



- Important election dates, see p.7**
- LWVRV December Board meeting cancelled**
- Discussion of Measures 66 and 67**
- December '09 and January '10 calendars of events**

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DECEMBER MEETING

When: Thursday, December 10, 2009
11:30 Brown bag lunch, optional
12noon – 1:00 Speaker and Program

Where: Kids Unlimited (old bowling alley)
821 N. Riverside, Medford

Program and Tour: Learn about the award-winning organization that helps needy and homeless children in Medford.

Speaker: Tom Cole, Executive Director, Kids Unlimited

To better enjoy the coming holidays please join us for a stimulating, upbeat program about what is being done for the many homeless and needy kids in the Medford School District. You'll be surprised at this facility, (which is equipped for the handicapped) and the many activities offered to these children. You can park beside or behind the building. Use the front door – I'll be looking out for you.

We're requesting that you bring holiday gifts when you come (see list below) or if it's more convenient, donate cash or checks for food baskets, community dinners and "scholarships" for the kids' classes.

Suggestions: Canned and other non-perishable food, school and art supplies, sports equipment of all kinds, craft kits, new socks, scarves and gloves. Please leave unwrapped.

Thank you, League members and friends for your generosity. For directions, etc. please call or e-mail Shiena Polehn at 773-4177 or polehn@mind.net

JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2010 TO BE ANNOUNCED

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Barbara Davidson

Warm Greetings in contrast to our early winter! The President's Message for this edition is mixed.

To League members, their families and friends. As the holidays approach, may you find extra time to connect with those who are important in your lives. I hope that each of us will have something for which to be thankful. In turn be generous in our giving to those less fortunate, keeping in mind that our generosity and contribution can be our time and service—not just our dollars.

Second, a plea to League members to ask you to support your local League whenever possible. I know our lives are busy and conflicts happen, but our numbers in attendance at general program meetings have dwindled this year. Thank you to those who have attended, and we hope to see more members as the year progresses and your schedules permit. If you have an issue or topic which you think we should be addressing, please let me or a Board member know.

Third, Don't forget to vote in January. Ballots are due by January 26. The issue is to VOTE YES for Oregon by voting YES on Measures 66 and 67. In effect, a yes vote supports the Legislature's attempt to balance the budget for Oregon in a balanced way (some cuts and some increases in taxes) with fairness to all Oregonians.

Measure 66 deals with Personal Income Tax. It is estimated that 97.5% of taxpayers will see no increase in their taxes. Measure 67 deals with Corporate Tax. Again, 95% of businesses will pay under \$150 in income tax. The Corporate minimum tax since 1931 is changed to a minimum of \$150. Large corporations, many doing business from other states, will now have to pay more than \$10. If the average family of 4 pays approximately \$3,100 in taxes, it only seems fair that large corporations should be asked to increase from \$10 to \$150. Members of Oregon Small Businesses for Responsible Leadership helped draft and have endorsed Measure 67. They believe the measure is fair to small businesses and Oregonians, including all businesses, depend on education, health care and public safety.

Contrary to a local business publication, Oregon's business tax will not be anywhere near the top in the nation. Quite the contrary!! Even with the modest increase proposed by the Legislature, Oregon will still have the lowest corporate taxes on the west coast and among the lowest in the nation. So where do you think these businesses will go—to all the states around us with higher business taxes??

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has taken an advocacy position of Yes on Measures 66 and 67 because these measures bring more fairness to the tax structure and recognize the importance of preserving the essential programs of long-term care for seniors, K-12 education, and public safety services throughout the state.

Review the issues, keeping in mind Oregon's history on revenue, and hopefully, you will recognize that Yes on Measures 66 and 67 brings more fairness to our tax structure and offers the opportunity to provide a brighter future for Oregon by keeping more Oregonians employed and contributing to our economy.

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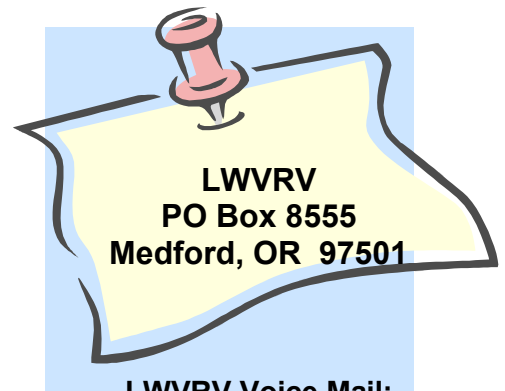
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LWVRV BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Medford Heights Townhouse Association Clubhouse

314 Eastwood Drive, Medford

1. Call to Order

President Barbara Davidson called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m.

Present were Barbara Davidson, Willi Bijon, Cynthia Lora, Marcia Smith, Mary Sinclair, Shiena Polehn and Carole Levi

Excused: Joan Rogers, Carol Hazeltine and Jean Milgram

2. Brief Check-in

3. Approval of minutes; Approved as written

4. Treasurer's Report

Willi Bijon reports that, As of the end of October, \$2,511.86 is in checking and \$5,671.46 in the money market account.

