

LWVRV

September Speaker – Please Join Us Thursday, September 9th, 11:30 AM
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82197842281>



Liz James

Liz James is an out lesbian health equity and human rights advocate. She currently serves as a Member of the Oregon Statewide LGBTQ Aging Coalition and as a volunteer leader with AARP’s Southern Oregon Community Action.

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President's Pen

I hope that you all had some window of freedom this summer. John and I and my mother managed to get away for a drive up the Coast to meet 3 high school friends from the fabulous Sitka Class of '69. Great to joke, eat together, play games, escape the smoke, and see the beautiful Pacific.

The Board and Off-Board met in person in early July at Kathleen Donham's lovely cabin in Union Creek, steps from the infant Rogue River. We hadn't seen each other in over a year. We felt grateful and optimistic for what our plans would bring in the Fall.

So here we are again with all our plans now relegated to Zoom. In-person meetings are impossible so I am counting on you all to rally and show up for scheduled events.

September 9th at 11:30, I will be introducing Liz James who is a committed advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. Liz will help us understand how people suffer from a lack of equity in healthcare and human rights. I found her to be incredibly engaging and I'm so happy to give her a platform for our first meeting on the 2021-2022 calendar. See you all there!

Zoom Invitation for Liz James Event September 9th @11:30: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82197842281>

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

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LWVRV

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

--- By Shirley Weathers, Guest Columnist

Giving Life to the DEI Resolution

Among 2021 activities of the LWVRV is initiation of a [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resolution](#) (DEI) that delegates to the 2021 League of Women Voters of Oregon Convention passed unanimously. After adoption by our Board, we invited the other four southern Oregon local leagues to join us in bringing it to the convention. All of them did—the Umpqua Valley and Curry, Klamath, and Coos County Leagues. Click the link above to review the whole resolution, but here's the operative part:

Therefore, be it resolved LWVOR encourages all local leagues in Oregon to join the state League to 1) Update their bylaws to be consistent with Article II of the LWV bylaws as amended by the membership at the June 2020 Convention; 2) Develop a DEI Policy for their League that is consistent with the spirit and principles of the 2017 national Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy or utilize the LWVUS DEI Policy verbatim and implement it appropriately across both their Voter Service and Action work; 3) Familiarize themselves with the DEI Lens and use it as a tool to do their work in ways that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion; and 4) Ensure adherence to the Racial Justice Resolution adopted at the 2020 LWVUS Convention in all of their work to facilitate the eradication of systemic racism.

As the body of the resolution conveys, this stems from critical actions by the national LWV that have added *diversity, equity and inclusion* as a second core policy as we embark on our second 100 years. The singular core policy driving our first century voter services and action and continuing going forward is *nonpartisanship*.

A resolution is just words unless its tenets are nurtured and applied. In this, the first issue of *Voters' Voice* after the end of the 2021 Legislative Session, I want to highlight to members not able to see firsthand how the efforts of the LWVOR Action Team, made up of individual volunteer League members from all over the state, demonstrated commitment to DEI. One way they did that was by supporting through testimony on bills and budget items identified as priorities by the 11-member [BIPOC \(Black, Indigenous and People of Color\) Caucus](#) of the Oregon Legislature.

Here are just a few of the bills relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion the League lent our support to during the past session: [HB 3352](#), Cover All People, dedicates \$100 million to extend Medicaid benefits to undocumented residents who would be eligible for coverage if they were citizens. [HB 2590](#), the Student Voice Bill, creates a mechanism whereby college and university students can speak directly to lawmakers about their needs and concerns. [HB 2337A](#), declares

that racism is a public health crisis (that bill didn't pass, but the intent was accomplished in [HR 6](#), which did pass). [HB 2021](#), 100% Clean Energy, invests \$50 million in local jobs and clean energy for rural, coastal, low-income and BIPOC communities. [HB 2165](#), takes steps to insure affordability of clean energy-powered vehicles. [SB 778](#) makes significant improvements in needs of immigrants and refugees. [HB 2289](#) is one of several bills focused on community needs related to wildfire recovery. [HB 2842](#), Healthy Homes, invests \$10 million to enable low-income Oregonians to improve energy efficiency, safety, and drive down living costs.

We weren't successful on everything. We and others worked hard for passage of [SB 286](#), that would have created a new Environmental Justice Council within the Department of Environmental Quality and provided funding. That didn't pass. Nor did [HB 2358](#), that would have required that farmworkers be paid for overtime work, 83 years after passage of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. But priorities for 2022 are forming and LWVOR Action will no doubt be there, working with others.

This is, I believe, what the national League and the DEI Resolution passed during the Oregon Convention is about. Kudos, folks! Let's keep it going.

