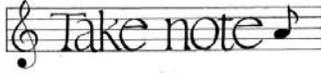




VOTERS VOICE April 2014

vol. 59



This is the last issue of Voters Voice for the 2013-14 year. Have a safe and happy summer. You will receive, in the mail, the Annual Meeting Packet with details and registration form for the Annual Meeting Luncheon.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING



ELECTION FORUM FOR THE SHERIFF'S CANDIDATES

Our May primary will soon be here and we have dedicated our last few meetings to learning about the ballot measures. We have scheduled a candidate forum. Our Sheriff candidates are Corey Falls, Bob Sergi and incumbent Mike Winters. This is a non-partisan position.

When: Thursday, April 10, 2014, 12 noon

Where: Medford City Hall, 411 West 8th St. , Medford, in the Medford City Council Chambers, third floor

This street is one way street and there is parking and an entrance in the back of the building. Please be aware of the time limits on the posted signs. To see a parking map of the Medford downtown area you can Google - Medford Oregon parking map.

We encourage you to bring your family and friends to this meeting. It should be a very interesting forum and we always learn from these events.

On another note, our League has voted to support the Citizens Initiative Review Board to include Jackson County as a trial run for a local primary ballot measure. We are not sure which one of the three measures they will select but their process of being objective and researching both sides is similar to what our League does in Voter Service. For additional information on this organization, check out their website at:

healthydemocracyoregon.org.

Remember also that VOTE411.org is a League website to get candidate information. Mary Sinclair, a LWVRV League member, is doing a tremendous job getting all the candidates in the Oregon primary election to participate on this website.

Elections are an exciting time for Oregonians and the League of Women Voters is the place for citizens to become informed voters.

BETWEEN THE COVERS....

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Items include General Meeting (1), Exec. Committee's Remarks/League Leaders (2), Board Meeting Minutes Summary/Annual Meeting (3), Executive Meeting Comments continued (4), March Meeting Summary/March Meeting in Pictures (5), Membership/Voter Registration Effort (6), Many Thanks/Primary Election (7), Agriculture Concensus/CIR Endorsement (8), Clean Energy Day/ Invitation to Join (9), and Calendar of Events (10).

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Beginning in 2013, the League of Women Rogue Valley elected to try a new form of leadership, an executive committee replacing a president and vice-presidents as the voice of the League and for administrative work.

We found communication and collaboration was the key to the League's success. The concept was significantly assisted by **Olena Black**, our webmaster. Not only did she update our website and keep our current events updated, but she created categorical email addresses for all board members to ensure privacy on the website.

There were times each of us on the Executive Committee probably thought it would be "easier to do it myself". Yet at other times, we found that two, three or four heads were better than one. Also knowing that one could always count on the others for support made the workload easier and enabled us to accomplish more of our goals.

Without an established plan of policies and procedures in place, the members of the executive board, **Barbara Davidson, Kathleen Donham, Iris Milan and Carole Levi** collaborated, dividing up the responsibilities that best suited our individual interests and skills.

Iris and Carole shared the responsibilities of setting the Board meeting agendas. Carole presided at the Board meetings. Most of the regular meetings were planned and chaired by the Executive Committee, although we thank **Diane Shockey** for planning our Health Care meeting.

Kathleen chaired our October meeting on Antibiotics in Livestock, and Agriculture study sessions and Consensus

Barbara chaired February's "Extension Service Celebrates Its 100th Birthday" and January's Program Planning meeting with Iris and four other members.

(continued on p. 4)

LEAGUE LEADERS

OFFICERS

Iris Milan, Executive Committee

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Barbara Davidson, Executive Committee

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Carole Levi, Executive Committee

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Kathleen Donham, Executive Committee

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DIRECTORS

Vacant— Voter Services

Joan Rogers, Arrangements

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Normary Barrett, Membership Committee chair/

Bulletin Mailing

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Olena Black, Web administrator

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Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

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Grapefruit fundraiser,

grapefruit@lwwroguvalley.org, members:

Kathleen Donham, Grapefruit fundraiser

Agnes Chirgwin, Grapefruit fundraiser, 541-773-3234

Carol Ingelson, Grapefruit fundraiser

Vanya Sloan, Nominating Committee

nomcom@lwwroguvalley.org, 541-531-8457

Carol Ingelson, Nominating Committee

nomcom@lwwroguvalley.org

Shiena Polehn, Nominating Committee

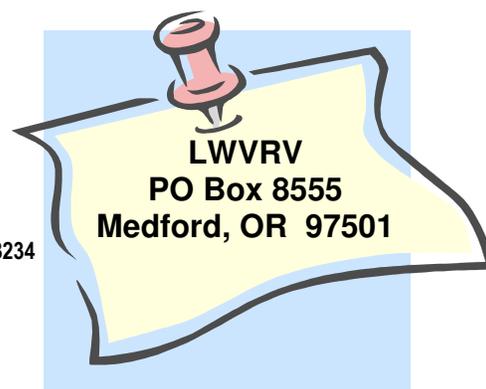
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Joan Rogers, Nominating Committee

