



WELCOME BACK! HOPE EVERYONE HAD a GREAT SUMMER! vol. 60



Members Take Note...

- ❖ Please welcome our newest members, see p. 6
- ❖ County Commissioners' Candidates' Forum, see p. 7
- ❖ Join the LWVRV's Library Study, see p. 3

BETWEEN THE COVERS....

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SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

We are beginning the 2014 LWV Monthly Programs with County Administrator Danny Jordan. The meeting will be held in Ashland at the **Ashland City Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main at 12 Noon on Thursday, September 11, 2014**. Mr. Jordan will discuss the challenges he faces in creating the Jackson County budget beginning this fall. The Rogue Valley League did a study of the county budget in 2009 which taught us that budget preparations begin early in the fall, and that by time the budget is accepted in late spring, most of the analysis and negotiation are finished. The public has expressed an interest in several aspects of the budget, including the capital improvement costs, the sheriff's budgetary priorities, adequacy of the tax base, and the state of the "rainy day fund." We are fortunate to have the attention of Mr. Jordan for forty minutes of presentation with extra time for questions.

LWVRV MEETINGS

LWVRV general meetings are scheduled to take place the second Thursday of each month, at noon. Due to scheduling conflicts, and/or availability of speakers, the meeting date may change. Notification of all changes will be published in the Voters Voice and/or be sent to members via email or phone call.

LWVRV board meetings are scheduled for the Tuesday immediately following the general meeting, from 9:30 am to noon. The location is to be determined and will be posted in the Voters Voice. All board meetings are open to League members.

2014 OREGON ELECTION DATES



Voter Registration deadline for general election is October 14, 2014

Ballot Request - October 30, 2014

General election - November 4, 2014

Ballot Return by 8 pm, November 4, 2014

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 trust that you all had a lovely summer and are ready for an interesting and informative League program schedule for the coming year. I want League members to work on projects that are truly meaningful to them—and to that end RVLWV shapes its programs around the passions of participating members. Our primary concerns seem to involve Jackson County management. One example is VP Marylou Schnoes' proposal for a Jackson County Library Study. She has crafted questions for the Library District Board to begin the process. The September General Meeting will augment this work by providing a conversation with Jackson County Administrator Danny Jordan. One week later, Sept 17, Jackson County Commissioner Candidates will debate issues for the November election.

Furthermore, there is renewed interest in updating the *Who's Who in Jackson County?* handbook that League has published and updated every five to ten years. The Observer Corps has consistently attended staff meetings of the JC BOC and their report is contained herein.

As President of League, I am interested in taking on relevant and regional topics that reflect the non-partisan, fact-finding methods of League research. Join me in thanking all the hard-working board members by attending our general meetings and offering to assist with our studies.

In League,

~Kathleen

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LWVRV BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, August 19,

2014Debby's Diner – Riverside Drive, Medford, OR 97504

Call to Order_at 9:35 am by President Kathleen Donham

Present: Olena Black, Kathleen Donham, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Susan Orth, Joan Rogers, Diane Shockey, Marylou Schnoes

Treasurer's Report given

Insurance for upcoming events: Kathleen Donham reported that Robin Wisdom recommended we have our own insurance. Motion made by Marylou Schnoes to authorize Kathleen Donham to procure such insurance up to yearly premium of \$350; seconded by Carole Levi; M/S/P. Motion made by Marylou Schnoes to add a time item amendment to the budget under Operational Administrative Expenses for \$350; seconded by Susan Orth; M/S/P.

Newsletter: Carole Levi – deadline for this issue is Saturday, August 23, 2014. **Increase of dues:** Motion made by Carole Levi to increase dues to \$60 yearly, starting next June 1, 2015; seconded by Marylou Schnoes; M/S/P.

Publicity: Susan Orth: LWVRV general meeting Sept. 11, 2014 – Danny Jordan, power point budget presentation. Judith Benjamin will formulate questions. Meeting at Ashland City Council Chambers on East Main. 12 noon (40 minutes + 10-15 minutes for questions).

Candidate Forum in Medford: Susan Orth has written a piece for the newsletter.

KOBI (5) is in negotiation for the debate between Kitzhaber and Richardson.

Olena Black and Diane Shockey will work together on publicity on a Facebook identity.

