



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



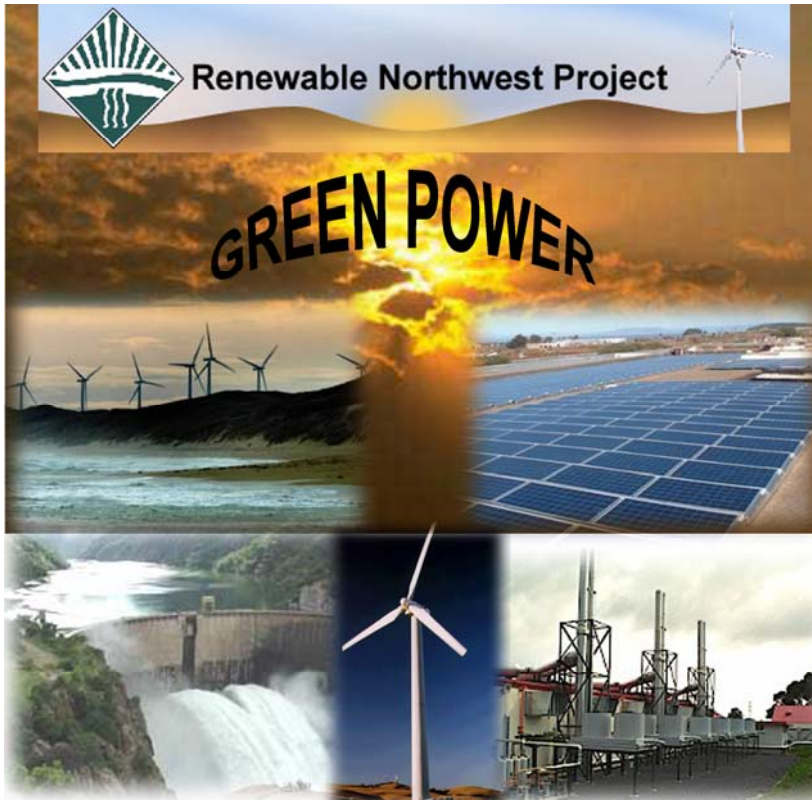
February 2006

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 5

League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

Renewable Energy for Oregon: Choosing a Clean Energy Future



Paige Prewett, southern Oregon outreach consultant for Renewable Northwest Project, will present facts about the rapid development of regional clean electricity projects and how green power benefits Oregon's environment and economy. RNP is a Portland-based advocacy organization working to further the development of renewable energy in the region, to shape sound energy policy, and to raise public awareness about green power. Presentation topics will include information on wind, solar and biomass power, where grid-connected renewable energy projects are being developed in the state, how Oregon Senate Bill 1149 made renewable energy options available to Oregonians, opportunities for Rogue Valley residents and businesses to support clean energy, and more. Check out www.rnp.org

Thursday, February 9, 2006
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!



President's Message

“The League has become so political,” stated an acquaintance recently. *Hmmm*, of course the League is political. We are non-partisan and never support individual candidates. But, we are political. My curiosity aroused, I asked: *What do others think LWV does?*

Launching my own unscientific poll I asked about: “What do you think the League of Women Voters does?” All had heard of the League but few knew the extent of our work. Realizing I lacked a ready short ready answer to my own question, I embarked on an organizational refresher course. This is what I learned.

LWV is a grassroots organization of both men and women. There are approximately 900 Leagues nationwide operating at the national, state and local levels. LWV has two arms: (1) Voter Service and (2) public policy advocacy. When engaging in Voter Service LWV is completely neutral, striving to present all sides and increase informed voter participation. When engaging in public advocacy, the League actively works to influence public opinion.

Public policy advocacy in the League occurs only after an issue has been carefully studied. A “study” is a formal process where all sides of an issue are weighed before a “position” is adopted. LWV never mixes its Voter Services arm with its advocacy arm.