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Agnes Chirgwin, Nominating Committee

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**LWVRV Voice Mail:
(541) 772-5044**

<http://lwwroguvalley.org>

LWVRV BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

OEA Building, 2495 S. Pacific Highway, Medford

Call to Order at 9:35am by Executive Committee member Carole Levi

Present: Normary Barrett, Olena Black, Kathleen Donham, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, iris Milan, Joan Rogers,
Diane Shockey, Mary Sinclair

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report read into the minutes

Membership Report—Normary Barrett; two new members from Grants Pass were in attendance

Library Funding Issue - Gayle Clason (AAUW, co-sponsor for tabling at libraries), gave update

Tyrone Wrightman, co-founder and director of Healthy Democracy, answered questions on the Citizen's Initiative

Review Board. The Board voted to endorse the CIR process 2014, enabling us to send four participants.

Action Committee – Diane Shockey will write letter to the editor regarding extension services

Sheriff's Forum: This is a non-partisan position; 3 candidates running. Normary Barrett will check availability at OEA, (possibly for Thursday general meeting April 10, 2014), as well as responses from the 3 candidates

Mary Sinclair reported on Vote 411 – part of the education fund – the League does not state positions on that website; provides pros/cons information.

Adjournment: 12:05pm

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary



LWVRV'S ANNUAL MEETING

May 8, 2014

Lark's at Inn at the Commons

11:30am - meet and greet, 11:45am - luncheon

Speaker: Ray Seidler

Topic: *Economic and Ecological Issues with Genetically-Engineered Crops*

Included in the Annual Meeting Packet you will be receiving in the mail in early April, is your reservation form for lunch.

Please complete and return, with your check, to Joan Rogers.

For further information, contact Joan at 541-531-3523

or rogers4290@aol.com.

Hope to see everyone there!



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS (continued from p. 2)

Iris : September: an interactive meeting with The Ashland City Administrator and March's Healthy Democracy Volunteers explain the Citizens Initiative Review Process, to help voters understand the ballot issues.

During our 2013 Annual Meeting we received many suggestions for studies for the coming year. At our summer board retreat, we incorporated some of these ideas and planned the program for the 2013-14 year without realizing the important ballot issues and elections that would come forth in the spring of 2014. Needing to be flexible, we made space for Voter's Service events, a prime activity of League, replacing some of what was planned.. Our Voter's Service position was unfilled for this year. We are grateful to **Normary Barrett**, an experienced former Voters' Service chair, for stepping up to help with our April Sheriff's Candidates Forum

The executive committee, with assistance from our Board and Off-Board members, are proud of the work we have accomplished in this past year. Some of the highlights include:

- ♦ In Ashland, the Ashland City Administrator's discussion of what governments do and how they function
- ♦ Kathleen Donham's presentation on Antibiotics in Livestock
- ♦ The program, held at the RCC/HEC Building, explaining to seniors and college students as well, the Affordable Healthcare Act planned and executed by **Diane Shockey**
- ♦ Discussions and speakers on the Library, Extension Center and GMO ballot measures
- ♦ Explanation of the Citizen's Initiative Review Process and request for the LWVRV, as a neutral party, to oversee the panel selection and observe the proceedings and conclusion
- ♦ During the month of April, the registering of voters at six of the busiest libraries in Jackson County, under the leadership of **Marylou Schnoes**

Our bylaws state that our executive committee must consist of three or more members, or we revert back to a President and Vice President(s). This is the situation in which we find ourselves for the coming 2014-15 year. Only one candidate, Kathleen Donham, stepped forth to volunteer for the executive board. When no other members volunteered, she offered to service as President. Therefore, we will put the executive committee concept on hold, with the possibility of reinstating it at a future time.

Kathleen needs the support of one or two Vice Presidents. Now, or when the Slate of Officers is presented to the Membership at the Annual Meeting, there is still time to nominate yourself or another member to volunteer to serve,

Our Recommendations for future Boards:

Have written descriptions of the job responsibilities for the office of Pres. and VPs and an Executive Committee.