Mary Sinclair reported that the State is considering a Merkely/Weebe debate.

Membership update: Normary Barrett – Carole Levi will send out current list. Diane Shockey will notify Normary Barrett of paid-up members.

Library update: Marylou Schnoes – will fine-tune letter from LWVRV to the Library District Board. Consideration of possible LWVRV general meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 (to replace agricultural topic).

Next board meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014 (Marylou Schnoes will check availability of Phoenix Library – 9:30)

Adjournment: 11:10am

~Carol Ingelson, Secretary

LIBRARY SYSTEM STUDY

We have many questions about the operation of our libraries and how the new District Board is managing. As issues related to this keep re-surfacing, we've decided to do a study. If you're curious about how the new District is doing and feel passionate about our libraries, please consider helping out with this local study. Please let Marylou Schnoes know you'd like to participate. Thank you.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED.....?

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well-educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and the freedoms won by our independence and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free! We thank these early patriots, as well as those patriots now fighting to KEEP our freedom!

We hope you will show your support by sending this to as many people as you can, please. It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more MEANING to it than beer, fireworks, HOT DOGS, and picnics.....

The League of Women Voters is as important to our Democracy today as it was in fighting for the women's vote. It continues to inform our citizens, observe governmental bodies and appear at hearings. It fights for making voter registration open for all citizens and helps them see how important their informed vote is.

RECAP of LWVRV'S ANNUAL MEETING

The LWV Rogue Valley held its Annual Meeting at the new Lark's Restaurant in downtown Medford in May. The GMO Ballot Measures speakers included Tyrone Reitman from *Healthy Democracy*—he described the Citizen's Review Process which League executive directors Iris Milan, Carole Levi, and Barbara Davidson attended. We followed with well-informed presentations from Ray Seidler, OSU microbiologist, and League member Porter Lombard, former agricultural researcher and director of the OSU Research Office in Central Pt. Incoming Voters Service Director Susan Orth moderated the presentations.

The program considered the non-GMO ballot measure (which subsequently passed). Outgoing directors and executive members Iris Milan, Barbara Davidson, and Carole Levi were recognized for their service with gift certificates to a downtown salon, and a door prize was raffled to members who had paid their dues early. As a last minute addition, Marylou Schnoes volunteered for the vice-president position for one year, although she declined to be next in line for the presidency.

~Marylou Schnoes, LWVRV Vice President

ANNUAL MEETING in PICTURES



WELCOME MEMBERSHIP

The LWVRV wants to extend a hearty welcome to our newest members:

Joanne Haddad Sally Grady Joan Amaritti Joann Cleckner Dr. Barbara Klein

We hope to meet and greet you at our September meeting.

Welcome back to our League's fall programs. An election year is a busy time for our board and voter service. The next few months our meetings will focus on informing ourselves and the public about candidates and ballot measures.

This is an excellent time to invite friends and neighbors to our League meetings and political forums. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again as we start our fall session in September. We have several new members, many of them have previous

League experience than will be appreciated. Please introduce yourself to them and assist us in making them feel welcome.

Our League calendar year started last June, and that is when we begin to collect your membership dues for the year. If you have not paid your dues please mail them to me at my home or our League P.O. Box. You can also pay at our first League meeting. I plan on printing our Membership Directory in October and only paid members will be included. Address for mailing dues to me; at 5622 Saddle Ridge Dr., Medford 97504

Looking forward to see all of you soon,

~Normary Barrett , membership chariperson

OLLI OPEN HOUSE

Earlier this year, the Community Relations Committee created an open house to showcase OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) to the greater community. Since there was no summer session, an open house helped fill the "summer gap" and was a fun and informative program for current and prospective members as well as the general public.

The Ashland Open House on July 11, 2014 was held at the Schneider art Museum; the Medford one at the RCC/HEC on July 12th. Both venues provided tables for a variety of other community partners (including LWVRV) to showcase their individual missions. Attendees were asked to have a sign-in card initialized by at least 10 of the presenters in order to qualify for the numerous door prizes (35 happy winners).

A total of 416 filled out the cards; 9 new members from Ashland and 21 from Medford; plus 48 renewals.

~Carol Ingelson





SPOTLIGHTING OUR LWVRV MEMBERS

JEAN MAACK, A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Born and raised in East Iowa, Jean Maack left home to attend the University of Illinois and earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree with an emphasis on science. She spent some time in research on nutrition. Soy beans no less!!

