



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASHLAND NEWSLETTER INCLUDED

- Willing to help RWVRV home-stay host Ukrainian and/or Russian visitors in March 2007? See p. 5.
Interested in speaking with and writing up introductions to our new members? See p. 6.

December Christmas Meeting

Our Christmas meeting on December 14 will be held at Kids Unlimited, 821 N Riverside. Our catered lunch, available for \$10, will include Grilled chicken with rosemary potatoes, salad, dessert, coffee or tea. Please RSVP as we need a guaranteed number of lunches. Call Joan at 772-4290. Our topic is: Teenagers in Politics-America's Future. Tammie Harrison and Brianna Houck, seniors at North High, will share with us their passion for politics --- Both were selected and attended prestigious 2006 summer learning programs designed to further non-partisan political awareness. Hear their opinions about the future of democracy in America.

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What is National Methamphetamine Awareness Day?

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Methamphetamine Awareness Day on November 30, 2006 will generate understanding about the damaging effects of Meth use on individuals, families and American communities. U.S. Attorneys, along with state and local leaders, will coordinate a variety of educational events across the country, targeting their specific communities.

This is a good website - have kids look it up with you to view the pictures and videos. Log onto www.usdoj.gov/methawareness for more information on National Methamphetamine Awareness Day. Through this website, your coalition can:

- Learn more about methamphetamine production, use and impacts, and apply this information in your prevention efforts.
Download a model methamphetamine educational presentation in Meth 101, which can be used in community briefings, presentations to local officials and parents.
Get connected with your local U.S. Attorneys' office to find out how you can support their efforts to raise awareness about meth on November 30th, or involve the U.S. Attorney in supporting your own community briefing event on National Methamphetamine Awareness Prevention Day.

by Mickey Ketchum



President's Message

This election cycle, many people exercised their right to vote. I am always jazzed by a large voter turn-out and confused when I encounter voter ennui. I decided to engage in a refresher course on our right to vote and to share with you the fruits of my research.

America is a great country, where we are afforded many inalienable rights that often are taken for granted. The right to vote is one example. When our democracy was created, the right to vote was restricted to wealthy property owners ... mostly white males. Many Americans felt this was unfair and fought hard to change the system. Slowly changes were made. In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, prohibiting laws that would restrict a person from voting based upon race. Fifty years later the 19th Amendment was passed, allowing women the right to vote. Still, attempts were made by some to restrict voting by charging expensive poll taxes. If you didn't have enough money you couldn't vote. The 24th Amendment, enacted in 1964, prohibited that practice. And, as to the 18 year-olds who vote today? That right wasn't embraced by our Constitution until 1971.

From the comfort of our living rooms, we periodically witness television accounts of citizens in other countries experiencing a newly-granted right to vote. Every time I witness such behavior, I feel sad for the complacency of so many Americans within our own system: and, at the same time, I feel proud of the work done by the League.

Trish

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND 2007!



This edition of Voters Voice is a combined

December 2006/January 2007 issue.

May each of us and our families have a wonderful and safe holiday season and a terrific 2007!

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LWVOR REPORT

LWVOR Report
- Jean Milgram, 2nd V.P., LWVOR

E-mail messages between state president Margaret Noel and her board have flown back and forth since the recent election, each thanking and congratulating the other for the election outcome on the ballot measures. Margaret's letter to League leaders says it all.

As she requested, I am passing it on to the members and supporters of the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley.

Dear League Leaders,

Oregonians owe a big "thank you" to those of you worked on defeating state ballot measures that could have crippled our government and its ability to fund schools and other programs, and which could have politicized our courts, and limited citizens' rights. Many thanks to everyone who helped with writing letters to the editor, submitting op-eds, getting out the vote against these measures or responding to requests for interviews. I am very grateful to you and all the members of your local Leagues for all your hard work for Oregon and for your communities. I hope that elections on local measures in your communities also went the way you hoped.

I also want to thank all the League members who helped on voter service to make sure that Oregon voters understood their choices on the candidates and measures. Our forums, debates, and the publication and distribution of the Voters' Guide were outstanding. Thanks also to Rebecca and Jane Eddings and to our interns, who helped with the Mock Election! What an amazing Voter Service Team!

Thank you, also, to everyone who worked so hard to raise money for our voter service projects, especially the Voters' Guide. Many of you contributed as individuals, and your Leagues also worked hard to raise money in your communities.

