



THE ADVOCATE

May 2006

League of Women Voters of Ashland, Oregon

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL
ORGANIZATION, ENCOURAGES THE
INFORMED AND ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN
GOVERNMENT. IT INFLUENCES
PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

WEB SITES:

Oregon: www.lwvor.org

Rogue Valley: www.lwvrv.org

Ashland: www.Ashland.or.lwvnet.org

National: www.lwvus.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Vanya Sloan
Vice-President: Kate Culbertson
Secretary: Gloria Craven
Treasurer: Judy Heatherington
Voter Services: Ruth Walsh
Membership: Judith Benjamin
Publicity: Carol Wilder

Board Members At Large:
Reinhold Sundeen
Mary Anne Wallace

LWVA
PO Box 1296
Ashland, OR 97520

info@ashland.or.lwvnet.org
(488-8693)

ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, May 11, 2006
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Ashland Elks Lodge**

Please plan to attend this important meeting. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. It will be followed by a noon presentation by Dr. Reinhold Sundeen, M.D., on *MEDICAL ISSUES AT END OF LIFE*.

Our Annual Meeting will begin after the presentation.

Please call Kate Culbertson at 488-8693 to reserve the no-host buffet lunch (\$7.00), which starts at 11:30 a.m.

You are welcome and encouraged to bring guests.

PLEASE BRING THIS ADVOCATE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

MEDICAL ISSUES AT END OF LIFE

Reinhold Sundeen, M.D., a retired psychiatrist who practiced at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA, will discuss medical issues in an aging society and the medical ethics of hospital-based treatment guidelines for individuals with such conditions as Alzheimer's disease or stroke. Among the topics to be addressed will be patients' rights, palliative care, Oregon's Advance Directive, living wills, and orders to "allow natural death." Dr. Sundeen, a member of our League's board of directors, will also talk about the social and economic impacts of non-beneficial medical treatments, and the medical ethics of policies limiting life extending care to one's natural lifespan.

To learn more about end end-of-life care issues, ethics and decision making, visit Oregon Health Sciences University's Center for Ethics in Health Care at www.ohsu.edu/ethics.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON
COUNCIL, MAY 20-21, 2006
At the ASHLAND SPRINGS HOTEL
(See President's Message for details)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for the privilege of being your president these last two years. I extend special thanks to our Board members for their dedicated service. You have all been wonderful and made my job easier. Kate Culbertson, Vice President, was a tremendous help to me throughout my term. We'll miss her on the Board next year, but she is doing a great job as State League Secretary. Membership Director, Judith Benjamin, brought terrific new energy to this position, while also working hard as chair of our Homeless and Runaway Youth study. Gloria Craven has been a super Secretary and we're lucky to have her again next year. Carol Wilder did a great job as publicity director, making sure our meetings were well attended. We're sorry to be losing her on the Board. Treasurer, Judy Heatherington, did a stellar job of keeping our budget on track and also made us acutely aware of our dwindling finances and the need for fundraising next year. Mary Ann Wallace has been a huge help in many ways, particularly with our mailings, grapefruit and tea sales. I'm grateful to Ruth Walsh, our fabulous Voter Services Director, who so adeptly organized and moderated our candidate forums, among other things. Ruth is to be congratulated for her successful efforts in getting us a grant for the Voter Guides this year. Thanks to Reinhold Sundeen, our wise Board elder, and Elin Silveous, our *Advocate* extraordinaire. And thanks to our members who have worked hard on the studies this year: Barbara Jarvis did a terrific job chairing the LWVOR Judiciary Study. Many of you worked hard on the Homeless and Runaway Youth Study and the Citizen Involvement in Land Use Issues Study (see 2005-2006 Board/Program Report Summary). I appreciate all of your efforts.

