



THE ADVOCATE

League of Women Voters of Ashland

NOVEMBER 2007

P.O. Box 1296, Ashland, Oregon 97520
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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, ENCOURAGES INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, WORKS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES, AND INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

LWVA BOARD 2007-2008

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Websites:

LWV Ashland: www.ashland.or.lwvnet.org
 LWV Rogue Valley: www.lwvrv.org
 LWVOR: www.lwvor.org
 LWVUS: www.lwv.org

NOVEMBER MEETING

IMMIGRATION

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Ashland Elks Lodge, 255 E. Main St.

(Lunch at 11:30 a.m. – call 482-7326 for reservations)

Speaker: Attorney John Almaguer, Catholic Charities of Southern Oregon’s Immigration Legal Services and former President of the Human Rights Coalition of Jackson County.

Come learn how immigration law works, how it affects people living in our valley, and what the immigration bill that failed in the U.S. Congress was meant to achieve. This meeting is part of our National League’s (LWVUS) study on Immigration.

The public is welcome.
 Come and bring your friends.

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The consensus process will take place in discussion groups for LWV members only on
**Tues., November 27, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. &
 Wed., November 28, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
 at the Ashland Public Library.
 To sign up for either meeting contact
 Iris Milan (488-9493)

WAITING FOR THE MAIL

Have you opened your *Member Handbook*? Look inside the pockets in the covers. You’ll find a stamped, addressed envelope. Don’t pull off the stamp. Instead, fill out the “Biography,” if you’d like, and the “Interest Inventory.” If you haven’t paid your dues, make out a check - \$60.00 single, \$90.00 household membership - to LWVA. Put all these items in the envelope and mail it. We’re waiting.....

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

In October, our League was pleased to co-sponsor a celebration in honor of the 62nd Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations. During the evening, we learned a great deal about the U.N.'s accomplishments from spokesman, Ramu Damodaran -- who also generously thanked the League for our own accomplishments.

This month we focus on immigration. With its national study, the League is at the cutting edge. Recent opinion polls indicate that next to the Iraq war, Americans are most concerned about health care first and immigration second. *Time* magazine's lead article in its June 18th issue was titled "Immigration – Why Amnesty Makes Sense." On three different days last month, editorials appeared in *The New York Times*, one, "Ain't That America," on our policy towards illegal immigrants; another, "A Chance to Dream," on a Senate bill to give the children of illegal immigrants the chance to go to college and serve in the American military; and the third, "Protecting Farmworkers," on reforming the agricultural guest worker program, including a bill to enable these workers to earn citizenship.

On November 15th, LWVA members will have a chance to learn about immigration in Jackson County at our monthly meeting in the Elks Lodge when John Almaguer speaks about his experience with Catholic Charities of Southern Oregon's Immigration Legal Services. At the end of the month, we will then regroup into units at the newly opened Ashland Library to discuss the League's study and arrive at consensus. Last month's *Advocate* carried the questions to be considered. An e-mail will be sent out soon listing them again, and printed copies will be available at the November 15th meeting. Printed copies of briefs from the study will also be there. Those of you who have access to the Internet, remember to check the LWVUS website for the principal materials that constitute the study report.

On another subject, we hope to have word soon on a follow-up to the Town Hall meetings. As the write-up on page 3 indicates, the Committee on County Solutions is presenting its findings to the County Commissioners and is encouraging people to attend public hearings, visit the county website, and, in general try, to keep abreast of county government activities. It is possible that our two local Leagues may collaborate on a more formal effort to put a spotlight on county funding and services. If so, we'll enlist our members to participate. As a first step, please send back the *Interest Inventory* so we'll know whether you want to be involved.

See you on the 15th!
Judith and Vanya

Last Chance For Grapefruit!

NOTE: Order and payment must be received by November 10th.

If haven't yet put in your order for succulent, sweet, red-fleshed, Rio Queen grapefruit yet, **act quickly**. The cost this year remains the same as last year - \$15.00/box. Each box contains 20 pounds or about 17 grapefruit. They typically arrive in Medford, straight from the Rio Grande Valley, between the first and second week of December. (In Ashland, they should store in your garage well into March.)

