



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

# VOTERS VOICE



April 2006

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 7

## League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

### Land Conservation: How We Can Protect the Special Lands of the Rogue Valley



The Rogue Valley is at risk of losing the very lands that define our communities. As orchards are plowed up and converted to nonagricultural uses and large developments inch further into rural areas, we must decide how we are going to retain the rural lifestyle and natural beauty of our region. Diane Garcia, Executive Director of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, will be speaking on the methods and tools used to permanently protect working farms and ranches, forests, hiking trails, and other natural areas that are critical to the high quality of life we have in Southern Oregon .

Diane Garcia has been the Executive Director of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy since 2003. She has a background in nonprofit management, real estate and environmental protection and has been the director of several nonprofit organizations over the past 2 decades. She moved to the Rogue Valley over 30 years ago and currently lives outside Phoenix on a small farm with her husband.

**Thursday, April 13, 2006**  
**At 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon**  
**@ J.J. North's Restaurant—1016 N. Riverside Avenue, Medford**  
**Lunch available for \$7.50**  
**THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!**



## President's Message

Before we know it, spring primary election ballots will be mailed. In keeping with the season the LWV has sprung into action. Our mission, to ensure unbiased candidate information is readily available to all voters.

This election cycle, circulation of our *Voters' Guide* will be at an all time high. A trusted source for fair coverage on candidates and ballot measures, our *Voters Guides* are relied upon. This spring, LWVRV and LWVA will circulate more than 9,000 hard copies in Josephine and Jackson Counties. We also hope to have the entire issue available for review on our web site.

In the fall general election, we have commitments from both the Ashland Tidings and the Medford Mail Tribune to carry the guide as an insert. If we are successful in obtaining full funding, approximately 40,000 copies of the *Voters' Guides* will be circulated locally during the 2006 general election cycle.

Other projects on the stovetop include candidate forums. LWVA and LWVRV have partnered for staging forums in both the primary and the general elections. In the fall general election, we will be working with KOB Channel 5 in sponsoring a prime time 1½ hour-long gubernatorial candidate forum. Save October 24, 2006, 6:30 p.m. on your calendar.

As with so many things, our services cost money. Locally, we have been asked to carry the costs for printing and distributing the *Voters' Guides*. We have applied for a grant, but it is likely we will still need more money for reaching the largest number of voters possible.

If you have been considering making a financial donation to the league, now would be a great time. To ensure your resources are spent locally, you can make a donation to the LWV Ed. Fund. Make a notation on the check that it is for LWVRV. Mail your check to our treasurer Cynthia Lora, 275 Mt. Echo Dr., Medford 97504. She will make sure we are credited locally. Since the LWV Ed. Fund is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), all donations made this way may be treated as a charitable contribution.

Thank everyone so much for your support.  
See you soon! Trish Bowcock  
899-9557 / trishbowcock@charter.net

## LOCAL LEAGUE LEADERS...

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## Summary of the March Membership Meeting - by Helen Scholom

Speakers were Russey D. Sumariwalla, president of the UNA-USA Southern Oregon and Carol Wilder, 34-year Veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service.

Russey informed about the September 2005 world summit in N.Y. where reform of the U.N. system has been discussed .

Two major disappointments were the unresolved issue on the Security Council reform and most disappointing the lack of progress or consensus on the most critical issue of proliferation of nuclear weapons. Accomplishments included the adoption of the eight Millennium Development Goals, which range from cutting extreme poverty in half to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education meeting the needs of the world's poorest. Target date is 2015, agreed to by all the world's 191 U.N. member states and all the world's leading development institutions. Specific accomplishments were made in areas of peacekeeping, human rights, protection against genocide, and warning systems for natural disasters. Terrorism was condemned "in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomever and for whatever purposes".

Russey concluded that if we believe in the U.N., we must all work tirelessly to spread information about it, and strengthening its capacity to serve humankind and our planet earth.

