



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROGUE VALLEY

# VOTERS VOICE



October 2005

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS A FORCE FOR CHANGE

Vol. 14 Issue 2

## League of Women Voters of Ashland newsletter included

**NOW IS THE TIME...**For all League of Women Voters to renew their membership!

## Local governments are planning for a doubling of population in Jackson County...



Where will everyone live? - What about the farmland? - How does Measure 37 affect the landscape? - Are citizens at the planning table? Learn the answers to these questions and more.

Speaker: Greg Holmes, Southern Oregon Planning Advocate for 1,000 Friends of Oregon

**"The sky is falling when measure 37 is passing ...unleash the dogs of urban sprawl!"**

- Jeff Golden, Jefferson Public Radio at the LWVOR fall workshop in Medford, September 10, 2004

**Thursday, October 13, 2005**

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

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

**Lunch available for \$7.00**

**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

As we mourned the horrific tragedy wrought by Hurricane Katrina, important work in our nation's capitol continued.

Hearings were ongoing to determine whether John G. Roberts, Jr. was suited to serve a life term as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. During the hearings, questions arose about the relevancy of earlier writings by Judge Roberts. Should those writings have been open to public scrutiny? We can consider this question without passing judgment on Judge Roberts' qualifications for serving. I turn to history as a guide.

*"The opportunity freely and publicly to criticize judicial action is of vastly more importance to the body politic than the immunity of courts and judges from unjust aspersions and attack. Nothing tends more to render judges careful in their decisions and ... to do exact justice than the consciousness that every act of theirs is to be submitted to the intelligent scrutiny and candid criticism of their fellow men. In the case of judges having a life tenure ... their very independence makes the right freely to comment on their decisions of greater importance, because it is the only practicable and available instrument in the hands of a free people to keep such judges alive to the reasonable demands of those they serve."* (Circuit Court Judge William Howard Taft, 1895)

Judge Taft's words were directed to the judiciary, but are easily translated to all levels of government in America. Transparency in government is essential to democracy and includes open and unfettered public access to governmental records.

Trish Bowcock  
899-9557 / trishbowcock@charter.net

## LOCAL LEAGUE LEADERS...

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Web Site  
Address:  
[www.lwvr.org](http://www.lwvr.org)

LWVRV Voice  
Mail:  
(541) 245-6920



## Citizen Involvement in Land-Use Decisions

by Trish Bowcock

**The County is changing its program for Citizen Involvement in Land-Use Decisions.**

Come and Listen!

**Mark Your Calendar – October 13, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. – Public Hearing  
Jackson County Auditorium, 10 South Oakdale, Medford**

Jackson County's Planning Commission is considering revisions to the County's Comprehensive Plan. These are important revisions that change the County's official Citizen Involvement program. The revisions must comply with Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines. If you want to look at the documentation associated with these changes contact Jackson County's planning department. The number is 774-6943. The location is 10 South Oakdale, Room 100, Medford. Call to make sure they will be open. See you there!

## Summary September LWVA & LWVRV

**Joint Meeting**

by Carol Ingelson

An estimated 50-60 people attended the joint meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley and League of Women Voters of Ashland, held Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005 at J.J. North's in Medford.

Pat Zimmerman, chair of the Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) for the seven-member Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) spoke on effective citizen participation in Land Use. Ms Zimmerman detailed the background related to Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines, goal 1 being citizen participation in realizing sustainable communities, economies and environments. She also described the "alphabet soup" of commissions and departments involved in local and state functions as well as the repercussions of Measure 37.



**For more detailed information please review page -3- in the Ashland Advocate (blue insert).**



## Homeless Youth Study Committee Meeting

By Joan Rogers

Our first meeting was held Friday, September 23 at my house. In attendance were Margaret Bradford, Vickee Keeney, Jean Gang, Mary Carlon, Barbara Davidson, Mickey Ketchum, myself and Judith Benjamin Ashland, member of State Homeless Youth Committee.

Roxanne Jones from the Jackson County Commission on Children and Families (staff) also attended our meeting and was able to give us invaluable information. So, with aforementioned all working as a team we're off to a great start. I will be attending the Summit on Homeless and Runaway Youth in Douglas County on October 7. The LWVOR fall workshop on October 8 will focus on this issue. You'll be hearing more from us.

Joan Rogers @ 772-4290, rogers4290@aol.com

## Survey of Health Care in the Rogue Valley Follow-Up by Mickey Ketchum

Last year the LWV-Rogue Valley did a Survey of Health Care in the Rogue Valley. The board has suggested that we highlight different aspects of the study some of which were not included in the survey as such but which have a bearing on the overall message which is that "Individuals are responsible for participating in and making healthy life choices."

