



# League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

## VOTERS VOICE

APRIL 2007

www.lwrvv.org

Volume 15 Issue 7

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ Our April 12th General Meeting will be a joint meeting with LWVA and will be held in Ashland.
- ◆ Look for information and details on our annual meeting, May 17th. They will be included in your Annual Meeting Kit.

April 12th at the Elks Club in Ashland (see direction below); Call Trish 899-9557 to carpool.  
11:30 - lunch; 12:00 - 1:30 program

Lunch reservations required. Contact Mary Ann Wallace, 482-7326 or mymia@mind.net

Soup / salad / sandwich buffet \$8.50 for whole, \$4.50 for half

We will be meeting with LWV Ashland for a consensus discussion on the Oregon Judiciary.

**DIRECTIONS:** The building is located between 1st and 2nd Streets in downtown and faces out to Main Street. But, the front door stays locked so you must enter from the rear. The Parking lot is between 1st and 2nd Streets off Lithia Way, but you can't enter the lot from Lithia.

**From Medford,** you will come in on North Main from either the freeway or HWY 99. Hwy 99 turns into Main Street after the light at Valley View. Go to 2nd street and turn left. There is a city parking lot on the left side of 2nd. Turn into the lot and keep going to the gate, which opens automatically, into the Elks' parking lot which is free and open for parking at lunch time. Park your car in any available space. You will be entering the building from the back. There is a red brick path in the parking lot which takes you to the back entrance. There is a little alley that separates the parking lot from the building. *See article page 3*



### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS REPORT REVEALS FUNDING PROBLEMS, GAPS IN SERVICES FOR THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS TEENS

An extensive League of Women Voters survey throughout Oregon found that thousands of youth between the ages of 12 and 21 are homeless and that funding problems have seriously reduced services to help them. As a result of the report, the LWV is advocating for more services to prevent youth homelessness and to meet the needs of these young people.

As a result of the study, the LWVOR board adopted a position calling for more preventive services, shelter, and housing throughout Oregon for homeless youth and their families. The state League is currently actively advocating for this position in the legislative session in Salem. Also, local Leagues in many Oregon cities will testify on their communities' specific needs before the Joint Ways and Means Committee as it travels to hold hearings throughout the state.

To obtain a copy of the report and the Homeless Youth Advocacy Position, go to [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org) or call (503) 581-5722

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# President's Message



It was six years ago that my husband and I decided to check out Oregon as a future home site. We were considering immigrating after a thirty-year stint in Texas. We flew into Portland with the idea we would drive south and check things out. Our first stop was Salem and a self-guided tour of the Capitol Building. It differed greatly from its Austin Texas counter-part. What felt the same was the stately atmosphere where laws are created, or not

Every legislative session, LWVOR has a Day at the Legislature. It is a well organized event to learn about, or simply refresh the memory of, what the legislature does. This year, it will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Members and their guests are welcome. It is a full day trip from the Rogue Valley or a fun overnigher. There will be presentations in the morning about Measure 37 status and a new proposed bottle bill. Discussions will be held on the Vision for Oregon. The afternoon will be spent visiting with individual legislators. If you are interested in registering, go the LWVOR web site. [www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

Spring is here. Our days are growing longer. We just experienced the Vernal Equinox --- it fell on March 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Ver is the Latin derivative for spring. It is the one spring day when the sun spends an equal amount of time above and below the horizon at every location on earth. Interesting huh?

Hope to see you soon.

