



HIGHLIGHTS

- Membership directory for League of Women Voters-Rogue Valley is ready
Jackson County Health and Human Services Forum, p.3
Budget Study Committee To meet, p.3
Test Your Political Knowledge, p. 5

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DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Election Methods = Review of Alternatives and Oregon Proposals

Thursday December 11, 2008. Medford Library, Large Meeting Room

11:30 – doors open (bring a brown bag lunch if you wish)

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. – consensus discussion led by LWVRV member Mary Sinclair

In spring, 2007 delegates at the LWVOR convention adopted an eighteen month study of election methods. Members of the committee reviewed a wide variety of topics and proposals including criteria for evaluating election systems; single seat and multiple seat election methods; instant run-off voting; fusion voting; election of a nonpartisan legislature and the national Popular Vote. In our December meeting we will discuss the various topics and proposals and make a recommendation to LWVOR for developing a position for advocacy. Every member should have received a pamphlet describing the various options. If you do not have one, you can download the information from www.lwvor.org. It would help to review the information in advance. Copies of the pamphlet will be available at the meeting or email trishbowcock@charter.net with your address and one will be mailed.

See page 6 for consensus questions

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

League of Women Voters-Rogue Valley lost a long time member November 16. A. Peterson (few knew what "A." stood for alphabetically but she stood as a stalwart contributor to the goals of the League of Women Voters.) In the 50's she was appointed the first supervisor of the Jackson County Elections Department.

Following her husband, Gene, as he moved to various Bureau of Land Management positions, she found herself selected as head of the government committee that organized the first elections for voters in Washington, D.C. who had not had the right to vote previously. She also worked in the national office of the League of Women Voters there.

She worked on many charitable and political organizations and enjoyed golf

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 CORNER -Trish Bowcock

What an election! Our nation saw record voter turnouts. People who had never voted went to the polls... both younger and older Americans. We live in exciting times!

In November, LWV Ashland and LWV Rogue Valley had a great General Meeting. We gathered at the Elks Club in Ashland and enjoyed a spirited meeting with County Administrator Danny Jordon and Sheriff Mike Winters. It was a Jackson County Budget level 101 type meeting. We learned that Jackson County is in great financial shape with a large rainy day fund stashed away. We learned that we have much to learn.

Last Spring both leagues in Jackson County voted to embark on a Study of Jackson County Budgeting. The study idea emerged after the Board of Commissioners closed the libraries and a group of local organizations pooled efforts and held a series of Town Hall meetings to understand public expectations. As an organization, the league learned that we needed more information and a more specific position so that we can advocate heavily in future county spending decisions. If you are interested, join the committee. No experience necessary. (See details in another section of the newsletter).

Our January General Meeting promises to be both fun and informative. A group of Medford High School students are writing and producing a performance to communicate the issues confronting children of immigrants living in the Rogue Valley. This is a creative group sharing their first hand experience. We will be their opening performance audience. If your schedule allows this will be a fun, informative and uplifting experience. And it is free. Please come.

May everyone have a restful holiday season and may you bring hope into the New Year!

Trish

NOTE *The Board appointed Lynn Howe to fill the vacancy as 2nd Vice President. Welcome back, Lynn!

LEAGUE LEADERS

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LWVRV MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

The 2008-2009 edition of the Membership directory for League of Women Voters-Rogue Valley is ready and will be handed out at the December meeting. If you can't attend, maybe you could get a friend to pick up your copy to save the League from having to mail out your copy. Thanks,--The Membership Committee

JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Jackson County Health and Human Services Grant Committee invites local residents and programs to participate in a televised community forum to share their perspectives on the essential safety net needs of Jackson County residents. This information will inform the committee about the current status of residents' needs in the following areas: food, shelter and essential life needs; health care, drug and alcohol treatment; abuse, neglect and violence; and public safety and services.

This forum will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the County Courthouse Auditorium located at 10 S. Oakdale in Medford, Oregon.

Please call 774- 7800 for more information

Angie Curtis,

Director, Commission on Children and Families, Jackson County

I'M GRAPE-FUL

I'm Grape-ful;

to all who were able to sell grapefruits/oranges, and those who tried.

I will report next month on the sales for this annual fund-raising event.

As usual, you continue to be the best group to help out each year.

Special thanks to Carol Ingelson, our treasurer for this fundraiser.

Lorraine Werblow, Chairperson of the Grapefruit Committee

Jackson County Budget Study Committee

Jackson County Budget Study Committee to Meet

The first meeting of the Joint League Committee that will "study" the Jackson County budget will be:

December 12, 2008

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

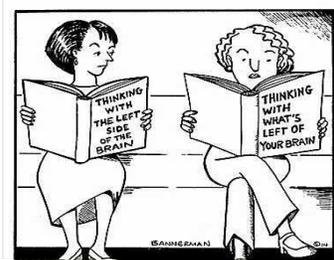
Grilla Bites rear room, Main Street Medford

If you would like to work on this fun study, please show up!

VOTER'S CHOICE TEA

We are continuing to sell gourmet Voter's Choice Tea. It is a fundraiser and also gives an opening to talk to new people about the League. There are four flavors: Eleanor's Breakfast, Citizen Grey, Grassroots Green and Vanilla Rooibos (caffeine-free herbal). It costs \$4.50 a box and has been produced especially for the League by the Strand Tea Company to support the League. It is available at our general meetings and is now being sold on consignment for us by Karen's Massage 1641 Veranda Park Dr. in Medford. Her phone number is 541-301-8096. If you have a business that would like to help us sell our tea please contact Margaret Keene at 541-826-6911 or email her at margaret2@clearwire.net

Margaret



LWVRV's BOOK CLUB

"The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I [haven't] read."

