



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



December/January 2005/06

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 4

League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included



Joint meeting of League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley and Ashland:

HOMELESS/RUNAWAY YOUTH

We are excited to have a panel of Rogue Valley leaders on our League State Study on Homeless/Runaway Youth. Our speakers will be Roxanne Jones, Project Coordinator, Jackson County Commission on Children and Families, Patrick Christensen, Community Works Case Manager for Runaway Teens, Mary Solomon, School District 549C, Project Manager, Homeless Education, and McKinney Venter, representative.

For anyone choosing to help, cash or check contributions may be made to Community Works Homeless Runaway Program as the local League's targeted charity for this holiday season.

Focusing on the homeless/runaway youth in Jackson County, panelists will discuss the numbers, special needs, and programs of assistance available at the local level. There will be time for questions.

Thursday, December 8, 2005

At 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon

@ J.J. North's Restaurant—1016 N. Riverside Avenue, Medford

Lunch available for \$7.50

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!



January Membership Meeting:

National & Local Program Review

Everything you ever wanted to know about the League but forgot to ask!

Members will be given the opportunity to review positions, ask questions and explore suggestions for action. (See your blue Member Handbook for current LWV positions).

Thursday, January 12, 2006 @ J.J. North's Restaurant

at 11:30 A.M., program begins at 12 noon

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

**Too Slow for those who Wait,
Too Swift for those who Fear,
Too Long for those who Grieve,
Too Short for those who Re-
joice; But for those who Love,
Time is Eternity**
Henry Van Dyke

Time is measured and reduced to human terms. The Gregorian calendar was created in 1582 as a modification of the Julian calendar for recording time. Used almost the world over, it isn't the world's only measure of date and celebration. There are calendars unique to many cultures. Korean, Tibetan, Chinese and Hebrew are some examples; each of these emphasizing special dates set aside for celebrations of life.

At our general meeting last month, while settling into my seat to learn about emergency preparedness, my eyes fixed upon a fully bedecked Christmas tree gracing the room's corner. I consulted my calendar. Yep, it was only November 10th. America's Halloween had just passed and we weren't even to Thanksgiving yet.

America's first Thanksgiving festival was a celebration to give thanks for sufficient crops. Now it falls every November. As we move into the holiday season we cannot stop the forward march of time. But, we can slow our internal calendars, momentarily setting aside shopping and "to do" lists; instead giving of ourselves to others.

The League's December general meeting focuses upon America's burgeoning homeless youth population. In Jackson County large numbers of teens are living on the streets, without the warmth and safety of a loving home. For many of these children there is no hope for tomorrow. Join us on December 8th to learn about the hidden plight of our street kids. Meanwhile, think about how you might set aside a small bit of your time to give the greatest gift of all, the gift of caring.

May you have a safe and joyful holiday season!
Trish

Trish Bowcock
899-9557 / trishbowcock@charter.net

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Summary of November Membership Meeting by Jeanne Gang

Mike Curry, Emergency Program Manager for Jackson County, and Mark Burnes, Assistant to the Fire Chief, in charge of Emergency Management in Medford were the speakers at the November League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley meeting.

Mike Curry explained that there is a difference between the response to an “outer core” problem as compared to a “disaster”. The flood in Ashland, for example, needed water more than anything, and so shipments of water were immediately started. He stressed how necessary it is to rely on oneself before any help is called for. It takes at least 72 hours for help to arrive, so individuals will need enough water for 3 days; same for food, and be sure to have medication within reach, plus extra batteries for flash lights (better than candles for lighting), plus a battery operated radio. He explained that there are called automatic vehicular locators, which can locate fire engines and police. He told of the simulated emergency to train hospital workers, how to handle a pandemic such as bird flu (push packs loaded with medications, etc., M& M’s were “medicine” for that day!). One strong point: to get Federal money for help, there must be a plan, and the need for good planning was stressed by both speakers.



Lorraine Werbelow:
LWVRV board member in
charge of the meeting

Disaster emergency training is given for treating those with special needs, but the public is urged not to take on themselves helping others without some coordination with those in charge. (Don’t send goods to areas as often they can’t be used).

