



League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

VOTERS VOICE

March 2010

www.lwvrv.org

Volume 30



Check out the new LWVOR 90th anniversary logo, above. Happy birthday, LWVUS!



Meet and greet LWVOR's newest member, Estelle Voeller

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GENERAL MEETING

Topic: Emergency Management in Jackson County, Oregon

or: "EMERGENCY ! - Are You Ready ? "

When: Thursday, March 11, 2010

Where: Medford Library, Carpenter Room

Time: 11:30: brown bag lunch, optional
12noon

Speaker: Michael Curry, Program Manager, Jackson County Emergency Management will discuss the formation of and components within our county's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). Impetus for development of such a plan followed severe winter weather events occurring in Oregon during 1996 and 1997, when storms resulted in flooding, landslides, substantial property damage, and the Jackson County has not had a major earthquake in recent history, we have had deaths of five people in Douglas County. Among natural hazards are earthquakes, and, "Although minor earthquakes and the potential for a catastrophic earthquake exists." (per JaCo "Emergency Preparedness Plan for Families": booklet & online) " Jackson County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Mission: to reduce risk, prevent loss and protect life, property and the environment from natural hazard events through coordination and cooperation among public and private partners."

Mr. Curry will be available for audience questions: 12:40- 1:00 PM

The meeting is open to the public. Visitors are welcome.

LWVOR ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars and join us for the

LWVOR Annual Luncheon Meeting

May 13, 2010

11:30am—2:00pm

Red Lion Inn, Medford



Watch for more details in the April Voters Voice!!

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Barbara Davidson

Many thanks to all the League members who attended the "Economy" program in February. Also, it was gratifying to see the public participation at this event. Special thanks to Mary Sinclair for taking the lead on getting the outstanding panel of speakers. I heard many comments of appreciation for our speakers, Dr. Dave Gilmour, Ron Fox, and Jim Fong, who shared their knowledge about stimulus dollars at work in Jackson County and the status of businesses, jobs and workers in our area.

Our speakers extended a challenge to the audience: What are we going to do to help young people become more prepared to transition from school to work force/career? That challenge came after discussion by the panel covering concerns expressed by employers that young people entering the work force today do not appear to have adequate background or knowledge of the job market or an awareness of how they can make the most of employment potential. Several members have expressed an interest in responding to this challenge. Please give this consideration, thought and discussion as you meet with League friends. Let me know your ideas. This is a topic which will be on our agenda in the coming months.

Health care reform, which the League has supported and which seemed within the realm of reality just a short time ago, now seems to have lost momentum. If you believe that this country could profit from health care reform, then I encourage you to share that belief with your elected officials at the national level. Even short emails can have an impact.

In case you haven't noticed, Oregon has a primary election scheduled for May 18, and candidates are beginning to file for a number of offices. Please stay tuned for further information.

Please get out your calendars and mark some special events you won't want to miss:

March 11, Program on Emergency Preparedness

April 8, Program on Local Water, History and Future

May 13, Annual Meeting (Luncheon) at Red Lion

Your ideas and participation are encouraged. What a time to be promoting the League's mission of informed citizen involvement!

LEAGUE LEADERS

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Vacant

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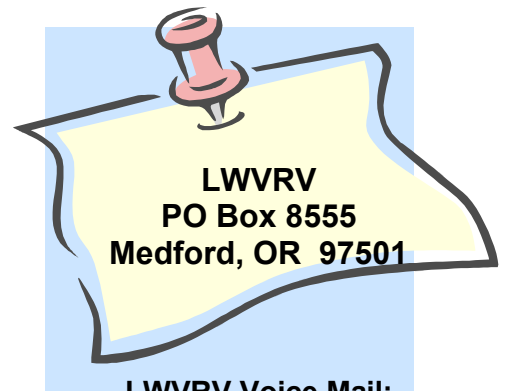
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LWVRV BOARD MINUTES

Carol Hazeltine

LWVRV Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Medford Heights Townhouse Association Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood Drive, Medford

Call to Order: President Barbara Davidson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Present; Barbara Davidson, Joan Rogers, Jean Milgram, Marcia Smith, Carol Hazeltine, Carole Levi and Cynthia Lora. Excused Willie Bijon.

Brief Check-in

Approval of January 2010 Minutes: Approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Correspondence: Invitation to LWV 90th Birthday Party
LWVUS Convention , Atlanta GA., June 2010.

New York League with proposal for LWVUS convention. Barbara Davidson has copy of this letter for review.
Received Jean Milgram's resignation from LWVRV Board.