As you know, LWVOR's Council will be at the Ashland Springs Hotel in May. League members throughout Oregon will be attending as Delegates and Observers. It is still possible to sign up for the luncheon or banquet, and have a taste of Council – if you hurry! The luncheon is at noon on May 20, and attendees will enjoy watching professional belly dancers perform. The banquet is from 7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., and we are delighted to have Libby Appel, Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as our guest speaker. The cost is \$20 for lunch, \$29 for dinner, and \$48 for both lunch and dinner. If you want to sign up, mail a check to LWVOR, 2659 Commercial SE, Ste. 260, Salem, OR 97302, indicating your preference of salmon or mushroom for dinner.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on May 11, as well as at LWVOR Council.

Vanya

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Annual Membership Dues -- \$60 "Household" Membership -- \$90

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____
New Member: _____ Renewal: _____ Additional Contribution _____
My special interest/s: _____

**Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Ashland (LWVA).
Mail to LWVA, P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, OR 97520**

Please think about an extra donation to our local LWVA for program expenses, such as the newsletter, media ads, and other miscellaneous items. Of your \$60 dues, \$49 will go to LWVUS and LWVOR. Your contributions assist our fundraising. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 3 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Board Meeting (call for details)
May 11 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Annual Meeting: Guest Speaker Reinhold Sundeen, M.D.
May 16 Primary Election
May 19 LWVOR Council Dine-Around (dinner with Council guests)
May 20-21 LWVOR Council 2006 at Ashland Springs Hotel, Ashland, OR
June 10-13 LWVUS 47th National Convention, Minneapolis, MN

AGENDA FOR 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

- 12:00 p.m. Welcome Members and Guests
Presentation by Reinhold Sundeen, M.D.,
Medical Issues at End of Life
- 12:40 p.m. Annual Meeting Call to Order
Adoption of Meeting Agenda (in the *Advocate*)
Introduction of Parliamentarian and Secretary
Introduction of Current Board
Official Membership Count & Determination of
Quorum (25% of membership = ___ members)
2005 Annual Meeting Minutes (in the *Advocate*)
Appointment of a committee to review 2006 minutes
- 12:50 p.m. 2005-2006 Program Summary (in the *Advocate*)
- 12:55 p.m. Treasurer's Report
Presentation of Proposed Budget (in the *Advocate*)
Discussion and Adoption of 2006-2007 Budgets
- 1:00 p.m. Local Positions:
Consideration of Recommended Study Items:
 - Water Supply (update of 1990 position)
 - Homeless in Ashland (update of 1995 position)
- 1:15 p.m. Report of Nominating Committee
and nominations from the floor
- 1:20 p.m. Election of Officers and Directors
Direction to New Board
- 1:30 p.m. Adjournment

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006-2007 BOARD Submitted by Gloria Craven, Kate Culbertson, Iris Milan

President: Iris Milan
Secretary: Gloria Craven
Treasurer: Judy Heatherington
Directors: Judith Benjamin
Vanya Sloan
Reinhold Sundeen
Mary Anne Wallace
Ruth Walsh

Off-Board:
Webmaster, Kate Culbertson
Nominating Committee for 2006-2007:
Kate Culbertson, Chair; Bobby Jaffe, Susan Rust

RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

- 1) Admission: Any member in good standing and guests.
- 2) Quorum: One-fourth (1/4) of membership.
- 3) Debate:
 - A. Only members of LWV Ashland have the privilege of the floor.
 - B. When addressing the chair, a member should stand and state his/her name.
 - C. Discussion shall be limited to two minutes per speaker.
 - D. No member shall speak more than once, until all others who speak have had their turn.
- 4) Motions: All motions/resolutions must be in writing, signed and sent to the Secretary.
- 5) Voting: A majority of members present shall be required for the adoption of a measure.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2005, ANNUAL MEETING

Vanya called the meeting to order, and asked visitors to introduce themselves. She thanked the Board members for their work this last year. She introduced Parliamentarian Bill Mansfield and Secretary Gloria Craven. She announced that Carol Wilder and Anne Decker would review these minutes. Bill Mansfield reported that a quorum was present. Approval of the minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting, as printed in the *Advocate*, was unanimous. Vanya then introduced the speaker, Connie Battaile.