Speakers: Mike Curry,
Emergency Program Man-
ager for Jackson County
and Mark Burnes, Medford
Fire Dept. Assistant to
the Fire Chief, in charge of
Emergency
Management in Medford



With hurricanes at least there is some warning, but with earthquakes (more likely for this area) there really isn’t. Keeping an eye on the “I-5” corridor is vital (shipping of dangerous materials, and where any terrorists might attack shipments, etc.).

Mark Burnes explained that emergency planning requires cooperation among cities, dove-tailing their responses with counties, and then State. Disaster declaration comes from State. He stated that they recognize people’s desire and need to stay with their homes in emergency disasters, but that when evacuation is ordered, people are urged to follow these orders—those staying behind in disasters often suffer. The Emergency incident commander determines plans for helping where those in need state what they need. The most difficult



part of their job is recovery planning; phone trees are needed, and sometimes long-term help for many people.

Again, both speaker stressed self-reliance as one of the best ways to meet disasters.

Action!

Citizen involvement in Jackson County land-use planning had declined. The Board of Commissioners determined that revitalization was needed. It requested that the Jackson County Planning Commission study the problem and make recommendations.

In response, almost two years ago Jackson County's Planning Commission embarked upon a mission to revise and update the Citizen Involvement Element of its Comprehensive Plan. A diverse study group was formed. After much hard work by the Planning Commission and many other dedicated volunteers the revised plan is now complete and is being recommended for approval by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.



To finalize this important project, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners must hold a public hearing on the proposed revisions to its' Citizen Involvement Plan.

Please contact your Commissioners, encouraging them to quickly set a public hearing on the proposed revisions to Jackson County's Citizen Involvement Plan. Ask that the hearing be held at a time when the public can attend and that it be widely publicized to maximize attendance.

Write, call or email to:

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Jackson County Courthouse Room 200
10 South Oakdale
Medford, OR 97501

Commissioner Dave Gilmour
774-6117
gilmoudr@jacksoncounty.org

Commissioner C.W. Smith
774-6119
smithdc@jacksoncounty.org

Commissioner Jack Walker
774-6118
WalkerJW@jacksoncounty.org

**THANK YOU
GRAPEFRUIT BUYERS
GRAPEFRUIT SELLERS
GRAPEFRUIT SQUEEZERS
GRAPEFRUIT EATERS**

Thanks to you all for making this year's fund-raiser a real juicy and profitable one. Your efforts helped us raise funds so that we can continue our efforts in being the viable and respected League people turn to for voter information, programs, and studies that affect us all. Special thanks to Kathleen Donham (for keeping the grapefruit count) and Carol Ingelson (for keeping the money count correct).

Lorraine Werblow, Chairperson



**League of Women Voters
of the United States**

ACTION ALERT!

League of Women Voters Opposes USA PATRIOT ACT Reauthorization

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes the conference report on H.R. 3199, the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act, which was tentatively agreed to by House and Senate conferees on Wednesday, November 16. The conference report does not sufficiently protect civil liberties. It fails to restore the checks and balances that were taken away by the USA PATRIOT Act. The House and Senate may vote on the conference report at any time. Contact your Representatives and Senators and ask them to oppose the conference report to H.R. 3199. Check www.lwv.org for updates and action.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund, with support from the McArthur Foundation, sponsored research and convened public deliberations with citizens across the country to discuss homeland security and civil liberties during 2005.

Insights emerging from focus group data, national survey research findings, and the public deliberations about people's views on homeland security and civil liberties include:

1. There is a lack of in-depth knowledge about "homeland security."

In terms of national priorities, Americans continue to rate fighting terrorism as a top issue for the government to address, but other concerns often take priority on a day-to-day basis. Americans are not very engaged in homeland security efforts, either locally or nationally. Few are very familiar with state and local emergency plans, or with federal measures such as the USA Patriot Act.

2. Civil liberties are deeply valued.

Americans feel a strong commitment toward preserving civil liberties. They do not consider their civil liberties currently under threat. People think that there are just a few infringements and no indications of wide-scale abuses of rights and freedoms.

3. People struggle to balance security and liberty.

Many issues related to provisions in the USA Patriot act have been discussed and following insights emerge:

- A majority opposes "secret searches". Fears of "slippery slope" are mentioned by many.
- The government needs justification and judicial oversight to obtain personal records
- People are struggling with racial, ethnic and religious profiling.



4. Systems of checks and balances are seen as vital to protect rights and prevent abuses.

People value and consider vital the system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

5. Concern of a "slippery slope" often emerges in the context of the focus group discussion.

6. Many call for more openness in government regarding homeland security efforts and their effects on civil liberties.

Many people feel they know too little.

