local revenues. That figure has dropped to 30%. The difference must be made up from the State's General Fund money.

The result is a decrease in available funds for other critical services, such as public safety. Voter mandated changes creating a constitutional tax refund system and property tax restrictions have severely limited the ability of government to build a budget surplus or access adequate funding for basic government services.

*Funding Oregon:  
 The Ins and Outs of State Finance*

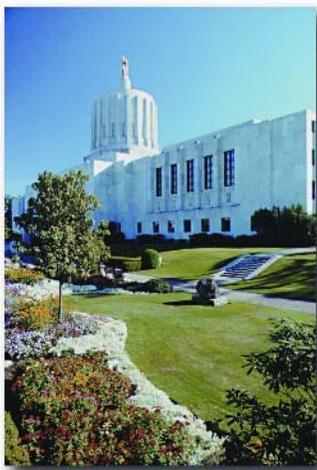


**Observers for Jackson County Budget Committee Hearings - by Vicki Keeney**



Important hearings for the county budget committee are coming up in April. It is important that League members take part in the budget process for Jackson County. The first two hearings listed below are open to the public and provide an opportunity for us to give public testimony on next year's budget. The third meeting is for deliberation only, but is open to the public.

April 19	8:30 a.m.	Courthouse Auditorium	10 S. Oakdale
April 21	9:00 a.m.	Courthouse Auditorium	10 S. Oakdale
April 22	9:00 a.m.	Courthouse Auditorium	10 S. Oakdale



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON**

**Excerpt from a letter by Margaret Noel, President February 2005**

**GOOD NEWS:**

**“I am pleased to report that the League has been successful in lobbying for changes to the 2005 Legislative Rules to provide at least 48-hour notice for committee hearing schedules!**

In addition, we are continuing to work for rules to

- Place oral testimony by members of the public first on committee hearings agendas, rather than allowing citizens to sit through hours of meetings, only to be excluded from oral testimony.
- Provide full public hearings on bills after budget notes or committee “work group” reports are attached, allowing for public comment on these important additions to the bills.”

## **Report on Town Hall Meetings**

**By Mickey Ketchum**

Several legislators have been in the Rogue Valley in the recent days seeking opinions from constituents and several League members have taken part.

### **Congressman Greg Walden**

Congressmen Greg Walden focused a town hall meeting on the rising epidemic of Methamphetamine. At a full house of around 200 persons at Medford City Hall chambers, Representative Walden, Judge Mark Shrively, Danny Jordan, Community Justice, were joined by Rogue Valley citizens including commissioner C. J Smith, Hank Collins, Director



of Jackson County Health and Human Services, Dewey Patton of JACKNET, Dee Ann Everson of United Way, Dr. Rita Sullivan of On Track, Carin Niebuhr, Local Liaison from Jackson County Health and Human Services to the Methamphetamine task force and student members of SODA.

Each gave their perspective of the problem Meth is causing in the community. The rise in the number of children needing to go into foster care because of parent involvement with Meth, the increase in arrests for robbery and theft which can be tied to addicts needing funds to feed their habits were just two of the problems resulting from Meth use. Congressman Walden said that although Southern Oregon has 20% of the state's population, it has 35% of the Meth labs. He then showed how just going to a store, one can purchase the materials necessary to manufacture Meth, including products such as Drano and Sudafed.

### **Senator Ron Wyden**

Later in the month, Senator Ron Wyden held a listening session also at the Medford City Hall chambers on the topic of the proposed changes in Social Security. About 100 attended and 39 gave testimony which was 98% against making the changes in Social Security that have been put forth. Many wanted to raise the cap on when Social Security is no longer deducted from \$90,000 to a higher figure. Others mentioned that the Social Security fund shouldn't be used for other purposes and that social security taxes should also be taken from those who only get their income from investments.

