



HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Program planning meeting, see p.1
- ❖ How exciting! The LWVRV is hosting the LWVOR state-wide convention in Medford, May 15-17.
- ❖ New feature _ LWVRV board meeting minutes

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Program Planning 2009

State and Local League Positions

Everyone is Welcome!

Please join us for a

Pot-luck luncheon and discussion

Thursday, February 12, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Lorraine Werblow

3071 Pineview Court

Medford

245-3641

Bring a desire to brainstorm and a food dish to share



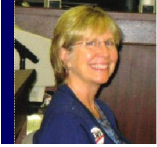
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LWVRV will be hosting the LWVOR state-wide convention in Medford, May 15-17, 2009. We will need volunteers for the registration desk, compiling program packages, attending sessions, assisting with the dine around and generally helping to make the Rogue Valley experience great for our fellow members from across Oregon.

A planning session will be held this month (date and time tba). All helping hands will be welcome! Watch for more information as details for this exciting event unfold.

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

The Importance of Program Planning

The League takes positions on a myriad of political issues. From these carefully created positions, we are permitted to take Action. "Action" can take many forms, including testifying before governing bodies, expressing public opinion and monitoring public meetings or hearings.

Every year Leagues across the nation engage in an activity referred to as "Program Planning." This is our opportunity to review League positions. State and National Program Planning occur in alternate years. Local Program Planning is an annual event. Meetings are held where we look at League positions and make a recommendation as to whether we retain, drop, update or restudy. Members can also propose new studies.

The LWVRV Program Planning meeting occurs this month. We will review our local positions and, based upon your input, the Board will make recommendations and a vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting in April. We will also review the LWVOR positions and pass along our recommendations to be discussed at the State Convention in May.

If there are issues you want the League to consider at either the local or state level, you can propose a study or restudy. Factors to consider are:

1. What are issues of statewide importance that are most critical in our community?
2. How could LWVOR, along with LWVRV, have greater visibility and credibility?
3. What issues of statewide importance will stir the imagination of your members or potential members? Is the issue one on which League members will spend time and effort?

continued on page 3

LEAGUE LEADERS

OFFICERS

Trish Bowcock, President

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Nancy Swan, Nominating Committee

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Shiena Polehn, Nominating Committee

polehn@mind.net ~ 773-4177

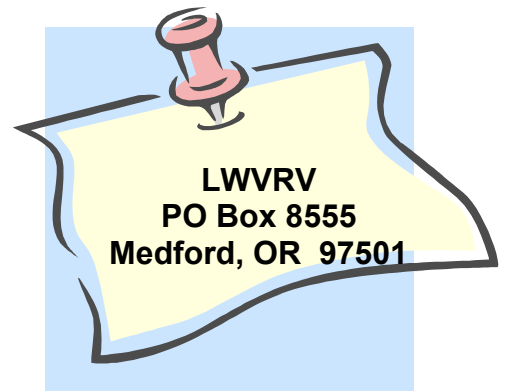
Cynthia Lora, Nominating Committee

clmnm@charter.net ~ 776-3361

League of Women's Voters of Oregon

Salem, OR 97302

lwvor@open.org ~ www.lwvor.org



**LWVRV Voice Mail:
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www.lwvr.org**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 2*

4. Why should LWVOR or LWVRV focus its time and resources on this study or project?
5. Is this a timely issue?
6. Do political realities permit effective action? Are officials aware of the issue?
7. Does the issue fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters?
8. Does the issue add balance to the League program and have good appeal for members?
9. Do we have adequate volunteer time and financial resources?

For a complete description and list of LWVRV and LWVOR positions, please visit our website at www.lwvr.org. If you don't have access to the internet, you can find abbreviated versions of positions printed in your Red Membership Directory.

Last year LWVRV and LWVA voted to embark on a new study so that we could develop a position on the budgeting and funding process for Jackson County government. A large committee comprised of members from both leagues is in the midst of work on this study. The committee has rolled up its sleeves and delved into the nuanced intricacies of government budgeting. So far, we have more questions than answers. If you would like to participate, join the next meeting of the County Budget Committee on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 1:00 p.m. at the Talent Library (Study Room).