The League has operated for 80 years, constantly working to stay current on political issues. From adopted formal positions, we advocate on a wide variety of issues including our governmental system, international relations, natural resources, social issues, juvenile justice, economics and land-use.

To embark on your own refresher course or to sign-up for LWVUS Action Alert, start with our local web site: www.lwvrv.org

I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2006!

Trish Bowcock
899-9557 / trishbowcock@charter.net

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(541) 245-6920

Summary of December Joint Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley and Ashland on Homeless/Runaway Youth - by Jeanne Gang

The League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley and Ashland held a joint meeting on December 8, 2005. The program had a three person panel discussing the problems of homeless & runaway youth.

The panel was: Roxanne Jones, Project Coordinator for Jackson County Commission for Children and Families; Patrick Christensen, Community Works Case Manager for Runaway Teens, Mary Solomon, School District 549 C Project Manager for Homeless Education, and McKinney Venter, representative.

Mary S. explained that “homeless” means a variety of situations: with families in motels, or often with 2-4 families in small apartments. Some people are living in trailers, often without heat, and some in garages. There are a number of these along Riverside and Central. Most of these are sub-standard living. There is a Salvation Army Shelter for three families, temporarily, and a mission for single mothers with children, but no place to go for teens. Some children are taken care of by grandmothers.

Mary S. said there are academic barriers: often children have to change schools as their family moves around, such as migrants. It is especially hard for special needs children. Needed for all runaways and homeless teens: “a closet to get back packs, clothing, and a warm meal.” More help, and more funding (grants) are needed as well.

Patrick Chr. stated that anywhere from 9-22 teens may drop in to the shelter at Community Works at any one time. It is short term, but even if a teen has to leave after two weeks, he/she may come back again. Many of these kids are “couch jumpers” living from place to place. They may leave home for a number of reasons: parent abuse and drugs, sexual abuse, or even wanting to be free to use drugs themselves, or won’t follow rules of house. Often there is a generational situation, and what is needed are jobs. When they lose jobs, they may be newly welfare families. Teens can be flexible, but they need stability.



Community Works is a highly regarded “umbrella” agency and tries to determine the needs of an individual child referring each to the appropriate agency. Foster homes are in great need now, and places for independent living are hard to find.

Roxanne J. explained she is “behind the scenes” as mandated coordinator for homeless and runaway youth. Regarding numbers: one group says there are 2000, and another says 1300 homeless youth in Jackson County, based on school statistics. It’s hard to pick out homeless and runaways if they are attending classes, doing work, and seem okay. The situation varies in each school district; 549C has more resources. She questions how to get more help from the community. The I-5 corridor is often the meeting place of homeless youth. These kids are transient, and Meth and predators make these areas unsafe for them; in some cases it’s vice versa.

Patrick Ch. mentioned a shelter in Eugene by name old Fire House with 60 beds, divided 30/30 boys/girls. They have a job center, case work management, medical care, and alternate education.

Some themes are running through all of the panel: problems are poverty, needing low cost housing, help from community and the need to understand teens. Some people have taken kids in for no pay, but have to be careful as youths’ background must be understood. One must take kids where they are and not with special ideas of behavior.

A comment from the audience: The manager of a local place called Magdalena House, says that they are helping two girls with babies and one pregnant teen and that it takes \$300 per day as they must have 24/7 help.



National & Local Program Review

Summary of January Membership Meeting

By Trish Bowcock

The January LWVRV General Meeting was devoted to a review of LWVUS and LWVRV positions. Eileen Adee, Trish Bowcock, Barbara Davidson, Mickey Ketchum, Cynthia Lora, Joan Rogers summarized the League's positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, Social Policy, Land Use, Juvenile Justice, Medford City Charter, Local Government and Jackson County Government. Members voted to retain all adopted positions. Arising from this meeting, recommendations will be forwarded to LWVUS for consideration at the National Convention in June. Local positions will be voted upon at our annual meeting in May.