Carol Wilder talked about the shift in American foreign policy that she said was based on long-held positions by a group of neo-conservatives who had attained key foreign policy positions in 1992 including Paul Wolfowitz and Lewis Libby, both political appointees under Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. They drafted an assessment of America's mission in the post-Cold War area called the "**Defense Planning Guidance**" that described establishing permanent U.S. dominance over all of Eurasia, U.S. military intervention as a "constant fixture" and stated the primary goal of the U.S. should be to prevent the rise of any nation that could challenge the United States. It specifically advocated military intervention in Iraq as an action necessary to assure "access to vital raw material, primarily Persian Gulf oil."



During the two Clinton Administrations, a new think tank was formed in Washington, the **Project for a New American Century**. Some of the founders were Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, John Bolton, Richard Perle, and Paul Wolfowitz.

A year later, with these men in positions of power and the fearful American public more open to severe measures after 9/11, all the same essential points appeared in the **National Security Strategy** which President Bush presented to Congress. Chief tenets of the Strategy, which is still Administration policy, are that 1) preemptive war will be acceptable in dealing with enemies, 2) nuclear weapons can be used offensively in support of political and economic ends, and 3) international treaties and international opinion will be ignored whenever they are not seen to be in alignment with U.S. goals.

Carol concluded that it is obvious that the Strategy was not inspired by 9/11, but was instead the culmination of almost a decade of planning.

She mentioned that preemptive war is according to the U.N. Charter legitimate only in imminent clear and present danger situations involving self-defense. Over the past two centuries, no major democratic power has ever started a preventative war. Now, the United States has done so - in Iraq, and is threatening to do so in Iran. Some great opportunities to build diplomatic ties with Iran were deliberately avoided. Although the State Department and NSC recognized that there was an opportunity to work with Iran not only on stabilizing Afghanistan but on

- to be continued on page -4-

Al Queda as well, the Administration continued to label Iran as part of the "axis of evil" bent on the destruction of "the American way of life."

A second major shift in U.S. foreign policy in the Bush Administration is the assertion that nuclear weapons can be used offensively in support of political and economic ends. This supersedes the perspective held by the U.S. since the 2nd World War that nuclear weapons were only to be held as a deterrent to a nuclear, chemical or biological attack on us. Other countries are, of course, aware of the Administration's policies and goals. Developing new nuclear weapons not only contradicts accepted international norms of nonproliferation behavior, it invites countermoves by other countries.

The third major shift in U.S. foreign policy in this administration is that international treaties and international opinion will be ignored when not seen to be in alignment with U.S. goals. Among those not accepted are the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, the International Criminal Court, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), an international convention to regulate the trade in small arms, a verification Protocol for the Biological Weapons

Convention, the World Conference Against Racism, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems Treaty.

Carol concluded that the shifts in American foreign policy - admissible preemptive war, the alleged right to offensive use of nuclear weapons, and the repudiation of international agreements and treaties at will - do not seem to be panning out well. In the eyes of much of the world, we have become the major "Rogue Nation".

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**LWVUS has a long-standing position supporting cooperation with other nations and strengthening international organizations.** In advocating our positions, the League is not required to present both sides of an issue, as it is required to do in Voters Service projects or during the study process before arriving at a position. Carol Wilder's speech presents the observations and conclusions of a knowledgeable individual who agrees with us on the need for international cooperation and as such, can be very useful to us as we work to advocate our position.

### **Women's Rights & the UN Commission on the Status of Women - by Russy D. Sumariwalla**

The 45-member Commission on the Status of Women -- a subsidiary of the UN Economic and Social Council -- concluded its annual two-week meeting on March 10 without greatly advancing the cause of women's economic, political and social rights.

The Commission got entangled in the discussion and use of the term "reproductive rights", strongly opposed by the US representative. This was part of a resolution on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and women. In the end the controversial wording was dropped and the resolution was adopted.



The Commission also demanded, among others, that Israel comply fully with the Universal declaration of Human Rights and Geneva Conventions in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and children -- specifically, to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties. Forty one countries voted in favor of this resolution; US and Canada opposed it. As of writing this [3.15.06] the Commission had not released a final statement.

