



TAKE NOTE



❖ Be aware of parking regulations changing in downtown Medford, p.1

❖ Bring consensus questions (pp. 7-10) to November meeting.

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NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION
CONSENSUS MEETING

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Medford Library

In advance of this meeting, please read the five background papers listed on the League's website, www.lwv.org.. These include *Common Core Standards and Assessments; Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding; Funding and Equity Issues; Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who Are Disadvantaged;* and *Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives*. Any member who lacks access to the Internet may obtain a printed copy by calling Nancy Swan, 541-770-1689.

With the exception of the last paper on historical perspectives, all the others pertain specifically to the Consensus Questions, 15 questions in all. The first three are general, applying to people's beliefs about the federal government's role in education. The next six address *Common Core Standards* and focus specifically on the first paper in the study. The last six relate to funding, with the first three focusing on equity issues, the next on children with special needs, and the last on early childhood education.

Because of the amount of material to be covered, the discussion will begin while the brown bag lunch is underway. The first three questions will be raised both at the beginning and end of the meeting to see if opinions have changed as a result of the discussion.

Eileen Adey will lead the review of core standards, while Judith Benjamin will lead the funding questions. Plans include a five minute coffee break between the two sessions, with Mary Ann Schnoes recording the discussion and Nancy Swan keeping it on schedule.

The Consensus Questions follow. Please bring your copy of *Voters Voice* to the meeting so that you can refer to the questions during the discussion. Also, if you have printed the background papers, bring them as well. A few additional copies will be available at the meeting

Parking regulations are changing in downtown Medford. Please read all parking signs. For further information and maps, please check the Medford parking website at www.ci.medford.OR.US/sib/files/parking. Consider possibly carpooling.

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.



VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- *Lorraine Werblow*

Hello Leaguers and Friends,

We hope that you were able to attend our recent program “The Federal Budget – Facts & Myths” presented by Dr. Herbert Rothchild, at the Talent Library. Our thanks to Laurel, the coordinator at the library, to Dr. Rothchild, to Iris, Vanya and Regina for setting up the program. This was a most informative and fair review of the budget.

Our next meeting will be of great interest to us all as well. We’re taking a consensus of the Federal Role in Public Education. In addition to answering questions for the survey, we will be giving information regarding a historical perspective, funding of special education, early childhood education, and funding and equity issues. It will be held at the Medford Library on Nov. 10th, 2011.

Our League is “taking our show on the road”...we are going to different communities for our general meetings during the year so that many of our friends can see us in action and be invited to become members. The most important aspect of any organization is the strength of membership. A few do the work, that’s generally the case, but it is the number of the membership that gives us the prestige.

We’ve been to Talent, Phoenix, Medford (in different locations) and hope to get to Jacksonville soon. Best from Barbara Davidson, our president, who is out of the State, and has given me this opportunity to write the column this month.

See ya’ next month...Please buy fruit (see article), please come to our meetings...and please be well.

- *Lorraine Werblow*, 1st V.P.

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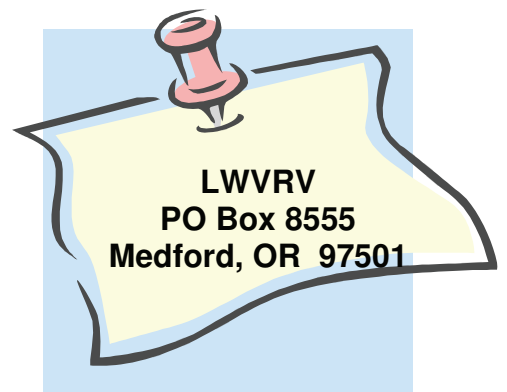
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LWVRV BOARD MINUTES

LWVRV Board Minutes, October 18, 2011

Medford Heights Townhouse Association Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood Drive, Medford

Call to Order: Lorraine Werblow, in President Barbara Davidson's absence, called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. Present were: Suzia Aufderheide, Normary Barrett, Judith Benjamin, Willie Bijon, Carol Ingelson, Carole Levi, Cynthia Lora, Iris Milan Joan Rogers, Nancy Swan, Lorraine Werblow.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: with one correction (Lorraine was going to call the office of Sen. Jeff Merkley for a speaker).

Treasurer's Report – 10/17/11 – Balances available upon request. Not necessary to redo the budget.

Resignation: by 2nd Vice President, Lorraine Werblow: M/S/P. **Election:** Lorraine Werblow to 1st V.P.: M/S/

Dissolution of LWVAshland: Suzia Aufderheide and Iris Milan: according to rules of State League, must dissolve legally. Information re dissolution sent to Ashland membership. Discussion concerning collected dues from some Ashland members-will be resolved by both Leagues.

Membership: Cynthia Lora reported: 25 members (including LWVA), 4 honorary (50 years)

Voters' Voice: Carole Levi - Deadline Saturday 10/22/11.

Leader Update from National: Iris Milan: New study "Privatization", consensus by May.