HOMELAND SECURITY FOR LWV OF ROGUE VALLEY:

By Eileen Adee

This is an ORANGE ALERT FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

Turn in your friends! Or for an extra star in your crown, turn yourself in!

We elect in even years (like 2006) a Second Vice President, a Treasurer, and four Board Members for 2-year terms. We also elect three Nominating Committee Members for a one-year term.

Electees serve from June 2006 to June 2008. Which of your friends fit these positions:

Treasurer: Likes money and has fun with computers (two trainers available to teach you the program)

2nd Vice -

President: If the President and 1st Vice President both die, you are on! Otherwise, keep an eye on those two and volunteer to lighten their work and keep them happy.

Board Members choose portfolios in areas you care about & would enjoy.

Report suspects to any of the following agents:	Eileen Adee	773-4450
	Jeanne Gang	773-1567
	Shiena Polehn	773-4177
	Cynthia Lora	776-3361
	Vicki Keeney	664-3029





League of Women Voters
of the United States



ACTION UPDATE:

Congress will reconsider Civil Liberties– Dec. 23, 2005:

Your voice was heard! In a recent turn of events, the House and Senate agreed to allow more time to reconsider the impact on civil liberties of the reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act.

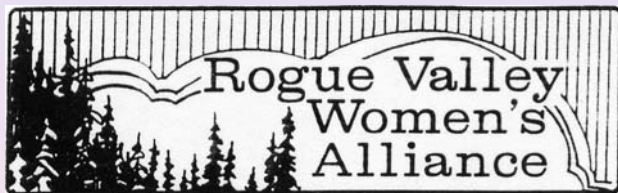
You Preserved the Rules and the Refuge - Dec. 22, 2005

Another Victory! Thanks in large part to activists like you, the Senate upheld its rules and refused to allow the Opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the Department of Defense Appropriations (DOD) bill.

ACTION ALERT:

Tell Congress not to Privatize Social Security - Nov. 27, 2005

In spite of public opposition, Congress is still considering proposals that would privatize the Social Security system. Social Security is one of the most successful social programs of the 20th Century. The system's financing problems are manageable and can be addressed by reasonable adjustments over time. Rushing into private accounts does not solve the so-called Social Security crisis, but rather would add to the cost of the program. **Tell Congress not to put those who will depend upon this safety net at risk!** Tell your Member of Congress that private accounts would put Social Security in more peril not less. If you know that they agree, thank them for protecting this important safety net.



"Women and Money" is the theme of this year's RVWA annual networking dinner, **Tuesday, March 7th at the Rogue Regency Inn**. The no-host wine bar opens at 5:30pm for socializing. Dinner is scheduled for 6:15, and the program begins at 7:00pm.

A panel of three women, Jan Safley, Director of Consumer Credit Counseling of So.Or. will help us understand how our money habits are affected by our history, personality and emotions. Vicki Smith, Chief Member Relations Officer for Rogue Federal Credit Union, will address a current topic, how to identify credit theft, how to prevent it, and what to do if you become a victim. Elizabeth Presicci, Branch Manager and Financial Advisor from Raymond James Financial Services will clue us in on what a financial planner can do for you and how to select the right one.

Make your reservations early, bring a friend, and come join us. You can send your \$20.00 for the cost of the dinner to RVWA Treasurer, Patricia Sempowich, 108 Nob Hill St., Ashland, OR 97520. **Reservation deadline is March 1.** Hope to see many of you there.

Joan Enloe, VP of RVWA



**League of Women Voters
of Oregon
Education Fund
Summary of Educational
Programs 2003-05:**

Recently, all our League members have received a copy of the LWVOR-EF Biennial Report 2003-05. As it lists in detail all our statewide educational programs it is a good source for each member to recognize the various educational activities the League is involved in.

