



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



November 2005

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 3

League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

Emergency Management in Jackson County...How are we prepared for catastrophes including natural disasters or terrorist activities?



Speakers:

Mark Burnes - Medford Fire Dept. Assistant to the Fire Chief, in charge of Emergency Management in Medford

Mike Curry - Emergency Program Manager for Jackson County

Both gentlemen will discuss how we in Medford and the County are prepared for catastrophes that might arise, as it has in cities around the country. This program will be of great interest for all local residents. Come and learn how you are protected and how to protect yourself!

Thursday, November 10, 2005
At 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon
@ J.J. North's Restaurant—1016 N. Riverside Avenue, Medford
Lunch available for \$7.00
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



President's Message

Remember when the year 2000 was approaching? Threats of gloom and doom permeated our lives. A close friend emptied her hall closet

and filled it with supplies, in preparation for the world grinding to a halt. I stoically refused to partake in such silliness. I would not succumb to a life driven by fear. My friend still has her supplies. I am still trying to resist pressure to stockpile for pending disaster.

I wonder, perhaps I am the foolhardy one. Crisis and natural disasters are occurring the world over. The effects of poor planning are in the media daily. Meanwhile I continue to focus upon the cool fall nights and the beauty of my roses. I feel very lucky and content. I cannot seem to move into that mental place needed to plan for a regional disaster.

Once again, the League is pushing me to think about something I have chosen to ignore. Our November general meeting will focus upon disaster preparedness. How is the Rogue Valley preparing for disaster, should it come? What would that disaster look like? Will we be ready and what exactly does "being ready" mean?

I look forward to the November League meeting. I think it will help me better understand my resistance to concepts of disaster preparedness. In the meantime I will bury my head and focus upon words from Emily Dickinson: *"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all."*

I hope to see you at the November meeting.

Trish Bowcock
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Summary of October Membership Meeting by Carol Ingelson

How timely! The day before a state judge deemed Measure 37 unconstitutional, the LWVRV held its general meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at J.J. North's in Medford. A number of community citizens as well as League members attended to hear speaker Greg Homes, Southern Oregon Planning Advocate for 1,000 Friends of Oregon



Speaker: Greg Holmes, Southern Oregon Planning Advocate for 1,000 Friends of Oregon

try to answer some questions dealing with the possible doubling of population in Jackson County: where will everyone live? what about the farmland? how does Measure 37 affect the landscape? are citizens at the planning table?

A BLAST FROM THE PAST - Voters Voice article from September 1973 Compliments of Jeanne Gang

LAND USE

“Jackson County’s first zoning ordinance will be in effect by the time you read this. It is the result of 4 years of work on a comprehensive plan and zoning maps and ordinances. Josephine County is still working on theirs. But what of the other counties which are not progressing well? The last legislature passed SB100 in its closing days, after many changes and rewrites in this LAND USE bill. As a state program item, land use will be studied by League; we will note what legislation we now have, with special emphasis on acquisition of and compensation for land and taxation policies. Material will appear in the January ’74 bulletin from state. Meanwhile, suggested reading is “The Use of Land;” and belong to the LAND USE COMMITTEE.” Helen Thomas, Chairlady

THIRTY-ONE YEARS LATER

LAND USE

By Trish Bowcock

Greg Holmes with 1,000 Friends of Oregon referred to SB100 in his October presentation to the League. He stated that in the 1970s more than 10,000 citizens came out to support innovative land-use laws in Oregon.

Thirty-one years later, Jackson Counties and many of its municipalities are

in the throes of planning for a doubling of the region’s population. The project, managed by Rogue Valley Council of Governments is called “Regional Problem Solving” and “Now X2”. Committees are meeting regularly to plan the future face of Jackson County. The meetings are open to the public. Additional information can be obtained at www.rvcog.org E-mail them to request a meeting schedule.





Design by Creative Images

Did you know?

There are between 23,000 - 25,000 homeless children in Oregon.

Homeless Youth are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

Oregon's only dedicated source of funding for this population comes from Federal grants of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Approx. \$25 Mio. Goes to only seven counties.

