



TAKE NOTE



"Spend a day at the legislature trip" planned, see p. 9

INSIDE THE COVER

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FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

LEAGUE STUDIES NEEDS AND RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

Children at Risk will be the focus of a panel of speakers for the League of Women Voters Rogue Valley on Thursday, February 9, 2012, with program starting at noon to 1:30. Bring your own lunch starts at 11:30 at the Medford Library

Lisa Smith, Program Manager for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children in Jackson County will speak of her experience with CASA which offers trained volunteer advocacy for children who come under court jurisdiction because of abuse or neglect, working with ages from birth to adulthood.. Ms. Smith brings a wealth of experience personally and professionally as she is both a foster parent and an adoptive parent in addition to her professional work with volunteers and cases at CASA.

Another panelist is Cara Walsh, Restorative Justice Program Director with Mediation Works, Medford. Restorative justice is a new movement in the fields of victimology and criminology. It is a theory of justice that emphasizes and repairing the harm done in a cooperative process involving the offender, victim, and the community. It is a set of practices and principals that has been successful internationally.

Medford is one of the few cities In Oregon that has this program.

Other areas of concern include, but not limited to, mental health services (what is available and what is needed), parent resources, effects of homelessness, poverty, poor health, and the judicial system. This program is a part of a larger study to update the state League's study on children. The public is invited. The meeting time has been extended to 1:30 to entertain questions from the audience.

Did you Know ????

The United States presidential election of 2012 will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. . The 2012 presidential election will coincide with the United States Senate elections where 33 races will be occurring as well as the United States House of Representatives elections to elect the members for the 113th Congress. The election will also encompass eleven gubernatorial races as well as many state legislature races.

Eight States (Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington) gained votes, due to reapportionment based on the 2010 Census. Similarly ten States (Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania) lost votes.

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.

LWVRV's BOARD MINUTES SUMMARIES

Thursday, December 8, 2011, OEA Building, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford

*Old Business: discussion of the January 12, 2012 luncheon meeting with speaker Secretary of State Kate Brown whose topic is "Voter Engagement in 2012." Several suggestions for place were put forward, to be decided later.

Next Board meeting – January 17, 2012 at Medford Heights Townhouse (1:30).

*On Tuesday, January 17th: general meeting in conjunction with the board meeting, with a potluck at Medford Heights Clubhouse (314 Eastwood, Medford 97504). 11:30 – furniture and food set-up with program approval at 12:30. Board meeting to follow at 1:30.

*February 9th program still undecided (possibilities: children at risk or campaign finance reform.

*March 8th program (possibilities: American media, during Sunshine Week or privatization.

*Voter Services: Mary Sinclair reported that the entire cost of the Voters Guides will be paid for (including County level elections) through the Vote 411 program. There is a need for improved distribution and publicity of location.

*League membership brochures need to be updated; also, we need a master list of all Rogue Valley League members.

~Carol Ingelson, LWVRV Secretary

Tuesday, January 17, 2012, Medford Heights Townhouse Assoc. Clubhouse, 314 Eastwood, Medford

*Budget Study: Next Steps?

1. draft a letter to be read at the next county budget meeting
2. get on the agenda with recommendations; a "formal presentation for the public record"
3. Barbara Davidson, Nancy Swan and Judith Benjamin will draft the letter.

*LWVRV February Programs:

1. Children at Risk, now in process at State: listing all commissions, agencies, services and areas of "at risk" identified
2. Mary Sinclair reported that the Walker Foundation of Jackson County did an extensive study before allocating resources.
3. Barbara Davidson, Mary Sinclair, and Lorraine Werblow are in charge of setting up the meeting. Please email your ideas (concerning a panel of speakers, possible recommendations of groups or individuals).

*Outreach: March is Women's History Month and we are looking into the possibility of a play called "Scott Free" – perhaps to be performed at a local venue large enough to hold a large group, perhaps 100+

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UNITED NATIONS/USA

- *Russy D. Sumariwalla, President, UNA-USA, S. Oregon*

International Criminal Court[ICC]

ICC was born on July 1, 2002 when the Rome Statute came into force. ICC is a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and [in future] the crime of aggression.