Trish

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Page 13 of your Membership Directory was left blank for you to put late breaking membership information.

Please welcome:

Anne Billeter, 4999 Griffin Cr. Road, Medford 97501; 772-5697 billeter@entwood.com

Other members who re-joined after directory was printed which should be added to your list on page 13

Carol Burnett, 1889 Filmore Dr. Medford, 97504; 772-5562 dancingcb@juno.com

Carey Mercer, PO Box 1406, Jacksonville 97503; 899-1345

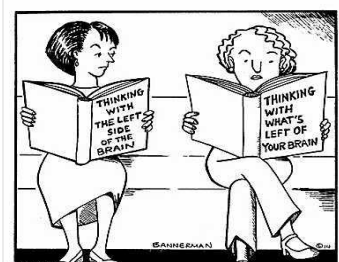
Gretchen Hamilton, 3487 Poppy Woods, Medford 97504; 776-3003



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."

- Abraham Lincoln

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.

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 Regional Problem Solving Project has asked the seven Bear Creek cities to sign a binding Participants Agreement before each city and Jackson County hold formal public land-use hearings on the proposed plan. Several cities have signed the agreement including Medford and Phoenix, but the Jacksonville council chose not to sign it until the RPS draft plan goes through public hearings and becomes a completed plan to be presented to the LCDC. In spite of Jacksonville's stated desire to continue as a participant in regional planning, there have been discussions that Jacksonville should no longer be allowed at the table. The Ashland city council will deliberate the signing of the agreement on Feb. 3 after taking public testimony Jan. 20 on the question of the signature. The RPS Policy Committee wants all 7 cities and the county to sign the agreement before the plan has gone through the hearing process. Some citizens and organizations, including LWVRV, believe the plan should go through the public hearing process before agreeing to a plan that is still in its draft stages. The RPS Policy committee indicates that the plan can't go forward without all of the participant jurisdictions signing on first. This is not confirmed by the RPS statute.

The RPS Policy Committee meeting is open to the public and will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 2/3/09 in the RVCOG offices at 155 N. 1st St. in Central Point.

This meeting promises to provide a spirited discussion. If you are curious, plan to attend.

Several pear industry individuals are planning to visit and lobby the state legislature to change the land use regulations to allow development of their orchard lands or EFU farmland. They claim that the EFU designation of their orchards devalue their holdings and consequently they are not able to borrow sufficiently to manage their business. However, the value of orchard lands here are comparable to those in Washington and California besides in Oregon, where they are able to borrow sufficient funds to run their businesses. Also, the change in land use designation would be costly for anyone who is interested in purchasing farmland for vineyards or other agricultural business. The local legislators should be aware of the problem with changes to our agricultural lands. It would devastate our future in agriculture.

Porter Lombard

Land Use Revised in 1982

The League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley support the Statewide Planning Goals and guidelines adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), from 1974-76. These goals provided overall planning standards and establish the framework for land use planning programs of all governmental agencies and bodies in the state.

Comprehensive Plans:

Support planning which is based on optimum desirable population as related to resource limitations rather than pure population projection from past growth rates. **Support coordinated and cooperative growth planning and policies among all governmental units. Comprehensive citizen participation in all phases of the planning process.** Support the Urban Growth Boundary Concept, with development of increased density within the urban service boundary, which helps preserve outlying resource land and allows more efficient use of public facilities. Support planning which gives top priority to air quality in relation to growth development. Support the development and maintenance of a complete and diverse inventory/data base on which to evaluate present and long-range planning decisions. Support adequate funding for personnel to strictly enforce ordinances and regulations as applied to private owners, business and industry and public agencies.

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Justice is for Everyone and Fight Ignorance Not Immigrants were the topics of the LWVRV January General Meeting. A group of four Medford area high school students delivered the message. The meeting kicked-off with a home video interview of one student's father and his journey of immigration to bring about a better life for his family. Extreme poverty, survival, abuse and war were the primary reasons cited for immigration to America. The group sought to dispel six myths about immigrants, presenting facts to show that immigrants do not increase crime rates; most pay taxes; welfare benefits to citizens are not decreased by the presence of immigrants; immigrants are not here to take jobs from Americans; that most immigrants want to learn English; and that immigrants do contribute to the economic well being of the Rogue Valley. The organization, Razas Unidas (Races United) was formed by the students and operates under the umbrella of Unete. Special thanks go to the program director, Kathy Keese and the four students, Elizabeth Garcia, Lidavina Garcia, Nick Morales and Jose Macias for their hard work

LWVRV BOARD MEETING MINUTES

LWVRV Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 12:00 - 1:30, Medford Library, Adams Room1.
The meeting was called to order by President Trish Bowcock at 12:06 p.m.