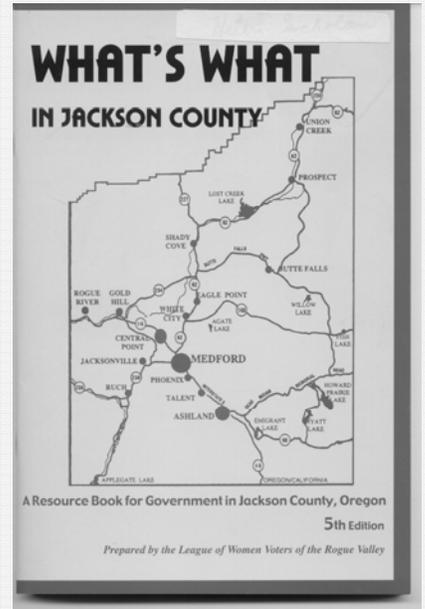
### **State Representative Dennis Richardson**

On February 25, Representative Dennis Richardson was joined by Senator Alan Bates, and Representatives Sal Esquivel, and Peter Buckley to hear from local Health and Human Services officials about the upcoming Budget Process for the state of Oregon. The full house at Central Point City Chambers heard local officials say that in some areas they could live with the governor's budget but that block grants would be more efficient in that local areas could continue to prioritize what programs were most needed in their areas. Don Brulland, of Jackson County COG spoke of the cuts programs for aging and disabled had taken. The need to continue assistance for those who take care of this population in the home was cited as an economical and effective way to deal with these problems.

All agreed that Southern Oregon was a leader in providing collaborative services between government programs and non-profit agencies.

# We need your help!

This unique publication is an authoritative study of Jackson County government. Placed with schools and libraries, this easy to read booklet has become relied upon as a quick and reliable reference tool for understanding all facets of Jackson County government.



Many generous donors have assisted in deferring costs of publication with a larger donation including the following organizations and individuals:

Bear Creek Corporation; Brophy; Mills; Schmor; Gerking & Brophy; LTM, Incorporated; Moss Adams, LLP; Pacific Power; Southern Oregon Education Service District; County Clerk of Jackson County; Robert D. Heffernan, Jr.; Richard F. Hensley; Sheila Kimball; Sue Naumes; Shiena Polehn; Barbara Davidson; Cynthia and Winston Lora; Diana Murdoch; Barbara Regan; Joan Rogers; Vicki Keeney; Robin Stroh.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!**

## But we still need your help!

To meet our goal, we must raise \$1,250 by May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Please consider making a contribution today!

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***Yes, I would like to help!*** *Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution*

*c \$10    c \$25    c \$50    c \$100    c Other \$\_\_\_\_\_*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVORE-EF)  
P.O. Box 8555  
Medford, Oregon 97504

Please indicate if you do not want to be acknowledged in our next Voters Voice ....



By Eileen Adee

**Action on “The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act”  
LWVUS supports a strong, effective UN with efforts to ensure  
respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.**

U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, has just introduced a bill of crucial importance to our collective efforts to abolish torture. The bill needs and deserves our strong and urgent support. Rep. Markey is a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

After Sept. 11 the United States greatly increased its practice of “extraordinary rendition”. Under this practice, a person detained abroad or in the United States under suspicion of terrorist links, may be sent to a third country for interrogation even though that country is well known for its use of torture. In short, we have been engaging in a broad practice of “torture by proxy.”

The extraordinary rendition practices are in fact a serious violation of both international treaties and U.S. domestic laws. Under Rep. Markey’s bill, such practice would be expressly banned

**ACTION**

Please call or write your members of Congress now to express your vigorous support for Rep. Markey’s “The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act”. The congressional switchboard telephone number is 202-224-3121. Your calls have impact! You may also send a written message via email.

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**Action Alert by LWVUS:**

**TELL CONGRESS NOT TO PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY**

**Message:**

Please oppose current congressional proposals to privatize Social Security. These proposals would put the system and those who depend upon it at more risk, not less. Social Security is one of the most successful social programs of the 20th Century. The system’s financing problems are manageable and can be addressed by reasonable adjustments over time. Rushing into private accounts does not solve the so-called Social Security crisis, but rather would add to the cost and the uncertainty of the program.

