



January 7, 2023
Ashland Library, at 11:00 am
Interest-Unit Meeting

The first of the LWVRV's new Interest-Unit meetings is planned for January.

Jim Crary will be hosting 3-5 meetings (depending on group choices).

Title:

An Electronic Candidate Forum ("ECF") would be a new tab, located under "Voting & Elections," on the Oregon Secretary of State's website. There is absolutely nothing like it, anywhere.

Background:

With the ECF website:

There will be no need to go to a building and listen to oral candidate questions (and oral answers) asked by someone else because it will be the voters, not a moderator, who ask the candidates questions. Questions could be asked, 24/7/365 from any smartphone, laptop, or desktop. (The questions and answers will be open for anyone to see, 24/7/365 but only registered voters can ask questions.)

After the election, all questions and answers will be archived and kept for future review, access, and accountability.

Voters will make their decision on who to vote for based, not upon negative 30-second T.V. or radio ads, but instead upon the written answers to their questions.

Voter apathy and cynicism will both be addressed by making candidates run campaigns that are:

1. Responsive/interactive
2. Informative/educational
3. Substantive; and
4. Something that voters feel engaged with and empowered by.

If you are interested in the ECF proposal, please join us at the **Ashland Library at 11:00 AM, on January 7th 2023.** For more information or questions, you can contact Jim Crary at: craryj@gmail.com or by texting him at 541.531.2912.

Note from the board: All members are invited and no experience is necessary. However, anyone who has used, or worked with, Vote-411 would be particularly welcomed to share their ideas about whether these systems could be complementary.

What does LWV Rogue Valley stand for? - Barbara Klein

January Meeting online

1/12/2023

From 11:30 – 1:00

Open Office Hours

When a League takes action, it is always based on a position we have (whether from the local, state, or national level).

You can think of this collection of positions (established by study/consensus or concurrence) as our “**platform.**” Similar to how political parties have platforms of their policies, we too have a platform, even though we are party-neutral.

Each year there is an opportunity for members to weigh in. **January is “Program Planning”** in the LWVRV League. This is NOT about event planning – it’s how we decide our platform; what we want to work on to make a policy portfolio. Among other things it’s when studies & concurrences are considered and debated. Also, when limited resources of energy are prioritized.

You will receive an invitation to an “**Open Office Hours**” zoom to ask questions or make comments about proposals for studies or action priority, etc. Along with the invitation you will receive information about this process and what you may be asked to consider. You’ll receive a link to our policy positions to review and instructions as to how to make proposals. These will be **decided upon at the next board meeting** (January 19th).

The Open Office Hours will be held via zoom on **Thursday, January 12th at 11:30-1:00 PM**

As a recap for LWV Oregon:

- This year we finished up studies for Pesticides and Biocides, Privacy & Cybersecurity.
- Also finishing up are two updates – Childcare Methods and the Election Methods Study. The Election Methods Study Update will not need consensus meetings, as it is an informational report. Both may be part of educational meetings for our members.
- We’re being asked by Lane County League to support a study on the Recall Process in OR. (You will receive a copy of the email from Linda Lynch, Lane County for information on this Recall study info.) Currently, I am unsure if there are additional state study proposals.
- We had no local studies this past year.

Relevant information will come in a separate email to the membership early in January.



Letter from Chair for the New Year

The new year is here. Like many, I generally can't resist saying to myself that "I vow to do some things differently." Not trying to make true New Year Resolutions mind you, just some modifications (if possible). I am no better at sticking to resolutions than anyone else, but I encourage myself to use a bit of down-time to reflect on reasonable changes.

For our Local League, I have two things on my mind. First, I would like to make certain that members with a passion – even a small passion – can find an avenue to explore it with our Rogue Valley members. Everyone needs to feel free to ask questions and then experience an accommodating sounding-board. Secondly, whether it is my own passion (Ranked Choice Voting) or a passion that is held by any of you, I would like us to WORK TOGETHER to make sure we don't OVER-WORK each other.

It's difficult to do all we want in the League, or all we want in life. Travel. Enjoyment of Arts. Education. Entertainment. Taking care of our Health. We have lots on our plates. On the other hand, anything a volunteer does for the League is an appreciated civic aspiration and can afford us a sense of more purpose.

With little family in the area, I have spent the holidays with my husband and friends. [I do thank "Zoom" for connections to those otherwise too far apart.] The League and League members are also a sort of family. I hope we can all do our own part in taking care of our history, our work, and making us a healthier group.

My best to all of you this New Year,
Barbara Klein (current rotating chair)

On behalf of the LWV Rogue Valley,
and due to your donations,
we were able to give

Northwest Seasonal Workers Association

196 pair of Socks (men, women, kids).

Thanks to Kate Culbertson and Rick Bennett
for making that happen.



December Luncheon

Thank you LWV RV Members

You raised \$387

For the
Veterans for Peace
at our December Luncheon

... Also, a special thank-you to member
Judith Kurinsky for helping to plan
speakers.

And to Judith and board member,
Sharon Perper, for venue planning.



A Thank you from the Veterans for Peace

...Just a short note thanking the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley for inviting myself and **Allen Hallmark** from Veterans for Peace 156 to speak at your December meeting.

It was certainly our pleasure and we also really appreciated the lunch, as well.

