

**We Made a Difference
to the Ukrainian Families of Rogue Valley
THANKS to Your GENEROSITY**

To all our League members who attended the Giving Luncheon on Dec 14th or who have donated to this year's cause, the LWVRV board thanks you.

Due to your generosity, between cash, checks and gifts cards, we raised \$1275 for the Uniting Ukraine Families in Rogue Valley. If you would still like to give to Ukrainian families in the Rogue Valley, you can do so here: www.unitingforukrainerv.org/donate.

Our speaker, Dr. Scott Bandoroff, is also one of the founders of the organization aiding Ukrainian families in the Rogue Valley. He was as generous sharing his time with us as he has been with his time in helping all these families (now over 25, which is more than other areas of Oregon). Dr. Bandoroff was also accompanied by another volunteer of the organization and a young woman who fled Ukraine during the war. Many of us were able to speak with her about her current situation and hopes.

A special thanks goes to members **Judith Kurinsky** and **Debra Har** for all their help with logistics and for the special hand-made candles.

Of course, we did League business as well. I thank those members who helped in other ways, including Kathleen Donham and Jim and Jean Buck. Additionally, kudos to Bonnie Johnson and Rick Bennett who continued to collect signatures at the event for the ballot measures we are supporting.

Two guests added to the fun. Estelle Gray gave away several flags. She founded Ukraine Flags for Solidarity (all profits going to those in need). Sal Edwards (who holds a monthly zoom meeting with local residents in Lviv) emceed a few questions to our group to decide the flag giveaway. Clever Nancy Swan won one. (All our members are invited to the monthly Lviv zoom call; contact me for information.)

Thanks again to all.

Wishing you a lovely New Year,

Barbara Klein, Action Chair

Email: action@lwvrv.org

Photos from LWVRV meeting and luncheon on December 14, 2023



Voter Service News - January 2024

By Kathleen Donham, Voter Service voterservice@lwvroguevalley.org

The LWV of the Rogue Valley includes Josephine County, and their May 21, 2024 primary will involve significant ballot measures. Rogue Community College has asked the League to participate in their Voter Education projects:

- 1) The first scheduled event is a registration table on **Wednesday, February 21 from 11 AM to 1 PM** at the Redwood Campus. The RCC Honors Society will be organizing the table with help from League members and our resources.
- 2) A Voter Ballot Information session will be held **Wednesday, May 1 from 11 AM to 1 PM**, also at the Redwood Campus in Grants Pass.

The **Josephine County Ballot Measure 17-116** will replace the Josephine County Charter and is comparable to the Jackson County structural changes concerning the County Commissioners. Crafted by the Citizens for Responsible Government, the text is available here (pdf): www.josephinecounty.gov/20230918133338.pdf.

There will be an event sponsored by the Citizens for Responsible Government on Saturday, February 3 at Wild River Pub in Grants Pass at 5 PM to discuss the issue. The League will also answer questions about Ballot Measure 17-116 at the May 1 event on campus, although the League has not taken a position on the measure.

The final date for candidate filings is **March 12**. The Vote411 process will start for the Rogue Valley on that day as we enter candidate data into the Vote411 site, and encourage candidates to enter their answers to our questions on-line. We can also schedule a candidate Meet and Greet for late April if there is interest.

2024 will be an interesting election year. The League welcomes any members who would like to attend Voter Service committee discussions.



What's Up at the Josephine County Library District?

By Jean Mount, Grants Pass, League of Women Voters Rogue Valley member

On December 6th, Mike and Winnie Pelfrey, property owners in Grants Pass, petitioned the county commissioners to “opt out” of the library district. The Palfrey’s cited a law, ORS 198.870, that allows for properties to withdraw from one or more than two dozen types of taxing districts in Oregon if it can be shown that it is not “feasible for the territory described in the petition to receive services from the district.”

The Commissioners did not obtain legal clarification during the Board of Commissioner meeting but proceeded to approve the “opt out”, and this means the couple would not be required to pay the 39 cents per \$1000 assessed value tax. Mr. Pelfrey stated, “I just don’t think the library does anything for my property. Period.” It’s important to note Mike Pelfrey ran for a Library Board position in 2023 and lost. He has also been a vocal critic of the library.

