



# THE ADVOCATE

September 2006 League of Women Voters of Ashland, Oregon

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,  
A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION  
ENCOURAGES THE INFORMED AND ACTIVE  
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT.  
IT INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY  
THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

**WEB SITES:**

Oregon: [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)  
Rogue Valley: [www.lwrvr.org](http://www.lwrvr.org)  
National: [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org)

Ashland:  
[www.Ashland.or.lwvnet.org](http://www.Ashland.or.lwvnet.org)

**Board of Directors, LWVA**

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**Secretary:** Gloria Craven  
**Treasurer:** Judy Heatherington  
**Membership:** Judith Benjamin  
**Publicity:** Kate Culbertson  
**Voter Services:** Ruth Walsh  
**Webmaster:** Kate Culbertson  
**Newsletter Editor:** Vanya Sloan

**Board Members at Large:**  
Reinhold Sundeen  
Mary Ann Wallace

**Past President:** Vanya Sloan

**Nominating Committee:**  
Gloria Craven, Kate Culbertson  
Bobbie Jaffe, Susan Rust

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ASHLAND, OR 97520  
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488-8693

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Ashland School District  
Superintendent, Juli DiChiro,  
will discuss the school bond measure**

**BROWN BAG LUNCHEON**

**Ashland Community Center \*  
59 Winburn Way  
(across from Lithia Park)**

**\* PLEASE NOTE NEW  
MEETING LOCATION**

**DUES ARE DUE /RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Did you know that the yearly membership in the Ashland League begins in May and ends in April? Probably not, which may be why we have not received renewals from all of you. But don't worry. There's still time to be included in the 2006-2007 Ashland League Directory and receive newsletters to know what's in store with our local League for the coming year. Just fill out the form at the end of this blue newsletter (not to be confused with the form for the Rogue Valley League in the yellow newsletter) and either mail it with your check to the Ashland League address or bring it with you when you come to the September meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: IN ORDER TO SAVE EXPENSES, WE WILL BE SENDING THE ADVOCATE ELECTRONICALLY STARTING NEXT MONTH. IF WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, THIS WILL BE THE LAST PAPER COPY MAILED TO YOU (EXCEPT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING NEWS-LETTER). IF YOU DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL, YOUR COPY WILL BE SENT BY REGULAR MAIL.**

## President's Message



Dear Members,

As you officially meet me as your president, I thank you for granting me the privilege of serving you. From my past experience as a board member of the Dane County League of Women Voters of Madison, Wisconsin, I am enthusiastic, dedicated and eager to work with you to further the League's vision of a more equitable world. Ashland's Board Members, especially our past president, Vanya Sloan, have been helping me acclimate to our local League's policies and activities. Thanks to their generosity, I was able to attend the National League Convention in Minneapolis, aptly entitled, *Meeting in the Middle*, and the Oregon State Council held with *Passion* here in Ashland.

Having recently viewed the movie, *The Ironed Jawed Angels*, (available at DJ's video), I was reminded of the League's struggle to birth the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which won women the right to vote and hence influence the course of legislation. Thus it was with some dismay, but not surprise, that I read of a 2003 Rutgers University Study of the DotNet generation (ages 15-26) who lack the knowledge necessary for effective self-government. It made me realize that Charles Dickens' opening lines to **The Tale of Two Cities** -- *It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom. It was the age of foolishness* -- are as apt today as they were more than 200 years ago.

The optimistic part of me sees promise in projects and actions taken by the League that may help solve the worst problems and overcome the foolishness. One example is Oregon's award-winning Student Mock Election Program, coordinated by the League, which helps middle and high schools educate our youth about current issues and candidates. Letters were sent out this spring to Oregon schools inviting involvement in this program. Pilot projects are available for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. For more information about this project, check the LWVOR and LRVUS websites (listed on page 1). There are many opportunities for each of us to maintain the flame in the torch of Lady Liberty. Let's work together to make this the "best of times."

-- Iris Milan

## **CANDIDATE FORUMS:**

The September and October general meetings will be devoted to election issues. On Thursday, September 21, Ashland School District Superintendent Juli DiChiro will discuss the school bond measure. On Thursday, October 19, the statewide ballot measures will be on the program.

Depending on their schedules, the Ashland City Council candidates and the candidates for Municipal Judge will also be invited to participate in one of the above meetings.

