



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ SAVE the DATE-
Annual Dinner Meeting
- ◆ Meet your Board Members
- ◆ Kudos Korner

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MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Learn the answer to this question and more at our next General Meeting Julie Brown, RVTG General Manager and Paige Townsend, RVTG Senior Planner will give a presentation and answer your questions

Friday, March 14, 2008

11:30 – lunch (available with reservation)

12:00 – 1:00 Program

Black Bear Diner

1150 East Barnett Road – Medford

Please note that Mary Carlon will be taking reservations for this lunch as Joan Rogers will be having knee surgery on March 10. Call 858 4585 or email, m1234c@highstream.net and leave a message.

Non-members are welcome to attend!

LWVOR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Café Dejeuner

1108 E. Main Street

Medford, OR 97504

541-857-1290

Guest Speaker: Sharon Johnson,

"The Healing Power of Laughter"

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



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

Trish Bowcock

Sunshine Week – Your Right to Know was launched in 2005 to raise awareness of the importance of open government for **all** community members. The League has consistently advocated for open government, at all levels. It is a job that, unfortunately, will likely never end. But we cannot be discouraged or give up. We just have to keep reminding our elected officials of their duty to the people. Sunshine Week 2008 is being celebrated March 16 – 22, 2008. As part of that project, our league submitted the following letter to the Mail Tribune. Feel free to come up with your own version, advocating Open Government in the Rogue Valley. To submit a letter to the editor, email to letters@mailtribune.com or mail to Mail Tribune, P.O. Box 1108 Medford 97501.

To the editor,

March 16-22 is Sunshine Week, a national initiative that calls attention to the threats to “sunshine” or transparency in government information and decisions. We have the right to know what our government is doing, and having access to public records and government meetings is critically important. Whether it is to track potential environmental hazards or to attend a meeting where decisions about land use are being made, “sunshine laws” afford us access and create government transparency.

However, these laws are only as good as we, the people, demand that they be. Finding information about how the government is serving the public has always been somewhat difficult. But in the post-9/11 age, these challenges are even greater. In the name of homeland security, “sunshine laws” and the opportunities for citizens to gain access to information have been constricted. As our elected Representatives in Washington work to bring about greater transparency through ethics, lobbying, and other reforms, so too must our leaders in the Rogue Valley.

*As members of the League of Women Voters, we are always working to keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant, and that all starts with having an open government, accessible to **all** citizens.*

Trish Bowcock

President – League of Women Voters Rogue Valley

Local League Leaders

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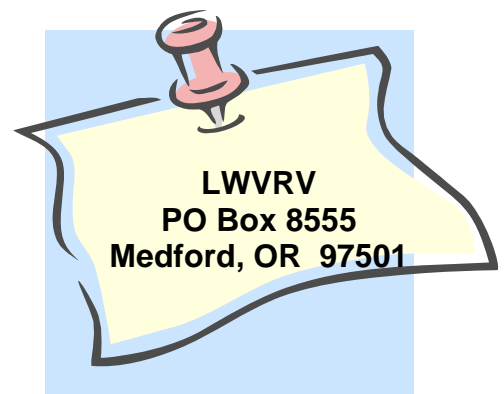
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www.lwvrv.org

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER

Please Volunteer to Work at the 2008 LWVUS Convention, June 13 - 17

Hilton Hotel, 921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR

Volunteers are needed:

Every day (June 13 - 17) Registration, Credentials, Information, Tours, Personnel

Friday through Sunday (June 13 - 15) Hospitality and Dine Around

Saturday - Tuesday (June 14 - 17) Door Keepers, Ushers, Timekeepers, Teller/Elections, Microphone Monitors

Questions? Contact: Carol Cushman, 503-702-9490 (cell) or chcrail@aol.com

Debbie Kaye, 503-223-4660 or djek53@aol.com

Portland LWV office, 503-228-1675 or lwvpx@aracnet.com

Return before the end of March 2008 to:

Debbie Kaye, 2235 NW Aspen Avenue, Portland, OR 97210-1218

or download from www.lwvpx.org or www.lwvor.org and email to djek53@aol.com

Volunteers will be notified of their assignments in early May.

Please print:

Name _____ **Phone** _____ **E-mail** _____

Address _____ **League** _____

Do you prefer e-mail? _____ US mail? _____

Area(s) of Interest: (mark in order of preference 1, 2, 3, etc)

| Convention floor during Plenary sessions: | | | | Other: | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|--|--------|--------------|--|------------------|
| | Door Keeper | | | | Registration | | Dine Around |
| | Usher | | | | Information | | Tours |
| | Timekeeper | | | | Personnel | | Dine Around Host |
| | Teller/Election | | | | Credentials | | Fundraiser |
| | Microphone. Monitor | | | | Hospitality | | Wherever Needed |

Dates: Please choose time(s) and day(s) you are available to work and indicate AM, PM or all day. The number of hours you will be asked to work will depend on the number of volunteers and areas of interest.