*Trish*

## Local League Leaders

### OFFICERS

Trish Bowcock, President  
trishbowcock@charter.net ~ 899-9557  
Barbara Davidson, 1st Vice President  
barbdcp@aol.com ~ 245-2729  
Margaret Bradburn, 2nd Vice-President  
tripledeuce@netscape.com ~ 878-3568  
Carol Ingelson, Secretary  
IngRich@charter.net ~ 773-3204  
Margaret Keene, Treasurer  
margaret2@postmaster.co.uk ~ 826-6911

### DIRECTORS

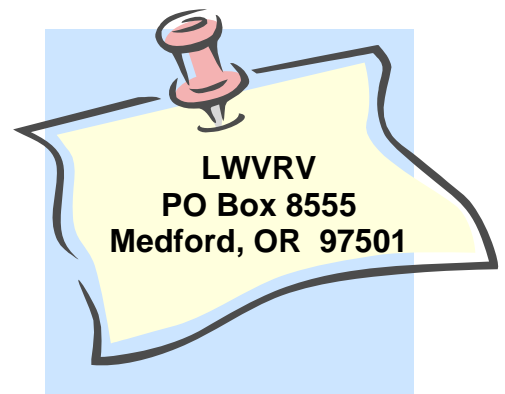
Vacant— Voter Services

Joan Rogers, Program & Homeless  
rogers4290@aol.com ~ 772-4290  
Jean Milgram, Development  
jmilgramvm@charter.net ~ 857-6453  
Lorraine Werblow, Grapefruits  
werbys@charter.net ~ 245-3641

### OFF BOARD

Mary Carlon, Membership Committee  
m1234c@highstream.net ~ 858-4585  
Mickey Ketchum, Membership Committee  
mketchum@aol.com ~ 773-2968  
Marcia Smith, Bulletin Mailing  
donhos2@charter.net ~ 779-7650  
Carole Levi, Voters Voice Editor  
mpkettle@hotmail.com ~ 664-9943  
Helen Scholom, Webmaster  
helenpeace@uno.com ~ 535-8983  
Vicki Keeney, Nominating Committee  
vickee@medford.net ~ 664-3029  
Shiena Polehn, Nominating Committee  
polehn@mind.net ~ 773-4177  
Cynthia Lora, Nominating Committee  
clnrmn@charter.net ~ 776-3361

League of Women's Voters of Oregon  
Salem, OR 97302  
lwvor@open.org ~ www.lwvor.org



**LWVRV Voice Mail:**  
**(541) 245-6920**  
**[www.lwvrv.org](http://www.lwvrv.org)**

# Study of the Oregon Judiciary

The Judiciary Study is a two-year statewide study to assist in the League's need to be better informed about the judiciary - to become aware of the conflicts existing within this branch of government, and to understand the relationships between the judiciary and other governmental agencies and the judiciary and the public. The study is emphasizing that the Judicial Branch is an independent third branch of government.

The goals of the study are (1) A better understanding of the existing state and local court system and how it is currently functioning in Oregon; and (2) Awareness of alternative systems and whether they might improve our system.

The scope of the study includes the following:

1. The selection of judges;
2. Campaign finances in judiciary elections;
3. Budgeting for the courts;
4. Judges' discretion; and
5. The structure and inter-relationship of courts, including specialty courts.