[LWVOR Action Team members from LWVRV include Barbara Klein (Governance); Bill Walsh (Social Policy: Healthcare), and Shirley Weathers (Natural Resources and Climate Emergency). Joyce Chapman supported Natural Resources work on Housing and Wildfire Recovery.]

Climate Change News

Shirley Weathers, Climate Change Coordinator

Jordan Cove Energy Project—Where we appear to be now

The 15 year-long plan of Canadian companies to build a pipeline across southern Oregon and a liquified natural gas (LNG) and export facility in Coos Bay has experienced little but losses and reversals over much of the past two years. Current owner Pembina still hangs on, despite managing to obtain only a handful of around 50 federal, state, and local permits needed to begin construction. The project has obtained two key federal permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), but lost three separate attempts to challenge the denial of essential permits by the State of Oregon. In recent weeks, it lost two more of several local land use permits it once held.

Meanwhile, the natural gas industry is experiencing bumps in the road. Recent court decisions cast question on whether the right of eminent domain extends to a pipeline project entirely devoted to foreign export. The well-kept secret—that methane, the key component of natural gas, is not “green”—is out. Instead, it is highly prone to leakage during transport and storage and is in important ways a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. The overall fortunes of fossil fuels are falling as the disastrous effects of climate change are all in stark and horrific evidence worldwide.

Opponents soldier on while Pembina holds out. We are now awaiting oral arguments before the Court of Appeals of the DC Circuit at the end of October in a case jointly brought by Oregon, tribes, landowners, and environmental groups challenging the two FERC permit approvals. But despite the long, continuous slog and uncertainty, particularly for landowners, the case may hold promise of a precedential silver lining or two. We will be setting the alarm on October 28, 2021 to catch the 9:30 a.m. (ET) start of those arguments.

More on Climate Change

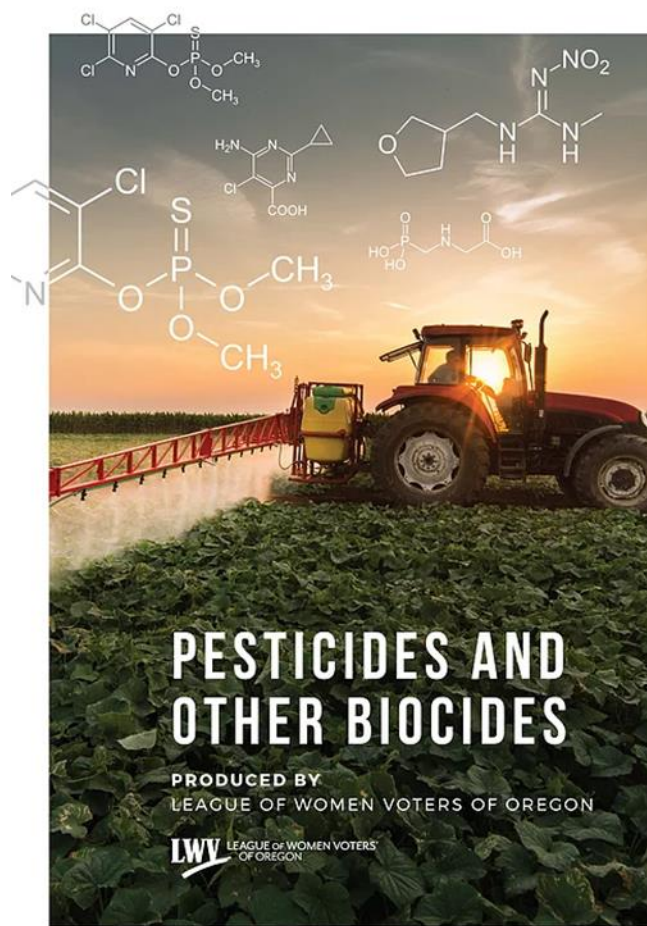
We in the Rogue Valley need only to look out the window, sniff the air outside, or visit our favorite reservoir to know that far more is happening related to climate change (and needs to happen) than preventing Jordan Cove. This is a particularly busy month, but I plan on doing some branching out in future issues of the *Voters' Voice*. In the meantime, for an idea of what Oregon is doing to address climate change issues here—from wildfires to water to transportation to building and more—the Sine Die issue of the LWVOR's “Legislative Report” will include wrap-up analyses of actions taken by the Oregon Legislature during the 2021 General Session. If you've already signed up for the Legislative Report, the Sine Die issue will show up soon in your inbox. If not, go to [Legislative Report | League of Women Voters of Oregon \(lwvor.org\)](https://lwvor.org) after August 29.