5. Correspondence

Notes from Joan Rogers, explaining she is in Heartstone, recovering from an infection in her knee, Jean Milgram who is recovering from surgery and Carol Hazeltine who was attending a funeral.

6. Reports

Public Relations: Mickey Ketchum has done a very good job with publicity. The announcement of our November general meeting appeared in the Mail Tribune on the day prior to our meeting.

Action: Cynthia Lora reported the County Budget Study group will meet in December. County official interviews are on-going. Since we have \$500.00 in our budget for the Action committee, Willie suggested we consider publishing some literature in January, close to election time on Measures 66 and 67. We might also put an "opinion" piece in the Mail Tribune. Maybe LWVA will consider joining us in this.

Studies: We might research how the League studies issues and then takes a stand.

Membership: Marcia Smith and Cynthia Lora report 63 paid members. This number is less than our paid-up membership of last year. We have given out two scholarships for people who could not afford the membership dues. A scholarship was offered to a third person who declined, as she felt she would not be able to attend many meetings.

The new 2009-2010 directory has been completed, and copies were distributed to those in attendance at today's board meeting. Great job!!!

Program: *It's Still the Economy*, was the topic suggested for the January meeting. We hope to be able to have discussions on Jackson County's economic conditions, the stimulus money and where we hope to go from here. In conjunction with this theme, Mary Sinclair will contact Ron Fox of SOREDI, Southern Oregon Research Economic Development, Inc., a state-funded program for economic development and the attracting of businesses to this area. She will also attempt to have Danny Jordan speak on where the stimulus money has gone and possibly paint an economic picture of our future.

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LWVRV's BOARD MINUTES (*continued from page 3*)

Voters Service/ Observers: no report.

Voters Voice: Carole Levi stated the deadline for the December/January Voter's Voice will be

November 18. Due to Carole' and Marcia's being out of town, the newsletter will not be electronically sent out until November 29 or 30. The hardcopies will be mailed on November 30 or December 1. There was a consensus reached by the Board, regarding obituaries being placed in the Voters Voice. The policy adopted was that only obituaries for past and present members of our league would be published in the newsletter.

7. Other Business

Grapefruit money is due today.

Annual Meeting to be held on May 13, 11:30am-2:00pm at the Red Lion Hotel. Joan Rogers has not yet booked a speaker. Everyone present was asked to think about possible speakers and/or topics for the meeting. Possible ideas included an historical theme or some program with music.

8. New Business

Tea Sales – Margaret Keene has returned and told Barbara Davidson she would be willing to chair the tea sales, again, if the Board wanted to resume the sales. Willie Bijon will check back in the treasurer's records to see how much has been spent purchasing the tea and how much profit was made from its sale. The Board shall evaluate Willie's findings to decide if we should resume the tea sales.

December Meeting at Kids Unlimited

Shiena Polehn stated that Tom Cole, Executive Director of Kids Unlimited will be the speaker for the meeting and give us a tour of the facilities. There are ramps and handrails for those who are disabled or have difficulty walking. Donations will be collected at this meeting. The list of items needed will be published in the December/January Voters Voice. The LWVRV will give a \$100.00 donation to this worthwhile group.

The Maslow Project, part of Kids Unlimited, needs assistance for serving its Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Interested participants should call Nisse Lowery at 774-3900.

A request for a volunteer for the State-wide Advisory Committee on Land Use was made. Barbara Davidson wanted to nominate Mary Sinclair. Mary declined, saying she felt a younger person was needed to fill this position. Porter Lombard will be asked if he would like to apply for the position.

The December 2009 board meeting was cancelled as many members will not be able to be present.

9. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Levi, Acting Secretary

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Rep. Peter Buckley and Sarah Allsbrooks presenting Ballot Measures 66 and 67

Peter Buckley, Southern Oregon District 5's Representative to the Oregon State Legislature, is deeply involved in the process of cuts and increased revenues in order to arrive at a balanced budget which was accepted by the Governor.

Sarah Allsbrooks is a state-wide community outreach coordinator for a large coalition, Yes for Oregon, of individuals and organizations supporting the budget passed by the Legislature.

Rep. Buckley started his remarks with "Oregon is in crisis, the worst financial gap the legislature has ever faced. The budget built in the last session is a bridge to get over this current situation but it is not the sole answer for long-term stability in Oregon." The State had a \$4.2 billion gap. 93% of the budget is education, health care, and safety, so that is where cuts would have to be made to balance funds available—something that was just too dire to accept.

Legislative hearings were held around the State. Vital services were recognized by all citizens. So the question to legislators was, 'How can we build a bridge to get over this crisis?' Points to consider: 1) input on jobs, 2) protecting vulnerable, 3) keeping education system in tact.

