

December “Giving Meeting” is Back

Mark your calendar and RSVP NOW *

Thursday, December 14, 2023 11 am – 1 pm

This year’s Giving Meeting supports:

Ukrainian Families in the Rogue Valley

Speaker: **Scott Bandoroff, Ph.D.**, founder of Uniting for Ukraine Rogue Valley

More about Dr. Bandoroff at: www.peakexperience.org

We’ll also hear what’s happening with the League!

Where: **Elmer’s Restaurant South** - 68 E Stewart Avenue, Medford 541- 499-6721

Lunch will be ordered individually off the menu.

*** To RSVP**, or for more event information, contact:

Judith Kurinsky kurinsky26@gmail.com or Debra Har tdrh1@hotmail.com



A Fair Shake for Women

Barbara Klein

The League of Women Voters does not support women candidates – we don't support ANY candidates. On the other hand, we support election procedures and structures that give a fair shake to women and all other groups. Candidates should win on their policies, not because a system is rigged in their favor.

Several [LWVOR studies](#) and the [county government study by LWVRV](#) have laid out one of the avenues to such 'fairness.' That being the electoral structure of **Proportional Representation (PR)**. I'd like to remind us that PR isn't new and we weren't the first Leaguers to support this. Our founding mother, **Carrie Chapman Catt**, not only supported PR, but was a founding member of another group called Proportional Representation League. As such, it's in our history to both back and understand PR.

PR is a clearer path to 'parity' for all groups; *not* assuring that a candidate wins, but that all get a fair shot. A recent article by Represent Women, posted by substack.com - [How many years longer: What is the path to equal gender representation?](#) - addressed this issue while reviewing stats from around the world. I quote from that article:

“According to our research, [women tend to fare better in proportional voting systems](#) compared to majority and plurality voting systems. By allowing for multiple winners and diversifying candidate pools, proportional voting systems mitigate barriers that have historically gate-kept women from serving in elected office.

65% of countries that attained their best year have either proportional (PR) or semi-proportional (semi-PR) voting systems. This finding echoes [previous research](#) that has established a positive relationship between gender quotas, proportional representation, and women's representation.”

I mentioned in a recent newsletter that for the first time ever, two states (Maine and Oregon) received a grade of 'A' for gender parity. The rest of the country is not doing so well (Louisiana got an 'F'). Social conditions may have allowed Oregon's rise to this level, but it won't guarantee it. PR is a guarantee to best represent diverse views, no matter what our gender, race, urban/rural location, or party.

PR cannot exist when electing just ONE seat (one winner). It is a system that needs to elect multiple seats at once (like school boards, city councils, or legislatures). That means it can't exist in narrow, small, single districts. Countries around the world (and many jurisdictions in the US) have come to realize this is a better way to REPRESENT VOTERS.

National “Votes for Women” Trail

Jim Buck



In early June of this year, my wife, Jean, and I were taking an evening walk in the town of Kanab, Utah and came across this sign. We were in Kanab to visit Grand Canyon National Park after visiting Bryce and Zion earlier in the week.

I wasn't familiar with the National Votes for Women Trail, but seeing this sign piqued my interest. From their website, ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail, I learned this is a project of The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, and that The National Votes for Women Trail is collecting sites from all over our country to tell the untold story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, that extends well past the passage of the 19th amendment.

In addition to this Kanab site, I was interested to see if there were any in Jackson and Josephine counties. By going to the trail map, ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/#trail, I discovered two in Jackson but none in Josephine.

The Medford site is described as “On May 3, 1912, the Medford Carnegie Library Board refused to allow the Medford Equal Suffrage League to hold a meeting at the library. The librarian, Miss Elizabeth Robinson, had the unfortunate task of delivering the news to the “indignant suffragists,” who relocated their meeting across the street to the Hotel Medford. Many of the women denied access that day were also members of the Greater Medford Club, “the prime moving force” in Medford getting its public library.”

You can filter on the trail map by city and state, so maybe on your next travel adventure you will see if there are any sites on your route.

Unit Meetings: Sneak Peek of Election Reform Issues Planned for the 2024 Ballot



Barb Barasa, Denise Krause, Bonnie Johnson, and Rick Bennet were presenters and Barbara Klein organized and hosted the “Sneak Peek of Election Reform Issues Planned for the 2024 Ballot” at the Ashland Library, Medford Library and on Zoom.

If you were unable to attend either of the two in-person meetings or Zoom meeting, you can see a [recording of the Zoom meeting on the LWVOR youtube channel](#).

Did You Know...

Did you know that most of your annual membership fee goes to the LWV of Oregon and LWV of the United States to fund their important work? If you would like to contribute to your local league, go to our Donate page at lwvroguevalley.org/?page_id=40 or add a little extra when it is time to renew.

LWVRV Calendar

November

- Tuesday 7 Special Elections
- Tuesday 21 2024 Election Cycle Discussion – Luncheon Location TBA
- Monday 27 Newsletter articles due

December

- Thursday 14 Giving Meeting, 11:00-1:00, Elmer's Restaurant South
- Wednesday 27 Newsletter articles due

- The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley welcomes submissions to our newsletter, *The Voters' Voice*. Editor Jim Buck can be reached at newsletter@lwwroguevalley.org and 541-830-0602.
- LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster: webadmin@lwwroguevalley.org
- Website: lwwrv.org
- Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lwwrv/
- Email: pres@lwwroguevalley.org
- If you must have a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwwroguevalley.org
- LWV members should also be receiving newsletters by email from State and National LWV.
- **To join LWVRV or renew your membership** online using check or debit card, or to download a membership application form and mail it to us, [click here to go to our website](#)
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV**, [click here to go to the donation page on our website](#)