According to June Zeitlin, executive director, Women's Environment and Development Organization [WEDO], "The good news is that they have reached agreements but they didn't make any major breakthrough. It is one thing to agree on something worthy of adoption, it is another to implement it. Member states of the UN are, unfortunately, not obliged to follow through on the agreements. WEDO and other nongovernmental groups urged governments to take action and not just pay lip service to women's issues.

By Trish Bowcock:

**This is a very important  
ACTION ALERT...**

**please take a minute here, as it involves our air quality. The EPA is proposing rule changes which would have a dramatic impact on air quality in the Rogue Valley. Please read below and take action as requested.**

**Thank you,  
Trish Bowcock  
LWV Rogue Valley**



The EPA has proposed to enact improved air pollution standards for particulate matter. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has elected to delay enforcement of these new standards until 2013. This is not a problem for 99.5% of America, because the existing air pollution standards will continue to protect them for the next 7 years while we are waiting for full implementation and enforcement of the new PM pollution standards. Unfortunately, the Rogue Valley is among the 0.5% of America that will NOT have ANY PM air pollution standards during the 7 year interim period. This is outrageous and must be corrected immediately. In fact, the air pollution rules for industry that we worked so hard a couple of years ago to get the DEQ to preserve for our region are exactly the rules that are threatened by this Bush administration proposal. The rules that are threatened include the rule that required industrial emission offsets, the rule that requires new industry to meet the stringent new-technology LAER standards (Lowest Available Emission Rate), and the rule that set the threshold for our area for industrial pollution permitting at 5 tons of emission per year (instead of 15 tons). These rules apply to the Medford – Ashland area only and it is only our rules and those for 5 other communities in America whose special pollution rules will be eliminated in December 2006 if we do not stop this proposal.

We will therefore need to get active and contact the EPA to let them know that we want the Medford-Ashland area to remain protected with air quality

standards between now and the date that the new PM standards are implemented in 2013. This means telling the EPA that we do not want the existing standards for the Rogue Valley eliminated in December 2006.

The deadline to give the EPA input is April 17, 2006. Comment can be made at the following email address: [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov) Please put the following info in the subject line: Docket ID No. OAR-2001-0017.

I can give a detailed explanation and weblinks to those who are interested.

If you would like to read the hundreds of pages of detail that are involved with this EPA proposal, please go to this webpage:

<http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/actions.html>

I spoke with the EPA (Barbara Driscoll) and the DEQ (John Becker) today, and they have both confirmed that this is indeed what has been proposed. It is outrageous. I will be happy to give a presentation explaining the details to anyone that is interested.

Conde Cox  
Jacksonville  
944 7788

**By Nancy Swan –  
Voters Service  
Chair**

**New: I.D. Requirements to Register to Vote in Oregon**

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that people registering to vote for the first time in a state must provide identifying information. The ID requirement does not apply to Oregon voters who are updating their registration for reasons such as change of address, name or party.

Preferred identification is a current valid Oregon DMV Driver's License or ID. Also acceptable as second choice is a Social Security number. These numbers should be provided in Sections 4 or 4a on the registration form.



**Upcoming Candidate Forums:**

The primary election day is Tuesday, May 16. We should receive our ballots the first or second of May. With that in mind, League candidate forums have



been scheduled for the latter part of April. The Ashland League will sponsor a candidate forum for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District as follows:

**Thursday, April 20, Ashland Elks Lodge, 255 E. Main Street,  
from 11:30 a.m. – noon no host buffet lunch\*\*,  
forum from noon – 1:30 p.m.**

\*\*available for \$7.00 – to reserve lunch please call Kate Culbertson at 488-8693.  
The Rogue Valley League encourages members to

The Leagues of Rogue Valley and Ashland will co-sponsor the following two forums:

**Wednesday, April 26, Ashland City Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street:**

**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. candidates for Judge of the Circuit Court, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Position 9 (a new position).**

**8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. candidates for Jackson County Commissioners, Positions 1 and 3.**

**Both forums will be moderated by long time League member Bill Mansfield and will be shown on Rogue Valley Community Television.**

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And don't forget: your contributions to the LWVOR-Education Fund can be earmarked with LWVRV and will help our local Voters Service Fund (see President's message in this issue).