7. As a result of discussion, people perceive the importance of personal involvement.

A number of people are willing to get involved locally in homeland security efforts, public forums, oversight committees and learning about antiterrorism efforts and legislation.

8. Public deliberation matters on this topic.

For more in depth information please visit www.lwv.org

Access and Availability of Health Care in the Rogue Valley

by Cynthia Lora,

Local Health Survey Committee

In the fall of 2003, the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley embarked, via committees, to study certain aspects of local health care in and around the Rogue Valley.

The areas of focus included: Access and Availability of Health Care; Insurance Issues; Family and Childrens Services, plus Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug issues; and Access and Availability of Mamograms.

We also attended several meetings of the Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon (HCCSO), a group of health care professionals from many areas of practice and health administration in the Rogue Valley, who were in the process of evaluating aspects of care offered here including the successes, "tools" available to providers, and to evaluate failures of various health care "safety nets".

The results of our studies, published as " Survey of Health Care in the Rogue Valley, 2003/2005" is still available in its entirety at our website www.lwvrv.org.

In "CONCLUSIONS" of that survey: Although some excellent medical care is available in this area of Southern Oregon with the latest in medical technology and the best medical staff being available for some patients, especially in a medical magnet center like Medford, there is a crisis in attracting and retaining doctors and medical staff for various reasons.

Several possible "Solutions" were offered: the fifth and final one was "Personal Responsibility". Noted therein," ...was the conclusion of the health survey group and echoed by HCCSO, the Forum for Covering the Uninsured and several speakers that on of the most important aspects of good health is for individuals to be responsible for participating in and making healthy life choices."



Some have asked what resources, in addition to discussions with their health care providers, they might access for information regarding general health concerns, "maintaining good health" and/or specific medical information that is well written and well regarded by many involved in health care services.

When I, as a (retired) Registered Nurse, am asked for such recommendations, I do not hesitate to list five sources I have in our home library:

" The Merck Manual of Medical Information/ Second Home Edition", Mark Beers, Editor-in-Chief (written for general public);

"Natural Health, Natural Medicine: The Complete Guide to wellness and Selfcare" by Andrew Weil, M.D.;

"Womens' Bodies, Womens' Widsom" by Christiane Northrup, M.D.;

"The Merck Manual of Health and Aging" Mark Beers, Editor in Chief (" comprehensive guide to the changes and challenges of aging - or older adults and those who care for and about them") and

" Healthy Aging: A Lifelong Guide to Your Physical and Spiritual Well Being" by Andrew Weil, M.D.



Voters' Guide



VOTER SERVICE

Agnes Chirgwin

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Help Needed

In the 2006 Primary Election, Oregon voters will be nominating and in some cases may be electing candidates for U. S. Congress, Governor, State Senator and Representative, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Judges for three positions on the Oregon Supreme Court and five positions on the Court of Appeals. Most candidates for judge and statewide nonpartisan offices who receive more than 50 percent of the vote in the Primary will be elected, so this is an important election! As usual, the LWV will be working hard to inform the public about candidates through the various editions of our Voters' Guide and our public forums.

To make this information as useful as possible, we need your help. Please review the list below and help us find volunteers.

The list of needs and volunteer opportunities includes:

- ▶ Suggesting questions for candidates to be used in the Voter's Guide and in candidate debates

- ▶ Helping with planning content and layout for the Voters' Guide
- ▶ Helping to call candidates with reminders to respond to our questionnaires
- ▶ Helping with writing explanations in simple language for the Easy-to-Read edition
- ▶ Translating the Easy-to-Read edition into Spanish (or helping us find someone who can)
- ▶ Helping to set up and conduct debates for statewide candidates
- ▶ Updating the curriculum materials for the Mock Election (An intern will also work on this project.)
- ▶ Helping your local League with fundraising for the Voters' Guide and election activities
- ▶ Helping plan publicity for the Voter's Guide and debates.

If you can suggest people to help with any of these tasks, please call or email the LWVOR office at 503-581-5722 or lwvor@lwvor.org. We need questions for candidates in January. Planning for debates starts in January or even earlier. Work on the Voters' Guide will start in February.

This is truly a case where many hands make light work! And the work is so important and rewarding. Thank you.



