



League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

VOTERS VOICE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASHLAND NEWSLETTER INCLUDED

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- LWVRV general meeting, Oct. 13.
Learn to be an informed voter
- Great Decisions foreign affairs study group returns
- Tutoring and Citizenship Programs helps America gain one citizen

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Be An Informed Voter

At our October meeting, League members will be presenting LWVOR's position on pending 2006 ballot measures.

Please join us and learn:

What does LWVOR believe?



Why does LWVOR believe it?

Thursday, October 13, 2006

Red Lion Hotel, 200 North Riverside—Medford

11:30am — Buffet lunch, \$14.00

12:00 NOON—1:00 FORUM

What's the color of the sun on the outside? What's red, juicy and has pits on the inside? **IT'S TIME FOR THE GRAPEFRUIT SALE**

This is the League's yearly fund raiser. We hope you'll participate. More information to follow next month.

Lorraine Werblow, Chairperson of Grapefruits (what a title!), 245-3641

It is LWV Membership Time

Tear off the application on page 7 if you are joining the Rogue Valley Branch (Medford) and mail to:

LWVRV
Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501.

Please do it today so you don't miss out on LWV activities. Thankfully, so far 35 members have rejoined. We have 40 more to go.

Mail in your membership TODAY!

If you are joining the **Ashland Branch**, use the **Blue Application**.

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

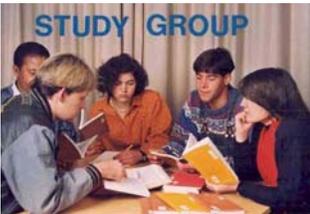
I recently attended a Jackson County Board of Commissioners meeting on a proposed revision to rural-use zoning. The huge audience was cautioned that testimony would be limited to addressing scrivener's errors. Instead, citizens were allowed to freely express their views in an amazing diversity of styles and opinions. The outcome wasn't changed by the testimony. The commissioners voted 2/1 to allow increased rural density. But, the hearing was interesting and a good example of citizen involvement.

As people testified, I watched the Planning Department director roll her eyes or nod her head depending upon the testimony. I heard judgmental comments whispered about the room. I wished that people could be more respectful and was reminded of a course I took when training to become a mediator. One of our first assignments was a two-part multiple-choice written exam. The first part explored how one would react in a large variety of situations. The second part asked the same questions, but added some stressful element... Would you react differently under stress?

The two sections of the test were scored separately and each section assigned a number value that was translated into one of three colors: blue, green or red. We were given two colored sticky dots that were placed on our nametag ... labeled for the entire week! A blue dot indicated a slow very methodical and open processing mode. Greens were more private but also cautious and slow. Reds were quick to conclude. No manner of processing was considered superior to another... just different. This labeling forced us to acknowledge that there are different ways of thinking and to learn to listen to others with patience. A Blue thinking person may judge a Red, for a failure to think things through. A Red thinking person might blast a Blue for being too slow-witted. What I learned in that class is that if we acknowledge the differences, let go of the judging and really listen, we will find that our minds open up a bit.

True citizen involvement in the governmental process includes a governing body that actually listens to everyone, not just those who share the same thoughts. And, in case you were wondering, I'm a double Red.

Trish



LWVRV will be sponsoring a Great Decisions foreign affairs study group. It will be held in the Central Medford Library the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month January through May of 2007. The first meeting will be January 12, 2007 It will be in the morning from 10:15 until 11:45 in the Adams room.

The co-leaders are Margaret Keene at 826-6911 and Eileen Adee at 773-4450.

Local League Leaders

OFFICERS

- Trish Bowcock, President
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- Lorraine Werblow, Grapefruits

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LWVRV Voice Mail:
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www.lwvrv.org

Notes

Why the Red Lion Hotel?

To all our members,

The LWVRV Board would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in our choice of a “new home” for our monthly general meetings. When JJ North’s closed, we were confronted with a meeting site challenge. We chose the Red Lion Hotel because of their willingness to provide an excellent meeting facility along with a decent lunch. Please keep in mind that the price of the lunch includes full service, a quality meeting room and state-of-the-art audio-video equipment. Having the hotel provide everything frees us up to do what we do best, which is voter education. We will continue to provide quality programming as well as limited seating for those who prefer to “opt out” of the lunch.



Kudos to Joan Rogers, our Program Arrangements Chair, for exploring the myriad of suggested possibilities!



Land Use Planning – As We Grow ****Your opinion matters

Current plans for development and growth in Jackson County are underway in a process called Regional Problem Solving to “...direct the future of land use in the Greater Bear Creek Valley [and] establish a long-range plan for the wise stewardship of what has historically made the valley an attractive place to live, while also providing for a rational and beneficial pattern of growth.”

You can voice your opinion on how we should grow by filling out the survey at www.rvcog.org (click "NowX2") and by attending this citizen input meeting.

Envision Oregon

October 26, 2006, 5:30 – 8:45 p.m., Medford Red Lion , 200 N. Riverside

Recently an official statewide committee, called the “Big Look” was formed to review and make recommendations to the Oregon Governor and legislature on the continued viability of Oregon’s land use laws. Envision Oregon is holding forums across the state to compile recommendations from everyday Oregonians to provide to the Big Look committee.

If you want your voice to be included in the discussion, plan on attending. To pre-register or obtain more information, go to www.envisionoregon.org or call Greg Holmes at (541) 474-1155.