Any congressional debate must address the broad social needs the system now meets, the long-term future of the system and the financial risks that privatization could place on individuals and government. Diverting money from the Social Security trust fund into private accounts could hasten the insolvency of the fund, not save it. Disability and survivors’ benefits under Social Security have provided for millions of American families. This is particularly important for women. Nearly two-thirds of women 65 and over get a majority of their income from Social Security!

Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative now, by phone and by email, and urge them to oppose attempts to privatize Social Security. The Social Security system is not in crisis and any changes should make the safety net more solvent, and more dependable, not less secure. Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

For more background information visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

**Help Now! Advocacy Center**  
**Finding Solutions...Touching Lives**

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

Help Now! Is a new non-profit organization in our valley. Their work involves providing professional advocacy assistance to those in need, particularly the disabled (including mentally ill persons), seniors, and the local Hispanic minority to solve problems and resolve disputes - so long as the problems or disputes are not legal in nature. Help Now! Has a profound impact on the lives of many of those they serve. Please visit [www.helpnowadvocacy.org](http://www.helpnowadvocacy.org) to view the wonderful work they do.

Facing an overwhelming demand for their services, Laurence Kahn, executive director and founder of Help Now! needs more volunteers for both operations and for the advocacy work. Operations entails such things as data entry, filing, reception, as well as grant and funding research (primarily on the internet). Those that opt to do advocacy work will be trained on both interview and negotiation/problem-solving techniques in a three day seminar that is to occur this spring. There is no special skill level required to become an advocate so long as the person is of reasonable intelligence and is resourceful in his/her personal life. We would need anyone who wishes to volunteer to do so a minimum of one day per week although this could be done in half-day segments spread over two days.

Anyone interested in assisting us or who knows someone else who might be can contact us through the e-mail information noted on the website or alternatively can call me at 899-0149 / 0150.

Thank you,  
Larry Kahn, Executive Director  
Help Now! Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 639, Jacksonville, OR 97530



2004/05 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

*Membership Application*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Give a copy of this to a prospective member or send the person's name to the address below**

Send this application with \$24.50 (spouse/student \$12.25) for 1/2 of 2004-2005 membership to:



**LWVRV**  
**P.O. Box 8555**  
**Medford, OR 97501**

For more information call Mickey Ketchum,  
Membership Committee, at 773-2968

## April 2005 Calendar

<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 4</b>		<b>LWVOR Convention registration deadline - for details, call Eileen Adee at 773-4450</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 7</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>LWV of Ashland Board Meeting, for info call Vanya Sloan at 482-4544</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1 PM</b>	<b>LWVRV General Meeting: Health Survey of the Rogue Valley - presentation by the Health Care Access Committee, guest speakers: Officer Dewey Patton, JACKNET and Dr. Rita Sullivan, director of ONTRACK @ J.J. North's Restaurant—Riverside Ave., Medford</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>11:30AM - 1PM</b>	<b>LWVRV Board meeting at Eileen's home</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 21</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM</b>	<b>LWV of Ashland General Meeting: Getting To Know One Another &amp; Learning about the League for members and prospective members @ Ashland Elks Lodge, for details please call Kate Culbertson at 488-8693</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>LWVRV Annual Meeting, dinner at Eden Valley, guest speaker: Cathy Beckett, Jackson County Clerk on Help America Vote Act. Registration and details will follow in a separate Annual Meeting package.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM</b>	<b>LWV of Ashland Annual Meeting @ Ashland Elks Lodge</b>
<b>Fri-Sun</b>	<b>May 20-22</b>		<b>LWVOR State Convention</b>

Pear Blossom Parade, Medford  
April 9, 2005 , starting 11 AM