Below are items that pertain to prescription drug use.

There are several levels that patients can be active in their drug therapy:

- o at the point of therapy selection,
- o at the point of knowing how a particular drug is taken and
- o in choosing a pharmacy.

Some questions about therapy selection, when a doctor prescribes a drug.

- What is the drug used for and how does it work?
- What other options are there (both drug and non-drug)?
- Why prescribe this drug over other options?
- How long has this drug been available for use?...  
If new, what was used prior to this new drug?
- What can I expect for effectiveness (percent of people taking it who get results)?
- What can I expect for side-effects (percent of people taking it that get the side-effect)?
- Have I told my doctor of ALL of my medical and mental health problems and current drugs, vitamins and natural products and does this new drug effect any of these?

Some things to think about when choosing a pharmacy.

- Does the pharmacy keep records about the drugs, vitamins and natural products I take?
- Is the pharmacist available and willing to answer my questions about my drug therapy?
- Does the pharmacy have a place you can talk privately about your drug therapy?
- Does the pharmacy take the insurance I have?

What everyone should know about every drug they take.

- What is it used for and some understanding of how it works in the body.
- What the signs of it "working" are.
- What the signals of common or dangerous side effects are and what to do if you notice them.
- What drugs, vitamins, foods, natural products and diseases effect or are effected by this drug.
- How to take the drug to it's best advantage (times of day, with or without food, night-time or morning, etc).
- Is there a generic equivalent for this drug (could save up to 50-70% of cost) or a similar drug that is less expensive?



### Medford Market Meeting!

Join us to make a co-op featuring locally produced foods & products a **R e a l i t y**:

**October 13, 6:30 PM at  
OSU Extension Bldg. on Hanley Road**

call Eileen Adee at 773-4450 to car-pool  
(since she owns only four bicycles, a piano, and a ping pong table instead of a car)



## Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary By Defending The U.S. Constitution

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), with funding from the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute (OSI) is pleased to announce the launch of *Safeguarding U.S. Democracy* a three-year program to coordinate different activities in this complex and critical issue.

This project proposes to undertake a large-scale public education effort to increase citizen understanding of the importance of our nation's system of separation of powers and check and balances provided for by the U.S. Constitution. The proposed activities will move beyond providing information to citizens about judicial candidates and how they are selected, to cover a range of topics that include the role that judges play in interpreting the law, the rights of citizens that are jeopardized by a weakened judiciary system; the differences between the roles played by state and federal courts; and the role of the U.S. Supreme Court. By encouraging a large number of Leagues to participate, the League aims to expand the number of citizens touched by these programs and expand the impact beyond that of its previous educational efforts.

For more information go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), Projects

## Blue Sky Renewable Energy

By Eileen Adee

- After our LWV state Energy Study 4 years ago, many League members opted for Blue Sky through Pacific Power.
- Newest Local business partners:
  - Britt Festivals - Cycle Analysis - Sims Cyclex Fitness
- Exercise, Music & Clear Air—Ways to go!!

From website Pacific Power:

Currently, more than 40,000 customers buy Blue Sky in the six western states served by the utility. More than 1,500 homes and businesses buy Blue Sky in Washington. Pacific Power's Blue Sky customers added two new wind farms to the voluntary program's renewable portfolio, buying energy from the Pleasant Valley Wind Energy facility near Evanston, Wyo., and from Nine Canyon Wind Project near Kennewick, Wash.

For an additional \$1.95 per month, customers can purchase a 100-kilowatt hour block of clean renewable power through their bills. While Pacific Power already buys renewable power, Blue Sky encourages even more renewable energy development.

Enrollment in Blue Sky is optional and customers can increase their participation or withdraw at any time. For more information or to sign up for Blue Sky, go to [www.pacificpower.net/bluesky](http://www.pacificpower.net/bluesky) or call 1-800-842-8458.



## WHAT'S ROUND, YELLOWISH (ON THE OUTSIDE) REDISH (ON THE INSIDE), AND DELICIOUS...? =>

### GRAPEFRUIT SOLD BY THE LWVRV, of course!

Please join us in our yearly fund-raising event by selling boxes of grapefruit for \$14.00 a box - half boxes at \$7.00. Those of you who sold last year will receive a printout of names of your last year's customers.

The lists will be available at the October general meeting. Orders are requested by November 15th. For information, please call me, **Lorraine Werblow, 245-3641.**

Money from our grapefruit sales funds all the projects for the local League of Women Voters, and we count on support from all our members.