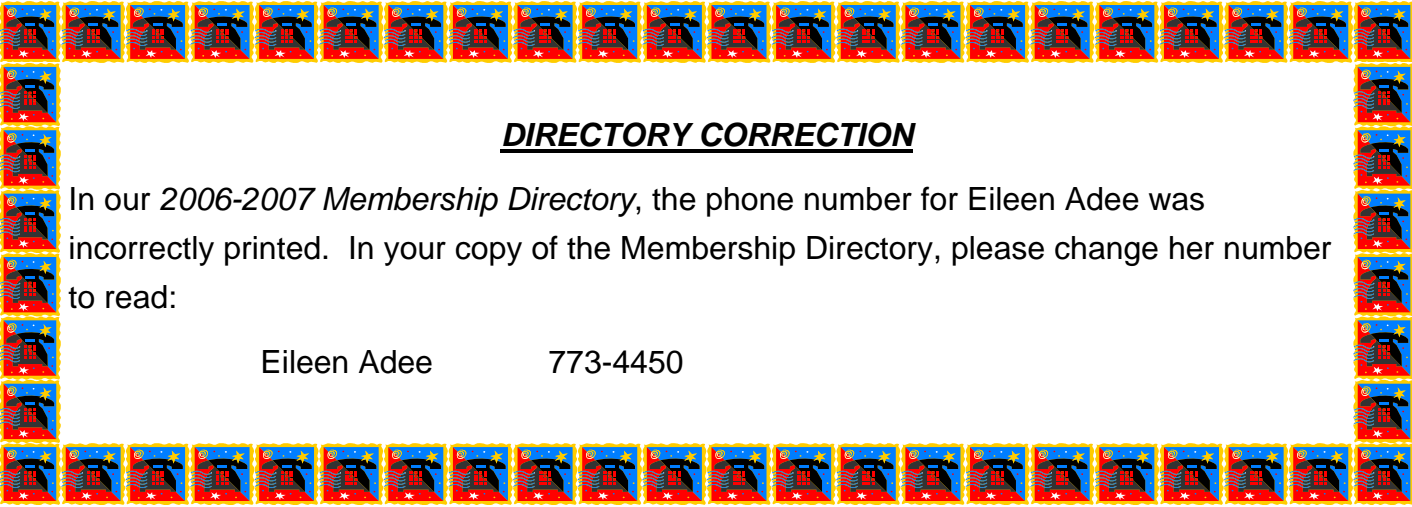
The first year has focused on two general areas:

- (1) An overview of the current system, i.e., organization and operation of the court system at the city, county, and state level, election of judges, financing and effectiveness, and
- (2) Investigation and discussion of alternative systems.

The interviews of the court personnel have been completed, and the every member material is in preparation for the first year's consensus. We will have a joint consensus meeting with the LWVRV on April 14. **It is important that members review the pamphlet *An Overview of the Oregon Judiciary* and the every member materials before the consensus meeting.**

The second year will consist of reviewing the information gathered in the first year and identifying areas of change and conflict. If a new League position appears to be warranted to enable us to advocate in this area, consensus questions could then be formulated by the LWVOR committee. *(from LWVA March 2007 newsletter)*

**By Barbara Jarvis**



**DIRECTORY CORRECTION**

In our *2006-2007 Membership Directory*, the phone number for Eileen Adee was incorrectly printed. In your copy of the Membership Directory, please change her number to read:

Eileen Adee            773-4450

## Global Climate Change is an Issue Priority for LWVUS

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.

April 12, 2007 is National Day of Climate Action. Step It Up 2007 is holding events across America. See [www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org) for information about Rogue Valley events.

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### **NEW STATE ADVOCACY POSITIONS**

Of the three new LWVOR studies undertaken for this biennium, two have been completed, and been adopted by the state board. The positions are listed below. The third, "The Oregon Judiciary" is underway and consensus meetings will be held soon.

#### **REDISTRICTING in OREGON, Adopted March, 2007**

Congressional and legislative redistricting should advance the fundamental purposes of representative democracy and a republican form of government by affording the people a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and holding the government accountable to the people.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the Oregon legislative and congressional redistricting system should be efficient, adequately funded, based on well-defined criteria, subject to a reasonable and effective timetable, and have an open and public process.

A. Any redistricting plan should assure that voters are effectively able to hold their public officials accountable, responsible, and responsive, and be based on the following criteria:

Adhere to all federal constitutional and legal requirements such as that every district should have equal population, be contiguous, and meet

the requirements of the Voting Rights Act;

Promote competitiveness and partisan fairness;

Consider other criteria, such as respect for political subdivisions, communities of interest, and geographic barriers.

B. Any redistricting plan should be developed independently of the Legislature in a nonpartisan manner with substantial public input. The Legislature may be afforded an opportunity to review the plan and accept or reject it.