Reports:

Public Relations: Mail Tribune announcement of February meeting was well done.....Thank you, Mickey Ketchum. The meeting was well-received and there was a television announcement prior to as well as coverage during the meeting.

Action: No Report

Studies: County budget study extended for one year

Membership: Marcia Smith reports one returning member.

Program: County budget study has been extended another year and will not be the March program as originally planned. Cynthia Lora and Barbara Davidson will contact people in charge of emergency/disaster planning in Jackson County and determine

availability for presenting during the March, 2010, general meeting.

There are questions regarding the April, 2010, program for the general meeting. It is stated in the minutes from the July 2009 planning session that there is to be a "Water Board/ Field Trip" during this meeting. At this time no information has come forth regarding the trip, or who is in charge of planning the presentation and/or field trip. Lori Hudnutt, Medford City Water, is to be contacted. Since the general meeting is held in the Medford Main Library the League no longer provides lunch for purchase by members or a complimentary lunch to our guest speakers. We invite those who wish to bring a "brown bag" lunch if they find it enjoyable to share a meal prior to the presentation.

Voters Service: No Report

Voters Voice: Newsletter articles need to reach Carole Levi by February 20, 2010. Carole noted poor copy of the printed newsletter and will contact the printer and request no charge for the next newsletter to be printed.

Other Business:

Annual Meeting: LWVRV Annual Meeting, Thursday, May 13, 2010, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Red Lion, Medford. Joan Rogers to contact Red Lion regarding specifics regarding time allotted for use of banquet room and the menu choices. Barbara Davidson to contact Ann Pugh of the Southern Oregon Historical Society regarding her presentation. "Wasn't That A Time", and confirmation of her availability for this meeting.

Newsletter editor, Carole Levi, is requesting confirmation of exact time of event, menu choice items and guest presentation for inclusion in the next Voters Voice. This will allow League members ample time to “save the date”.

LWVUS convention June 11-15, 2010, Atlanta GA, Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. Reviewed Jean Milgram's resignation from LWVRV Board. The resignation has been accepted. A motion was made, and passed, to have Jean continue as LWVRV Board Member at large. Jean graciously accepted and will be available for consultation.

Thank you for your continuing support in this role.

Carol Hazeltine will not attend the March 16, 2010, Board Meeting. Carole Levi has agreed to fill in as recording secretary.....Thank you, Carole!!

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

SUMMARY OF LWVRV's FEBRUARY MEETING

ECONOMY IS A MAJOR CONCERN

The impact of stimulus dollars, the business climate in the county, and the number and kinds of jobs available were of concern to many assembled for the February 11 program meeting in the Medford Library Main Meeting room. Dr. Dave Gilmour, from the Jackson County Board of Commissioner; Ron Fox, Executive Director of Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc (SOREDI); and Jim Fong, Executive Director of the Job Council, shared the general theme of the economy as they addressed their areas of expertise.

Commissioner Gilmour identified Oregon's share of dollars from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as \$3.9 billion and Jackson County's share as \$129, 154,428. An important point expressed by Com. Gilmour was that, in the case of education especially, lots of new jobs were not added but many jobs were preserved. Also, without the stimulus dollars, schools would have been closing in early May.

The breakdown of dollars by category in Jackson County revealed Health and Human Services \$35,220,080; Education \$32,006,043; Employment \$39,140,238; Workforce \$4,040,614; Transportation \$16,177,523; Housing \$1,564,548; Community Services \$432,632; and Natural Resources \$572,748.

For transportation , many projects will occur this summer. Some of the Work Force/Employment dollars will be used this summer, which will be especially helpful to teens and young adults who are being pushed out of the workforce by older workers who have lost their jobs and are taking lower or entry-level jobs for which they are overqualified. One of the programs under Access is providing meals which may be the only one the individual gets for the day.

Ron Fox explained SOREDI: a private non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the long-term prosperity of Jackson and Josephine Counties, governed by 21-member board of directors, membership is fee-based , with a 5-member staff. SOREDI serves as project managers for expanding and relocating companies, without fees or obligation.

Jim Fong addressed issues connected with the work force. His work with the Job Council includes involvement with the Rogue Valley Workforce Development Council, which is anon-profit public/private partnership led by business leaders from Jackson and Josephine counties.

PowerUp Academy, started in January 2009, provides one-day and half-day trainings on topics such as computer skills, forklift safety, first aid/CPR, and Leadership/Supervision. Since January, over 870 employees from over 149 companies have participated in over 93 training workshops for a total of 1700 training experiences.

All three speakers shared the experience of listening to employers who identified several areas of concern for workers entering the job force.