Remember that this is a win-win opportunity - you get to enjoy these wonderful fruits and, at the same time, support the League of Women Voters of Ashland. And, they make perfect gifts for friends and family. Call Susan Rust, 482-3259, today - without delay - and leave your name & phone number.

Save the Date: June 13-16, 2008

LWVUS National Convention in Portland!

The LWVUS National Convention is coming to the Portland Hilton next June! Our League will have delegates. Volunteers are also needed, and are invited to stay at the home of League members in Portland. Please contact us if you are interested in being a volunteer -- Reserve the dates on your calendar now. You won't want to miss the excitement!

IMMIGRATION STUDY

By Iris Milan

The LWVUS study on immigration is drawing to a close. In November, we will devote special discussion meetings to answering consensus questions sent to us by the National League. Immigration is a complex topic with no easy answers. How can you prepare for our discussion?

Attend our November 15th General Meeting. We have invited John Almaguer, an immigration attorney, to share his experiences grappling with the immigration issue in our own corner of Oregon. (See details on page 1.)

Read the LWVUS background materials. The *National Voter* (February 2007) featured an article placing immigration in historical context; also the June issue contains two study briefs. These articles, as well as eight short very readable background papers prepared by the LWVUS study committee, can be found on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org. You will also find a list of resources for further reading, as well as a podcast and video of an informative panel discussion on *Immigration Policy in the 21st Century*, which took place at the June 2007 LWVUS Council meeting.

Think about your answers to the consensus Questions (also, on the LWVUS website), which appeared in the last issue of *The Advocate* and will be sent to you again by e-mail. Attend one of the two November unit discussions where you will have the opportunity to meet with our team committee leaders -- Iris Milan, Anita Nevison, Eleanore Perkins, Susan Shaffer and Ruth Walsh. Ruth will lead the discussions. Note that they are the week after Thanksgiving. Details on how to sign up for these meetings are on the front page of this *Advocate*. If you cannot attend either one, but would like to take part in consensus, contact Iris. Upon completion of consensus, our responses will be combined with those of other local Leagues across the country to shape a National League position on immigration.

Be sure to attend the General Meeting on the 15th and have your voice heard! We expect this topic to generate lively, thought-provoking discussion among both members and friends.

The Town Hall Meetings – A Good Beginning

By Judith Benjamin

Lynne Howe, the Coordinator for the Committee for County Solutions, which held the recent town hall meetings cosponsored by the League and AAUW, prepared a summary to present to the Jackson County

Commissioners. In her summary, she listed these as among the goals of the meetings:

- *Increase the breadth of county-wide citizen input*
- *Help citizens understand county services and related costs*
- *Build the base of support for new funding options for county services.*

The meetings, held in Ashland, Eagle Point, Rogue River, Ruch and Medford, did give the 300 to 400 county residents who participated an opportunity for citizen input. With Tam Moore, former County Commissioner and journalist, presenting an overview of the county budget, participants as well as others who watched the Medford session on RVTV learned more about services and costs.

Most importantly, the meetings gave people a chance to air their views. With moderators Geoff Riley and Bill Mansfield encouraging the discussion, people talked about priorities for county services, possible funding sources, and their concerns about how the county has been operating. Not surprisingly, the closing of the libraries was their primary issue. People felt it exemplified the county acting without public input, eliminating one program instead of reducing all programs proportionately. General distrust of the Commissioners was apparent. Key themes Lynne Howe observed from people's written and verbal comments were "more information, more transparency, represent all the voters, develop alternative ideas, include more diverse opinions and find out what other counties are doing." As she noted, "no consensus appeared on future sources of county revenues," nor did many people comment on priorities for services, other than the libraries.