Homeless Youth Summit in Roseburg

This event was sponsored by League of Women Voters, of Umpqua Valley, Douglas County Commission on Children and Families and the Organization Excellence on October 7, 2005.

Report by Joan Rogers

I attended a Homeless/Runaway summit entitled "Invisible Youth" and found it most helpful for our LWVOR study. Dr. Susan Pickrel was the keynote speaker and in attendance at this meeting were over 200 people.

How can we determine the needs of youth who are homeless and make a plan to meet them? Some of the needs are services for boys, counseling, mediation, affordable housing, financial assistance, shelter, clothing, and Oregon Health Plan.

Our committee will be contacting local agencies and will be working on putting the "net" back into social services. We are planning a meeting on November 4th and we will have a panel address us at our December lunch meeting.

For more information please contact Joan Rogers @ 772-4290, rogers4290@aol.com

Also check out <http://www.invisibleyouth.org>

In justifying the funding for a system of care in our state, consider this comparison of annual costs:

- Incarceration for one juvenile: \$48,500
- Adolescent drug treatment program: \$3,000—\$12,000
- Sheltering and other basic services: \$1,100—\$1,800



CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PROJECT - Action!

By Trish Bowcock

The Leagues of Rogue Valley and Ashland are moving forward on the joint Citizen Involvement Project. The committee has collected the written Citizen Involvement plans from Jackson County, Ashland, Eagle Point, Gold Hill, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Rogue River, Shady Cove and Talent.

A questionnaire is in its final draft stages. Soon a request will be made for oral interviews with each of these governing bodies. The results will be well publicized. This is a great committee! Our next meeting is in Ashland on November 2, 2005.

If you are interested in helping, call Trish at 899-9557.



League of Women Voters
of Oregon

Funding the LWV Voters' Guide

Margaret Noel
President
League of Women Voters of Oregon

Dear Members,

We League members love our *Voters' Guide*. We all share the League's goal of providing excellent nonpartisan information to voters. Over the past 8 years, the state League has worked with members around Oregon to provide this information free of charge, in accessible formats, and to more and more citizens. Fortunately many individuals, businesses and foundations have supported us.

For 2004, the LWVOR Education Fund raised more than \$85,000 from foundations, businesses, local League boards, and direct mail solicitation of both League members and nonmembers. League members contributed almost \$24,000 of this amount and local League boards worked with us to raise over \$28,000 from their communities! The LWVOREF Board and I are very grateful for the hard work of our Development Committee and for this wonderful support from members.

In 2006 our printing and shipping costs will increase, although by how much we don't yet know. Our Development Committee is considering increasing our use of the Internet, but we think most voters are **not** ready to give up the printed guides.

One thing is abundantly clear. If we are to continue to reach out to more voters with free copies of the printed *Voters' Guide*, we need your help. In 2004, contributions from local Leagues varied a great deal. We are hoping for more equitable sharing and increased support this time around. To foster this support, the Development Committee is committed to doing as much as possible to help local Leagues with fundraising.

How can *you* help as an individual? Of course, you can respond to our letters with a contribution. But we also hope you will give us the names and addresses of friends and neighbors who might contribute. Or please help your local League ask businesses in your community for donations. We know you value the *Voters' Guide*. Please help us tell others that a donation to this statewide project is money well spent for the citizens in your area and all of Oregon.

Together we will continue Making Democracy Work in Oregon. Thank you.

Margaret Noel, Chair
League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund



THINK GRAPEFRUIT SOLD BY THE LWVORV, of course!

Orders are requested by November 15th. For information, please call me, **Lorraine Werblow, 245-3641**.

Money from our grapefruit sales funds all the projects for the local League of Women Voters, and we count on support from all our members.

Access and Availability of Health Care in the Rogue Valley

by Shiena Polehn

Six members studied this topic by interviewing doctors and medical staff, listening to speakers, visiting facilities, examining surveys and previous studies. We found that there were some successes in the local healthcare, such as cooperation between agencies and a lot of volunteer work by doctors and other medical staff, but there are definitely gaps in the safety net.

