



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



March 2006

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 6

League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

Reinventing the United Nations Shifts in American Foreign Policy

Reinventing the United Nations – speaker:

Russy D. Sumariwalla

Is there reason to hope that some good outcomes are probable a result of the “reform movement” or is there a cause to despair? In his presentation Russy D. Sumariwalla, president UNA-USA Southern Oregon and Founder-President of Global Philanthropy & Non-profits will tackle these questions. Prior to his retirement as president and CEO of *United Way International*, he was senior vice president for research, development, and program evaluation and senior fellow *United Way Strategic Institute at United Way of America*.



Shifts in American Foreign Policy – speaker:

Carol Wilder

Carol will share her knowledge and perspective on new departures of the U.S. confronting the post 9-11 world. Carol Wilder is a 34-year Veteran of the United States Foreign Service specializing in public diplomacy.

She served as either the press attaché or the cultural attaché at U.S. embassies in Nicaragua, Spain, Nigeria, Peru and Chile and as a manager of various U.S. State Department exchange programs administered from Washington.

Thursday, March 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!

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

“A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps, both.” Pres. James

The second annual *Sunshine Week* will be celebrated March 12th – 18th. LWVUS is working with other organizations on a forum, taking place in Washington D.C., to discuss the topic: “Are we safer in the dark?”

Public access to government information has long been a topic of debate. During the Vietnam War era, many questioned the veracity of information passed along by the government to the people. On July 4, 1966, the Freedom of Information Act was signed into law, establishing the public’s rights to information from the federal government. In the early 1970s, on the heels of the Watergate scandal, Oregon enacted its own “sunshine laws” ensuring public access to government records and meetings. Both state and federal “sunshine laws” have undergone many revisions. The lists of data exempted from public review under these laws continue to grow.

Why is there a growing trend to exempt government information from public scrutiny? Perhaps for some officials, it is just easier to conduct business behind closed doors. But we live in a representative democracy. Our public officials are elected and appointed to serve the people. If these representatives are concerned about backlash from their actions, rather than close the information door, perhaps the higher course of conduct would be to revise the business being conducted.

The LWV is committed to openness in government at all levels. During *Sunshine Week*, please take a few minutes to help raise public awareness of the need to keep government open. (For more information on *Sunshine Week* go to www.lwv.org - click on News and Events and then Events)

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

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Summary of the February Membership Meeting - by Trish Bowcock



Renewable Electricity in Oregon:

- As of January 2006, over 64,000 Oregonians - including 20,000 Pacific Power customers - are buying renewable energy.
- Oregon is one of the fastest growing markets for renewable energy in the country.
- Innovative policy in Oregon enables most consumers to purchase clean electricity directly from their utility.
- Good choices are available to consumers.

How to support clean electricity:

- Enroll in one of Pacific Power's Blue Sky energy options
- Be energy efficient
- Tell your utility that you value renewables and would like to see their commitments grow.
- Research and develop a statement of support for good policy when it arises.
- Engage with the Fair & Clean Energy Coalition and the Citizens' Utility Board (CUB).
- Help educate politicians, candidates and voters.
- Make sure candidates support renewable energy.
- Take advantage of solar tax credits.

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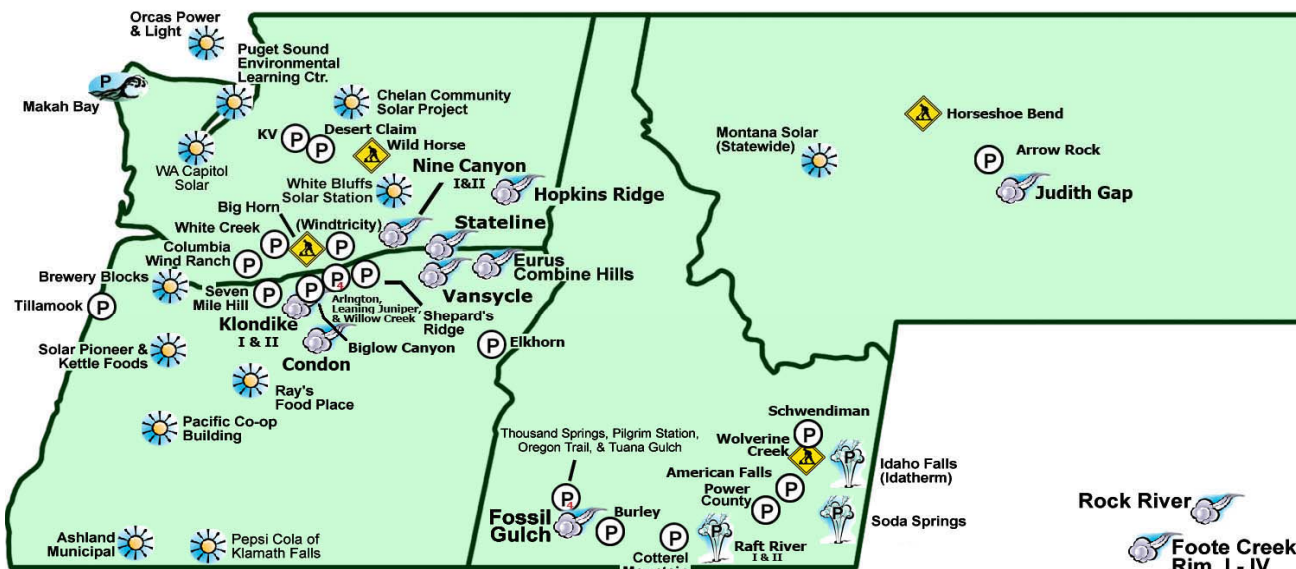
Why support renewable energy?