SUMMARY of LWVRV's FEBRUARY MEETING continued from p.4

A number of students who qualified for particular job-openings, could not be hired because they could not pass a drug test, and/or did not demonstrate adequate critical thinking, analytical, or problem-solving skills. . It was suggested that mentors and role-models working with youngsters could help raise their awareness of careers and the worker's role in the economy. Stating that, in addition to the Workforce Development Council working with schools, more needs to be done to get students ready to enter the workforce. The challenge was given to the League: what are you going to do about this situation?



HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, LWVUS!

"Ninety years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to "finish the fight" and work to end all discrimination against women. And so the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Today, we remain a grassroots organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. Though the League is known widely for our voter education efforts, we've also brought our expertise to critical issues such as health care reform, global climate change and many others.

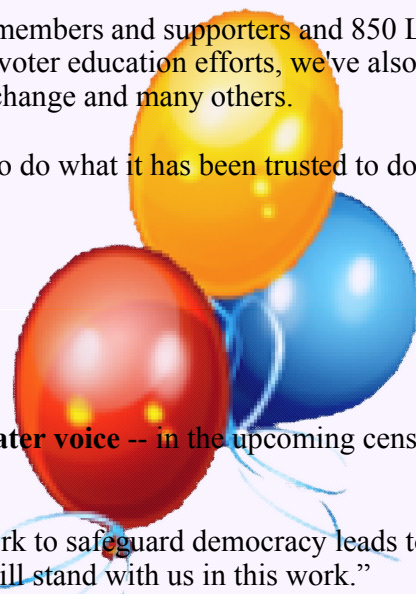
As we enter into a new year, we know that the League will continue to do what it has been trusted to do for more than 90 years:

- Discuss the important issues;
- ask the difficult questions;
- and demand accountability from our government.

And every one of our critical 2010 initiatives will **give citizens a greater voice** -- in the upcoming census, the 2010 elections, the next round of redistricting and more.

The League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement, and this year, on our 90th Anniversary, we hope you will stand with us in this work."

Mary G. Wilson, LWVUS President



United Nations

by Russy D. Sumariwalla, President, UNA-USA, Southern Oregon

March 8 - International Women's Day

The idea of an International Women's Day arose at the turn of the century when great unrest and critical debates were occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was causing women to become more vocal and active in demanding change. In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City calling for shorter hours, better pay and voting rights, among others.

The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on February 28, 1909. The International Women's day is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

The Role of the United Nations

Few causes promoted by the UN have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women. The 1945 UN Charter was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the UN action for the advancement of women has taken four directions:

Promotion of legal measures

Mobilization of public opinion and international action

Training and research, including compilation of gender desegregated statistics, and

Direct assistance to disadvantaged groups

Today, it is a central organizing principle of the UN that no enduring solution to the most threatening social, economic and political problems confronting humankind can be found without the full engagement and full empowerment of world's women.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER

The LWVRV welcomes new member Estelle Voeller, 3784 Coleman Creek Road, Medford, OR 97501, 541-512-1013, evoeller@charter.net.

Estelle, we look forward to seeing you at the March general meeting!

LWVRV's



CLUB

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

April 2, 2010

The Lacuna, Barbara Kingsolver

Barbara Beaupain, 541-734-5793

May 14, 2010

Saving Fish from Drowning, by Amy Tan

Hosted by Carol Hazeltine, 541-899-6894

June 25, 2010

Guns, Germs, Steel by Gerald Diamond

Hosted by Mary Sinclair, 541-772-2372

August 6, 2010

Angle of Repose, by Wallace Stegner

Hosted by Agnes Chirwin, 541-773-3234

September 17, 2010

Good Harbor, by Anita Diamant

Hosted by Carole Levi, 541-664-9943

October 29, 2010

Corner of Bitter Sweet, by Jamie Ford

Hosted by Barbara Davidson, 541 245-2729

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2009/2010 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make out a check for Year Dues \$56. Spouse dues \$28 and include with an Application.

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) _____

NOTE: New Members who join in January, February, March or April can join for half-price membership. Your \$28.00 dues will cover January 30-June 1, 2010.

MARCH 2010 Calendar of Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6/7
8	9	10	11 LWVRV general meeting	12	13/14 Daylight Savings Begins
15	16 LWVRV board Meeting, p.3	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20/21 First Day of Spring
22	23	24	25	26	27/28 Palm Sunday
29	30 Passover	31			



April 8, 2010 - Program on Local Water, History and Future

May 13, 2010 - LWVRV Annual Meeting