

LWVRV Annual “Giving” Meeting

December 12, 11:30am – 1:30pm



IHOP Restaurant, 1383 Center Dr., Medford

[IHOP Menu](#) – Meals will be available for purchase

Bring a friend!

**Speaker: John Vinatieri
of St. Vincent de Paul**

This year LWVRV has chosen the [Rogue Valley District Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul](#) as the recipient of individual member donations received at our annual “Giving” meeting. St. Vincent de Paul is a charitable organization that offers a thrift store, a food pantry, a kitchen which serves hot meals daily, and the “Urban Rest Stop” which is comprised of laundry and shower facilities, a shelter currently housing 16 families, and housing and social services that provide rent and bill payment assistance. Volunteers provide all staffing and services.

John Vinatieri has worked with St. Vincent’s for 15 years and was the president of the Medford District Council for 3 1/2 years, 2020 through 2024 – through the pandemic and the Alameda and Obenchain fires. He is extremely knowledgeable about “St. Vinnie’s,” has many tales to tell, and always tosses in a bit of humor. You don’t want to miss his talk!

And ... there will be **an auction of two hand-made holiday wreaths**. The proceeds from the auction will go to LWVRV.

Questions? Email RVLeague@lwrv.org.

Action in our Local League

By Barbara Klein

As members know, the League has other work aside from important Voter Services. We take action on issues that we have studied. Before June, we have 4 studies (or concurrences) that would allow us new positions, and thus new action.

However, we have decades of positions already in need of action. These include a whole host of issues from climate to housing, from gun safety to education, from election reforms to water use. Do you have a passion for something that ought to be done at the **local** level (in the Rogue Valley)?

We are going to hold **two meetings on zoom** to hear from you about what you think is important *in our area*. We can't determine what your priorities are if we don't hear from you. And you need to hear from others.

Both meetings will cover the same question – **what is important to YOU in terms of action?** While the meeting subjects are the same, if different people attend, the results may be quite dissimilar.

You are invited to one **or both** of these meetings. We will schedule one in the daytime and one in the evening to capture folks with different schedules. We invite you to register for one or two of these **NOW**.

[Register](#) - Wednesday, **January 8th – 6:30 PM**

[Register](#) – Monday, **January 20th – 11:00 AM**, recognizing volunteerism on MLK day

For more information, contact Barbara Klein action@lwrv.org



LWVRV, as we tackle 4 projects involving consensus before June, please review this LWV process.

10 Tips for Running a Consensus Meeting with the League of Women Voters

(Barbara Klein, Communications LWVOR)

Background. **Action Based on Study** is a hallmark feature in the League's unique grassroots approach. Members (diverse in all ways, including members who are men) use the **LWV Consensus Process to develop "Positions"** (our platform).

There are no knee-jerk reactions to support or oppose issues. Our support (OR opposition) **MUST BE BASED ON PREVIOUSLY STUDIED ISSUES AND DEVELOPED POSITIONS**. This may not always please our members – but members agree to this to make certain that we are able to speak intelligently and with one voice nationally (for national issues) or statewide /locally for issues closer to home. It is also what motivates us to make studies happen – **so that we CAN act**.

[Matters national in scope are studied nationally, state matters at the state-level, and local issues for local leagues.]

Consensus means agreement of all or most of the group. Consensus is **not** a simple majority. Nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall **"sense of the group"** as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. Usually, minority opinions are noted as well. One reason for this is that while the opinion may represent a *minority for one group*, when combined with all those taking part in various meetings, we may find it is a broadly held view. We **respect all members' views** during the discussions.

Consensus is often difficult and is not always achieved -- when consensus is not achieved the League does not take a position. So, that means **NO ACTION**. In reporting meeting results, we list this as "no consensus."

However, usually members are able to reach a consensus on an issue or statement. It is not by "sound bite" politics or by "headline" spin, but through informed exchange of information (sometimes painfully in-depth) and by **considering all aspects or views** of the subject.

The LWV works in coalition with many different groups but always reserves the right to keep its own counsel. It is said that politics often make for 'strange bedfellows' and since the League strives to research and review all sides of issues, the results of those findings are often contrary to what may be "expected." And one of the points of real consensus building is that **NO PARTICULAR RESULT SHOULD BE EXPECTED.**

10 Tips for the Consensus Discussion

1. Set up the meeting time and place. There is no quorum for a consensus meeting. The scheduling of more than one meeting may help encourage additional members to attend. If a member attends two or more study meetings, their views should be counted only once.
2. Make certain that every member who wishes a copy of the study report (or link to it) has access. The board and/or study committee should provide membership with ample issue information before the meeting and a chance to participate.

A good consensus meeting encompasses a common base of knowledge (including the study report), equal opportunity to discuss the issue, and an atmosphere of trust.