# *UN World Summit Outcome*

**Commentary by Russy D. Sumariwalla,  
President of UNA of Southern Oregon**

Writing in the Wall Street Journal of 9.21.05, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan characterized the outcome of the World Summit as, "A Glass at least Half-Full" that the honorable SG is short changing both his own accomplishments and those of the UN itself. This is understandable under the current circumstances.

The "outcome document" has been widely described in the media as disappointing or "watered down". What did they expect? Did they really expect the 191 members of the UN with their own disparate agendas to endorse 100% of the recommendations of the SG? Seen in the prevailing climate of siege it is near miraculous that so much of the so-called "reform package" was accepted by the members. Let's us briefly review what was achieved and what was not.

## **Accomplishments**

1. Unambiguous commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, including a personal endorsement by President Bush.
2. Strengthens the UN's capacity for peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace building including a detailed blueprint for a new peace building commission.
3. Strengthens the office and doubles the budget of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
4. Creates a worldwide early warning system for natural disasters
5. Mobilizes new resources for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.
6. Unqualified condemnation, by all member states, of terrorism, "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever and for whatever purposes".
7. Clear acceptance by all UN members that there is a collective responsibility to protect civilian populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

## **Disappointments**

1. Postponement of the Security Council reforms proposed by the SG
2. Lack of progress and consensus on the urgent issue of proliferation of nuclear weapons

This is just a very brief summary of the negative and positive outcomes of the world summit at the UN in September 2005. Russy D, Sumariwalla, 857-6606, russanita@charter.net



**Letter to President George W. Bush**

**by Kay J. Maxwell, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States**  
September 12, 2005

Dear Mr. President:

The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned that the UN Summit Outcome Document has been diluted by the United States and some other countries in recent weeks. This is jeopardizing a historic effort to end global poverty, promote peace and strengthen the United Nations, and undermines efforts to address global problems. The United States is missing out on a unique opportunity to show the world what our values stand for in concrete terms. The U.S. should be a leader in support of freedom and democracy and in the fight to eliminate poverty, end war, promote gender equality, protect human rights, and support the United Nations.

At this crucial time in the world's need for security, peace and development, we urge that you embrace the larger vision of the UN to benefit all the people of the world. We ask you and all the UN member states to abandon narrow interests and to work with each other for real change, expressed in concrete terms in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. Please do not squander this important opportunity. We live at a time when the world faces many critical challenges that can only be resolved if all nations work together. We expect the United States government to play a constructive role in achieving this.

Kay J. Maxwell



**IT'S TIME to renew your membership to the  
League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley  
by Mickey Ketchum, Membership Committee**

Thirty of last year's members have renewed - thank you!

Forty more need to send in their memberships NOW! Please use the yellow membership form in this newsletter below and send \$49 to P. O. Box 8555, Medford, OR 97501. (The blue form is for Ashland members.)

We have one new member so far because someone suggested it to her. Who do you know that would like to join. Send the name and address to one of the membership committee.



Get interested, involved, and become invaluable to your local League:

Expect a personal call sometime this month from one of us to hear your interests and concerns. We want to recruit you to do **what you like to do!**

Your Nominating Committee:

- Eileen Adee
- Shiena Polehn
- Jeanne Gang
- Cynthia Lora
- Vicki Keeney



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

## October 2005 Calendar

Friday	Oct. 7		Homeless Youth Summit, Roseburg, @Douglas County Fairgrounds. For more info contact Linda Clary, Homeless Youth Study Chair at Linda.clary@mcsi.net
Saturday	Oct. 8	9:30 AM - 2:45 PM	LWVOR Fall Workshop, Eugene Water & Electric Board Training Center
Thursday	Oct. 13	9 AM	Public Hearing on Citizen Involvement in Land-Use Decisions @ Jackson County Auditorium, 10 South Oakdale, Medford
Thursday	Oct. 13	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting : Measure 37, Regional Problem Solving, Speaker: Greg Holmes, 1,000 Friends of Oregon @J.J. North's Restaurant—Riverside Ave., Medford
Thursday	Oct. 13	6:30 PM	Medford Market Meeting @ OSU Extension Bldg. on Hanley Road
Tuesday	Oct 18	11:30 AM - 1 PM	Board meeting at Clubhouse - Medford Heights Homeowner Association, 314 Edgewood Drive, Medford (between Keene/Scott and Appleton Circle)
Monday	Oct. 24	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	60th Anniversary of Ratification of the U.N. Charter Celebration @ SOU, Rogue River Room, For more info. call Russi Sumariwalla, Pres. UNA-USA @857-6606
Thursday	Nov. 10	11:30 AM - 1 PM	General Meeting: Homeland Security, Civil Liberties  Membership dues are over due...

Return Service Requested



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