



League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley



vol. 62



NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

your VOTE is your VOICE

Questions about our new Library District? Here's your chance to ask them and help make a more stimulating November general meeting.



Who: We've invited the new Library District Board. Meeting will be open to the public.

What: An opportunity to get acquainted with and learn how the new District Board will run things.

When: Nov. 13th, 11:30 Brown Bag, 12:00 Program

Where: Large meeting room, Medford Library



BETWEEN THE COVERS...

We can also use a couple folks to come at 11:10 and help set up. Thank you!

Contact Marylou Schnoes by email, marylouschnoes@gmail.com).

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OBSERVER CORP

[Items from Tuesday October 7 Jackson County Commissioner Work Session report provided by LWV member Joyce Chapman]:

1) Unlike other Jackson County towns, the County did not devise any plans for taxing marijuana if Ballot Measure 91 should pass. Measure 91 says that all taxing privileges are to go to the state, but many cities believe they will have standing to tax if they apply before the measure passes. Jackson County attorneys have been directed to draft an ordinance taxing marijuana before the November election and then ask approval from the public at a March special election at a possible cost of \$100,000 for the election.

2) Public hearings were set for a Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone and a Jackson County Enterprise Zone. Local businesses (with the exception of Medford) will receive property tax incentives to develop solar, wind, biomass, or geothermal energy sources of electricity production under the new development zone rules.

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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.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I believe the Rogue Valley League of Women Voters can play a more important role in our community than ever before. As the Medford Mail Tribune has reduced its coverage of state and local issues along with all newspapers in the country, our attendance and attention to community affairs becomes even more critical. We have received requests this fall to moderate more debates and forums than we could possibly organize, despite offering three successful ones (commissioner, state senators, ballot measures)—many thanks to those involved!

The League still has sit-down meetings with real people face-to-face, not just hitting the “like” button on Facebook. These face-to-face encounters with decision makers and experts provide the opportunity to inform and to change minds—unlike the polarizing on-line postings that degenerate into incivility and stonewalling. Luckily, our membership chair and others have recruited additional citizens that see the League as the most responsible and legitimate vehicle available for democratic participation at the local level.

As always, we must maintain our hard-won credibility as non-partisan, evidence-based decision-makers who can referee politics for the common good. If you are one of our new members, welcome to the group of “adults in the room.” I hope you will find a niche in League that fits your interests and skills—Action & Advocacy, Education and Study of Issues, Voters Service, or LWVRV management and recruitment. Welcome.

~Kathleen Donham, President

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SUMMARY of OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- Tuesday, October 14, 2014

OEA Building, 2495 South Pacific Highway, Medford

The meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Donham.

Carole Levi reported that we now have 59 plus 3 spouses for a total of 62 members. The new membership directory is in the process of being updated.

Carole Levi also reported that the Nominating Committee has worked very hard to make a list of job requirements for all positions and committee chairs. The open positions for next year will be listed in the newsletter; be aware that co-chairs should be considered a possibility.

The details for the general meeting on November 13, 2014 concerning the county library district were discussed; publicity was handled by Marylou Schnoes.

Lorraine Werblow has contacted Pete's Gourmet Confectioners in Medford and presented to the Board options of gift boxes/packages to replace the grapefruit fundraiser of past years. She will continue to pursue the details of costs and possible profits.

Jackie Clary (Grants Pass) gave her report on the LWVOR state study of *Children at Risk*; final report is slated to be published online by mid-March 2015.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to allocate up to \$50 for the printing of a permanent standing LWVRV sign to be used at all functions.

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary

ROGUE VALLEY MANOR ELECTION FORUM

Our League was asked to moderate an election forum between State Senator Alan Bates and Dave Dotterrer on October 7th at the Manor. This was a spirited and informative debate because the residents had an opportunity to submit their written questions ahead of time.

Carl Levi, Carole's husband, has editorial skills and he helped Lorraine and myself edit and consolidate the questions. We would like to offer our thanks to him for his assistance.

Lorraine was our moderator and did an excellent job. Nancy Swan provided her timekeeping skills and Kathleen helped me with the submitted audience questions.

