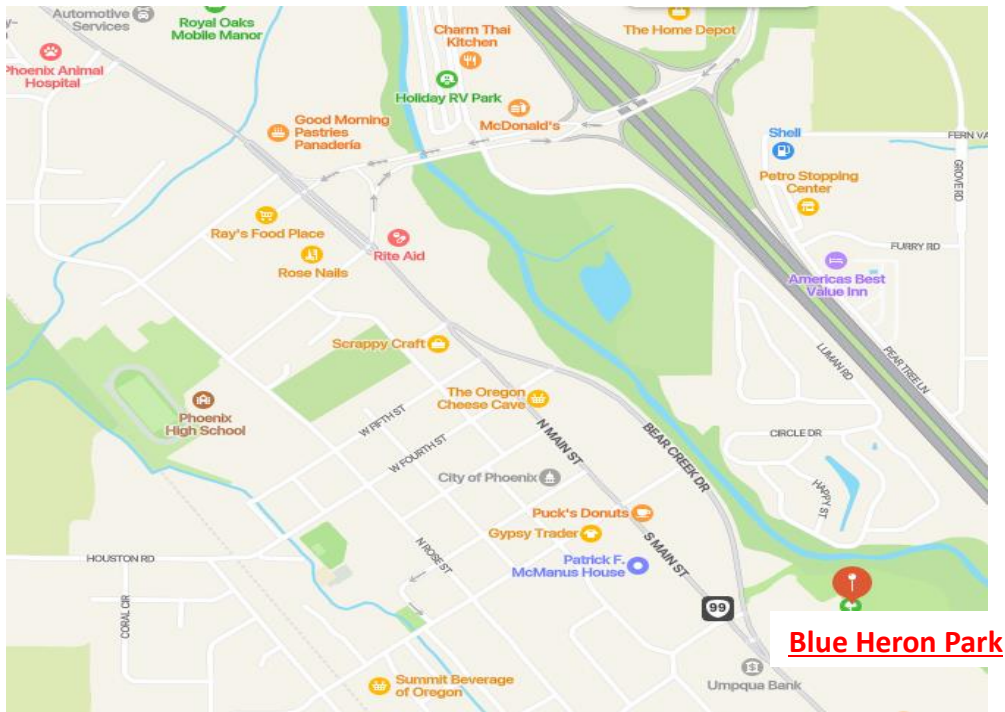


# Annual Members Meeting

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Blue Heron Park 11 AM—3 PM

Pavilion at Hwy 4385 S Pacific Hwy, Phoenix, OR



The Annual Meeting requires that at least 25% of the membership be present for the conduct of business. **Please Come!** Members are invited to bring their lunch, drinks, *and* the soon to be mailed to you Annual Meeting Packet. Please call 541-772-5044 if you need a ride coming from Medford. Note that we need more directors for the Board; please consider volunteering for a leadership position with the League.

# Coming Soon – A New League Membership System

Adapted from article by Alyce Prudden, LWV Curry County

LWVUS is rolling out a new membership system this year. Local and state leagues across the country will make the transition to the new system together, starting in January 2025. Here are the highlights.

## Membership Dues

- Dues will be collected at the national level. Local leagues members will join and renew on the LWVUS website and make their payments there.
- The standard individual membership rate will be \$75. There will also be a pay-what-you-can option, with a minimum of \$20, for which local leagues will be responsible. Household and student memberships will no longer be offered. Lifetime memberships will remain dues-free.
- From paid memberships, LWVUS will retain 33% of dues, LWVOR will receive 47%, and local leagues like LWVRV will receive 20%. The national, state, and local leagues will share credit card fees based on the same allocation.

## Donations

- Local leagues will retain 100% of member donations, provided the donations are not given at the same time as dues payments. Local leagues will need to ask new and rejoining members to separate donations from dues.

## Implementation

- The changes will be implemented using ChapterSpot, the league’s new membership platform.
- ChapterSpot will provide a centralized portal for people joining the league or renewing their membership, regardless of local league affiliation. The intent is to improve the member experience by making the joining process consistent across all leagues.
- ChapterSpot will also offer local websites and mass emailing services.
- In terms of timing, the plan is to begin the training phase in earnest after the November 2024 General Election, in preparation for launch in early 2025.