The League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley supports Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines ... These goals provide overall planning standards and establish the framework for land use planning programs of all governmental agencies and bodies in the state.

For more information on our position go to www.lwvr.org

GOOD NEWS! WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT FELISA BAEZ, ONE OF THE STUDENTS IN OUR RECENTLY DISCONTINUED TUTORING FOR CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM, HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PROGRAM AND PASSED THE CITIZENSHIP TEST. HER TUTOR WAS BARBARA HOPFINGER. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF THEM!

LWVRV Hosts County Candidates' Forum

September's LWVRV luncheon meeting launched our general election cycle with the first of what promises to be a great Voter Services season. On September 14th, approximately 45 members and guests listened to candidates for Jackson County Commissioner, Sheriff and County Clerk answer questions and each explained why they were the most qualified to serve. Invited were candidates for Jackson County Commissioner Position 1: Jack Walker, Tom Winnmill and Diane Davidson; Candidates for Position 2: Dave Gilmour and Craig Prewitt; Sheriff: Mike Winters and Tim George; and County Clerk: Kathy Beckett. All attended, except Commissioner Gilmour, who was in Washington D.C. working on federal funding, and Mike Winters. Commissioner Gilmour sent a statement. Although expected, Sheriff Winters did not attend nor did he provide a statement.

A panel of LWVRV members prepared questions, which were not released to the candidates in advance. Robin Swan served as the moderator. County Commissioner candidates were asked their views on: (1) rural development, (2) funding "life quality" services in Jackson County, (3) allowing voters to decide whether 3 commissioners or 5 would be preferable; and (4) whether the public should be allowed to watch commissioners deliberate Measure 37 claims. The candidate's answers varied greatly. Jack Walker and Craig Prewitt favor more rural development. Diane Davidson and Tom Winnmill cautioned restraint. All believed that county services, such as the libraries, ought to have funding. Walker and Prewitt opposed allowing an initiative that would let voters decide whether there should be 3 or 5 county commissioners. Davidson and Prewitt supported the notion. Winnmill and Davidson believed that government meetings ought to be open to the public, while Prewitt and Walker voiced concerns about allowing members of the public to watch Measure 37 deliberations.

Tim George, Sheriff's candidate, had the floor to himself as he urged greater cooperation between law enforcement divisions and expressed grave concerns about ensuring adequate space in Jackson County jails to avoid early release. He also stressed the fact he would serve in a leadership role as Sheriff, rather than as a "road deputy."

Kathy Beckett, who is running unopposed for County Clerk, explained the strains that the new federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) have placed on her office and the challenges she has faced as they phase in the requirements of the new law. She stressed her desire to run an efficient office and praised her long-term employees. She urged everyone to make sure their voter information is correct, not waiting until the last minute to do this. "There aren't any lines now, but will be as election day nears," she stated.

Many thanks to Nancy Swan, for organizing this event and to Robin Swan for her even-handed moderator skills! If you missed this one, you can catch these candidates and more at the Candidates Fair on October 21st (details elsewhere in this bulletin).

Trish Bowcock

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions, a foreign policy discussion group, will begin holding meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, starting in January and continuing through May. They will be held at the Medford Library, 10:15—11:45 , and non-League members are welcome. More information to follow.

♦ *LWV is the organization where your hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to tangible civic improvement.*

In early 2006, I interviewed troubled youth and officials, in both law enforcement and social services, for the Homeless/Runaway Youth committee. Through this and another League committee I learned I enjoy doing interviews and then writing reports.

In early April, I saw an ad in my local newspaper for a part-time reporter. My experience in League got me the job.

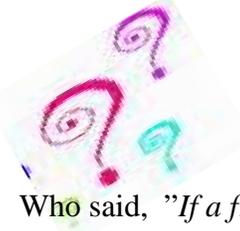
Recently, while covering a Shady Cove City Council meeting I learned a councilwoman had become a foster parent for the 34th time. The subject interested me because of the youth study. I wrote a story on the councilor and then a story on "regular" foster parents.

Through interviews, I realized a large percentage of children in the system are from "meth" parents and I began talking to women who are, or have been, addicted to meth. What I heard was shocking and graphic and I have had to clean it up somewhat for my family-oriented newspaper. And "meth" is just the "tip of the iceberg."

Writing these type stories is an eye-opener and it can be depressing at times. But fortunately, there are "happy" stories too. Obviously, LWVRV has had a significant impact in my life.

Margaret Bradburn

Question of the Month



Who said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich"?



Answer:
John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961



**2006 / 2007 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley
Membership Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Make out a check for Year Dues \$56. Spouse dues \$28 and include Application.

- Land Use Planning
- Election Issues _____
- Local Government
- Health Issues _____
- Transportation
- National Issues
- Children at Risk
- Other (list): _____
- Education _____

October 2006 Calendar of Events

Thursday	October 5	8:30— 11:30am	Homeless Task Force meeting, Medford Library. Free admission
Thursday	October 12	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	State Ballot Measures Presentation & General Meeting
Monday	October 16	10:15— 11:45am	Board Meeting, Central Library, Adams Room
Thursday	October 19	11:00am	Talent, LWVRV will moderate a Talent Candidates Forum
Saturday	October 21	10am—1pm	Meet the Candidates, Community Room, Medford Library
Thursday	October 26	5:00pm	Red Lion Hotel for a town hall discussion of what we care about, our vision for the future and how to help make Oregon a great place to live for us and future generations.
Tuesday	November 7		ELECTION DAY

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