Retreat Notes Summer 2021 – Kathleen Donham (next 3 articles)

Rogue Valley members met for an outdoor summer retreat at Union Creek. The take-away message was that as a local league we will need to adapt to attract new members. Our traditional monthly daytime in-person meeting model no longer attracts younger working people. We can challenge ourselves to step into our communities searching for how we can contribute as representatives of the League. Collaboration with people who are working on the positions we hold can be a way to meet our goals, attract new talent, and promote our organization. We foresee prioritizing our Observer Corps, and getting feedback about our studies and programs from local experts and organizations.

We also discussed housing the League archives with the Jackson County Historical Society in a formal searchable format. Olena Black has initiated this project and followed through with organizing records and literature. Please contact Olena at webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org if you can help or have archival materials to donate.

Pesticides and Other Biocides—LWV Oregon 2021 Study



This new state study is ready for our review. The text is on-line at LWVOR.org under the “studies” heading. Call 503-581-5722 to get a published copy if you want. We will have a meeting to review/clarify the material on November 11th (Veteran’s Day) 2021 either on Zoom or in-person depending on the status of COVID recommendations. The consensus questions will be published in the October newsletter, and are also on-line with the study https://fab67f44-53c0-4d55-8f3f-38f29e9a1504.filesusr.com/ugd/cf41d8_f1c3f5c58dcf4c9981c4917b85d51f0f.pdf Consensus meetings will be scheduled soon after the November meeting and announced in October. The study requires careful review, so take a look at it *now*.

Voters Service—*changed to Voter Education*: Help register Voters this month

LWVOR Voters Service Chair Betsy Pratt has resigned from that position [thanks Betsy for a great job!], and the State League is changing the name to “Voter Education” because the designation better describes the League’s role. The new state chair (as yet unknown) will oversee Speakers Bureau, Vote 411.org, and traditional voter registration.

National Voter Registration Day is September 28, and LWVRV will register voters in Ashland that day. We will also register voters on September 15 in Grants Pass and Medford on the Rogue Community College campus for enrollment day. We can always use help for these events. Please call Kathleen Donham at 541-772-5044 or email her at KDonham@gmail.com if you can help out on either date.

Speaking with Conservatives on RCV – Barbara Klein

LWV Rogue Valley sponsored, and Barbara Klein (LWVRV Action Chair) hosted, an unusual meeting this summer, entitled **Conservative Voices on Ranked Choice Voting**. This “conversation” included RCV supporters with conservative ties and views. If you missed this interesting event, you can see it here <https://youtu.be/1NP54fE71XQ>



“Conversation meetings” are held for LWV Election Reform Advocates around the nation. This one was sponsored by LWV Rogue Valley OR and LWV Sacramento County, CA. If you wish to be on the announcement list, contact Barbara Klein at action@lwvroguevalley.org

Healthcare Action Update

By Bill Walsh

The 2021 General Session of the Oregon Legislature is now history. Most of the ambitious bills to regulate portions of the healthcare market were unsuccessful. However, many programs and needs that have gone unmet were able to be funded this year. Highlights of the bills the League supported that did pass during the Session follow:

[SB 428](#) passed, extending the sunset on the 20-member Task Force on Universal Health Care from January 2, 2022 to January 2, 2023 and extending the due date of a statutorily required report from the 2021 legislative session to September 30, 2022. The Task Force, created in the 2019 Session, is charged with designing the Health Care for All Oregon Plan, a universal health care system providing equitable, high quality, affordable, and comprehensive care. The Plan would be publicly funded and available to every individual residing in Oregon. SB 428 also appropriated \$516,768 in General Fund money to carry out the work of the Task Force.

[SJR 12](#), known as the Hope Amendment, passed after having been introduced in eight previous sessions by the late Representative Mitch Greenlick. Passage will put before the Oregon voters in November 2021 the question of whether the Constitution should be amended to add that access to healthcare for every resident is a right, rather than, as it is now for all too many, a privilege that's beyond reach. The LWVOR supported the bill, in part due to addition this year of a provision we suggested in the past: "(2) The obligation of the state described in subsection (1) of this section must be balanced against the public interest in funding public schools and other essential public services, and any remedy arising from an action brought against the state to enforce the provisions of this section may not interfere with the balance described in this subsection."

[HB 2337](#), declaring that racism is a public health crisis and outlining specific data collection, did not pass, but the declaration portion of the bill was accomplished in [HR 6](#), which did pass.

[HB 3352](#), Cover All People takes another important step towards extending health insurance coverage in Oregon. The COVID-19 pandemic shows in no uncertain terms that we must address disparities and inequities in society in the near-and long-term timeframes. Near term, BIPOC populations are suffering higher incidences of serious cases and deaths due to COVID. Longer term we will need to restructure our public health system to ethically and practically deal with this situation. Passage of HB 3352 points us in the right direction by renaming the Health Care for All Oregon Children program to the Cover All People program and expands eligibility to adults who would qualify for Medicaid-funded state medical assistance program but for their immigration status.