3. Assign a discussion leader and someone to record points of view. Charts, whiteboard or other means of viewing statements is helpful while coming to agreement on language. Best if it can be easily edited.
4. The members attending the consensus discussion need to be reminded that they are asked to voice their opinions as LWV members – they do not need to be experts. This "member decision" is essential for the spirit of consensus to thrive in the meeting.
5. Consensus meetings, versus public League meetings, are for members only.
6. A consensus does not imply that the point of agreement is in *favor* of something, a consensus can be in opposition to something.
7. The discussion leader finds the areas of substantial member agreement. Although members do not have to have unanimous agreement, the presence of a sizable dissenting minority means there is no consensus. Group can also conclude that there is "no opinion due to insufficient information" – possibly suggesting further study. Another option is that the group may reach a partial consensus on certain aspects of the issue. They can "pick and choose" what they have agreement upon. This means the group may agree on parts of a question and not others, or to a "statement" that they construct and propose as an answer to the question in a different way. A summary of the agreements (pro and con) should be recorded and shared.
8. So that participating members feel satisfied that all viewpoints were heard, it is necessary to allow ample time for full discussion of the areas of disagreement or detailed explanations of contrary views.
9. Strong participation lends strength to the consensus; however, members who are not interested in the issue or are absent should not influence the consensus of the participating members.
10. Final statements of consensus (or no consensus) should be reviewed once again with participants. As directed, responses will be sent to the appropriate recipients of league-level running the study (national, state or local).

Consensus Building - The consensus results cannot be narrow and restricting because it is difficult to predict exactly what opportunities for action will present themselves. Final positions should be kept rather broad.

Civil discourse is one of the keystones of Consensus.

Civil discourse is **not weakness**- not a lack of ideas or commitment. It is a way to open your mind to information in the belief that the 'other side' may have some points to consider. It is not always easy and often takes a great deal of strength.

Sometimes your ‘strength’ is tested by the tendency just to go along with peers or a political party. More so, it takes **strength to confront YOURSELF**. We try to confront our own comfortable and familiar understandings, ideas or beliefs (and consider whether they are right, wrong, or incomplete).

Civic discourse for consensus building creates an atmosphere conducive to a safe and positive learning environment. It is safe because a member is always allowed to seek further facts in a wide range of information, expand understanding and develop an awareness of other points of view. When it is approached honestly, a true consensus process helps promote calm, rational and informed discussions on topics and issues and leads to in-depth understanding.

From LWWUS: CONSENSUS: The process used to arrive at positions on issues. The collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue. This is different than ‘concurrence’ (see below).

Note: You can also use the consensus process to choose your board’s program recommendations.

From LWWOR: A League “Position” states the League’s formal stance on a policy issue and is the cornerstone of League work. A position is formed through member-conducted study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate local or state board and then used as the basis for League action. Each position affirms a basic philosophy in general terms, defines the goals desired, and establishes guidelines against which proposals can be measured. The term “Program” encompasses the entire process—from proposing a topic for study to acting on the position reached through that study, as well as including all positions that previously adopted by the League (at local, state, regional or national levels).

* CONCURRENCE: Agreement of League members with a stated position. A means of agreement different from consensus. Concurrence is also a means for convention delegates to move the adoption of a program item. May be used at LWWUS convention to adopt a local state League or ILO position by vote of 2/3 delegates.

Note: Concurrence proposals also need a consensus. But since a proposed concurrence, either with a statement or another League position, is not substantially changed, recorders should document **agreement**, **disagreement** or a **strong dissenting minority**.

Barbara Klein, Date: Sept 2010
Updated Nov, 2024. communications@lwwor.org

Voter Service Update

By Kathleen Donham

Vote 411: LWV Rogue Valley participated in promoting the State League's Vote411 election information platform. A report of the website's use by the public nationally reflected a 50% increase in traffic during elections (greater than 9 million users). In Oregon, more than 88,000 visits were recorded, including the primary—about 5000 of which were in Jackson & Josephine County. One in three candidates participated statewide.

The LWVRV Board has suggested offering an **introduction to conducting candidate forums and moderating debates** to members. Any member with an interest in learning this skill using League-tested methods should contact Voter Service Chair Kathleen Donham at 541-772-5044.

Civic Education: With the election behind us, the League looks forward to other Voter Service priorities such as civic education. The local chapter of the [Civics Learning Project](#) offers mock trials and school-age courtroom tours in Medford for which League members can volunteer now.

Film Showing – Open to the Public

JOIN or DIE

January 22 – 6:00pm

Rogue Community College Riverside Campus, Medford

Social hour: 5pm - network with local clubs and organizations

Sponsored by Rogue Community Health



**Professor and bestselling author
Dr. Robert Putnam says:**

***“Your chances of dying
over the next year are cut in
half by joining a group.”***

Civic organizations across the country [[Guardian](#), [New York Times](#), [Harvard Kennedy School](#)] are recommending the film **Join or Die**, about civic engagement as taught by Robert Putnam. [Watch the trailer and get more information](#). Come to the film showing or watch the film on Netflix.