We truly did ourselves proud and carried on the strong League traditions of working to inform citizens, to help them participate in government and to promote stronger Oregon communities. Please pass my thanks on to your members.

by Margaret Noel

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ATTENTION: Are you getting this newsletter because you are a National Member of the League of Women Voters?

Join the local and state
get all the benefits of
Call Mickey Ketchum,
772-7650 for details
member of League of Women



organization of LWV and
full membership.
773-2968 or Marcia Smith,
about becoming a full
Voters.

Notes

New Great Decisions Group Starting

There is a new Great Decisions Group starting, which will discuss U. S. foreign policy issues. The meeting will be at the Medford Central Library on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month, January through May. The first meeting is January 12, 2007 At 10 a.m. we will set up the Adams room and start the discussion at 10:15. We will finish at 11:45 and put the room back in order by 12 noon. The RVLWV is sponsoring the Group, but all are invited to attend. The topics to be discussed are the Middle East, climate change, children, war crimes and South Africa. A lively and thought-provoking discussion is guaranteed. Books cost \$16.50 each if a group of 10 or more is ordered. Individual books are \$20, including shipping. Please give or send your checks for \$16.50 to Margaret Keene by the December general meeting. If we don't get 10 members, the extra charge will be due at the first meeting. You can also mail the checks to Margaret Keene at 7536 Gladstone Ave., White City, OR 97503. She will be placing the order December 15th (the day after the general meeting), so make sure your checks arrive before that date. After that date, you can order an individual book for yourself. The group will be lead by Margaret Keene and Eileen Adee. You can call us at 826-6911 or 773-4450, respectively, or email Margaret at margaret2@postmaster.co.uk with any questions.

Summary of October General Meeting

For the past year, local Leagues gathered information about the plight of homeless and runaway youth in Oregon. League leaders then compiled the information into a preliminary report. At our October meeting, more than 50 members from both the Ashland and Rogue Valley leagues gathered at the Medford library for a thoughtful discussion of the report. For consideration were thirteen carefully crafted questions that were to be answered and then forwarded to the statewide committee. The consensus meeting discussion, led by Judith Benjamin (LWVA) and Joan Rogers (LWVRV), was energetic, diverse and covered the gamut of perceived problems and potential solutions. Our members recommended both treatment and intervention options, as well as involvement of governments and communities at all levels. Mentoring youth was a strongly suggested course of action that local League members can take. Stayed tuned for the final report, which will be released in Spring 2007.

Many thanks to everyone who participated!

Voters Services

Voters' Guide Proofreading Committee

Kudos to the eight women who showed up in September to go through every word of the draft of the Voters' Guide. They followed directions perfectly, corrected many errors, finished on time and did it all with good humor and pleasantness. Their names are Agnes Chirgwin, Kathleen Donham, Sheila Kimball, Kaye Kroman, Cynthia Lora, Jean Milgram, Evelyn Ousterhout and Shiena Polehn.

Thanks also go to Cynthia and Winston Lora who arranged for the use of their clubhouse and helped provide the lunch for the workers.

As an aside, I'd like to also thank those who distributed the Guide all over the area. We've had many compliments on how helpful it was to prospective voters.

by Shiena Polehn, co-editor Voters' Guide

Kudos Corner

All our members are special and appreciated.

Sometimes individuals go that extra mile.

We would like to extend special thanks to the following LWVRV members for "that extra mile":

Trish Bowcock and Jean Milgram who, between them, got 5 renewals in just two days. Thanks very much. That is 73 members so far!

Carole Levi for our outstanding newsletter (and for her innate ability to serve lasagna)

Jean Milgram for her stalwart representation with LWVOR

Shiena Polehn for her tireless editing (and editing, and editing) on our Voters Guides

Joan Rogers for her leadership in the Homeless Youth Study

Helen Scholom for making our website shine (see www.lwvrv.org)

Nancy Swan for leading a stellar Voters' Service season

Michael Torgeson, a new member, for jumping in and making the Medford council forum happen

Lorraine Werblow for her interminable patience (and innate ability to serve lasagna)

If you know of a member who is "going that extra mile", let us know!

2007 Ukrainian and Russian Visitors Hosting Program

In March, the LWVUS will submit a proposal to the Open World Leadership Center to request funding for a second year of Ukrainian and Russian visitors. Is your League interested in providing home-stay hosting and in organizing a seven-day program for visitors from either country? If anyone from LWVRV is interested, contact Trish ... 899-9557.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS to LWVRV

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Torguson, Michael 601-9163

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****HELP WANTED****

An individual to interview and showcase members for this newsletter.... If you enjoy writing and talking to new people, this job is for you.