Board Meeting Day: Tuesdays 9:15- 11:15 a.m. at Medford Heights Townhouse Assoc. Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood Drive, Medford.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 20th 11:30-1:00: Talent Library.

November 10th Meeting: start 11:45 at Medford Library; break between 2 sessions.

Brown bag, coffee and some munchies will be available.

Consensus: Judith Benjamin with Eileen Adee.

2 sections: Common Standards and Federal Financing.

Timekeeper – Nancy Swan.

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UNITED NATIONS/USA

Russy D. Sumariwalla, President, UNA-USA, S. Oregon

Iraq: UN helps feed over 550,000 primary schoolchildren

November is the Thanksgiving month. For most of us it is the time when we offer thanks for our good fortune for the food bounty we all enjoy. But it is also the time to take note and give thanks to the United Nations for its indispensable role in feeding millions of hungry – particularly children. The following is one example of the work of UN's World Food Program, excerpted from a release by the UN Information Center, Washington, DC.

“More than 550,000 children in some of the most vulnerable districts of Iraq will benefit from a United Nations-backed school feeding program that seeks not only to improve their nutrition but also to encourage poor families to send their children to school in the first place.”

The joint program launched by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Iraqi education ministry will provide a fortified midday snack to primary schoolchildren at some 1,800 schools in 24 districts over the 2011-2012 academic year.

“WFP's vision is to reduce hunger among school children so that it is not an obstacle to their development,” WFP Country Representative Edward Kallon said in a news release “School feeding programs act as a safety net in support of vulnerable schoolchildren and their families and contribute to breaking the intergenerational cycle of chronic hunger through better access to education, better learning and better nutrition and health.”

While Iraq is considered as a middle-income country, decades of war and instability have degraded infrastructure and basic social services, leaving many people poor and vulnerable. Some 7.5 million Iraqis live under the poverty line of \$2 a day. The Iraq's Education minister noted that Primary school drop-out rate is a serious problem.

One of the children targeted during the pilot phase of the program said the fortified biscuits were the main reason he returned to school. “Because of the lack of adequate food in my house I left school,” said Akil, who comes from a poor family of five. “Now I no longer have to feel the emptiness in my stomach.”



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BOARD MINUTES *continued from page 3*

Notetaker – Mary Ann Schnoes.

Flyers – Iris Milan

Can download to reference information on 14 questions – pdf file

December 8th meeting: Suggestion to hold at Jacksonville Library (Agnes Chirgwin to call). Program on Dunn House?

Observer Corps: to oversee county meetings, etc. Discussion postponed.

Reminders: 66th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations @SOU, 3:30 p.m. on October 23rd.

Oregon Humanities/RCC Conference Oct. 28th: 8-4pm.

Adjournment: 11:15 a.m.

FRUIT SALE

ANOTHER FRUITFUL YEAR



*Where, oh, where has the time gone
Hope you enjoyed this past year and had fun
We're back on track with grapefruits, and other
fruits, if you wish*

Now, you'll be able to garnish that dinner dish

You can also brag and boast

That you helped the League the most

By buying and selling you support us so much

And we sincerely thank you a whole bunch.

We have not raised our prices on:

Texas Red Grapefruits (16 to 20)

or California Oranges (36-44)

Still \$20 for 20 lb .box

½ box is available @\$10

Festival of Fruit \$26.00

22 lb. box (2 layers-36 pieces)

*Texas Red Grapefruits, CA Oranges, N.W. D'Anjou Pears,
and WA Fuji Apples*

Orders must be in by Nov. 20, 2011

Mail payment to: Carol Ingelson, 822 Golf View Drive #316 Medford 97504

Pick up orders on Dec. 3rd, 2011

@Southern Oregon Sales

18 Stewart Avenue

Medford, off Pacific Highway

Lorraine Werblow, 541/245-3641, werbys@charter.net

or Mary Ann Wallace, 541/482-7326, mymia@mind.net

Coordinators





"You cannot open a book without learning something." -Confucius

❖ **November 4, 2011**, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, at the home of Lorraine Werblow, 541-245-3641.

❖ **December 2nd**, *The Soloist* by Mark Salzman, at the home of Eileen Adee, 541-773-4450

❖ **January 6th**, 2012, *The Reader* by Bernard Schlink at the home of Barbara Beaupain, 541-734-5793

❖ **February 3rd**, *little x*, by Sonsyrea Tate, hostess TBD

You are cordially invited to join our *League's Lively Literary Group* . We enjoy stimulating discussion of the book read and segues to related topics, and not-so-related topics. We meet on the first Friday of each month, at our club members' homes. If you are interested, please contact Carole Levi, 541-664-9943 for more information and addresses of hosts.

DUES are DUE NOW

Just a reminder that LWVRV dues are due now.

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2011/2012 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

S

Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make out a check for 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) _____

If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)

- a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
 - b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
 - c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically
6. National standards should lead to: (choose one)
- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d. No national curriculum.
7. What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.
8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
- a. Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - b. Data should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - c. Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.

