



APRIL GENERAL MEETING

JACKSON COUNTY BUDGET STUDY - April 14th, 11:30 AM, Medford Library

Come early to munch lunch and peruse the report of the joint LWVRV/Ashland two-year county budget study! The report is based on 17 interviews plus hours of write-up and committee study.

The goals of the study were to: 1) identify the sources of county revenues, 2) understand the way in which the Jackson County budget is developed and presented, 3) more clearly understand the complicated budget document, and 4) help make the county budget process more "citizen friendly" by encouraging and enabling greater citizen involvement.

Some discussion topics: 1) How can we promote more citizen awareness and timely involvement in the budget process (e.g. information on the internet, town hall meetings)?

2) What is the potential significance of state budget cuts on our county services, and how should the county respond (e.g. cutting services, seeking alternatives, using county resources)?

3) How can comparable services be better coordinated (eg. combined sites) ?

4) What should be the criteria in deciding what services should be provided by public agencies or outsourced to private agencies, either voluntary or for-profit (e.g. economics, quality of service)?

Annual Meeting luncheon, May 12. Details will be included in the annual meeting packet, to be mailed to all members in the middle of April.

INSIDE THE COVER

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Includes General Meeting/May Annual Meeting (1), President's Corner/League Leaders (2), LWVRV Nov. Board Meeting Minutes (3-4), United Nations. USA (5), LWVRV March Meeting Review (6), LWVRV Book Club/LWVRV Membership (7), and April/May Calendars (8).

MAY ANNUAL MEETING

The LWVRV Annual Meeting Luncheon will be held at the Manor's Plaza Building on May 12, 2011.

Come at 11:30am and visit. Wine will be available for purchase at \$4.00. Luncheon will be served at 12 noon. The cost per person is \$15.50.

Details will follow in the Annual Meeting Packet you will receive in the mail.

If you have questions, please call Joan Rogers at 1-541-704-5344. You must dial the "1" even though it is not long distance.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Barbara Davidson

So you can see, with me either physically in Mississippi or thinking of loved ones there, the RV League members have been so supportive and carried on with excellent programs and all that was needed to keep the League functioning. Lorraine often chaired meetings and coordinated the details along with Mary., who also helped with programs. And Shiena scheduled our speakers on Immigration even though she couldn't be there. Carol H kept the minutes coming always on time. Willie kept our accounting current even with health issues in her family. Carole L keeps us informed and always makes us look good. Cynthia is always there to help with membership and anything else, including the mail. Marcia assists with membership mailings--a job she has been doing for 20 years--can't beat that for dedication. Marylou recently joined LWVRV and has contributed many good ideas and hours.

So you can see, with me either physically in Mississippi or thinking of loved ones there, the RV League members have been so supportive and carried on with excellent programs and all that was needed to keep the League functioning. Lorraine often chaired meetings and coordinated the details along with Mary., who also helped with programs. And Shiena scheduled our speakers on Immigration even though she couldn't be there. Carol H kept the minutes coming always on time. Willie kept our accounting current even with health issues in her family. Carole L keeps us informed and always makes us look good. Cynthia is always there to help with membership and anything else, including the mail. Marcia assists with membership mailings--a job she has been doing for 20 years--can't beat that for dedication. Marylou recently joined LWVRV and has contributed many good ideas and hours.

Some of you have experienced Nancy, Shiena and Agnes at work as they have talked and cajoled to get a slate of officers for elections. Joan has answered our phone and made arrangements for Annual Meeting. Eileen, Normary, and Nancy sometimes did double or triple duty for Voter's Service. Carol I. Mickey, and many others already mentioned were always willing to help with meetings or projects. Helen has maintained our website for which we owe her much gratitude. For the last two years, RVL has had a joint study with Ashland on the County Budget process with Nancy, Judith Benjamin from Ashland, Lynn, Cynthia, Anne, and Trish (from afar) putting it many hours. Not to be forgotten are the many spouses or other family members who contributed time and gave support for our endeavors. And I know the danger of listing individual names and omitting someone, hence my apologies here. Again, thank you one and all who have helped make this a very productive year and eased my stress immeasurably. What a great group of HEROES!!

(continued on page 5)

LEAGUE LEADERS

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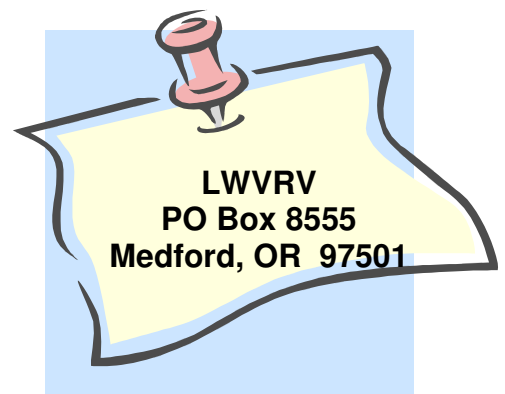
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2011

Medford Heights Townhouse Association Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood Drive, Medford

Call to Order President, Barbara Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Present at this meeting: Barbara Davidson, Joan Rogers, Marcia Smith, Carole Levi, Cynthia Lora, Nancy Swan, Mary Sinclair and Marylou Schnoes and Lorraine Werblow.