People who attended the town hall meetings may become the base of support that Lynn Howe referred to in listing the town hall goals. Her committee is e-mailing people whose names appeared on the sign-up sheets to ask if they would like to receive more materials on county funding and services. These would include her summary, which concludes with next steps and action people can take. The base of support would be expanded as these people and the sponsoring organizations e-mail their friends and members, keeping them posted about public hearings, important meetings and reports.

One person knowledgeable about county government suggested that a study be undertaken of city and county budgets, including sources of funds, spending and assets. Also, she suggests a comparison with other cities and counties. This broad topic of county funding may be a subject for the local Leagues to consider as their next joint effort. We'll keep you posted.

MEASURE 49 FORUM

By Judith Benjamin



Photo by Iris Milan

About 30-some people showed up on a rainy night to hear an interesting, informative debate. Voter Services Chair Regina Ayars opened the meeting, and Moderator Chris Hearn introduced the discussion with a brief history of Oregon's land-use legislation. He noted its beginnings in the '70s, under Governor Tom McCall's lead; the consequent establishment of the Department of Land Conservation and Development to set regulations; and the measures beginning in 2000, led by Oregonians in Action, promoting property rights over land-use restrictions. With Measure 37 producing 6,000 claims and 300 lawsuits, the legislature introduced Measure 49 to answer the controversy over how to interpret Measure 37. The moderator then read the summary from the *Voters' Guide*, before turning to the panelists to state their positions and answer questions.

State Rep. Peter Buckley and County Commissioner Dave Gilmour argued in favor of the measure while State Rep. Dennis Richardson and Christopher Cauble, an attorney from Grants Pass, argued in opposition. The two State Representatives were called on first followed by the Commissioner and then Mr. Cauble.

In his statement, Rep. Buckley spoke of growing up in Santa Clara Valley, seeing it become Silicon Valley with no farmland left, and his support for the tradeoff in Oregon between agricultural and urban interests, which Measure 49 would preserve. He argued that Measure 49 had been drafted as "a sincere effort to fill the holes of 37," and that it would immediately answer the needs of the more than 40 percent who only wanted to build three houses or less. It also laid out an appraisal process for those with larger claims. Com. Gilmour's additional argument was that "if Measure 49 fails, we may not have another chance to deal with the problems created by Measure 37." The maps and the list of claims he had brought to the meeting showed the amount of land affected and the number of claims still to be processed in this part of Jackson County. He argued that unlike Measure 37, Measure 49 deals with the issue of transferability and takes into account neighbors' rights as well as those of claimants.

Rep. Richardson argued that instead of clarifying Measure 37, as Measure 49 claimed to do, it creates a "burdensome, time-consuming process" for property-owners who want to build a few houses. Mr. Cauble reiterated Rep. Richardson's arguments about the complexity of the measure, stressing that it would still involve legal disputes and benefit lawyers more than property owners.

Audience questions were addressed to the panelists. One person spoke about his specific claim, and said that it was a costly, time-consuming process to get an appraisal for his property that would meet regulations. He was also concerned about possible appeals. Another participant asked where the actual money was coming from to fight Measure 49. Rep. Buckley said that most of the money came from Oregonians in Action and Stimson Lumber, which has the largest claim for development.

The panelists agreed that our land-use system had become too rigid and complex, and that flexibility was needed to take into account changes and growth in population and development, as well as variations from one region to another. Everyone, including Measure 49 advocates, agreed that further modifications of the measure would need to be made. Panelists felt that the legislature should reappropriate funds for the Big Look Task Force, so it can continue its mission to study Oregon's land-use system.

Before the meeting ended, the panelists all agreed there was no perfect solution at this time. Rep. Richardson said that he felt "Measure 49 shows the dysfunctional nature of our Legislature." Rep. Buckley said that Measure 49 is complex because regulating land use is complex, and that the Legislature had made an effort to reach an agreement with the minority party, without success. The forum was televised by RVTV, and anyone can see a DVD or videotaped version by contacting Judith Benjamin, 488-3827, jeg@mind.net

NEWSLETTER HELP NEEDED!