Our Strength Lies in Our Numbers!

The League's free online activist community has been very effective this year, sending tens of thousands of messages to Congress on important legislation.

Join the League's free online activist community and receive action alerts on important issues by email. Our online activists have sent more than 85,000 email messages to the 109th Congress! You too can make a difference by signing up today. Go to the LWVUS Web site at www.lwv.org and click **Take Action** to sign up for the Grassroots Lobby Corps and make your voice heard! Because our strength lies in our numbers, we encourage you to **ask friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to join** you as online activists with the League.

Jackson County Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) Observer

by Estelle Womack

(MHAB meets the 3rd Monday of the month)

I am your new observer for the MHAB and will briefly introduce myself. I have a longtime interest in mental health issues due to family members with mental health problems. My background is in education. I am a former member of the San Diego County MHAB and currently am president of the Rogue Valley Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-SO).

Jackson County MHAB and other agencies working with Access recently opened a new affordable housing unit on Woodrow Street behind Providence Hospital. It is a beautiful unit with 6 individual apartments and one group living facility. The waiting list was over 80 on the day it opened !

The MHAB has been reviewing operating regulations over the last several months. At the request of one of the members and NAMI-SO they are considering a new policy which will increase family involvement when a client of Jackson County Mental Health (JCMH) is in a decompensating situation. This policy had a first reading.



Sgt. Diane Sandler of the Medford Police Dept. reported that they are undergoing an accreditation process and receiving high marks for their mental health policies. In their promotion process officers have to take oral and written exams stating how

they would treat a crisis situation involving a mentally ill person.

The Meth Task Force continues to meet and discuss how best to coordinate services for those with a dual diagnosis. When a person presents first with a mental illness then gets into drugs, treatment is easier to begin than the reverse presentation. The Task Force continues to work on these issues.

The Community Family Court is having good success with their model of involving the whole family in the drug treatment process.

The Hawthorne Drop-in Center for JCMH clients is in a process of change. The MHAB will be updated as the process develops.



United Nations News

By Donald A. Wells

At a time when the UN is so widely accused of incompetence I wish to report that with respect to those ringing words in the Preamble to the UN Charter: "We the peoples of the United Nations (are) determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," the Security Council has done remarkably well. In at least 170 instances, international disagreements that could easily have led to armed conflict, were resolved peacefully through Security Council actions. Many still imagine that the UN is supposed to have an army or at least take sides in wars. Have we forgotten that the Security Council voted against the Korean War (Russia abstained), that the Council voted against the first Gulf War (China abstained), and that neither our current war against Afghanistan nor our current war against Iraq have the approval of the Security Council? Indeed, with one exception, (Congo in 1964) "The UN has never engaged in armed conflict. It sends peacekeepers. This is a remarkable achievement."

Donald A. Wells

UNA of USA Board Member



League of Women Voters® of Oregon

NOMINATIONS

Helen Scholom

helenpeace@juno.com, 541-535-8983

State Nominating Committee Seeks League Leaders As each League program year begins, the search begins anew for members interested in serving on the state board the next year. In May 2006 at the Council in Ashland, League members will elect several leaders to serve on our Oregon League Board of Directors. Most of these openings are for two-year terms.

LWVOR's nominating committee is beginning the process of looking for these state board officers and directors for the years 2006-2008. Letters and phone calls will go out to local League presidents asking for suggestions and recommendations. Any member or friend of the League wishing to recommend a member for a state board position should please email Helen Scholom at helenpeace@juno.com or call 541-535-8983.



2005/06 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Give a copy of this to a prospective member or send the person's name to the address below

Send this application with \$49.00 (spouse/student \$24.50) for 2005/06 membership to:



**LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501**

For more information call Mickey Ketchum,
Membership Committee, at 773-2968

December 2005 / January 2006 Calendar

December	first week		Grapefruit Delivery
Thursday	Dec. 8	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Homeless/Runaway Youth Joint meeting LWV of Rogue Valley and Ashland @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!
Thursday	Dec. 8	1 PM - 2:30 PM	LWVRV Board Meeting following general meeting @ J.J. North's
Thursday	Jan. 12 2006	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: National & Local Program Review Everything you ever wanted to know about the League but forgot to ask. @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford
Tues.	Jan. 17	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Home- owner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)
Thursday	Febr. 9	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting, details tba

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