Friday, June 13 (PM and/or Eve) _____ Saturday, June 14 _____ Sunday, June 15 _____

Monday, June 16 _____ Tuesday, June 17 (AM only) _____

Note: *Volunteers should note that the AM shift for most volunteers begins at 7:30.*

I am interested in B&B accommodations (limited number available): _____

Will you be a delegate to the Convention? ___Yes or ___No

Note: *Delegates will have to pay the registration fee. You may volunteer to work at the Convention and will be assigned a job that does not interfere with your duties as a delegate. Most delegates who volunteer will be assigned Friday or Saturday AM for Information or Hospitality, or Sunday as a Dine Around dinner host.*

TEA FOR YOU



Voters' Choice Tea™ The League of Women Voters

We are selling Voters' Choice Tea as our new fundraiser. This delicious premium tea will be available at our general meetings and at Eve's Garden Cafe and Tearoom, located at 1590 Hwy 38 in Applegate. The phone number is 846-9019. The tea comes in 4 flavors and costs \$4.50 a box.

Please support us and buy a box for yourself and one to sell to a friend. All proceeds go to LWVRV.

LWVRV's BOOK CLUB



If stimulating discussion peaks your interest, please join us. Call the host of the month to let her know that you will be attending. Carpools will be formed.

April 18, 2008

10:00 - Noon

Blue Shoes & Happiness by Alexander McCall Smith

Eileen Adee's home

773-4450

May 30, 2008

10:00 - Noon

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

Carole Levi's home

664-9940



KORNER

LWVRV members who deserve honorable mention:

*to Lorraine Werblow who was profiled last month in the *Mediation Works Volunteer Vistas* newsletter

VOTING FACTS

- Between 1788 and 1870, the right to vote in this country was limited to white men only. In 1870, after the Civil War, the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed giving the right to vote to citizens regardless of their race and color. Now all men who were citizens had the right to vote.
- Women had to wait (and campaign) for another 50 years - until 1920 - when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed, and women finally won the same right to vote as men.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Every minute, one woman in the developing world dies during pregnancy and childbirth because she did not receive timely treatment and adequate care. Reproductive health conditions are the leading cause of death and illness in women of childbearing age, and at least 200 million women worldwide want to plan their families, but lack access to safe and effective contraception.

The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** is an international development agency that “helps the most vulnerable women in the world plan their families, give birth safely, and protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. It promotes the rights of women by encouraging equal access to food, education, and healthcare. UNFPA works worldwide to eliminate gender-based violence including female genital cutting and rape used as a weapon of war.” (www.unfpa.org)

UNFPA’s efforts span four regions—Arab States, Europe and Central Asia; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; and sub-Saharan Africa—in roughly 150 territories, areas, and countries.

Despite the UNFPA’s critical role in supporting countries in their efforts to improve the lives of women and their families, the Bush Administration announced in 2002 that it would freeze the \$34 million that Congress allocated to UNFPA for UN programs targeting women’s and girls’ health and access to family planning. In protest, United Nations Association-USA (UN-USA) members Jane Roberts and Lois Abraham started a grassroots movement called *34 Million Friends of UNFPA*. Today, hospitals in Africa and Mali now have specialized surgical units and more projects are underway in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Senegal, just to name a few. For more information about this grassroots movement and how you can stand up for women around the world, please visit www.34millionfriends.org

To become a member of your local **UNA-USA, Southern Oregon Chapter**, please visit www.unausa.org

Peace,

Kimberley A. Cox, Ph.D.

Secretary, UNA-USA, Southern Oregon Chapter

MEET YOUR LWVRV BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Keene, Treasurer:

Margaret's mother was a league member. For years, Margaret was a national member and never went to meetings. Then, while living in Korea she got the urge to become more politically active. She went to a local meeting and has been involved ever since. She is the past 1st vice president and current treasurer. The issues she finds most interesting are fair representation and voter turnout, women's and environmental issues and foreign policy. She is a current and past leader of the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group.

Jean Milgram, Development Chair:

Jean joined the LWV in 1955 and is now a member of LWVRV and LWVOR. She’s moved around a lot and found the League a perfect source of new friends wherever she’s been. Raising money has been the League function Jean often performed, but the issues she cares most about are civil rights and campaign finance reform. Having attended five national conventions, Jean is looking forward to Portland in '08.