Other written Definitions for Board Position Responsibilities should include: Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Voters Service, Webmaster, Publicity, Observer Corps, Speaker's Bureau and Nominating Committee

These should be created and given to the Nominating Committee to help them fill the Board positions. They should also be given to individuals who hold the jobs. A committee should be chosen for accomplishing this task.

Establish Policies and Procedures to clarify areas of action. (There is much help on the State and National League Websites.)

Get yourself committees. Don't do it all by yourself . Think of mentoring new members and giving them a sense of being valued. We need to give people experience and develop leaders.

RECAP of MARCH LWVRV MEETING

Jackson County has been chosen as the first county in Oregon and the nation to have a ballot measure reviewed by the CIR before its election on May 20, 2014. The Program covered the history, goals and mission of the CIR and how they match those of the League.

Guest speakers were Judy Voruz and Manju Lyn Bazzell from the Citizens Initiative Review. Questions were asked and answered.

Marylou Schnoes gave an update and demonstration on the LWVRV's voter registration tabling at the six busiest Jackson County Libraries.

MARCH MEETING in PICTURES



Manju Lyn Bazzell

Judy Voruz

Leah Schrodt

WELCOME

MEMBERSHIP

♦We extend a warm welcome to our **newest** members:

Jackie Clary 253 SW Central Ave, Grants Pass, 97526 541-479-4486 jackieclary@gmail.com

Pat Bath 384 River Vista Dr, Grants Pass 97526 541-479-7890 bathfam7@budget.net

♦And a welcome back to a **returning** member:

Carey Mercer PO Box 1406, Jacksonville 97530 541-664-9943 no email address

♦And **corrected phone number** for Debra Har: 541-301-4028

- If any of your information changes, please notify me so we can update our records, and notify LWVRV members and be certain you continue to receive the *Voters Voice*. Thank you.

~Normary Barrett, Membership Chair



May 20th Election Registration Effort

The effort to inform and register voters about the May 20th Primary & Ballot Measures continues. (Please see last month's Voter's Voice for information on the three very important issues on this ballot.) As April 29th is the deadline to register, please encourage any unregistered friends to do so, soon. One may register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.org You may use this same site to correct a voter address or change party affiliation, too. The League is teaming up with AAUW to help inform voters and register them at the 6 most-used library branches (Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Talent, Rogue River or Jacksonville) during April. We've found that though most library patrons are registered; very few are aware of any of the ballot measures. We could use your help, if you can staff a 2-hour shift, please call Marylou Schnoes at 541-890-6163. If you leave a voicemail, please say your phone number twice. Thank you for any help.

~Marylou Schnoes



MANY THANKS!

Dear League Members:

The lack of a Voters Service chair for this past year has been a handicap for our League, but member **Susan Orth** has cheerfully agreed to take on that function for the coming year, and we are all very grateful. As a relatively new member, she deserves all the help she asks for. Longtime Voters Service chair **Normary Barrett** (currently membership chair) has graciously agreed to help guide Susan in learning the role. Our program for April, the Jackson County Sheriff's candidate forum, will be an opportunity for new board members to see how Voters Service works.

Furthermore, League member **Marylou Schnoes** has arranged for voter registration at Jackson County libraries, demonstrating how that process is organized. Her initiative is much appreciated.

Nominating Chair **Shiena Polehn** and her committee made *many* calls in providing a slate of officers for 2014. While we do not have a vice-president, nor an Action Chair, we have the framework to meet the challenges of the coming year. Many thanks to Shiena for all her efforts.

Former Action Chair **Diane Shockey** has committed her considerable expertise to the board position of Treasurer. **Wille Bijon** has done this job for many years now, and we acknowledge her faithful contribution to the League. And thankfully, **Carol Ingelson** is willing to give us still *another* year of faithful secretarial duties. With luck, **Barbara Davidson** will be able to continue on the board, as we all wish for the best for her family. She has served the League in many capacities.

The biggest surprise was **Lorraine Werblow's** generous offer to resume the Grapefruit sales effort. We all breathed a sigh of relief! Long-time Program Arrangements coordinator **Joan Rogers** has also gladly agreed to continue in her role.

In conclusion, **Carole Levi** has worked very hard as both an executive board member and editor of the monthly Voters Voice. I am very glad she is willing to continue on the board. **Iris Milan** will take a much deserved break from League Board duties, but will continue on the Nominating Committee. Her forward-thinking leadership has brought us several new members this year, and among them is webmaster **Olena Black**, who has added so much to our technology skills.

There is still room on the slate for others to take a leadership role in League. I hope you will join us.