Sorting and Archiving – The League History of the Rogue Valley Going to Southern Oregon Historical Society – Olena Black

Researchers in the future may have numerous interests that are hard to predict. If current researchers are any indicator of interest in the role of women in government and in issues of the public sphere, future researchers will be well served by the materials in the League of Women Voters files. Those who want to research the ideas that were current in different decades will also find the materials useful.

Over the decades the officers of the Medford and Ashland Leagues kept the files they used to research for studies, minutes, newsletters, and other items of League organization.

In 2018, the files for the Ashland League were at the public library in Ashland. Changes in the public library organization led to Olena Black and Jackie Clary bringing eight banker boxes of files dating from 1964 to Olena's history room. Meanwhile, the files for the Medford League resided in Kathleen Donham's barn. Items dating from the early 1950s were in a 4-drawer file cabinet and several tote boxes.

With the anniversary of the Century of Women's Vote upon us, some of us decided to make inquiry to the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) regarding the possibility of archiving the work of the League. On the 100th anniversary of the extension of the right to vote to women and the founding of the League to educate citizens on issues, the materials are a valuable part of the democratic political history of Jackson County. The impressive rosters of names of those who did the work of educating on issues, informing voters, and promoting good government is a testament to the goal set at origination of the League of Women Voters in 1920. May the researchers of the future be impressed on how effectively women and men of the League met the goals.

Now you just don't get to drop off a bunch of boxes at the SOHS. You have to apply to them for accessioning. That is the fancy word for a rather technical process of adding a collection to the Historical Society. It is the formal process used to accept and record an object or documents as part of the society collections.

LWVRV history fits with the purpose of SOHS general collection:

“Society shall collect and preserve objects and research materials that relate to or are representative of the scope and diversity of human experience in Jackson County and Southern Oregon. “

The SOHS has a very clear set of steps. Olena Black first asked the LWVRV Board about pursuing the donation, and at the 2021 retreat the Board agreed.

Once SOHS accepts a collection, it has a very clean and controlled ownership. The materials are available for research under the supervision of the archivist. Researchers may check out the materials under supervision.

“Access to the collections will be strictly controlled and carefully monitored by the Executive Director or his/her designee. The Society will generally provide reasonable access to objects or documents that are not on public display for the purposes of study, research and reproduction with a reasonable amount of advance notice and approval.”

We then sought approval from the SOHS Board to accept the collection. Upon approval, the materials were collected for sorting to remove redundancy. Multiple copies were reduced.

Olena Black's garage became a sorting studio. As of this writing, the contents of the boxes have been resorted and consolidated by study name, issues reference materials, and newsletters. The League organization documents, such as minutes and annual meetings, are grouped. Any researcher can see how a grass roots political organization has remained active and relevant for 100 years.

The extra copies are interesting reading and were kept to permit current members to peruse them. We often discover our future in our past.

The estimated date for getting the materials to the SOHS is September of 2021.



Normary Barrett working the files

Proposed LWVRV 2021 -2022 General Meetings – Jackie Clary

With everything seemingly so topsy-turvy, we bravely announce the schedule for our monthly general meetings (second Thursday of every month, from 11:30 AM – 1 PM). We had wanted to meet in person, but now we will have to wait for the “All safe” call from the Governor. It’s back to Zooming for the time being. (Incidentally, is there anyone amongst our talented group that could host a large Zoom meeting so that Margie doesn’t have to do it every time? She needs a break, right Margie?) The following list is what we have planned, but things can – and do – change. Please look for updates in the Newsletter or your email.

September – Speaker Liz James (information included elsewhere in this Newsletter).

October – La Clinica will be the subject of this meeting.

November – Consensus on the **Pesticides and Biocides** study (see page 6). You may have ordered a printed copy but it is also available at the LWVOR.org website.

December – This is usually our month to “share” with another organization or address a community need. We have yet to identify what/who that might be.

January – Our annual program planning meeting. This is the time to bring suggestions for future local studies. Beforehand, plan an argument regarding need, develop a focus, and have a potential committee ready.

February – We would like to talk about water at this general meeting. We are not yet sure of the context.

March – This month the topic will be guns. We would like to address this fraught subject with the emphasis on safety and as a public health issue.

April – A field trip to a transitional housing site.

May – Annual Meeting possibly combined with our twice postponed members’ luncheon.

This is our plan as of September 2021!

LWVRV Calendar

September – Centennial Luncheon Postponed

- Thursday 9 Members meeting, 11:30
- Thursday 16 Board meeting, 10:30
- Monday 27 Newsletter submissions due

October

- Thursday 14 Members meeting, 11:30
- Thursday 21 Board meeting, 10:30
- Wednesday 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>