We need someone to do layout for the *Advocate*. We've got writers and editors; what we don't have are illustrators, people who like to do graphics. We need someone with knowledge of Word formatting or, even better, with PageMaker, Adobe Illustrator or any other desktop publishing program. If you're that person, or know someone who is, please contact Vanya 531-8457, or vanya@mind.net. We'd be eternally grateful.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2007

Treasurer’s Report: Cash on hand: \$4,000. Upcoming PMP payments will use most of these funds. Membership: 50 singles; 16 families; 10 National. 29 members have paid dues so far this year.

Member Handbooks: 23 Member Handbooks were distributed at the September general meeting. The rest will be hand-delivered by the board.

Measure 49 Forum: Jones will contact speakers to remind them about the forum. Benjamin will introduce moderator Chris Hearn. Milan will contact Trish Bowcock to find out about working with LWVRV at tables in support of Measure 49.

Measure 49 Advocacy: Benjamin and Sloan will write a letter to the Tidings in support of Measure 49.

Distribution/Funding of Voters’ Guides: This year, distribution will be the local Leagues’ responsibility. LWVOR has provided an e-copy. Discussion ensued about fundraising for the Voters’ Guides.

Immigration Study: Members will have opportunities to attend consensus meetings in units. John Almaguer will speak at the November general meeting on immigration.

December Fundraising Event: It was decided that December might not be a good time for a fundraising event, due to competition for space and costs of venues.

The Advocate: Shaffer does not wish to continue doing the Advocate. Board needs to find someone to do the layout. Vanya will do the November newsletter.

Town Hall Meetings: The September town hall meeting at the Elks was a big success. The board was reminded of the additional upcoming town hall meetings.

October LWVOR Workshop: Benjamin will attend.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carryl Breon

Carryl came to Ashland five years ago from northern California to join her daughter, the middle school librarian here for the past 16 years. Like mother, like daughter, Carryl also spent her career in middle school -- as a teacher.

After she arrived in Ashland and settled in, she immediately joined organizations to make friends, moving up to take leadership positions. She’s a leader of AAUW and has just become the new President Elect of Tudor Guild.

Liberal politics has always been a major part of her life. Impressed by League studies and policies, she’s joined the League to have an outlet for her political interests. We’re glad to have her on board.

Cynthia (Cindy) Gagne’

Cindy and her husband, Steve, came to Ashland to visit a close friend and former employer with whom they had worked at an alternative school in Menlo Park, CA. That visit prompted them to settle here.

Education has been a major part of Cindy’s life. She speaks of her work as a children’s librarian as perhaps her favorite job. As another educational adventure, she home schooled her younger son from the time he was 9 to 18 years old. She speaks warmly of the Ashland School System and of her son’s attendance at Willow Wind.

Since moving here, her husband has started an alternative film company, and Cindy is deeply involved in it. Despite her busy life, she sought out the League, which she has always admired, and joined as a national member, not knowing any of the local members. We hope she will find time to have lunch at the Elks Club so that we can get to know her.

Beryl Patner

Beryl first came to Ashland in 1985 with her sister and mother, but later moved to Colorado after she got married. Now that she has returned to Ashland with her husband, she is enjoying theatre, restaurants and wonderful hikes in the area.

Beryl was not a member of the League before, but has always respected the role the League plays in government. Now she has an opportunity to do more than turn to the League for the *Voters’ Guide*. She has already attended the Measure 49 Forum and is eagerly awaiting the full program.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
2021 Dead Indian Memorial Road (482-2628)
- 7 Water Study Committee Meeting,
9:15 a.m. (482-3259)
- 15 General Meeting on Immigration
- 27/28 Immigration Study Consensus Meetings
(Call 488-9493 to sign up)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ASHLAND
P.O. BOX 1296
ASHLAND, OR 97520**

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Annual Membership Dues:
Individual Membership: \$60 ____ Household Membership: \$90 ____
Student Membership: \$30 ____**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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NEW MEMBER: _____ RENEWAL _____ ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION: _____

My Special Interest/s: _____

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