## A Look Back at Medford on our April Field Trip

By Barbara Klein

A group of LWVRV members took part in an April Field Trip with Local Historian, Ben Truwe, from the *Southern Oregon Historical Society*. Gathering at the Society office at 6<sup>th</sup> and Central in Medford, Ben began his account of both local features and the Historical Society itself.

Ben is also well known for his Jacksonville tours. This field trip, officially entitled “*Haunted Brothels and Opium Dens of Medford*”, covered much of that and more. Ben warned us up-front not to be disappointed like some of his ‘Goth’ participants who expected to hear about specific ghosts or blood running down the walls.

Instead, we learned of the ghosts of buildings past, and men and women who struggled in the early days of Medford. Did you know that as the placement of the Medford railroad was being ‘planned’, it caused quite the kerfuffle in Jacksonville with fights over routes? Or did you know that at some point in the early 1900s, about 25% of the land claims were held by women? Or that a ‘notorious’ sister duo ran one of the most ‘respectable’ brothels in downtown Medford where politicians and business men spent time. It’s now near a well-known bank drive-through. (A US government agency located near the first fire station handed out condoms to use at the sister’s establishment for those with local needs.)





Ben spoke of amazing architecture make-overs and showed us pictures of buildings still standing, but which have facades that look nothing like their original turn of the (last) century appearance. Getting back to the tour title, he pointed out one building known as the 'riding stable,' which as one very young boy found out, it was not. Ben explained the confusing story of a Chinese 'laundry' which was actually an opium den and the site of a scandalous fight over a woman. The woman, who was white, and thus an unusual client of the opium dens at the time, was an addict who escaped the hospital and then disappeared before trial and changed aliases at least 5 known times. Soap opera in all times of history.

One thing Ben wanted to make certain we all understood (new to me) is that the Historical Society in Southern Oregon is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Any of us can use it during their hours of operation. Further, due to

many newspapers published here during the early 1900s and the luck of avoiding institutional fires, we have maintained many more historical records and items than some areas. **The Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) is the second largest in Oregon.**

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## Summary of LWV Rogue Valley Board Meeting April 18th, 2024, via zoom

By Sally Smith

- Board members attending: Barbara Klein, Kathleen Donham, Olena Black, Jean Buck, Sally Smith, and off Board member, Barb Barasa .
- Vote 411 web site is up and active.
- A forum on Josephine County Commissioners ballot measure will be held at RCC, Grants Pass on 5/1.
- Law Day will be held at SOU on 5/23.
- Nominations for next year's Board members was discussed.
- The ice cream social at Mt. Meadows, Ashland, to demonstrate RCV (ranked choice voting) is set for June, date TBD.
- The 2024 LWV National Convention is in June in Washington, D.C. Delegates will include Barbara Klein and Olena Black (both attending in-person).

- Our annual membership meeting will be held on May 30th at Blue Heron Park in Phoenix starting at 11:00 AM.
  - An Oregon DOJ presentation on Civil Rights for a future meeting was discussed, held possibly at SOU or RCC in the evening to attract students.
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## LWVRV Calendar

### May

- Wednesday 1 Voter Education & Registration, Grants Pass RCC
- Tuesday 21 Primary
- Thursday 23 Law Day, SOU
- Thursday 30 Annual Meeting & Picnic, Blue Heron Park, 11 AM-3 PM
- Newsletter Summer Break June-August

- 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](mailto:newsletter@lwvroguevalley.org) and 541-830-0602.
- LWVRV  
P.O. Box 8555  
Medford, OR 97501
- Contact the webmaster: [webadmin@lwvrv.org](mailto:webadmin@lwvrv.org)
- Website: [lwvrv.org](http://lwvrv.org)
- Email: [pres@lwvroguevalley.org](mailto:pres@lwvroguevalley.org)
- 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](mailto: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](#)