The Josephine County Library District was approved in 2017 by more than 40,000 voters after two previous proposals were turned down. The library district is one of three noncontiguous districts in Oregon with branches in Grant Pass, Cave Junction, Williams, and Wolf Creek, but not the entire county.

What’s happening now? The library board immediately realized the harmful impacts and said they would pursue legal action to stop this petition and other likely withdrawal petitions. They saw the approved “opt out” petition as leading to defunding and potentially shutting down of the library. The “opt out” also ignores the vote of the citizens. Now lawyers for the library represented by Hornecker Cowling have asked a judge to overturn the Josephine County Board of Commissioners decision for an “opt out”. They wrote that no “reasonable person” would look at the facts of the case and make the same decision that the commissioners made. This is a dangerous precedent that potentially could extend to other library districts and other essential services like school and fire districts.

The Josephine County Commissioners have placed all “opt out” and “opt in” requests on hold for 60 days. And now Commissioners West and Baertschiger, who approved the withdrawal of payment for this couple, are questioning whether the correct legal procedure has been followed. They now plan to obtain additional legal interpretation.

The Josephine Community Library Foundation will be using their funds rather than taxpayer dollars for legal fees. In the past, these funds have been used for the new Williams Library, renovation at the Illinois Valley branch, and securing of a prime location for a future library in downtown Grants Pass.

We await more news. And we ask for support of the Josephine County Library and all library services. We know these public services benefit us all.

Does the Idea of **Social Media** Make Your Head Swim?

Barbara Klein, Action Chair

Do you cringe at the suggestion that you (or the League) ought to be more involved in social media? Do you worry about the privacy or the vast unknown? You aren't alone.

Maybe you are on Facebook, but perhaps even that plunge seems scary. Whether you NEVER want to enter this world of the mysterious language and process, or you would at least like to understand the bare minimum of the basics, take advantage of the **LWV Oregon Youth Council**.

They've presented two webinars on social media (together covering Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Tik-Tok, Threads, and Canva). Even if you don't plan on jumping into the pool, maybe you could get your feet a wee-bit wet and understand the ideas.

You can see the video of the first webinar here:

[Part I - Social Media How To Part 1 - YouTube \(www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1DPE8DEXsY\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1DPE8DEXsY)

Congrats to the brave souls that take a peek.



Two Additional Opportunities for LWVRV Members to Engage with Youth



1. **Youth Civic Engagement Summit:** Attend this event on **Friday, January 19th** between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM at the State Library of Oregon in Salem **or attend online** to learn how you can **empower youth to support democracy in their communities!** [Click here for event details and location.](#)

[Register Here!](#)

Join the event (in-person or online) for opportunities to:

- **Attend youth-led workshops** on topics such as: Protest and Event Safety, Fighting Misinformation/Disinformation, Capacity Building and Longevity, and Community Building
- **Gain insight into forms of youth activism** and how the League can support our younger members
- **Engage in dialogue** with community members of all ages who are passionate about social change
- **Develop practical skills** for promoting effective civic participation

2. **Google Orientation:** LWV Portland invites us to join them for **Google Tutorials via Zoom.** Sign up to get the Zoom link by emailing info@LWVDPX.org

1 Hour Tutorials with Nikki over Zoom - Wednesday Mornings in January

Wed. Jan. 10 at 10am

Gmail: Access, Forwarding to personal email

Wed. Jan. 17 at 10am

Google Drive: Access, Uploading, Downloading and General navigation

Wed. Jan. 24 at 10am

Google Calendar: Access, Add events

Wed. Jan. 31 at 10am

Google Drive: Creating and saving documents

LWVRV Calendar

January 2024

- Thursday 18 Board Meeting, 10:30 via Zoom
- Friday 19 Youth Civic Engagement Summit
- Wednesdays 10-31 Google Tutorials, 10-11 AM
- Wednesday 27 Newsletter articles due

February

- Tuesday 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@lwvroguevalley.org and 541-830-0602.
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- If you must have a paper copy of this newsletter mailed to you, please call Jim at 541-830-0602 or email newsletter@lwvroguevalley.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](#)