Here in Southern Oregon, doctors are reimbursed for Medicare patients at a lower rate than in other areas and states. If you want a hip replacement and a doctor who is anxious to do it for you, go to Florida! This situation has led to a shortage of internists on our valley. Some will not accept all Medicare and Medicaid patients and others move away. Even in October, 2005 this has not improved much as the medical schools are not turning out internists, but rather specialists. Internists are the doctors who treat the elderly, since there are few gerontologists in the Rogue Valley. The local situation is that Medford internists are still accepting new Medicare patients but that is not the case in Ashland. People from Grants Pass, Ashland and even Northern California are making appointments with Medford physicians, which in the long run will lead to a deteriorating situation here. The good news is that we have two new neurosurgeons, who have replaced the two who retired or moved away.

The cutbacks in the Oregon Health Plan have reduced the number of low-income people who qualify, even though the Governor has tried to preserve programs for health coverage for children and pregnant women, state police crime labs and prescription drugs for seniors.

Although some excellent medical care is available in this area with the latest in medical technology and the best of medical staff being available for some patients, especially in a medical magnet like Medford, there is a crisis in attracting and retaining doctors and medical staff for various reasons.

Shiena Polehn, Local Health Survey Committee



CITIZENSHIP TUTORING PROGRAM - by Shiena Polehn, LWVRV

Members will be sorry to hear that a worthy program sponsored by the Human Rights Coalition of Jackson County and the Rogue Valley League of Women Voters is drawing to a close. The chief initiators of this program were John Almaguer, a local immigration attorney who was then the president of HRC, and Jean Milgram of our League who organized the meetings and workshops, bought the materials and matched the mostly Hispanic students with their tutors. Maria Swann of the Medford Police Department was an invaluable liaison with the students and Shiena Polehn, a former US citizenship teacher, helped with the workshops.

We can count the program as a success from the number of talented and willing volunteers who came forward, but we ran into difficulties in three areas:

- 1) getting the students to come to regular tutoring sessions and staying with the program. In some cases it was from lack of communication and transportation, but also the student's work and family schedule or from moving out of the area.
- 2) completing the necessary paper work for the citizenship(we were told very clearly not to attempt to fill out the papers ourselves) and
- 3) not having enough qualified students sent to us for tutoring.

However, those volunteers who participated in the program enjoyed the experience, especially establishing a relationship from someone from another culture whom they would not normally meet. Those tutors who still have students want to continue working with them.. One volunteer in particular has blossomed through contact with her student and their lesson has become the high point of her week.

We are discontinuing training of new tutors, but will support existing tutors until their students become US citizens.

Out of this program have come some worthy new citizens, maybe not as many as we hoped, but it has been very worthwhile. Thanks to all you League members who have given us encouragement and support.



LAST CALL

We are approaching the deadline for getting League members' names into the state and national offices so that members get all the good publications that they put out. It is also time to do our local LWVRV membership directory.

So send in your membership (on the yellow sheet if you are joining the Medford - Rogue Valley League) and send it to Box 8555, Medford, OR 97501 **TODAY!**

If you have questions call

Marcia Smith	779-7650
Mickey Ketchum	773-2968
Mary Carlon	858-4585



2005/06 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 \$49.00 (spouse/student \$24.50) for 2005/06 membership to:



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

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

November 2005 Calendar

Beginning of November			Homeless Study Committee meeting More info: call Joan Rogers @772-4290 or Judith Benjamin @488-3827
Wed.	Nov. 2	tba	Citizen Involvement Project committee meeting More info: Trish Bowcock @ 899-9557
Thursday	Nov. 10	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Emergency Management in Jackson County with speakers Mark Burnes and Mike Curry
Tuesday	Nov. 15	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)
Tuesday	Nov. 15	deadline	Grapefruit Orders, call Lorraine Werblow @245-3641
December	first week		Grapefruit Delivery
Thursday	Dec. 15	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: @J.J. North's Restaurant—Riverside Ave., Medford

Membership dues are over due...

