



Membership Meeting – Evaluation of “Program” and Opportunities for “Action”

Thursday, Jan 13, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM - Zoom

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President's Pen

I hope your holidays have been safe and surrounded by loved ones. We were particularly happy that my daughter and her partner were able to conquer the travel obstacles and join us. I had ordered quick tests in advance and they were able to test before we lowered masks and added my mother into the mix.

Many thanks to William North for educating us about all the many aspects of Rogue Community Health. I was very impressed with their approach to all aspects of health—particularly their acquisition of 4 motels for transitional housing for victims of the 2020 fires.

Our January meeting will be an evaluation of “program” and a discussion of opportunities for “action”. It will also be a time to hear from members about where they would like to direct energy to action interests. We are hoping to have some input from LWVOR about their plans for 2022. See you all on January 13th!

Happy New Year to you and your family,

Margie Peterson, President LWVRV

The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at 541-830-0602 and newsletter@lwwroquevalley.org

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Membership

Welcome to our newest member Alan Journet! Alan expressed interest in healthcare issues, national issues, and climate change. And speaking of climate change, Alan and another new member, Kathy Conway, are co-facilitators of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN).

What does an Issue Coordinator do & can YOU help?

I'm often asked what an "Issue Coordinator" does for our local League? My response is not always satisfactory, I fear. Why? Because it truly depends on the person; their interest, their approach, how much time they want to spend, or if they can piggyback on other work they do. Being a coordinator does not demand specific activity, but is open to creativity, lots of sharing, or ideas for action and advocacy. It's flexible.

We have more guidelines about these coordinators. Still, if I had to outline a few steps to suggest, it might be these.

1. Pick only an issue about which you are passionate. OR plan to "repurpose" efforts for which you are already involved. For instance, if you are currently tracking or following an issue (even for another organization), why not send links or articles (with explanation) to fellow Leaguers.
2. Start to keep a list of local members who are interested in the subject. Hopefully this includes keeping emails. It might start out with just two of you, but will probably grow quickly from there.
3. If you don't already know, search out the positions held by the national, state or local Leagues **related** to your topic. (It need not be 'exactly' stated, but might be open to interpretation for later action, with permission from leadership.) It would be great to keep a record of these (something you can send electronically, such as a Word doc or Excel file).
4. Try to share information you read or find with those on your list (while trying NOT to overwhelm them).
5. Consider, or discuss with the group, if a community posting or Letter-to-the-Editor is in order. (You'll need to get permission from the action chair and LWVRV president).
6. Keep ears open for legislation or city/county government action related to the issue you're tracking and coordinating.
7. Realize that if there is no one doing anything now – then whatever you do is helpful! Leagues likes to repeat that "Democracy is not a spectator sport." We all agree. Yet, you don't have to be an Olympic athlete in the sport either.

If you want to discuss being an issue coordinator, or run questions or ideas past me (as current action chair), don't hesitate to email me at action@lwwroguvalley.org .

As is so often true – the more the merrier.

Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action Chair

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – LWVRV – Our Ongoing Challenge

By Joyce Puccini Chapman

As 2021 closes and a new year begins, I am moved to try to inspire someone(s) in our League to investigate or do a study on how race plays a factor in our laws and policies and affects people in the local area. To that end, here is one idea.

Some of you may have watched the [60 Minutes](#) episode on the lack of sewage in rural Alabama. They called it “America’s Dirty Secret.” After watching that, I did some cursory search and found a [report](#) (PDF near bottom of website) on research performed by Dig Deep and the US Water Alliance. Field research was performed in 6 regions (California’s Central Valley, Navajo Nation, Texas colonias, Rural South, Appalachia, and Puerto Rico) with the help of Michigan State. Here is a bit of what I learned from that report.

Over 2 million people live without basic access to safe drinking water and sanitation. There are 1.4 million people in the United States who live with no indoor plumbing. In Puerto Rico, 250,000 have no indoor plumbing and there are 553,000 homeless people in the United States with no access to drinking water or sanitation. From the 60 Minutes program, we are told that a septic system costs about \$25,000.

The report says that, per Michigan State researchers, federal data does not accurately measure the water access gap. Race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access. Water access challenges affect entire communities, and that progress is uneven and, in some communities, there is backsliding. It goes on to tell us that .3% of white people lack complete plumbing; .5% of African-Americans and Latinx and 5.8% of Native Americans lack complete access. Native Americans are 19 times more likely to lack access to safe water and sanitation. More importantly to me, the report tells us that large concentrations of non-whites are more likely to lack access. Poverty is also a key obstacle to water access and there is a correlation between the lack of a high school diploma and poverty.

The report further discusses historical patterns of the government – state and federal – failing to invest in infrastructure in minority areas and that funding has decreased over time. Along with lack of sanitation comes illness and disease.

To bring this to a local and personal level, Shady Cove is a community of both the well-off and the very poor. Voters in Shady Cove have refused to pass bond measures to install a municipal water system. I wonder what the effects of private water systems are on this community? What is the situation for our Latinx neighbors and friends or our Native American communities in Southern Oregon? We know we have many homeless among us. What are the possible solutions?

I've asked the questions. Is there a Leaguer who would like to take the lead in finding the answers? Perhaps there is another topic that holds more interest for you where race and ethnicity and poverty play a role in creating disadvantage.

Happy, Healthy New Year to you all! I for one am counting my blessings and my ability to enjoy a nice hot shower.

Voter Service Rogue Valley for 2022 Timeline – Kathleen Donham

Deadline for candidate filings is **March 8** in both counties for the primary election. Ballot titles are due **February 25**. ***Arguments to be published in the Voter Pamphlet are due March 21.*** The primary is **May 17**.

<u>Jackson County</u>	<u>Josephine County</u>
Jackson County Commissioners Colleen Roberts (position #3) and Rick Dyer (position #1) are the incumbent Republican candidates who have already filed.	Position #1 has three non-partisan candidates who have filed: Darin Fowler, Nathan Seable, and Mark J. Seligman
<i>Justice of Peace:</i> Damian M Idiart (non-partisan)	<i>For Sheriff:</i> Jonathan Knapp (non-partisan)
	<i>For Clerk:</i> Rhiannon Henckels (non-partisan)

April 26 is the last day to register to vote in the primary.

The Voter Service committee asks members to be alert for proposals for ballot measures or minor party candidates that plan to run in the fall elections. Those of us not registered as Democrat or Republican will not be mailed a ballot for the primary if there are no ballot measures filed before February 25. Join **Voter Service** and help increase participation in [Vote 411](#). The state Voter Service will meet on-line mid-January with the new chair Peggy Bengry, and our local League will meet mid-February. Call Kathleen Donham 541-772-5044 or KDonham@gmail.com for more information about participating in Voter Service.

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Contact: ellie@socan.eco



The December meeting presentation by William North, CEO of Rogue Community Health, was excellent. The presentation slides can be seen [HERE](#).

LWVRV Calendar

January

- Thursday 13 Membership meeting, 11:30 – Zoom
- Thursday 20 Board meeting, 10:30 - Zoom
- Thursday 27 Newsletter submissions due

February

- Thursday 10 Membership meeting, 11:30 – Zoom
- Thursday 17 Board meeting, 10:30 – Zoom
- Sunday 27 Newsletter submissions due

- If you must have a mailed paper copy of this newsletter, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwwroguvalley.org
- You should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National.
- **For a membership application**, go to <http://lwwroguvalley.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MembershipApplication501c3AsOf20190725.pdf>