We also really appreciated *the passing of the hat and we as a group are working on doing something really special with the funds that were given to us.*

Please forward this note to the rest of the group and let them know how much we appreciated everything. Here's to a wonderful Holiday Season and may 2023 be an awesome year, as well.

My best, Rhonda Loftis
Veterans for Peace VFP 156



Keep your Eyes open for another Interest-Unit this New Year. Electoral Reform

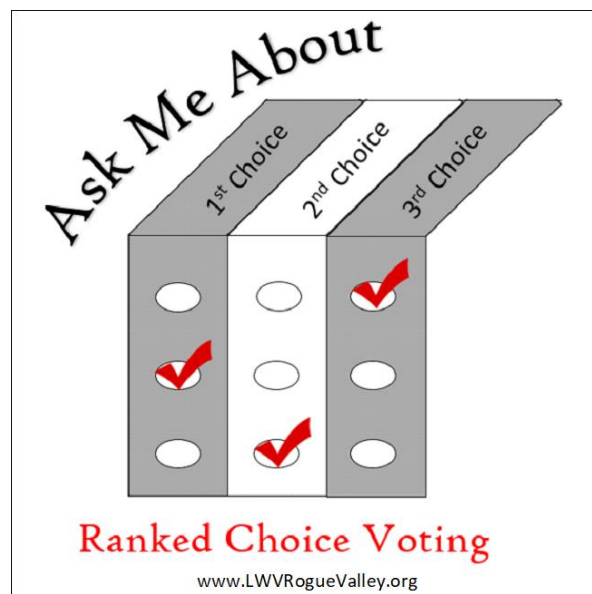
On the PBS Newshour (12/19/2022) Judy Woodruff asked her speakers, “what gift you think should be given to...any particular politician, or what would you like to see the parties get?” for whatever holiday they celebrate.

Amy Walter, a regular and from the Cook Political Report replied this way (from the transcript):

I think we have learned this election — and maybe we have learned from a series of elections — if we're going to reform the system, if we want a different kind of person to come to Washington or to be an elected office, it's not going to — there's not one answer. There's not one silver bullet.

*But I do think that putting — under my tree, **I would like to see more ranked-choice voting be implemented across the country**, so that we can see the kind of candidate who needs to put together a coalition to win a ranked-choice voting means you can't rely just on your hardcore base. You got to — you got to have a little more diversity.*

Barbara Klein will be facilitating at least a couple meetings as a Ranked Choice Voting Interest-Unit. Keep your eyes open for the time and place.



Legacy Member: Lorraine Werblow

(A legacy member has been with the League for 50 or more years!)

Our legacy member was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1938, to a friendly and close neighborhood. Her dad was a mover and her mom, an experienced seamstress, was at home. She and her older sister wore lovingly homemade clothes. After primary school, she moved from Midwood to Flushing High Schools. As her mom was ill, she moved into her sister's home.

Lorraine married in 1963 to Bernard Werblow. He worked in a bank. Two sons, Steve and Eddie, were born as Lorraine handled the Tenant's Association Presidency of two large buildings in the Bronx.

Thanks to a move to New Rochelle, NY, the League found her! She joined the local League home group, bringing Eddie along with her. One of her first "Study and Defend" speeches concerned prayer in school. For 5 years she presented a cable interview as Co-President. At the same time, she worked from home as a full-charge bookkeeper.

Wow, where next? School board for 5 years! Then her most fun, she organized the Centennial Celebration of 1999 for New Rochelle, a huge community gathering!

Afterwards Bernie decided to retire and they moved to the Rogue Valley, but she was still bookkeeping and thank goodness joined our League! She has served as Treasurer, President, Advocate, Cheerleader, Super Supporter, and Main Leader! Bernie died unexpectedly in June, 2014.

Two additional accomplishments she mentioned included her success getting microphones for County Commissioners public meetings AND achieving the 100th Centennial Luncheon with 100 Members of our Rogue Valley League!

As we all know, the guiding force to Lorraine is a sense of humor and an unending capacity to LISTEN. She now volunteers with the Resolve Mediation Center and focuses on small claims, tenancy, and foreclosure avoidance.

She would like us to focus on interest-unit visits with Council members, Board of Education, younger members, and any efforts new and old to reach out to neighbors.

Thank you, Lorraine, for your years of service, we cherish you.

We are aware that Nancy Swan is also a legacy member and we will be highlighting her in a future article. If you know of others, please contact Jean Buck at buckjean11@yahoo.com or 541-944-6271



LWVRV Calendar

January

- Saturday 7 * Electronic Candidate Forum Interest Unit, 11:00, Ashland Library
* Oregon Legislative Session Begins
- Wednesday 11 LWVRV sponsors a nationwide meeting on Proportional Representation featuring guest speaker Deb Otis, Research Director of FairVote. (Registration info to come)
- Thursday 12 Open Office/Members Meeting, 11:30-1:00, Zoom
- Thursday 19 Board meeting, 10:00
- Friday 27 Newsletter submissions due

February

- Thursday 16 Board meeting, 10:00
- Friday 27 Newsletter submissions due

- The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to the newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org and 541-830-0602.
- LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster:
webadmin@lwvroguevalley.org
- Website: <https://lwvroguevalley.org/wp>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvr/>
- Email: pres@lwvroguevalley.org
- If you must have a mailed paper copy of this newsletter, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org
- You should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National.
- **For a membership application, go [here](#)**