LAND USE ISSUES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County has drafted the ordinance that spells out the lengthy step M37 claims must prove they are vested to develop their properties under M37. However, property owners that filed a claim with the county and the state have a better chance for relief under M49. These property owners have 90 days to decide what steps they want to take under M49 such as building one to three dwellings on their property. Some of the 571 M37 claimants in the county who want to proceed with developing their property are threatening the county with lawsuits because of the negated contracts. Now, I think the county commissioners regret M37 ever passed.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee has proposed funding the "Big Look" task force for \$426,008 to evaluate the state's land-use policy. This is good news for continuing the work of the task force which had started but lost funding last year prior to the M49 passage. We hope the legislature will agree to pass it. I think it will have a good chance for passage.

HB 3610 directs several state agencies to evaluate policies and practices that contribute to greenhouse gas pollution, and develop recommendations on how to meet Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals. The bill passed out of the House Energy & Environment Committee and referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Unfortunately, opposition to the bill will likely keep it from receiving adequate consideration in the House. Calls and emails to legislators will move this bill of the Ways and Means Committee for a floor vote. Please urge your legislators to support HB3610.

Opposition to the LNG sitting either near Astoria or Coos Bay may not be necessary since there is little interest in expanding LNG capacity because of demand for LNG inside of producing countries such as Indonesia, the cost of building pipe lines, and depletion of LNG in the near future. Let's hope that information is accurate.

Porter Lombard, member of the RVLWV.

NEWS FROM LWVOR

JEAN MILGRAM

Our First V.P., Norman Turrill, has been nominated for the LWVUS board, which is a big honor. The main news is that he's the first male ever to be nominated for the national board.

Jean

"Elections are a time for verbal acrobatics, political snafus and brickbats flying all over. Murky pasts are raked up, double innuendos are made out of each remark, deeds (or misdeeds) are meticulously examined. Our political leaders seemed to have made a career in making ribald quotes on the most solemn issues."

By Simran Khurana, About.com

NEWS FROM LWVOR

League Calls Upon Presidential Candidates from Both Parties to Commit to Public Financing February 21, 2008

Presidential public financing, as part of campaign finance reform, one of the League's priority issues, is of immeasurable importance. The League is advocating for legislation that would reinvigorate the public financing system to provide for more equitable competition, as well as helping to insulate the candidates -- and our political and governmental systems -- from corruption and the appearance of corruption.

The League has sent letters to each of the Presidential candidates to urge them to participate in the public financing in the general election.

In a letter to Senator Hillary Clinton the League and other reform groups urged the Senator to accept public financing if she is the Democratic nominee and if the Republican nominee also accepts public financing. In this letter the League also points out that Senator Clinton has cosponsored the legislation that would improve the system.

In a letter to Senator John McCain the League and other reform groups encouraged Senator McCain to reconsider his decision not to cosponsor legislation that would improve the public financing system.

In letters to Governor Mike Huckabee and Representative Ron Paul the League and other reform groups urged each candidate to accept public financing if he is the Republican nominee and if the Democratic nominee also accepts public financing.

Earlier in the week, the League sent a letter to Senator Barack Obama calling on him to make clear to citizens that he remains committed to using the public financing system in the presidential general election if he is the Democratic nominee and if the Republican nominee also agrees to using public financing.

The presidential public financing system worked well for decades. The League supports both the use of the system and changes to that system which will enable it to once again to provide for equitable competition and to protect against undue influence.



2007 / 2008 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Membership in League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 18 years of age and older and includes subscriptions to local, state and national League publications.

Year Dues \$56. Spouse dues \$28

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children at Risk | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Issues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Election Issues | |

Tell your friends: New members to the League of Women Voters pay 1/2 dues during February, March and April, only \$28. New members who join in May get all of next year for the price of \$56.

MARCH 2008 Calendar of Events

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------|--|
| Friday | March 14 | 11:30am—1:00pm | General Meeting. Black Bear Restaurant |
| Monday | March 17 | 11:30am—1:00pm | LWVRV board meeting, Sun Oaks clubhouse. Everyone is welcome. |
| TUESDAY | MAY 13 | 5:30pm—8:30pm | SAVE THE DATE!! ANNUAL DINNER MEETING |

Everything You Wish you Knew About the May 20th Primary

Eileen Adee

Deadlines:

Voter Registration—April 29; If you will be 18 by May 20th, register.

Sites: County Elections Office (corner of Main and Hamilton), DMV (727 Medford Center), Rogue Valley Mall (1600 N. Riverside, Ste. 1029)

Candidate Filing—March 11; Commissioner (C.W. Smith’s position) and County Clerk (K. Beckett’s retiring)

Initiative and Referendum—March 20

Statements for Voter Pamphlet—March 13

Join the fun!! Become a member of the Voter Service Committee!!!

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 OF ROGUE VALLEY
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