- Improve air quality and human health
- Benefit Northwest economies
- Diversify the regional power supply
- Protect and preserve natural resources
- Slow the global warming trend
- Create a market for clean electricity

Facts about US electricity consumption:

- Electric power generation is the largest source of industrial air pollution in the U.S.
- Generating electricity produces 1/3 of all carbon dioxide emissions nationwide.
- The cleanest, average-sized fossil fuel plant emits as much CO2 as 288,000 cars per year.
- The average, new technology gas-fired power plant consumes at least 11 million gallons of water per year.

Renewable Energy Projects in the Northwest 2006



Legend	
	Wind - Operating
	Wind - Construction
	Wind - Proposed / Env Review
	Geothermal
	Wave/Tidal
	Solar

Last Updated 1/3/06

Measure 37 declared constitutional

On February 21, 2006 the Oregon Supreme Court issued a ruling declaring Measure 37 constitutional.

The court concluded: *Whether Measure 37 as a policy choice is wise or foolish, farsighted or blind, is beyond this court's purview. Our only function in any case involving a constitutional challenge to an initiative measure is to ensure that the measure does not contravene any pertinent, applicable constitutional provisions. Here, we conclude that no such provisions have been contravened.*



Dozens of other lawsuits challenging flaws in the measure continue to be litigated. Many questions remain unanswered, including whether rights created by the measure can be transferred.

Leagues Complete Survey in Jackson County

by Jean Milgram

In teams of three, Rogue Valley and Ashland Leaguers have interviewed officials of each of the eleven municipalities in Jackson County, plus the county itself, on their implementation of Goal One in the Oregon Land Use Comprehensive Plan.

Goal One requires that cities and counties set up a Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) to monitor citizen involvement and adopt a Citizen Involvement Program providing for ³involvement in all phases of the planning process². The goals in the land use comprehensive plan are stated to have the force of law, but no enforcement mechanism has ever been established.

Since the mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government, our support of statewide implementation of Goal One in land use planning is a given. This year the two Leagues in Jackson County decided to find out how widely Goal One is being followed in their area.

A committee drew up a detailed list of 27 questions to ask city planners and other officials such as city managers and mayors. The questions dealt with both Citizen Involvement Committees (CICs) and Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs), as well as some general questions about land use planning.

Examples of questions:
Is the Citizen Involvement Program or Policy in your Comprehensive Plan currently active?



What procedures do you provide to generate local citizen input on land use issues and/or applications?

What specific types of land use issues and/or applications are routinely considered by ad hoc citizen groups?

There is some interest by DLCD – CIAC and private groups in passing legislation that will create enforcement mechanisms for Goal One.

Do you think that Citizen Involvement in Land-use planning should be legally mandated with enforcement mechanisms?

The League committee first sent individual members to each jurisdiction's planning department to get a copy of their Citizen Involvement Policy/Program. Then calls were made asking for appointments for an interview. During the ensuing three months all the interviews were completed.

A report on the results is being compiled and will be available to the public.

JACKSON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING January 23, 2006

by Estelle Womack

Final reports were given on the State required County 2 year (2007-2009) implementation plan for mental health services.

There were 3 priority areas

- 1) dual diagnosis : this includes the ongoing work of the Meth Task Force
- 2) continue to improve care to the Spanish speaking population
- 3) coordinate services to victims of domestic violence.