Effective January 2012, 120 countries have become members of the Court. An additional 32 countries have signed but not ratified the Rome Treaty and 42 United Nations member states have neither signed nor ratified the Treaty. The United States, Israel and Sudan have withdrawn its membership from the Court.

The Court's jurisdiction is limited to the nationals of member countries and the alleged crime must have taken place in the country

of the accused person. The UN Security Council may also refer a case to the ICC as indeed it happened last year in the case of Libya and in 2005 in the case of Sudan. However, basic responsibility for criminal prosecution rests with the authorities within the state. As of January 2012, the Court has opened investigations in seven situations. It has indicted 27 individuals and proceedings against 23 of the 27 are ongoing. The Court has issued arrest warrants for 18 persons and summonses to nine others.

Post-election violence in Cote d'Ivoire in 2010 resulted in demands for investigations into alleged crimes against humanity last year. Since the UN Security Council failed to refer the matter to ICC, the newly-elected President Ouattara requested ICC to investigate situation. The Court responded by issuing a warrant for arrest of former president Laurent Gbagbo. On December 5, 2011 the Court conducted the first-ever hearing of a former head of state confirming four crimes against humanity charges against Gbagbo. A Court date has been set for June 2012.

In the case of Syria, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, has pushed for a referral to ICC because of the fast deteriorating situation there.

As international judicial institutions go, the ICC is still a baby. In barely 10 years of operations under very difficult circumstances it has created an impressive record. It has potential to serve as an effective tool for reduction of instances of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

JANUARY MEETING in PICTURES



County Clerk,
Chris Walker

Secretary of State,
Kate Brown

THANK YOU

~Shiena Polehn

THANKS TO ALL FOR THE DECEMBER 8 MEETING

We had a good attendance at the general meeting in December and it was a joy to see members who had not been for a while. The Director of Dunn House and one of their long-time volunteers explained how mothers and their families are protected and helped with their problems in a safe environment. They were plied with questions and we all learned a lot about this sheltering organization.

I was so proud of our new combined League – we had a deluge of toys, clothes, certificates, checks and cash to provide the families with holiday gifts they would not otherwise receive. How very generous you all were.

Finally, a special thanks to those who provided coffee, tea and hot cider along with cookies, holiday breads, etc. and all those who helped in any way. What a joyful occasion it was for speakers and LWVRV members alike.

Happy New Year to you all and keep up the good work,

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**HALF-PRICE
DUES!!!**

2011/2012 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make out a check for \$28 for half-year dues from February 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012. Spouse dues are \$16 and should be included with an Application.

Send to Box 8555, Medford 97501

Check which of the following about which you are most interested in attending a branch meeting. List as many as applicable.

Land Use Planning Local Government Transportation Children at Risk Education Election issues

Health issues Environment National issues

Other (list) _____

JOIN LWVRV MEMBERS for a DAY at the LEGISLATURE

Highlights:

Guest speaker: Governor Kitzhaber. Attend hearings with the action committee. Learn how to have influence in the legislative process and how to get involved with your organization's lobbying efforts.

Tuesday, February 7, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Hearing Room 50. Sponsored by LWV of Oregon, AAUW of Oregon, and Oregon Commission for Women.

DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE REGISTRATION FORM

Advance registration needed -- **return form by Tuesday, January 31, 2012.**

YES, I want to attend Day at the Legislature!

Name _____

League/Branch: (if member) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Workshop with lunch: ___ \$20.00 member of sponsoring organization
 ___ \$25.00 guest

Choose one:

- ___ Forest Ham with Brie
- ___ Turkey with Dill Havarti
- ___ Caprese (Provolone, Roma tomatoes, fresh basil)

Workshop only: ___ \$12.00 Member
 ___ \$18.00 Guest

___ Parking Pass: Send me a Capitol parking pass in advance for \$8.50 (\$8.00 pass plus .50 postage). My check includes this fee. I have included my mailing address.

Make checks payable to LWVOR and return with this form to : LWVOR,
1330 - 12th St. SE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97302 by January 31, 2012. Questions??
Call 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org.