Connie Battaile, a founding member of the LWVA, spoke about the original organization and the early years of this League. Current League members found the discussion very interesting. A copy of Connie's notes will be attached in the *Advocate*.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report printed in the *Advocate* was approved, following a motion by Anne Decker, seconded by Bettie Henry. The 2005-2006 Budget printed in the *Advocate* was approved unanimously, after a motion by Anne Decker, seconded by Myra Erwin.

Program for 2005-2006:
State program discussion:

The suggested program items were printed in the *Advocate* -- specifically, a re-study of the Judicial System, and an update to the Policy and Planning section of the Natural Resources position to study dam removal. A third item was a proposed Homeless Youth Study. After much discussion, the members, through an informal vote, directed the delegate to the State Convention to focus on the re-study of the Judicial System, particularly the selection/election of judges, and the Homeless Youth Study. County program discussion: The members present were reminded that both Jackson County Leagues must concur on study or action taken on program items pertaining to Jackson County.

Jackson County Charter Review Committee: There is a detailed review of the background and status of the Charter Review Committee in the *Advocate*. The discussion at the meeting centered around the possibility of getting an issue on the ballot mandating the County Commissioners to appoint a Charter Review Committee to allow the charter to be reviewed and revised periodically. (It was pointed out that the law requires the County Commissioners to appoint the review committee.) Consensus on this issue was that the Board of Commissioners be asked to call for a Charter Review Committee to address the lack of revision and review language. Carol Wilder and Ruth Walsh volunteered to work on this issue. The Rogue Valley League met the evening of May 12 to determine its position on this study item.

Public Participation in Land Use Decisions in Jackson County: A detailed account of this proposed item from the LWVRV is in the *Advocate*. The proposed study was viewed by the members as very important, and they enthusiastically endorsed it. Susan Rust, Myra Erwin, Mary Ann Wallace, Vanya Sloan and Kate Culbertson all volunteered to help. The LWVRV met on May 12 to decide its position on this study item.

Local Positions:

The Board recommended a *Know Your Town* study. There were several suggestions as to how to approach this study: a series of forums, either wide reaching (open to the public, held on a Saturday, lots of publicity, etc.), planned through SOLIR (Southern Oregon Learning in Retirement), or as presentations at regular meetings. There was also a reminder that the first goal of the City Council is citizen involvement, and that might provide a connection. The members decided that the Board would set up a committee to review all options and make recommendations to the Board for further action. Anne Decker, Bettie Henry, Mary Anne Wallace and Gloria Craven all volunteered to help on this committee. Members had recommended two current positions for updates -- Alternative Energy and Water Supply. Although the members felt that these are important issues, it was recommended to consider studying them later, as no more power is available this year.

Nominating Committee Report: Only the Treasurer and Secretary are to be elected this year. Judy Heatherington was nominated to continue as Treasurer, and Gloria Craven as Secretary. Judith Benjamin and Carol Wilder were nominated as new Board members. With no nominations from the floor, Susan Rust moved, and Myra Erwin seconded to approve the nominations. The motion was passed unanimously.

Suggestions from the members to the Board:

Barbara Jarvis emphasized the need for new members. She suggested that each member should bring a friend or possible new member to each meeting. She emphasized that methamphetamine use is the biggest problem in town, that we need to educate ourselves and she would provide resources for information. Susan Rust would like to suggest programs to whoever is in charge of them and also would like to participate in any meth study and/or program. Allen Douma suggested that LWV members attend Council/Planning meetings as appropriate and reiterate LWV positions. Anne Decker stressed the need to make more money.