Look to the LWV of Rogue Valley to host the candidates for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and also a candidate fair.

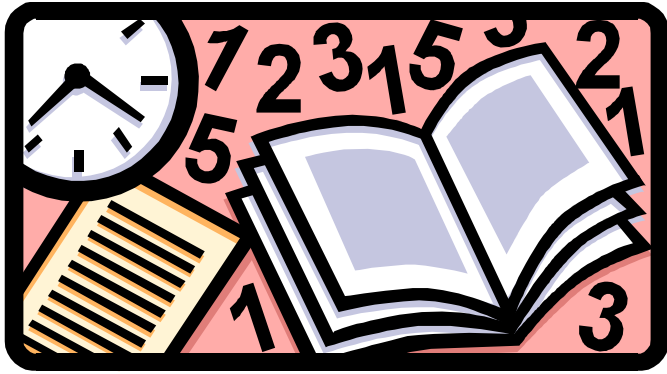
We all benefit from a wide-ranging exchange of ideas, so we welcome your questions, your comments, your friends and your neighbors to these events.

--- Ruth Walsh, Voter Services

## **GET INVOLVED IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG), through the remainder of this summer and the early fall, is focusing on ways to encourage citizens to become informed and participate in Regional Problem Solving (RPS). The Council is holding open houses and presentations in different locales to give people living in the nearby communities a chance to meet and talk with Council staff and understand the thinking behind the future growth proposals.

At the request of Ashland Council Member Kate Jackson, who serves as liaison to RVCOG, the Ashland League is co-sponsoring the session devoted to Ashland-Talent-Phoenix. **This open house meeting will take place Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., at the Talent Middle School Library, 102 Christian Ave. (up Main St. in Talent on the right).** We hope to see a good turnout of League members, but even if you can't attend, you can keep informed by listening to the Medford Mayor's weekly conversation on RVTV that is starting August 24<sup>th</sup> (Channel 9, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.) and is being devoted to RPS. The live broadcast is being repeated through September, and the exact schedule is available on the website, [RogueTV.org](http://RogueTV.org). For further information about RPS, go to [www.RVCOG.org](http://www.RVCOG.org).



## CALENDAR, 2006-2007

### September

- 6 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 7 Rogue Valley Council of Governments/Regional Problem Solving Public Meeting/Open House Talent Middle School Library, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 General Mtg.: Ashland School Bond Measure (see p.1)
- 30 LWVOR Fall Workshop, Eugene**

### October

- 3 Voters' Guides Shipped (approx.)
- 4 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 5 Regional Forum on Homeless & Runaway Youth, Medford Library, 8:30 a.m.
- 17 Voter Registration Deadline
- 19 General Mtg.: Ballot Measures, Candidate Forum
- 21 LWVRV Candidates Forum: County Commissioners

### November

- 1 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 9 LWVA/LWVRV Gen. Mtg. On Homeless Youth
- 16 General Mtg.: Methamphetamines

### December

- 6 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.

### January

- 3 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Program Planning

### February

- 6 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 21 General Mtg.: Redistricting

### March

- 7 LWVA Bd. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.
- 15 General Mtg. (to be announced)

### April

- 19 General Mtg.: Judiciary Study

### May

- 17 Annual Meeting**
- 18-20 LWVOR Convention, McMenamin's Edgefield, Troutdale**

## SUMMARY OF LWVA BOARD MINUTES, 8/3/06

Treasurer's Report: (Heatherington) We have 20 paid members; 37 active members who have not yet paid. \$2940 is in our checking account. LWVOR sent \$220 for Council expenses. Our members contributed most of their expenses.

General Meeting: (Milan) It will be held at the Community Center starting in September. No lunch is provided, but you may bring your own lunch. We will provide hot water for tea.

Membership: (Benjamin) National's master database has been updated showing that we have 57 members, including 7 National members.

Voter Services: (Walsh) Assuming that the eligible candidates agree to attend, the Gubernatorial Forum scheduled for 10/24 will be at the KOBI newsroom, not at the Smullin Center. So far, we have no commitment from either Saxton or Kulongski.

Meeting with Carol Hwoschinsky: (Walsh/Milan) Several board members met with Carol to hear of her desire to encourage candidates to go beyond the content level of the issue/question to a values discussion. It was felt that it is a good idea in concept, but difficult to accomplish in a forum. Carol wants to teach compassionate listening techniques to those interested.