One thing that impressed all of us was the huge turnout of Manor residents for this election forum. The auditorium was full and the overflow watched on a TV monitor in the lobby. The residents also have the opportunity to watch this event that was recorded for them on the manor's own TV network. This event was able to reach over 850+ of the people at the Manor.

The residents were very appreciative of the effort our League made to help bring them this forum. We have done many Voter Service events at the Manor but that was many years ago. I always learn so much when I participate in Voter Service. Plus it is fun to work with such a skilled group of League friends. If you even have the opportunity to help out in Voter Service it will be a rewarding experience.

~Normary Barrett

RECAP of LWVRV'S OCTOBER 9, 2014 MEETING

The October General Meeting reviewed the seven ballot measures that will appear on the November 2014 Ballot. Several new members presented these measures, giving us a chance to learn how talented and professional our members can be. New members Joyce Chapman, Joann Clackner, Sally Grady, Joan Amaritti, and Barbara Klein joined long-time members Kathy Beckett and Carol Ingelson. Thirty-six members turned out to listen to the Ballot Measure Review.

The seven ballot measures were presented using the LWVOR Speakers Kit, which is prepared by the state League for use in Speakers Bureau presentations. The League hopes to revitalize our Speakers Bureau function in order to serve both Jackson and Josephine County. The League has purchased a projector for presentations that will be available. We will offer to teach users how to make programs in Power Point, if they choose. Please consider joining the committee that will offer these programs, and let other community groups know the League can offer this service.

The LWVOR supports three ballot measures: ERA (89), Driver Cards for non-resident workers (88), and the Post-Secondary Financing Fund (86). The League did not endorse Measure 90, which changes the election nomination process. The Speakers Kit can be accessed from the League website LWVRoguevalley.org.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

OCTOBER MEETING in PICTURES



OUR OWN LWVRV MEMBERS EXPLAIN the BALLOT MEASURES



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Announces
2014 General Election Ballot Measure Positions**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) supports the following measures:

Measure 86 - Student Opportunity Fund

Amends Constitution: Requires creation of a fund for Oregonians pursuing postsecondary education, authorizes state indebtedness to finance fund.

This is a constitutional amendment, because debt incurred by the State to create this dedicated permanent fund must be added to the list of approved bonding in order to allow the Legislature to issue bonds for these student grants.

Implementation of the measure will be in

statute. *The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes the primary goal of Oregon's public postsecondary education should be to provide a broad spectrum of higher education for professional, vocational, and personal enrichment to all qualified and motivated individuals."*

Measure 88 - Driver's Cards

Provides Oregon resident a "driver card" without requiring proof of legal presence in the United States.

The LWVOR Farmworker Issues position says, *"...the state has a role in supporting the sound and fair relationship between farmers and the agricultural workforce, with the goal of economic and social justice for both parties."* In addition, there is also support in the League of Women Voters of the United States positions in regard to Equality of Opportunity, Immigration, and Meeting Basic Human Needs.

Measure 89 - State Equal Rights Amendment

Amends Constitution: State/political subdivision shall not deny or abridge equality of rights on account of sex.

LWVOR supports *equal rights for all regardless of sex.* "Although LWVOR worked for many years to pass a national amendment, the League believes that governments at all levels share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon does not take a position on any of the other ballot measures.

Visit our website for more detailed information at www.lwvor.org

Contact: Robin Wisdom, LWVOR President

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The League of Women Voters® of Oregon (LWVOR) is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government in order to build better communities



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

After being elected to the Nominating Committee, I looked on the LWVUS website to gain information about what responsibilities went with the job. There is a twenty page publication titled, The Little Green Book, Everything you need to know about the Job of the Nominating Committee. Instead of being overwhelmed, I was excited to share the information with my committee of elected members, Debra Har, and Judith Kurinsky and Board - appointed members, Carole Levi and Joan Rogers. We had a clear mandate of fulfilling “ The most important job in the League”. Our committee’s recommendations can:

- *Determine our League’s future for the next several years to come
- *Introduce new faces, new ideas, a spirit of creativity and diversity
- *Confirm a system of leadership development
- *Send a message” This Board is open, vital, moving forward”
- *Announce “There is no ownership here, anyone can join us”
- * And say, “We want you , the membership , to participate.”

