



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

VOTERS VOICE



May 2005

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 13 Issue 8

LWVRV ANNUAL MEETING Eden Valley Orchards



Speaker:

Kathy Beckett, our Jackson County Clerk, will talk to us about HAVA (the Help America Vote Act), electronic voting, and the election problems that lie behind us....and ahead.

Thursday, May 12, 2005, 5:30 p.m.

@ Eden Valley Orchards

Take highway 99 south to South Stage Road. Turn right, cross railroad tracks, turn left at Eden Valley sign, follow road to entrance. Turn right into the orchards and to the mansion .

For a map with driving directions and a historical background on the Eden Valley Orchards please review page -3-



President's Message

If you don't pay the IRS, you're a tax evader. If you run away from military duty, you're a deserter or a draft dodger. A breeze sweeps away that gum wrapper and you're a litterbug. But if you sit on your right to vote, you're...well, you're the majority.

—Charlie Clements

This year is the 40th anniversary of the great March on Washington that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This year we have observed brave Iraqis and Afghans risking their lives to run for office and to cast votes.

The #1 mission of LWV is to guarantee every citizen the right to vote and have it counted fairly.

The #2 mission is to influence elected officials to act "for the general welfare" rather than for "special interests".

This month we had the opportunity to act on #3: Thanks to urging by LWV Oregon, the legislature is holding public hearings around the state rather than only in Salem. Trish Bowcock testified before the House Land Use Committee, and Mickey Ketchum and I before the Joint Ways and Means Committee recently. Observers were at these meetings wearing LWVRV buttons, and also at the Elections Committee hearing.

Before I mount my bike and ride off into the sunset (actually, just shifting gears to chair the powerful, much-feared LWVRV NOMINATING COMMITTEE - something like Karl Rove's Job?), let me remind you:

The U.S. uses 25% of the world's resources, though we have less than 5% of the population;

We produce twice as much garbage, per capita, as the citizens of the other industrialized nations;

40% of our waterways are no longer fit for swimming and fishing;

And the average American gets fewer miles to the gallon than Henry Ford's 1908 Model T!

LWV has positions for addressing all these endemically ubiquitous inequities; so are we daunted? Are we down-hearted? Are we despairing? NOT YET!!

Eileen Adee , 773-4450

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www.lwvr.org**

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(541) 245-6920**

April Membership Meeting Summary

By Trish Bowcock

Methamphetamine abuse crosses all socioeconomic barriers and is epidemic in Jackson County. April's general meeting presentations by Rita Sullivan, Director of OnTrack and Lt. Dewey Patton of JACKNET focused on the havoc this drug wrecks on society. "85% – 95% of property crimes in our area are related to methamphetamine cases," stated Ms. Sullivan. This highly addictive drug is easy to manufacture from materials that are readily available at many local stores. Treatment is the only long-term solution. Unfortunately, funding for treatment is being dramatically cut without regard to overall societal costs such as an increase in prison capacity, property crimes or emergency room treatments.

Healthcare Survey of the Rogue Valley 2003-05



ANNUAL MEETING - NEWS

Separate annual meeting packages have been mailed earlier to each LWVRV member. Reservations were due by May 1 to Joan Rogers, 772-4290. The nominating committee report is included in this Voters Voice. Please bring both the annual meeting package and the nominating committee report to the meeting on May 12, 2005 at Eden Valley Orchards.

Eden Valley Orchards was chosen for listing on the National Register of Historic places on July 14, 2000. Our meeting will be at the beautiful Voorhies Mansion, located on 27 acres, the historic birthplace of the pear industry in the Rogue Valley. The original owner of the property, Joseph H. Stewart, established the first pear orchard between 1885 and 1898. Stewart is considered the patriarch of Southern Oregon's fruit



A prominent contemporary of Stewart's remarked, "Every fruit tree in Rogue River Valley will be a monument to his memory." Indeed, two dozen of the pioneer's original trees are still growing at Eden Valley Orchards.