Jean and her husband had four children and while raising them, she returned to college for her teacher's certificate then pursued a career teaching at the Junior High level. During this period, she also represented her fellow teachers as a negotiator for salaries and benefits. A busy lady, indeed.

A high point of her life was being elected president for the organization in Illinois working to get the Equal Rights Act (ERA) passed. Unfortunately the amendment did not pass. However, in 2014 we have just had the 5th anniversary of the Pay Equity Act, inspired by Lily Ledbetter. Jean has had the pleasure of seeing this victory for women.

Jean and family moved to Medford to retire and she continued with her interests in politics, women's rights and her hobby, genealogy. She and former Governor Barbara Roberts, were responsible in starting the Rogue Valley Women's Political Caucus in Medford. Jean has been a high achiever all her life.

We are honored to have this talented woman in our League of Women Voters, Rogue Valley branch. She has completed over 50 years of membership in the League, in Illinois and Oregon. Thank you, Jean.

~Shiena Polehn, Hospitality

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RACE FORUM

Do you receive your ballot every year and panic because you do not have the information you need to be an informed voter?

Have no fear! A forum for the county commissioners' race has been scheduled. It will be held at noon, September 17, 2014 at the Medford City Council Chambers, Medford City Hall, 411 W. 8th Street, Medford.

Please bring your friends, neighbors. and guests.

OBSERVER CORPS

The observer corps continues this year. When you observe, you are guaranteed a steep learning curve about how governmental bodies work and an opportunity for personal growth.

I have increased my knowledge of topics which draw an immediate, enflamed response from me. Since I am observing and cannot speak, I explore them myself, resulting in ew, self knowledge. At times, I would have said something which was obvious to me if I were participating. Since I was listening, I was forced to hear others and see the group dynamics of coming to an agreement. This resulted in an increase in group management skills for me and an increased self-monitoring when I was in a group.

So I say: “join the observer corps to monitor government bodies and become a more aware, articulated and informed citizen yourself.”

~Susan Orth, Observer Corps member

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League members Joyce Chapman and Susan Orth have been attending Jackson County Board of Commissioner planning meetings and staff meetings as observers. They file regular reports which include an evaluation of the transparency of the discussions, the preparedness of the members, and the courtesy of the conveners in addition to content.

Items of interest to League members may include:

- 1) A Rural Renewal Energy Development Zone (aka RED Zone): Staff were authorized to pursue the RED Zone for Jackson County in connection with a request from a solar energy company planning one 10 megawatt two 5 megawatt solar farms. (May /June)
- 2) Rogue Valley Food System Network asked for County support—this group consists of several local agriculture advocate groups (THRIVE, ACCESS, Extension Service etc.) whose goals mesh with the League’s new position on Agriculture voted on last April.
- 3) Commissioner Skundrick’s proposal to declare the county commissioner positions non-partisan League Position) was turned down by Commissioners Rachor and Breidenthal for inclusion on the fall county ballot.
- 4) Care Connect is offering health services for Medicaid through the county. The demand has been bigger than expected and the county is concerned about picking up these costs after the federal subsidies are reduced in a few years.
- 5) Rogue Community College is looking for county support for its FLEX program which offers Industrial Mechanics programs for students seeking to fill demand for local businesses. RCC is also adding to its health education programs.
- 6) The Governor’s Executive Order 12-07 Land Use initiative offered Josephine, Jackson, and Douglas counties a chance to revise rules and mapping of land use designations. The program money was used to pay staff in Douglas and Josephine County, and Jackson County may end up subsidizing the other counties in the re-mapping process. [See Land Use Report]
- 7) There have been frequent absences at Commissioner meetings. If two commissioners are out of town, no meeting can be held.

We are all very appreciative of the work of Joyce and Susan. They are finding that the most information is discovered at the work sessions and staff meetings rather than the actual Wednesday morning meetings that are advertised. Call us if you have more questions about the topics. Thank you Joyce & Susan!