For more information or to apply for this important position, please reply to: mpkettle@hotmail.com

Helping to Write Oregon’s Future

How and where do we want Oregon to grow? That is the question being addressed across the state in a series of town hall meetings called Envision Oregon. On October 26th, 130 participants from Southern Oregon gathered at the Red Lion Inn of Medford to brainstorm and answer the question. The well-organized event was co-sponsored by a diverse group. Citizens brainstormed and offered thoughtful suggestions that will be forwarded to a task force called the Big Look committee. If you weren’t able to attend, you can still give your opinion. Go to our website at www.lwrv.org and link to the Envision Oregon site. We are at a critical juncture in Oregon’s future and your voice does matter!

The following, written by *Shiena Polehn*, one of our members, is published on the Envision Oregon website:

Long Live Oregon!

How many of you remember Indians fishing at Celilo Falls? As a young English woman moving west, I was very impressed by their skill and grace as they caught the salmon, not as a sport, but as a necessity of life.

A week later, I admired the Multnomah Falls, as they cascaded down from the edge of the Columbia Gorge. I traveled there on a twisting two-lane highway, almost deserted in those days (1953). Now it is designated a scenic route and is popular with tourists.

Also frequently deserted were the Oregon beaches, such as Gold Beach, Rockaway and even Seaside. Only once was there a crowd at Cannon Beach, when two young men were marooned on Haystack Rock by the incoming tide. The Coast Guard, then as now, did its duty and rescued them by helicopter.

My first glimpse of the ship-wrecked “Peter Iredale” brought an emotional link to my hometown in England, Whitehaven, where it was built in the 19th century. At that time, there was plenty of the ship to see; but, this year (2006) on the anniversary of the wreck, there’s a mere skeleton of the original sailing ship. It’s still a favorite of locals and tourists, especially those staying at Fort Stevens State Park.

My husband and I moved from Portland to California for our careers; but, on retirement, we were delighted to move back “home”. He was born in Astoria and graduated from the University of Oregon, so he is a rare breed, a native Oregonian.

What a joy it has been to settle in the Rogue Valley, with its mild Mediterranean climate! We have the best of everything—climate, scenery, recreation, culture and compatible people. With so many choices, it’s hard to decide what to do each day. If one is so inclined, there is a large choice of volunteer activities.

Where else can you wake up, decide to go cross-country skiing in the morning, take a stroll down the Bear Creek trail; and, in the evening, take in a play or music? I have traveled the world, visiting all seven continents but I’m never as happy as when I return to Oregon.

We must fight to protect this idyllic place—and I mean the whole state—from over-development, decimation of our forests and agricultural land and over-crowding of our cities. Long Live Oregon!

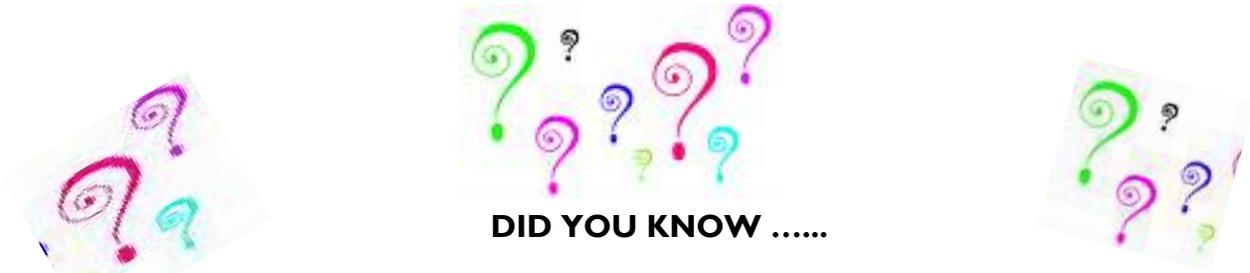


2006 / 2007 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

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

December/January Calendar of Events

Thursday	December 14, 2006	11:30	General Meeting at <i>Kids Unlimited</i> , 821 N Riverside. “ Teenagers in Politics-America’s Future” is the topic. A Board meeting will follow the completion of the general meeting.
Thursday	January 11, 2007	11:30	General Meeting, Medford Central Library, large room.



DID YOU KNOW

One theory of the derivation of the word “OREGON” has it coming from the Algonquin *waturegan*, meaning “beautiful water”.

Apropos, isn't it?

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