Brief check-in

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting were accepted as corrected:

Thank you from Nancy Swan and Shiena Polehn for the report on development was omitted. The mailing party was great and all help given and money received was appreciated. A reminder was made to give an article to the Voters Voice for our money drive.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Willie Bijon was not present to present a treasurer's report. Mary Sinclair will email all board members a copy of the new budget report prepared. Board members will vote via email. If approved, it will be included in the Annual Report packet. Mary mentioned the idea of changing the membership booklet to an email format. Discussion followed. Further discussion will be held.

President's Report – Barbara Davidson wanted to thank Shiena Polehn and her committee for arranging, in her absence, the speaker for the March general meeting. John Almaguer, a well-known Medford immigration attorney spoke on current immigration law and the U.S. Citizenship process. Anael Sanchez, a legal immigrant explained the process he successfully completed to become a United States citizen.

Correspondence: None given.

Reports:

LWVOR – Mary Sinclair reported that Salem's grant for Voters Service is covering the production of a new website. Klamath Falls LWV had 11 members and were considering dissolution. After their annual meeting, the membership rose to 16! Focus for workshops during the Convention will be on membership. Keynote speaker at the Convention will be William Bernstein. All information can be found on the website: LWVOR.wordpress.com. State voted to pursue the Vote 411.org website.

Voter's Voice: Carole Levi has deadline of Sunday, March 20, 2011 for the April newsletter.

Ashland Joint Venture – Lorraine Werblow reported she has been in contact with Iris Milan from the LWVA. Barbara Davidson wanted it made clear to the Ashland league that we are just talking to them about how our two leagues can work together on collaborating on programs, not merging the two leagues.

County Budget Study – Nancy Swan said that to-date, an 18-page report has been produced. The introduction and conclusion have not been received, and the committee has had no success in reaching the Sheriff or a member of his office for input. Lorraine suggested presenting the report at the April meeting, with whatever information is available as of April 14. Nancy will create consensus questions for members to review and discuss at the April 14th meeting. Then the study will be printed and included in the Annual Meeting packet.

May Annual Meeting – Joan Rogers has secured the Rogue Valley Manor Plaza building for the site of our April 14th meeting. At 11:30am, a preview of the silent auction items and "meet and greet" session will begin. Luncheon will be served at 12 noon. It will consist of a mixed green salad, fresh vegetables du jour, pasta with sundried tomatoes, spinach, black olives and feta cheese, chef's choice dessert, coffee and iced tea. The cost per meal, including gratuities, will be \$15.50. Details and information on placing your reservation will be in the April Voters Voice and the Annual Meeting packet each member will receive in the mail.

(continued on page 4)

BOARD MINUTES (continued from page 3)

May Annual Meeting Speaker – Lorraine Weblow and Mary Sinclair will secure a speaker for the Annual Meeting.

Local Fundraising Report - Nancy Swan reported that \$500.00 has been received as of this date. Most of the money was going primarily to the LWVOR education fund.

Nominations Committee – Agnes Chirgwin was not present to present her report. Positions open for the 2011-2012 board are Secretary and 1st Vice President. An additional person is needed for the Membership committee.

Observer Corps – Cynthia Lora mentioned that Rochelle Savitt has been attending meetings.

Reminder – Call to Convention, May 13-15. In attendance will be Marilou Schnoes, Barbara Davidson, Lorraine Werblow, and Mary Sinclair (representing LWVOR.)

LWVOR Fundraiser – Barbara Davidson said that the raffle tickets being sold for the convention are a moneymaker for state and local leagues. LWVOR gets \$1.00 for every ticket we sell, and \$2.00 if we sell all the tickets sent to us (to equal the number of members in LWVOR.) All monies must be turned in by May 4.

Annual Meeting Silent Auction – Marylou Schnoes will be sending out ideas via email.

Annual Meeting packet – Trish Bowcock had done it previously. Barbara Davidson will contact her to see if the information can be obtained on a CD for inclusion in this year's packet. It is to include the treasurer's report, the proposed nominations for the 2011-2012 year, the proposed budget and the Annual Luncheon information.

Chico bag - Marylou said each chapter of the LWV is going to put together a chico bag, including items representing the chapter's locale. Other groups are doing wines or book club books. We should make recommendations for what we could include in a bag that represents the Rogue Valley. Suggestions included something from Harry and David or non-perishable items from the Creamery or Lillie Belle Farms.

Retreat items for discussion – having evening meetings and carpooling and what should be included in our Board Meeting Minutes.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Levi, Acting Secretary

LAST VOTERS VOICE ISSUE FOR THIS YEAR

This will be the last Voters Voice issue until September 2011 issue. The Annual Meeting Packet, to be mailed to each member, will substitute for the May newsletter.