Voters' Guide: LWV of Oregon has published voters' guides for more than seventy years, but in the past ten years we have increased the number distributed from less than 10,000 per election cycle to more than 660,000 copies in 2004. Since 1998, we have raised the funding to make the statewide Voters' Guide available free of charge. More than 100 LWV volunteers helped with the production and many more with the distribution. Each carefully researched edition of the Voters' Guide contains pros and cons on all of the ballot measures and information on candidates with their responses to questions.

Debates and Forums: The LWV is well known for its nonpartisan candidate debates and ballot measure forums. Over 50 public meetings were held across the state to present ballot measure information and candidate forums for the 2004 Primary and General Elections. LWV members also presented ballot measure information on cable television and to countless community groups and businesses.

Democracy Net: DNet is a project of the national LWV Education fund that has won acclaim for its nonpartisan, clear and thorough presentation of election information.

Speakers Bureau: Before each Primary and General Election, LWV volunteers are trained to inform community groups with comprehensive and unbiased presentations on the ballot measures.

Student Election Activities: The LWVOR Education Fund is committed to encouraging young people to be actively involved in the electoral process. In 2004, we once again coordinated the Oregon student Mock Election. 197 K-12 public and private schools participated.

Funding Oregon: LWV members conducted an extensive study of Oregon's tax system and produced a variety of publications.

Campaign Finance Reform In Oregon: The LWV has long had an interest in campaign finance reform. In 2004, we published a 10-page review of the history of campaign finance reform efforts in Oregon and elsewhere to be used as a focus for discussion groups.

Judicial Independence Project: In 2003 more than 25 public programs were presented where judges and others explained the role of the courts, the history and meaning of judicial independence. A 4-page pamphlet was published "The Trial Jury in Oregon's State Courts: Where Oregonians share the power and the responsibility".

**A message from UNA– USA
by Donald A. Wells**

The preface to the UN Charter affirmed the goal "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Ever since its founding the UN has served as the primary body to explain both the nature, the limits, and the causes of war. Among the myths dispelled by the UN is the claim that the current war against terrorism" is a "different kind of war," and that it requires a rewriting of the laws of war. This has wrongly prompted the current administration to claim that the Geneva or Hague conventions may have been appropriate for the 19th or 20th century wars but that they are outdated in the present. Not so! Ever since ancient times wars have differed, significantly, only in the weapons used. War making has always been an indiscriminate exercise: innocent civilians have always been killed deliberately, prisoners were rarely well treated, and, even up to the present time, might simply be slain because it was inconvenient to care for them. It was a high moral achievement which produced the Geneva and Hague Conventions They established our common commitment to spare civilians, treat prisoners with the respect that is their due, refuse to use weapons that cause "unnecessary suffering," and reminded all nations not to lose the integrity of their country in the process.



Plan on attending the March 9, 2006 membership meeting:

**Whither UN Reform : Hope or Despair?
and other international issues.**



The 47th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States

June 10 - June 13, 2006
Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Find out what is happening with the League nationally by attending the 47th National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States from June 10 - June 13, 2006 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Convention Registration: www.lwv.org/convention

Hotel Registration: www.lwv.org/hotelregistration

League of Women Voters of Oregon Council 2006:

Mark your calendars:

May 19-21 in Ashland, OR, at the Ashland Springs Hotel



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

February 2006 Calendar

Thursday	February 9	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Renewable Energy for Oregon: Choosing a Clean Energy Future. Speaker: Paige Prewett of Renewable Northwest Project @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!
Tuesday	February 20	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)
Tuesday	March 7	7 PM	Rogue Valley Women's Alliance RVWA Annual Networking Dinner @ Rogue Regency Inn. Reservation deadline March 1, more info on page -5-
Thursday	March 9	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Whither UN Reform : Hope or Despair? and other international issues. Details will follow in March Voters Voice. @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF ROGUE VALLEY
 P.O. BOX 8555
 MEDFORD, OR 97504