**Petition Signing -  
by Agnes Chirgwin, OR Voters Service Chair**

I have been communicating with the Secretary of State's office to clarify the process for signing petitions for Sen. Ben Westerlund who is running for governor as an independent. Voters should be forewarned that if they vote or return their primary ballots with any writing on them their signature on Westerlund's petition will be considered invalid since it is considered the equivalent of a primary vote. This precludes voting for any office in the primary.

## Testimony before J.C. Board of Commissioners on Citizen Involvement in Land-Use Planning

On March 15th, the LWVRV and LWVA testified before the Jackson County Board of Commissioners in favor of a plan that will increase Citizen Involvement in Land-Use Planning.

In spite of sparse publicity by the Board of Commissioners, the hearing was a big success.

The following is the testimony presented at the hearing:

March 15, 2006

The Honorable David Gilmour, M.D.  
The Honorable C.W. Smith  
The Honorable Jack Walker  
Jackson County Board of Commissioners

RE: The League of Women Voters submits the following for inclusion in the record on Local File No. LRP2004-00001, which is an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan of Jackson County on Citizen Involvement Goals and Priorities:

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters, we thank you for your hard work and public service.

We are here today to voice support for Jackson County's Comprehensive Plan amendment updating its Citizen Involvement Policies. The League of Women Voters is firmly committed to comprehensive citizen participation in all phases of government. We support Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines.

The State of Oregon is special in many ways. Historically Oregonians are free thinkers. Our land-use planning system is often cited nationwide for its independence and uniqueness. Bringing people from all walks of life to the land-use planning table has long been a tradition here.

Today you are considering whether to shed more light on Jackson County Government. You are considering whether to formally recognize a diverse committee for citizen involvement, inviting open input in Jackson County land-use planning. Your timing is impeccable, as we are in the middle of *Sunshine Week* celebrations where nationwide, open governmental practices are being discussed.

Jackson County Planning Commission unanimously recommended adopting the proposed amendments before you today. Their recommendation is a good one. The proposed amendments are the collaborative effort from a large and diverse group of citizens. Jackson County Planning department worked diligently to ensure all voices were included and heard.

This plan seeks to involve a cross-section of citizens in our land-use planning. Under the proposed plan, a Committee for Citizen Involvement will be formally recognized with members being appointed, by you, through an open and well-publicized process. The Committee for Citizen Involvement will educate and facilitate information flow during all phases of the land-use planning process.

The League of Women Voters is firmly committed to openness in government. We applaud Jackson County for its efforts in bringing about a plan that will truly open the doors to increased citizen participation. We urge the commissioners to vote in support of the proposed changes and also urge you to immediately embark upon the process of forming the committee so that it can get right to work.

The League of Women Voters is looking forward to working with you in encouraging open and meaningful citizen input in our land-use planning process.

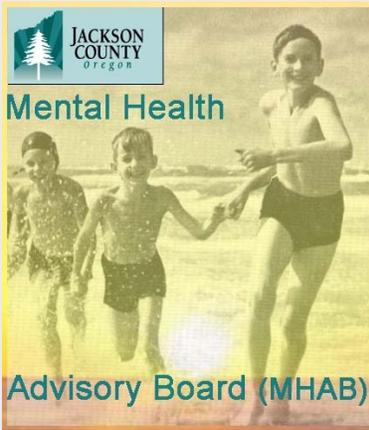
Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Vanya Sloan  
President

Trish Bowcock  
President



By Estelle Womack,  
LWVRV Observer



### Jackson County Mental Health Advisory Bd. Meeting 2-27-06

The JCMHAB discussed the excellent Frontline program regarding the Meth problem and the TV coverage Channel12's Jennifer Seeker gave mental problems and suicide. It was decided to buy tapes of the two programs and have them available to groups that missed them or are interested.

The budget was reduced again due to lower capitulation rates in 2003 and 2004. This results in a 14% reduction ( \$900,000.) in our local JCMH. They are fighting the reduction as it does not reflect the actual work being done. Evidence Based Practices (state requires 50% spent on them) are more costly to do and document. Also the tighter budget does not reflect the mandated program that are not fully funded. State budget problems at DHS hurt mostly seniors.