Respectively submitted,
Gloria Craven, Secretary

2005-2006 BOARD/PROGRAM REPORT

In **September** we had a joint meeting with the Rogue Valley League on ***Citizen Participation in Land-Use Issues***. Pat Zimmerman, chair of the Citizen Involvement Committee for the seven-member Oregon Land Conservation & Development Commission (LCDC), shared a wealth of information about land-use laws, as well as hopeful stories about what citizens are doing throughout Oregon to influence land-use decisions in positive directions.

Sarah Seybold, R.N., an Advanced Care Educator with a Master's in Psychiatric Nursing, gave a presentation in **October** on ***Medical Issues at End of Life: Understanding Your Rights***. Seybold explained what Advanced Health Care Planning is and talked about how to discuss end-of-life issues with loved ones, how to choose an advocate if you are unable to make your own health care decisions, the pros and cons of medical interventions, and the usefulness of the Oregon Advance Directive.

At the **November** meeting, Sen. Alan Bates, Rep. Peter Buckley, and Andi Miller from Common Cause talked about our ***Dysfunctional Legislature***. Among other things, we learned that Oregon is one of five states without limits on campaign contributions, and that our legislature in run on a shoestring budget. (Our State Senator makes \$14,000 a year.) It was no surprise to hear that partisanship has become a big problem in our current legislature. Our Democratic representatives said that Republicans have absolute power and Democrats can't get bills heard in the House, but also pointed out that if the situation were reversed, Democrats would probably do the same thing. The system needs to be fixed. Miller cautioned us to be watchdogs and get involved. Visit <http://www.leg.state.or.us> to see videos and hear audios of legislative hearings.

In **January**, we had a joint meeting with LWV Rogue Valley on Homeless/Runaway Youth. Panelists were Roxanne Jones, Jackson County Commission for Children and Families; Patrick Christensen, Community Works Case Manager for Runaway Teens; and Mary Solomon, School District 549C Project Manager for Homeless Education and McKinney-Vento Liaison. We learned that *homeless*, as the schools define it, can include a variety of situations, from families living in motels, or with two to four families in small apartments, or living in trailers or garages without heat, or in other forms of sub-standard housing. Often children have to change schools constantly as their family moves around. Many kids are *couch surfers*, living on their own in other people's homes, moving from place to place. The causes may be parental abuse, drugs, or the kids not wanting to follow rules at home. Community Works provides services, but couch surfers and street kids have no safe place to stay, other than at the Juvenile Detention Center for two weeks. The problem of homeless and runaway youth is huge, but not always discernable.

Also in **January**, our League held a new and prospective member tea at the home of Membership Director, Judith Benjamin. Some 30 people attended. While enjoying the conversation and delicious refreshments, the group listened as the Board described the League's policies and programs in response to lots of good questions. New members who attended included Ellie Marzocco, Barbara Stankus and Pam Vavra. Guests who later became members included Jan Boggia, Valentine Jones and Rita Vance.

At **February's Program Planning** meeting members recommended retaining our current local positions on Parks and Recreation, Park Funding, Alternative Energy and Land Use, and updating our positions on Water Supply and the Homeless. They requested more action be taken on some of our present positions, especially park funding and citizen participation in land-use planning. They recommended sponsoring public meetings on recent developments on such issues as alternative energy, water supply, the Ashland Comprehensive Plan, and the homeless. Members want Ashland to be a diverse community and recommended a discussion of workforce housing in relation to our land-use positions. With regard to National, members proposed a study of electronic voting machines, focusing on such safeguards as random audits and paper trails, to determine whether or not these machines preserve the integrity of the vote, and an additional study of various election systems, including instant runoff voting.

In **March**, Diane Garcia, Director of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC), spoke about the unique role her organization plays in land conservation and retaining the rural character and unique lifestyle of our region. SOLC is one of 13 active land trusts in Oregon, and since 1978, has been assisting private and public landowners to protect their special lands permanently for future generations. These include working farms and ranches, forests, riparian areas and urban open