I know it seems early, but I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a wonderful and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Carole Levi

International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]

Few lay persons know that the IAEA is a member of the family of agencies of the United Nations system. As I write this on March 17, 2011, we still don't know the true scope of the suffering of the Japanese people: first the 9.0 earthquake, then the tsunami and now the nuclear disaster.

In his *Atoms for Peace* address to the UN General assembly in 1953, former President Eisenhower was the first to propose the creation of an international body to both regulate and promote the peaceful uses of atomic power. After much discussion and debate, the IAEA was finally created in 1957 as an autonomous agency under the aegis of the UN to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity and to guard against its use for military purposes.

Among others, IAEA provides technical assistance to its 144 member states on application of nuclear science and technology to sustainable development, generation of electricity, and nuclear safety and security.

The IAEA monitors and verifies states' compliance with their non-proliferation obligations pursuant to bilateral agreements and international treaties meant to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities are not diverted for military purposes. Over 200 IAEA inspectors regularly carry out inspections in more than 900 installations and other locations covered under the IAEA Safeguards Program. Readers will remember that IAEA played a key role in Iraq during the search for "weapons of mass destruction".

In 2005, both IAEA and the former Director-General Elbaradei were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Elbaradei said that only one percent of the funds spent developing new weapons would be enough to feed the entire world, and that, if we hope to escape self-destruction, then nuclear weapons should have no place in our collective conscience, and no role in our security. The important role of IAEA today in the situation in Japan cannot be overemphasized.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (*continued from page 2*)

We still have some major business and events ahead of us this year.

April 2, Medford RCC/SOU Noon to 3 pm will be the State Redistricting Forums, with satellite locations in Ashland, Klamath Falls and Grants Pass.

April 14 is the next program where members of the League's County Budget Study will present their findings.

May 12 will be the Annual Meeting. Be looking for the packet in the mail and **return your lunch reservation.**

As we see all the beautiful and brilliant daffodils in bloom expressing hope, I am sure that Spring and Summer will be here soon. With that faith in the future, my best wishes for safe travel and good memories until our next newsletter sometime in August/September .

Barbara

LWVRV MARCH GENERAL MEETING

John Almaguer, a Medford attorney with 11 years of law experience, especially with immigration, naturalization and residency, gave a brief overview of activities in various states where legislators are attempting to deal with issues of immigration which has been the jurisdiction of the federal government. Without the federal government taking the initiative to deal with problems of immigration, Mr. Almaguer cited several incidents where states were trying to pass legislation which would create a nightmare of different regulations for different states, thereby compounding many of the immigration issues.

He expressed hope that the Dream Act (passed in the House and failed in the Senate) which gave help to children of immigrants born in this country so that they could enroll in higher education with resident rates providing they met certain requirements, could eventually be passed.

States have different goals as they try to establish laws governing immigrants. The issues are complex and the different players, whether employer, employee, children or law enforcement, all must have clear guidelines which respect individual rights. John expressed concern that matters are getting worse and the need for comprehensive immigration reform is urgent.

Mr. Anael Sanchez shared his experiences of studying for citizenship, traveling to Portland twice to finish paperwork and take tests which ultimately led to his citizenship. He explained that he was expected to read, write, understand and speak English as he was questioned about his studies for citizenship. Anael has his own business while also being an employee of an Ashland enterprise. He was very proud of having achieved his citizenship and has already registered to vote.



LWVRV



BOOK CLUB

"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, And all the sweet serenity of books". H. W. Longfellow

April 1, 2011

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein

Hosted by Agnes Chirgwin, 541-773-3234

May 13, 2011

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

Hosted by Carole Levi, 541-664-9943

June 24, 2011

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

Hosted by Barbara Beaupain, 541-734-5793

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2010/2011 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Half-Year Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make out a check for Dues \$28. Spouse dues, \$16 and include with an Application.

These half-year dues are for January-June 2011

Send to Box 8555, Medford 97501

Check which of the following about which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting. List as many as applicable.

Land Use Planning Local Government Transportation Children at Risk Education Election issues

Health issues Environment National issues

Other (list) _____

April		LWVRV Calendar				2011
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun	
				1 April Fool's Day LWVRV Book Club, <i>see p. 7</i>	2/3 State Redistricting Forums, <i>see p.5</i>	
4	5	6	7	8	9/10	
11	12	13	14 LWVRV General meeting, <i>see p.1</i>	15 INCOME TAXES DUE	16/17	
18	19 Passover LWVRV board Meeting, <i>see p.3</i>	20	21	22 Good Friday	23/24 Easter	
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May		LWVRV Calendar				2011
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun	
					31/1	
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7/8 Mother's Day	
9	10	11	12 LWVRV Annual Meeting, <i>see p.1</i>	13 ONLY FRIDAY 13th in 2011!	14/15	
16	17 LWVRV Board Meeting	18	19	20	21/22	
23	24	25	26	27	28/29	
30 Memorial Day celebrated	31					