The JCMHAB will work on a flow chart for parents and friends of the mentally ill who are seeking emergency help. Presently a person seeking help may get passed from phone call to phone call and never reach the right person. It was felt this would also be a help to the police and the professional community.



**Girl Scouts of Winema Council presents:**

### Can Do Awards

2006 awards will honor outstanding women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**Friday, April 21, 2006 from 7 - 9 p.m. at Science Works Hand-on Museum, 1500 E. Main in Ashland**

\$25.00 per adult. For more info: contact Girl Scouts of Winema Council, Medford, 773-8423

By Mickey Ketchum



**Public Forum by the Jackson County Homeless Task Force** in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley and Ashland.

Jackson County Homeless Task Force (HTF)'s is to examine the entire community's homeless needs and resources, identify the gaps and priorities, establish goals, and implement long range goals that address the gaps and priorities identified by the community. Their ultimate mission is to eliminate homelessness and its root causes, and to improve the quality of life for the person and the community.

The Homeless Task Force has recently completed their homeless count survey and will be discussing their findings. The Leagues have just finished their local studies of homeless and runaway youth and will be available to discuss their findings.

**Forum Date:  
April 17, 2006  
from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
in the main room of the Medford library.**

Topics will include numbers and resources, especially focusing on accessible and affordable housing.

Joan Rogers, Medford, has chaired the Homeless Youth study for the Rogue Valley League and Barbara Davidson, Medford, has been one of the interviewers. Judith Benjamin has chaired the Ashland League's study for Homeless Youth and is also on the State Board for the League of Women Voters Oregon for the state-wide study on homeless and runaway youth.

By Mickey Ketchum

**"When it impacts you.. Who ya gonna call?"**

Calling all community members to attend and participate on

**April 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m at South Medford High School auditorium**

to a Community Response to the Impacts of Methamphetamine and other substance abuse on you.

The purpose of this forum is to create community awareness of the ongoing negative effect Methamphetamine and other substance abuse has on our community. Learn how you are effected by Meth's impact on: Identity theft, Fraud, Law enforcement, Treatment and Prevention and Health and Welfare of our Children.

Sponsored by Rogue Federal Credit Union, Jackson County Meth Task Force, Southern Oregon ESD, Addiction Recovery Center and Southern Oregon Drug Awareness (SODA).

**Kids Unlimited and homeless kids advocates** are teaming up for a fund-raiser for Kids Unlimited to help them finish their gymnasium and install a commercial kitchen. They are in the midst of the fund raising campaign and are applying for grants that will provide a one stop shop for homeless kids with a case manager to refer to services and hopefully meals six days a week.

The fund raiser is a Bo Diddly concert (he is donating his time). It will include a 3 course dinner with wine and donation to Kids Unlimited for \$65 on **April 22** .

To receive an invitation, call Mary Solomon at 621-7085.



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 \$24.50 (spouse/student \$12.25) for 1/2 of 2005/06 membership to:



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

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

## April 2006 Calendar

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>10 AM—3 PM</b>	<b>Community Response to impacts of Meth and other substance abuses, sponsored by J.C. Meth Task Force, SODA and others @ South Medford High auditorium</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1 PM</b>	<b>General Meeting: Land Conservation: How We Can Protect the Special Lands of the Rogue Valley, Speaker: Diana Garcia, Exec. Dir. S.O. Land Conservancy @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>6 PM—9 PM</b>	<b>Homeless Task Force Forum in collaboration with LWVRV and LWVA @ Medford library, main room</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1 PM</b>	<b>Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Candidate Forum 2nd Congressional District @ Ashland Elks Lodge, Main Street, Ashland</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 26</b>	<b>7 PM - 8 PM and 8PM - 9 PM</b>	<b>Candidate Forum for Judge of the Circuit Court and candidates for Jackson County Commissioners, position 1 and 3 @ Ashland City Council Chambers, E. Main</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 16</b>		<b>Primary Election Day</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>evening</b>	<b>League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley Annual Meeting</b>



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