Jose Luis Garcia spoke about a new program to improve culturally competent services. Through OSU and the University in Guanajauto , Ashland's sister city, a program is being offered that will include 10 weeks of classes held in the Medford Library, an exchange visitation program to each participating community that will include job shadowing and a 4 week language immersion program. This program will be open enrollment with priority given to social service agencies that work with the Hispanic population.

Anna D'Amato talked about the program at Dunn House. Dunn House serves on site about 300 women per year and about 2500 in their outreach program. Women with mental health issues are the hardest to work with on site and the hardest to place into continuing help when they leave Dunn House. Through coordination with Community Works mental health counseling has started to be provided. To get counseling from JCMH a person must have the Oregon Health Plan. Dunn House is reviewing the needs of clients with disabilities who have been victims of domestic violence.

Detective Diane Sandler brought up the huge problem area of the police and the mentally ill. Frustration was expressed by all concerned. This area will be covered in the next JCMHAB report.



**Check out our
new Website!
www.lwvrv.org**



Recent Developments in UN-US Relations

by **Russy D. Sumariwalla**

On February 6, 2006, the US Senator Richard Lugar [R] Indiana, Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee led a delegation of four senators to the UN where he addressed the Security Council. Others in the delegation included Senators Chuck Hegel of Nebraska, George Voinovich of Ohio, and, interestingly, Norm Coleman of Minnesota who, last year, demanded resignation of Kofi Annan. The following are a few relevant and encouraging excerpts from Senator Lugar's address:

" Because we value an effective and credible United Nations, we have advocated a United Nations reform agenda in our work in the U.S. Senate and during our visit today. Ensuring that the operations of the United Nations are transparent and efficient is important to the United States and the American people..... Most Americans want the United Nations to succeed. They want the UN to be able to facilitate international burden sharing in times of crisis. They want the UN to be a consistent and respected forum for diplomatic discussions. And they expect the UN to be a positive force in the global fight against poverty, disease, and hunger. In my home State of Indiana, we are particularly proud of our native son, Jim Morris, who heads the World Food Program. We celebrate his achievements and recognize how much UN agencies like the World Food Program, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization are doing to benefit humankind." Another indication of thawing of US-UN relations is the meeting this day [2.13.06] between President Bush and Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the White House. Let us hope this results in improved understanding and relations between the two world leaders.

Russy D. Sumariwalla is the speaker at our March 2006 membership meeting.

For over 40 years, Russy Sumariwalla has been pursuing the study of philanthropy, voluntarism, and nonprofit organizations. Prior to his retirement as president and CEO of *United Way International*, he was senior vice president for research, development, and program evaluation and senior fellow *United Way Strategic Institute at United Way of America*. Russy has consulted and lectured extensively in the US and in over 30 countries and is the author of over 200 papers, reports, studies, articles and books on nonprofit management, accounting and budgeting, planning, evaluation, needs assessment, and services identification and classification.

Russy was the co-founder and the first executive director of the *National Center for Charities Statistics* and designed the *National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities*. He was co-chair of the *Aspen Institute Nonprofit Sector Research Fund* and a senior associate at the *Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute* in Washington, D.C.; member, Research Advisory Council, *University of San Francisco Institute for Nonprofit Organization Management* and National Research Advisory Council of *CompassPoint Nonprofit Services*, San Francisco.

Prior to moving to Medford, Oregon, Russy served as the Chair of Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of the Napa Valley and on Boards of the Napa Valley Symphony and Napa Valley Repertory Theatre.

His post-retirement consulting assignments include: Independent Sector, United Way of America, The Asia Foundation, Volunteers of America, CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, University of Southern California Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy, International Society for Third Sector Research, and Family Support America. Russy is founder-president of Global Philanthropy and Nonprofits and was recently elected to the Board of Directors, United Way of Jackson County, Oregon. In May 2005, Russy was asked to Chair a high Level Panel on Accountability, Transparency and Reporting as part of *Global Standards Initiative* United Way International.



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 \$24.50 (spouse/student \$12.25) for 1/2 of 2005/06 membership to:



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

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

March 2006 Calendar

Tuesday	March 7	7 PM	Rogue Valley Women's Alliance RVWA Annual Networking Dinner @ Rogue Regency Inn. Reservation deadline March 1
Thursday	March 9	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Reinventing the United Nations / Shifts in American Foreign Policy Speakers: Russy D. Sumariwalla and Carol Wilder @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!
Tuesday	March 21	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)
Thursday	April 13	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Speaker Diana Garcia, Exec. Dir. of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy- mission: "to protect special lands in the Rogue Basin and surrounding areas for present and future generations by working co- operatively with landowners and communities." @J.J. North's Restaurant, 1016 Riverside Ave., Medford THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!
Tuesday	April 18	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)



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