General Meetings: (See Calendar for details)

RVCOG Community Meeting: (Sloan) Kate Jackson asked if we would like to be involved in or co-sponsor the 9/7 meeting in Talent. The board felt it would be worthwhile. Sloan will get more details.

Maxine Gresham Goff Obituary: (See notice herein.)

Citizen Involvement in Land Use: (Sloan) The question was raised as to how we would publicize the completion of our county land-use study. Sloan will follow-up with Trish Bowcock.

Voter Registration: (Milan) Members did voter registration in Lithia Park on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will continue these efforts prior to elections.

## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN LAND-USE PLANNING

The LWVA and LWVRV joint study reviewing citizen involvement in land-use planning has completed its task. You can read the report, *A Survey of Citizen Involvement in Land Use Planning in Jackson County, Oregon*, dated May 31, 2006, which will soon be posted on our web site. Many thanks to committee members: Olena Black, Trish Bowcock, Margaret Bradburn, Kate Culbertson, Helen Jones, Cynthia Lora, Jean Milgram, Carolyn Ramsey, Susan Rust, Vanya Sloan, and Nancy Swan. What a fabulous team!

**LWVOR COUNCIL AT ASHLAND SPRINGS HOTEL  
A GREAT SUCCESS!!!**

The theme of this year's Council was *Passion, I See, Is Catching . . . William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Act 3, Scene 1*. The passion was catching, and we accomplished a great deal of League business. We also enjoyed *Ayesha's Oasis*, a local belly dancing troupe who performed at the luncheon, and the inspiring talk by Libby Appel, Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, who spoke at the concluding banquet about the relevance of art in today's world.

Special thanks to Bettie Henry for her expert leadership as Council Chair, and to the rest of our outstanding volunteers who helped make it a terrific event: Connie Battaile, Stephanie Bullock, Gloria Craven, Kate Culbertson, Ilse Forney, Lou Hartman, Judy Heatherington, Barbara Jarvis, Helen Jones, Anita Nevison, Susan Rust, Margaret Scarborough, Elin Silveous, Barbara Stankus, Mary Ann Wallace and Carol Wilder. We are also grateful to the State League members who spent many hours planning and working on Council. They include, among others, Margaret Noel, President; Bea Epperson, Convention Chair; and Rebecca Smith, Executive Assistant. Thanks to all who helped make this a fabulous Council. Your passion for the League is definitely catching!

**THANKS TO AAUW FOR SHARING**

A big thank you to AAUW for sharing their shady space with us at the 4th of July Celebration so that we could register voters and provide information. Much appreciation also to League members who helped out at our booth: Judith Benjamin, Gloria Craven, Susan Lander, Lynn Levin, and Iris Milan.

**LWVOR FALL WORKSHOP – SAVE THE DATE!**

This year's fall workshop, again in Eugene, will be on Saturday, September 30th. The venue will appear in LWVOR's fall Voter, to be mailed Sept. 8. Any member is welcome to come and enjoy the opportunity to meet colleagues from around the state, and get to feel more a part of the statewide organization. We expect the agenda to focus on the fall election (especially the measures) and on membership and marketing the LWV. We look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

**IN MEMORIUM  
MAXINE GRESHAM GOFF**

*It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our beloved member Maxine Gresham Goff. Maxine died at age 91 on June 7, 2006, in San Rafael, CA, where she had moved to be near her family. Maxine was a member of the League for over 50 years, 21 of which were in Ashland. Maxine had wide interests. She was an important contributor to numerous LWVA study groups and was a voice for reason and common sense. We will miss her.*

*Maxine's family has requested that contributions in her name may be made to the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund. If you would like to make such a contribution, please send your check, payable to LWVOR Education Fund, to our treasurer, Judy Heatherington, who will forward it to the State League on your behalf. We offer our condolences to Maxine's family.*

**JOIN THE LEAGUE – - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
Annual Membership Dues: \$60 – Household Membership \$90**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NEW MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Special Interest/s: \_\_\_\_\_

As you renew your membership for this year, please consider making an extra contribution to LWVA for program expenses, such as the newsletter, media ads, candidate forums and other miscellaneous items. Of your \$60 dues, \$49 goes to LWVUS and LWVOR. Your contributions help our fundraising. Thank you!

**Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Ashland (LWVA)  
Mail to LWVA, P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, OR 97520**