~Kathleen Donham, LWVRV President

LAND USE UPDATE

Jackson County approved a historic Regional Problem Solving Process in March of 2013 which allowed the cities to coordinate the establishment of urban growth boundaries in a collaborative process. Part of that approval required an Agricultural Task Force which would address the particular concerns of preservation of agricultural lands, which was the initial purpose of the RPS endeavor. The Ag Task Force has met with area farmers and landowners to amend the Comprehensive Plan to address some of the complexities of regional planning. The first concern was irrigation water to serve local agriculturalists. Another concern was helping local farmers keep their lands in agricultural use. There has been discussion of an ombudsman that would work through the Extension Service and the Jackson County Soil and Water District to advise landowners about land use practices, agricultural easements, and modernization options.

Meanwhile, Governor Kitzhaber issued Executive Order 12-07 which offered \$550,000 for a pilot project allowing for modification of mapping designations of forest and farmlands in a tri-county area: Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas Counties. Jackson County has established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Steering Committee and used its \$ 110,000 to have RVCOG work on mapping projects. Current discussions at the Steering Committee meetings have proposed “cluster” arrangements for farmland that allow property owners to consolidate open agricultural land and site homes all in one defined area, thereby providing outbuilding opportunities for growers. The intention of 12-07 was to give critics of Oregon Land Use a chance to fix some of the more onerous restrictions of regulation without causing the fragmentation of rural land. The money is running out, Josephine County can no longer pay staff to work on this project, and Douglas County is primarily interested in forest lands. The future of this pilot project will depend on Jackson County efforts. Stay tuned.

~K. Donham

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is off to a running start by having its first meeting on Sept. 2 at the home of Iris Milan. It may seem early to considering a slate for 2015-16. However, there are some steps that need to be taken before actually creating a slate. Our job is primarily to see that the League sustains itself with good leadership through encouraging members, new and seasoned, who will want to take leadership roles. We will work in concert with Membership and may attend a Board Meeting so we are knowledgeable about how the League functions. That knowledge will help us find the right people to fill positions. In the near future, there will be an updated description of the Board positions and other jobs that are vital to a well –functioning League. As members, we hope you will consider being part of the leadership in some way.

At present there are a few critical positions that are unfilled:

Publicity: If you have some experience getting the word out to the public of important happenings, this may be the job for you. Do you know how to use twitter and/or Facebook? The job could be shared by two.

Observer Corps: We need someone to oversee and help direct (mentor) those of our members who would like to visit governmental meetings as observers .A short report on their observations will to help us determine if we need to take action.

Action: Keeps us abreast of what is coming up legislatively on the local, state and national levels ton which the League has taken positions. State and National will send Alert e-mails which the Action Chair will send to members. An issue may be important enough to warrant a forum or meeting locally.

~Iris Milan, Nominating Committee Chairperson

WE WANT to KNOW



If there is a particular topic of interest or concern you would like the LWVRV to study or focus upon, we would be very interested in hearing your thoughts. Please contact any board member of the LWVRV, attend a board meeting or send an email to: newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org. We look forward to our members' input.

LWVOR POSITIONS

[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 , r.wisdom@lwvor.org, 503-581-5722

LWVRV RETREAT NOTES

Our retreat was held July 21st at Lorraine Werblow's home. Fifteen members attended and discussed what each thought LWVRV should emphasize in the future and how we should approach some issues, also touching on: the local county commissioners' primary, the library, redistricting, and other topics of interest. Dues will be \$60/mo. Monthly program topics were tentatively set as:

September	Danny Jordan & the Jackson Co. budget
October	Candidates' forum
November	Ag & Food Insecurity, which has since been replaced by Library District Board Q & A
December	La Clinica's midwifery program
January	LWVRV program planning
February	Ag & Food Insecurity
March	Recent Supreme Court decisions of interest
April	Higher Ed

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 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6/7
8	9	10	11 LWVRV General Meeting, <i>see p.1</i>	12	13/14
15	16 LWVRV Board Meeting, 9:30– noon, location TBD	17 LWVRV Forum, noon, Medford City Council Chambers. <i>See p.7</i>	18	19	20/21
22	23  Fall begins	24 Rosh Hashana begins at sundown	25	26	27/28
29	30				

LOOKING AHEAD

If you are interested in becoming involved in the LWVRV, the nominating committee is looking for members to fill vacant positions. Perhaps you would like to assist in the formation of a Library committee to study the newly-formed Jackson County Library District. These are just two excellent ways of meeting and working with League members.