C. The Oregon Supreme Court should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the criteria have not been met.

D. Oregon should conduct redistricting only once during each decade following the federal census.

*continued on page 5*



# Land Use in Jackson County

The Oregon Legislation is being drawn up for a vote in the legislature in early April concerning changes in M37. I don't know the number of the bill or what the legislation will be. It will be critical to contact your legislator about your support (or non support in case the legislation is not helpful). Since Rep. Sal Esquivel is a swing voter, I am asking those in his district (City of Medford) let me know who can call on him to support your position. Call me at 773-7144 if you can help.

JC Commissioners have delayed their deliberations on amending the Comprehensive Plan and Map on siting and developing Destination Resorts within the county until April 4, 2007 at 1:30pm. They needed to have more time to review the records and testimony. This is a public hearing but no testimony will be accepted.

There are tentative applications for four Destination Resorts in Jackson County which are located near lower Table Rock on the John Day Ranch, the Hidden Valley Ranch near Blackwell Hill, the 1800 acres of the Hartnell property in the Antelope Valley and the Provost property south of Ashland. If all 4 are developed within a short time, they could have considerable impact on the county. The town of Redmond in Jefferson County is concerned about the traffic impact of 3 destination resorts being developed nearby. We face 4 destination resorts. There will probably be several appeals based on wildlife habitat, agriculture, transportation, water and sewage concerns to wade through before any DRs are developed.

The legislature has taken testimony and they are now proposing legislation to allow a systems development charge on new homes for capital building of schools. In the past, the state has not allowed for systems development charges for schools as were allowed for parks and streets. The home builders have opposed this charge, but school supporters have continued to pressure the legislature to change this policy and they may have enough support in the legislature this year to pass a systems development charge. Other states have had such a charge to help build schools. This will be a sizeable charge of about \$6,500 per house, but it could be partially waved in the case of low-cost housing.

*Porter Lombard, member of the RVLWV.*

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Please give a warm welcome to our newest LWVRV members:

*Gail Beason*                      113 Deborah Drive                      Talent, OR 97540  
512-0699                      Gpbeason@jeff.net

*Jackie Baker*                      6001 Foothill Road                      Medford, OR 97504  
772-1476                      farmorjb@aol.com

Please Give your Support!!!!

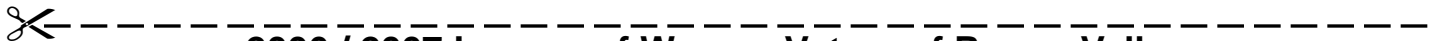


# Kid's Unlimited



The following Items are needed for Kid's Unlimited. League of Women Voters are invited to join AAUW in helping this organization provide for homeless and other less fortunate youth.

- \* Toiletries such as those available when people stay at hotels
- \* Towels, white (can be used ones) (They will have shower facilities there)
- \* Laundry soap (there will be washing machines and dryers for those without access to these)
- \* Large plastic tubs (To store clothes for the clothing exchange they plan)
- \* New socks and underwear for the clothing exchange
- \* Shoes or gift certificates (Lack of shoes is one of barriers for kids to participate in sports)
- \* Art supplies (this department is for those kids not interested in the sports program)
- \* Granola or power bars for after school hunger pangs
- \* A sofa in moderately good condition



## 2006 / 2007 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* **Special membership half-price rate for January through April of \$28 (full membership) and \$14 (spouse)**

Send check and application to: Box 8555, Medford, OR 97501

Check which of the following you are most interested in attending at a branch meeting.

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

# APRIL 2007 Calendar of Events

Thursday	April 12	11:30 lunch 12noon—1:30pm meeting	General Meeting— <i>Oregon Judiciary</i> . Elks Club, Ashland
Tuesday	April 17	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Board meeting—Nancy Swan's home
Thursday	May 17	5:30pm No-host social hour 6:15pm Dinner and program	Annual Meeting, Jacksonville Inn. Judge Phil Arnold will be our guest speaker. \$30.00 per person. Call Joan for reservations 772-4290.

**DID YOU KNOW that...**



When Oregon joined the Union on July 4, 1859, there were 33 stars on the flag?

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