If you enjoy stimulating conversation and the reading a variety of interesting books, please join us at our book club meetings. We meet on selected Fridays from 10:00am –12noon. Please contact the hostess for details and address location. Below is a calendar and book selections for the next several meetings. All LWVRV members are welcome.

January 16, 2009

10:00am - noon

***Infidel* by Ayaan Hirshi Ali**

Hosted by Eileen Adee

773-4450

April 17, 2009

10:00am - noon

***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski**

Hosted by Agnes Chirgwin

773-3234

February 27, 2009

10:00am - noon

***The Tie That Binds* by Kent Haruf**

Hosted by Barbara Beaupain

734-5793

May 29, 2009

10:00am - noon

***The Widows of Eastwick*, by John Updike**

Hosted by Mary Sinclair

772-2372

JACKSON COUNTY LAND USE

The **RPS** (Regional Problem Solving Project) was tentatively approved by the Land Conservation and Development Commission at their October meeting in Prineville. The RPS will proceed to have each of the 7 cities in Bear Creek Valley to sign on to the RPS agreement.

But in the meantime the LCDC has asked the Policy Committee of the RPS to respond to concerns of 1000 Friends and others to the draft plan. The chief concerns are: 1) urbanizing some of the best agricultural lands in the Valley; 2) reinforcing sprawling density patterns and allowing them to continue into the future; and 3) failing to provide the transportation options that future citizens will need, as our population ages, energy prices increase, and reducing greenhouse gases becomes a requirement .

The RPS Policy Committee response has been that there is no historical process to follow since this the first in the state of its kind and the Department of Land Conservation and Development has given the region the latitude to do what the project has done, as long as the result of that process conforms, on the whole, with the purposes of the statewide planning goals.

Therefore, the region's position on the flexibility offered by the RPS statute clearly differs from concerns of 1000 Friends' and others. Although 1000 Friends' is interested in the process of a regional plan and wishes to have it approved, they may challenge it in court as it stands. They would rather see it done right with safeguards than set a precedent of an open ended plan.

The RPS Policy Committee must give their response to the next LCDC meeting in December for the final approval. What is in store yet for the RPS process to complete are: public hearings for each city and establishing findings for the regional plans which will take well into next year?

Porter Lombard

TEST YOUR POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE

First Lady who used her maiden name prior to her hubby becoming **President**.

He served as **President** twice, but not twice in a row.

This **President's** middle initial is "S".

There have been two **Presidents** with this surname.

He's the 23rd **President** and he is the candidate who President Cleveland lost the election to in 1889.

This **President** drafted the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Prior to being **President**, George Bush was the U.S. Ambassador to this organization.

The 30th **President** of the United States.

This **President** was the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force and he launched the Invasion of Normandy (June 6th, 1944) during Word War II.

Assembly that can conduct a Trial of Impeachment against a **President**.

Association that Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill worked for

Answers on page 7

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS *continued from page 1*

1. What elements are important to ensuring a fair and equitable election process? Why?

2. Which four criteria are more important and which four are less important for electing representatives who support voters' interests? Why?
 - a. encourage competitive elections
 - b. ensure majority (instead of plurality)
 - c. encourage minority representation
 - d. encourage gender representation
 - e. increase voter participation
 - f. offer range of voter choice
 - g. encourage geographical representation
 - h. encourage "sincere" voting
 - i. encourage "wasted" vote reduction
 - j. prevent political manipulation
 - k. easy to use and administer
 - l. fair and accurate representation of political views

3. Should Oregon explore other election methods? If so, using the above criteria, which of the currently proposed election changes should Oregon consider for state or local elections? Why?
 - a. instant runoff
 - b. fusion
 - c. open/top two primary
 - d. other methods.

NOTES

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Races Unete, a group of students from Medford Schools and from Crater High School who will put on a presentation about immigration as it affects young people at the January LWV meeting January 8 at noon at the library

LOOKING FOR A QUIET JOB???

Be a League Observer!!

Sign up with Eileen Adee.

For further details and/or to volunteer, speak with Eileen at the next LWVRV general meeting or call her at 773-4450.

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Answers to Test Your Political Knowledge, p. 5

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Hillary Rodham | 4. Johnson—Andrew, | 6. Thomas Jefferson | 9. Senate |
| 2. Grover Cleveland | Lyndon B. | 7. United Nations | 10. EEOC |
| 3. Harry S. Truman | 5. Benjamin Harrison | 8. Calvin Coolidge | |

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Return this application with your check for dues, please

2008/2009 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

Send to Box 8555, Medford 97501

Check which of the following about which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting. List as many as applicable.\

Land Use Planning Local Government Transportation Children at Risk Education

Election issues Health issues Environment National issues

Other (list) _____

December Calendar of Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
1	2 J C Health & Human Services Grant Committee forum 6-8pm, p.3	3	4	5	6/7
8	7 ELECTION DAY	10	11 LWVRV General Meeting 12noon, Medford Library. Board meeting to follow	12 J C Budget Study Committee Meeting, p.3	13/14
15	16	17	18	19	20/21
22 Chanukah	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27/28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 HAPPY 2009!!!		

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 ORGANIZATION
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 OF ROGUE VALLEY
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