Questions? Contact Kathleen at 541-772-5004.

Regional Elections Results and Climate Concerns

Many of our League members, locally and statewide, share climate health as a priority concern. These notes were shared by Kathy Conway from the Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) and edited in part by LWVRV action Chair, Barbara Klein. Any typos can be attributed to Barbara. Notes cover the Rogue Valley and coastal area. We trust these highlights will give you an idea of where these areas now stand on defending our climate and sustaining our future.

Ashland

- 2017 Climate Energy Action Plan passed. SOCAN was actively involved in the development.
- Ashland Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee established.
- Rogue Climate's Youth Climate Protectors– Ashland Climate and Clean Air Ordinance - waiting review by the attorney and then for it to come back to council for approval.
- It appears that after the election there is still strong support for climate action by Mayor & Council.
- Community support needs to be strong to ensure action.

Talent

- Clean Energy Action Plan (CEAP) Integrated into the Comprehensive Plan
- Clean Energy & Clean Air Resolution
 - supported by Together for Talent and SOCAN's Climate Action Team (CAT) in Talent.
 - supporting education campaign to let Talent residents know ways they can save money on energy bills by upgrading to efficient, electric appliances.
- Following the election, there is strong support to work towards climate action goals.
- Talent CAT is working with Together for Talent Committee to develop an education campaign supported in Clean Energy & Clean Air Resolution.

Medford

- Medford's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan was developed by city staff with some input from the Medford Climate Action Team (CAT)
- Planning Director took the lead in writing and supporting this document. He has resigned; hiring the new Planning Director has not been completed.
 - This is a key position for support to move forward.
- It remains to be seen how much support there is by the new mayor and council for climate change action.
- Medford Climate Action Team is focused on working with city staff to help Medford implement the CCARP (Climate Change Adaption and Resiliency Plan).

Grants Pass

- Established the Sustainability and Energy Task Force.
- Developed the Sustainability Energy Action Plan for Grants Pass.
- Grants Pass Sustainability Advisory Committee was formed. Charged with implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- Election results – The mayor and major leaders who started the development of the Action Plan were not re-elected,

- There are still climate friendly representatives on the Sustainability and Energy Action Advisory Committee. Hope for action depends on their ability to focus on the cost savings resulting from investments in renewable energy.
- Grants Pass CAT needs to grow and provide support for those on the Grants Pass Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Coastal

- Bill Gorham is on the SOCAN Board of Directors. Related to the Coastal area, he is the Leader of SOCAN's Coastal Climate Action Team. His email is Bill@socan.eco.
 - focused on advocating for fact- and evidence-based decision making with respect to the proposed floating offshore wind projects
- OSU Sea Grant office
 - to support educational events by OSU faculty
- **Coalition for Common Ground** – education
- Anybody with an interest in Offshore Wind is encouraged to join Bill in these efforts. Much of this work is done **remotely** so living on the coast is not a requirement for engagement.
- Impact of this project by the election – we are waiting to see.

Notes:

Jacksonville

The Jacksonville CAT Reorganizing in 2025.

Impact of election on climate change activities in Jacksonville—**unclear**.

Phoenix

In the past, environmental groups, like SOCAN have not established a Climate Action Team in Phoenix.

There is now **greater opportunity** for action with the new mayor and council.

Gold Hill

Some interest in community

Election **re-elected a person to council who is supportive**.

Central Point

Some interest in community.

Impact of election on climate change activities – **unclear**.



Summary

- Except for Grants Pass, level of support after election is the same or increased
- Generally, it's not the councils that lead on climate action – it's the staff or community members generating ideas and encouraging support.
- Extent to which cities behave in a climate friendly manner is **dependent on us**.
- Ready to take action? Share your interest with the LWV Rogue Valley or sign up with one of the many climate groups, like SOCAN. Note LWVRV local action meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

LWVRV Calendar

December

Wednesday	4	Recall Process Study – Zoom, 7PM
Thursday	12	Annual Giving Meeting, Medford IHOP, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
Friday	27	Newsletter articles due

January

Wednesday	8	Action in our Local League – Zoom, 6:30 PM
Monday	20	Action in our Local League – Zoom, 11:00 AM
Friday	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@lwrvr.org and 541-830-0602 (h), 541-227-4749 (c).
- LWVRV
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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@lwrvr.org
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- **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, [go to lwrvr.org/join-us](http://lwrvr.org/join-us)
- **To donate to the Rogue Valley Chapter of LWV,** [go to lwrvr.org/donate](http://lwrvr.org/donate)