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9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
- a. Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - b. Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - c. Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - d. Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - e. Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs
10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
- a. Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - b. A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - c. Competitive grants only.
 - d. No federal funding
11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)
- a. Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - b. Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - c. Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - d. A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - e. No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.
12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
- a. high quality teaching/learning
 - b. adequate and current learning materials
 - c. clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - d. food and health care
 - e. safe and secure neighborhoods
 - f. secure housing
- 13.. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?

Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g.Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

a. Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree

b. This funding should be extended to :

All children only those with special needs special needs first

RECAP of OCTOBER LWVRV GENERAL MEETING

The LWVRV's October meeting featured Dr. Herb Rothchild, a retired Political Professor at LSU. The presentation was a most Informative and fair review of "*The Federal Budget, Myths and Realities.*"



Have you wondered what LWVUS is doing with your dues?

Just as local and state leagues can speak on issues that we have positions on, so too does the National League. But their realm is our Congress at times right up front and personal. That work is called lobbying. Yes, the corporations do it too, but with lots more money. So part of your yearly dues goes to the National League. That is why your dues are not tax deductible. The League has an Education Fund whose donations are tax deductible. Another of Leagues' goals is to have an informed and educated citizens. Isn't that why you joined LWV? Another of Leagues' goals is to have an informed and educated citizens. Isn't that why you joined LWV?

Knowing some of you do not have computers, each month I will go into the LWVUS Website to highlight some of the national League's political and education activities with you, our members. For those of you who can access your computer, I hope will check out the LWVUS website, especially the FOR MEMBER'S section. It is very user friendly.

The Website will give you what action is being taken by the LWV in Washington on pending bills and the support that is given to state leagues. Background papers and consensus questions on Studies on National Issues no longer are mailed to members. The National Voter is no longer being published and sent to you. However, back issues can be found on line.

This year there are two studies, One on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, which is discussed in this issue as well as how you can access the background information before coming to our Nov. meeting.

A second study is the Privatization of Government Services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities. Study materials are now available on the Web, and consensus will be in May, 2012.

Another feature of National's Website is a Webinar Library. Webinar Seminars are Seminars recorded and put on the Web. Sometime this year, we hope to receive training locally to make the process easier for computer users.

ADVOCACY Issues for which members have received Action Alerts

ACTION ALERT: Coming Soon to Your Community – Dirty Air (NEW) □ Clean air and public health are under attack in Congress. Very soon the House is expected to vote on two bills, which could weaken our environmental public health standards: H.R. 2681 would reduce regulation of cement plants, which are one of the largest sources of industrial mercury toxics in the country; and H.R. 2250 would reduce regulations on incinerators and industrial boilers, which dump large amounts of toxic pollution into our air. [Take action now and tell your Representative to protect public health by voting against H.R. 2681 and H.R.2250.](#)

League Urges President to Deny Permit for Keystone XL Pipeline (NEW) □ League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a [letter to President Obama](#) expressing opposition to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and urging him to deny the permit for the pipeline's construction. The League believes that the President should deny the permit for the pipeline's construction for three key reasons: the pipeline would be inconsistent with meaningful action on climate change, the route of the pipeline poses an unacceptable risk to a critically important water source, and reducing demand is the best way to improve America's energy security. [League statement.](#)

EDUCATION FUND (Education Study; Privatization Study; Elections; Fair Judiciary)

Education Study Consensus (NEW) □ November 30, 2011, is the Consensus deadline for the study, "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." Each League should input their data once their boards have approved. All materials (papers, power points, and leaders' guide for the study) plus the link to the Consensus form are [here](#) or can be found at www.lwv.org (click members, click projects and programs, click education study). Specific questions may be directed to Peggy Hill (hill@uhcl.edu) or Joanne Leavitt (ac997@lafn.org).

MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP: Helping Local Leagues

LWVUS Welcomes New League (NEW) □ Congratulations to the LWV of Wayne County (NC)..

Election Season is the PERFECT Time to Recruit New Members (NEW) □ As Leagues prepare for candidate forums and other voter service events this fall, remember to use those opportunities to recruit new members as well as educate the public. Resources are available online: [membership brochures](#) (for purchase); sample ["ask" script for moderators](#), [sign-in sheets](#), and [give-and-take business cards](#). Election season is our most visible time of year, so be sure to ask individuals you know to come to election activities put on by the league.

- Iris Milan

November

LWVRV Calendar

2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
	1	2	3	4 LWVRV Book Club, <i>see p.6</i>	5/6 Daylight Savings Ends
7	8 Election Day	9	10 LWVRV General meeting, <i>see p. 1</i>	11 Veterans Day	12/13
14	15 LWVRV board meeting, <i>see p.3</i>	16	17	18	19/20
21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26/27
28	29	30			



LWVRV Book Club meeting, ❖ November 4, 2011, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, at the home of Lorraine Werblow, 541-245-3641.

LWVRV General Meeting, December 8, 2011

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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