We were all aware that we indeed were responsible for the future of LWVRV. We discovered that our Committee is totally responsible to the membership, not to the Board. The President cannot be a member, even ex-official . As a courtesy, the finalized slate is presented to the Board, but they do not act upon it.

However, since we are going to ask members to become active in the League, the Nominating Committee members need to understand and be able to explain the responsibilities of a board member and how the league functions. We need to be clear about the local League’s non-partisan policy and the League Positions. The two relatively new members on our committee, were eager to gain this knowledge. They attended a board meeting and some of us will be attending committee meetings. We also needed clear definitions of the scope of what Officers, Board Members and Committees can do. Rogue Valley League had not updated these descriptions for years. Thus we felt we should do it. We asked those holding positions what they are presently doing and what they might do if they had other members to share the responsibility. We have listed the duties and tasks of Officers, Board members and Committees for accomplishing what can be done ; these tasks have been broken down into manageable responsibilities that individuals can choose to do. We hope committees will form and choose their priorities from the suggested list. A chair can be chosen from the committee members or a Board member can feel comfortable that she has support and offer to chair a committee which already has members.

The most important part of our job is to learn more about our members, make new friends and make you feel there is a role for you in the LWVRV. So we are working with Normary Barrett, Membership Chairperson to have our first New Members Orientation Tea. We are excited that 10 new members joined since Jan. 2000. However, during the past 3 years other new members joined the League. Since we are recreating ourselves and want to know more about all our members, The New Member Orientation is for All Members. Please come and rededicate yourself to making LWVRV the go-to group for Making Democracy work. A League needs to have leaders to remain viable. The wonderful new program offered by the LWVUS and in place in Oregon, Membership and Leadership Development, is available to us. Our mentor and President of the LWVOR, Robin Wisdom, will share its ideas and how you can become involved.

~Iris Milan, Nominating Committee Chair

OBSERVER CORP

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3) Members of the Board of Property Tax Appeals are being re-appointed. County Clerk Chris Walker wanted the commissioners to appoint Larry Frank without advertising the position or requiring an application. The Commissioners & Adm. Danny Jordan recommended using the proper procedures.

4) JC Planner Kelly Madding believes that there will be changes that the county can make to the regional plan concerning small parcels that may allow re-zoning due to soil qualities and irrigation availability.

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION TEA

Welcome our new members for 2014

**Joan Amaritti, Pat Bath, Joyce Chapman, Jackie Clary, Joann Cleckner,
Anita Dalisa, Barbara Empol, Sally Grady, Joanne Haddad, and Barbara Klein**

Our League is pleased that so many of you have decided to become new members and we hope that your experience will be rewarding.

We are planning a social event so you can learn more about our local League and meet other new members.

Robin Wisdom, our LWV Oregon President, will attend our Tea and welcome you to the League of Women Voters. Our goal is to help you learn more about how we operate and see where you might possibly enjoy contributing..

The Membership Tea will be held on Thursday, November 20th, from 10am until noon. We will be meeting at the OEA building at 2415 South Pacific Highway, near the South Medford Grange.

All of our members are welcome to join us for this social event. Some of you may not have had the opportunity to meet Robin or learn some basic League policies. Looking forward to seeing you there.

~Normary Barrett, Membership Chair

INVITATION to JOIN

2014/2015 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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
					1/2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
3	4 VOTE!	5	6	7	8/9
10	11	12	13 LWVRV General Meeting, <i>see p.1</i>	14	15/16
17	18 LWVRV Board Meeting, <i>see p. 3</i>	19	20 LWVRV Member Orientation Tea, <i>see p.7</i>	21	22/23
24	25	26	27 	28	29/30

LOOKING AHEAD





2014 OREGON VOTING DATES

 November General Election Day November 4, 2014

 Ballot Return by 9pm November 4, 2014. Postmarks do not count!!!