At Eden Valley Orchards, another of Stewart's legacies remains. In continuous use by orchardists and their families since its completion in 1898, is a large Colonial Revival Style house that Stewart built. Named for the family who bought the property a year later and owned it for the next 87 years, the Voorhies Mansion has been the literal and figurative heart of Eden Valley orchards for over a century. Contributions to the community and gracious hospitality are hallmarks of the Voorhies era. They are traditions that continue. Preceding Stewart and Voorhies were several orchardist families with the present owners, longtime orchard family, Robert and Betty F. Root.

Since 1999, the Roots have done much to preserve the house and its distinctive landscape, and have opened the "mansion" to the public as part of an educational program for agricultural history. With a focus on agricultural heritage and education, Eden Valley Orchards is also emphasizing Oregon's reborn wine industry.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

Annual Meeting, May 12, 2005

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Normary Barrett, chair; Jeanne Gang, Agnes Chirgwin, Nancy Swan

For a 2-Year Term:

President	Trish Bowcock
First Vice President	Barbara Davidson
Treasurer	Cynthia Lora
Directors	Lorraine Werblow Margaret Bradburn

For a 1-Year Term:

Secretary	Carol Ingelson
Second Vice President	To be announced
Director	To be announced
Nominating Committee Chair	Eileen Adee
Elected Members	Shiena Polehn Jeanne Gang To be announced

Continuing 2nd Year of a 2-Year Term

Directors	Vicki Keeney Joan Rogers
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To Be Appointed:

Membership Committee	Mary Carlon Mickey Ketchum Marcia Smith
Editor, "Voters Voice"	Helen Scholom

GOOD NEWS ON TRANSPORTATION

By Eileen Adee

- Fifteen new and renewed bicycle commuters were launched April 16 when BIKE FIRST presented them with state-of-the-art fully-equipped (lights, carriers, odometer, fenders and foolproof chain) Breezer bikes. Winners from Grants Pass to Ashland had written essays on how and why they would use the cycles. Line up with their new bikes and their children at the annual Bear Creek Greenway Gala, they pledged to record their odometer readings monthly to document the actual number of miles traveled that otherwise would have been in a car, enabling the RVRTD to actually document how much carbon WAS NOT put into the air. This is a requirement for state and federal matching funds.
- Sidewalks around schools in Medford are being built with funds from the SAFE SIDEWALKS FOR KIDS bond issue which you all helped to pass in November. Thanks especially to Vicki Keeney, who represented LWVRV on the committee.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S MEDFORD FACILITY

Announcement by Planned Parenthood:

Please join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of Planned Parenthood's Medford Facility on Friday, May 6th, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM, program at 6 PM at 125 South Central, Medford, Oregon
Hors d'oeuvres & beverages will be served.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP EVALUATE SENIOR PROJECTS:

Volunteers are needed at North Medford High School on June 2 and June 3. The volunteers would work for three hours (12:15 to 3:15 PM) on one or two days, your choice. This would be a great opportunity to be involved in our local educational system. If you can give three or six hours of your time please email at estellew@wave.net or call Estelle Womack at 855-2584.



2004/05 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 2004-2005 membership to:



LWVRV
P.O. Box 8555
Medford, OR 97501

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

May 2005 Calendar

Sat & Sun	May 7 and 8	All Day	Art in Bloom - springtime festival in Medford's historic downtown on Mother's Day Weekend
Thursday	May 12	5:30 PM	LWVRV Annual Meeting, dinner at Eden Valley, guest speaker: Cathy Beckett, Jackson County Clerk on Help America Vote Act.
Tuesday	May 17	All Day	Election Day
Tuesday	May 17	11:30AM - 1PM	LWVRV Board meeting at Eileen's home: new and old board members meet
Fri-Sun	May 20-22		LWVOR State Convention
Sat-Mon	June 11-13		LWVUS Council in Washington D.C.

*Have a wonderful
summer!*