~Kathleen Donham, executive committee member

Primary Election - May 20, 2014

April 4, 2014 Ballots mailed to overseas and military electors

April 21, 2014 Ballots mailed to out-of-state voters

April 29, 2014 Voter registration/party change deadline

May 2, 2014 Ballots mailed to voters

AGRICULTURE CONSENSUS MEETING

Agriculture Consensus Meeting Concluded on March 27

On Thursday, March 27, we held our much - publicized second study session on the Agricultural Study at Kathleen Donham's home. To do justice toward reaching consensus, Kathleen and the Exec. Committee agreed that informational meetings to digest the vast source of materials would be helpful. Our regular meeting date in April was planned for Consensus. However, when the need to have a Sheriff's Forum surfaced, our regular meeting date of April 10 was deemed to be the best time for the forum . The question of when could we reschedule a Consensus meeting before the due date of April 18 arose.

Our problem was solved when nine, including Pat Bath, our newest member from Grants Pass, and a person in Grants Pass interested in the possibility of a unit's being formed there and in our agricultural study, arrived at Kathleen's. Before our arrival, Kathleen, the chairperson for the study, made an executive decision to conduct our Consensus at this gathering. We had a lively discussion, first answering questions on topics on which we had been informed at previous meetings. We successfully completed all the questions by staying on task for 2 ½ hours.

Thank all of you dedicated members .

LWVRV ENDORSES the OREGON'S CITIZEN INITIATIVE REVIEW (CIR) PROCESS

At our March meeting Manju Bazell and Judy Voruz, local volunteers for the umbrella group, Healthy Democracy, presented us with the Citizens Initiative Review process that is now in effect through passage of a bill in the Oregon legislature.

The Citizen's Initiative Review (CIR) process creates a panel of discovery who look closely at the Ballot Initiatives. League is especially interested as one of Jackson County's ballot measures which will be chosen for study.

The panel is doing what League does in its studies although no consensus is sought, both sides of the issue are investigated by the panel and are presented in written report appearing in the Mail Tribune newspaper, in the case of Jackson County, or the Voters' Pamphlet. League was asked to endorse the CIR and serve as unbiased observers in the selection of the panel and its methods of gaining information.

To gain more information about Healthy Democracy and the CIR process, we invited Tyrone Reitman, its Executive Director, to speak to our Board. Having confidence that our involvement will promote a more open and educated election process, the Board voted to endorse CIR, participate in the process in Jackson County to begin on April 13 and make a donation to it. This process is not taxpayer funded; its money is obtained by grants, the National Science Foundation is an example, and donations .We are proud to be a part of the process.

~Iris Milan

CLEAN ENERGY DAY!

A Festive Community Event for Faster Local Action on Climate Change

Join Rogue Climate and Sunday, May 4th from 12:00-4:00 at the Medford commons for a festive community event to highlight the benefits of a faster transition to cleaner energy and energy efficiency in terms of jobs, our local economy, and our quality of life. It will be a family-friendly afternoon of music, fun, food, local beer and wine, and information.



At the event, hundreds of yellow posters about our clean energy future, made by Rogue Valley residents of all ages, will be joined to form a giant sun, a symbol of the benefits we can achieve together. Find out how to make a clean energy day poster [HERE!](#)

When: Sunday, May 4th 2012, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Where: Medford Commons, E. 5th St, Medford, OR 97501

Show your support for faster local action on climate change by coming to Clean Energy Day.

INVITATION to JOIN

2013/2014 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Single membership — \$56.00

Spouse membership — \$28.00

Full-time Student— \$28.00

***May we publish the above information in our LWVRV Membership Directory? * Y N**

Check all areas below in which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting:

- Land use planning. Local Government Transportation
 Children at Risk Education Election Issues
 Health Issues Environment National Issues
 Observer Corps Other _____

Please send your completed membership application, along with your check, to:

LWVRV, P.O. Box 8555, Medford, OR, 97501

April

LWVRV Calendar

2014

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat/Sun |
|------------------|--|-----|---|--|---------|
| | 1 April Fool's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5/6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 LWVRV general meeting, <i>see p. 1</i> | 11 | 12/13 |
| 14 | 15 TAX DAY 1st day of Passover LWVRV board meeting, <i>see p. 3</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 Good Friday | 19/20 |
| 21 Easter Sunday | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26/27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



LOOKING AHEAD

May 2, 2014 ballots mailed to voters

May 4th 2012, 12:00pm-4:00pm, Clean Energy Day, *see p. 9*

May 8, 2014 LWVRV Annual Meeting

May 20, 2014 Jackson County Primary Election