2. **Attending:** Trish Bowcock, Barbara Davidson, Willie Bijon, Joan Rogers, Carol Hazeltine, Carole Levi, Shiena Polehn, Eileen Adee, Mickey Ketchum, Marcia Smith
3. **Brief check-in.** No check in.
4. **Treasurer's Report;** Willie Bijon reports— Checking acct. \$4,118.02; Money Mkt. Acct \$3,140.48
5. **Correspondence;** No report
6. **Reports**

1. **Public Relations,** Barbara Davidson reports that announcements appear in the Mail Tribune in a timely fashion.

2. **Action Studies - Regional Problem Solving (known as "RPS") & what "Action" means. ACTION.** "Any procedure taken by a League Board or the membership in support of an adopted League position or of the League Principles for the purpose of influencing governmental decisions. Such action may include letter-writing, lobbying, petition circulation, public information programs, a promotional campaign, testimony, litigation etc." Page 9, Member Handbook, LWVRV.

Land Use

Citizen Participation. "Citizen participation, education, communication and ongoing reevaluation are essential elements in the comprehensive planning process. Support the establishment of citizen advisory groups in all jurisdictions within the state involved in land use planning." Page 34, Member Handbook, LWVRV President, Trish Bowcock's letter to the editor of the Medford Mail Tribune is consistent with the League position and the Board supports this action. There have been no Public Hearings held in Jackson County regarding the current version of the RPS plan for land use in Jackson County.

3. **Studies- County Budget;** Involved committee meeting on a regular basis and will observe during the County Budget Committee meeting.
4. **Membership;** Marcia Smith reports 69 members, 13 National members and 1 honorary member.
5. **Program;** February 12, pot-luck luncheon at Lorraine Werblow's home. March and April are open
6. **Voters Service/Observers.** Willie Bijon will observe during the Planning Commission meeting.
7. **Voters Voice- Contributors and Policy.** LWVRV members in good standing are welcome to contribute articles. Will not accept submissions from non-members or those articles promoting other organizations.
Still sending around 25 hard copies via US Mail.
8. **Other Business**

LWVOR

Raffle tickets. Eileen Addee moved that we send \$200.00 to LWVOR instead of participating in the raffle.
Motion passed. President Trish Bowcock will write a letter of explanation to be sent along with the check for \$200.00

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LWVTV BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued from page 6

Convention 2009 May 15-16 & 17. Red Lion, Medford. Set Committee meeting. Joan Rogers, Carole Levi, Carol Hazeltine will meet. Estelle Womack expressed interest in committee.

Citrus Sale. Again a success with nearly \$4,000.00 in sales.

LWVUS; No Report

9. New Business

Appointment of Budget Committee, Willie Bijon, Carole Levi and Trish Bowcock. Needs to be completed within 30 days of Annual Meeting.

Status of Nominating Committee. Shiena Polehn gave report. Barara Davidson has agreed to serve a one year term as President, LWVRV. Thank you Barbara!!!!

Please note you will be receiving a second e-mail with Shiena's full report.

Update LWVRV positions- to be discussed during February 2009 meeting.

10. Adjournment 1:30 p.m.

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

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 Planningl Local Government Transportation Children at Risk Education
- Election issues Health issues Environment National issues

Other (list) _____

NOTE: New Members who join in February, March or April can join for half price membership

February Calendar of Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
					31/1
2	3	4	5	6	7/8
9	10	11	12 LWVRV General Meeting, 11:30-1:00, 3071 Pineview Ct, Medford, see p. 1	13	14/15 Valentine's Day
16	17 LWVRV Board Meeting, Medford Library, noon - 1:30pm	18	19	20	21/22
23 Presidents' Day	24	25	26	27	28/1