Legislators cut over \$2 billion from the budget: K-12 received 9% cut, Community colleges and Universities each had 10% cut, human services and public safety were held even. Measure 11 mandates certain expenditures in the criminal justice area. One billion in stimulus dollars were helpful. Voters have turned down the sales tax nine times so that did not seem to offer a solution. The Kicker law seems to undermine any stability in the budgeting process. The Rainy Day Fund from 2007 Session was a help. One thing that stood out in the analysis of Oregon's finances is that the corporate share of funding in Oregon has decreased. The corporate minimum has been \$10 since 1931.

The Legislature needed to raise \$775 million. The average family of 4 in Oregon pays \$3,100 in taxes. One business group suggested that all businesses be taxed at \$300 each, but several legislators thought that a \$300 tax for many small businesses would be too much. So Measures 66 and 67 were drafted and passed with 36 votes in the House and 18 in the Senate.

Measures 66 and 67:

- Protect basic services including education, healthcare, and public safety
- Preserve and create Oregon jobs
- Protect middle-class families and small businesses
- Reduce taxes for about 270,000 people by exempting the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits

Increase the \$10 corporate minimum income tax for the first time since 1931.

Measures 66 and 67 protect \$1 billion in funding for critical services such as K-12 education, long-term care for seniors, and public safety

Under Measure 66: Personal Income Tax, 97% of taxpayers will see no increase in their taxes.

Under Measure 67: Corporate Tax, 95% of businesses will pay 0-\$150 in income tax.. S-Corps, Partnerships and LLCs will pay \$150 in minimum income taxes. The corporate minimum tax does not apply to Sole Proprietorships, which will continue to pay \$0. C-corps with less than \$500,000 in Oregon sales will pay only \$150 in corporate minimum income taxes.

For more information, contact Rep. Buckley email rep.peterbuckley@state.or.us or web site: www.leg.state.or.us/buckley District. 5. Contact Sarah Allsbrooks through Vote Yes for Oregon www.VoteYesForOregon.org (also on Twitter and Facebook).

Reported by Barbara Davidson (Any errors or omissions are mine.)

United Nations Combats World Hunger

by Russy D. Sumariwalla, President, UNA-USA, Southern

"The world has more than enough food ... yet, today [11/16/09], more than 1 billion people are hungry. This is unacceptable". U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

By the time you read this, most of us will have enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinners with family and friends. This makes it a good occasion to reflect upon this tragic human condition and to learn about efforts being made by the UN to battle hunger.

As I write this, representatives of member nations of UN's Food and Agricultural Organization [FAO], are meeting in Rome at a Food Summit to rally around a new strategy to fight global hunger. The draft declaration, unfortunately, does not commit to \$44 billion in aid a year, estimated by FAO to be needed in the coming decades to combat world hunger. Instead, the draft declaration focuses on the Millennium Development Goal 1, "to half the number of hungry people by 2015".

The world population is estimated to surpass 9 billion in 2050. This will require agricultural output to increase by 70 percent between now and then. In the past, the hunger situation has been addressed primarily by rich nations providing food assistance. The focus now will hopefully be shifted to technical assistance in terms of irrigation, high-yield seeds, fertilizers, etc., to help local farmers to augment their food production. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the Food Summit, " Our job is not just to feed the hungry but to empower the hungry to feed themselves". The key to ending hunger lies in sustained investment in scientific approaches to agricultural development.

For more information on this click: www.fao.org and www.unausa.org and become a member of UNA-USA.

LAND USE ISSUES

Porter Lombard

Highway 62 Bypass Construction: This is an issue of enlarging the capacity to take care of the heavy traffic, but this just encourages more traffic. When will we ever learn that building more capacity (the bypass in this case), Highway 62 and the bypass will soon fill up with traffic. This quick fix will just encourage the locals to drive principally as one rider per vehicle.

Besides this is an expensive fix, \$123 million now of state moneys, but it may take another \$300 million from the county or the state to finish the bypass. I agree with the county commissioners that this is a financial hole besides a bad idea. These moneys should be used to encourage locals to use the transit system by up grading the system besides extending it. Just think what \$400 million would do for the Rogue Valley Transportation System.

This project is obviously being proposed in spite of concern for rising greenhouse gases both here in Rogue Valley and the world.

LWVRV's



CLUB

"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, And all the sweet serenity of books". H. W. Longfellow

January, 8, 2010

February 19, 2010

Luncheon of the Boating Party, by
Susan Vreeland

The Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett

Hosted by Barbara Beaupain, 734-5793

Hosted by Eileen Adee ,773-4450

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

January 5: Voter Registration Deadline

January 8: Ballots Mailed

January 26: Last Day to Vote!!

LWVRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2009/2010 League of Women Voters of Rogue Valley

Membership Application

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make out a check for Year Dues \$56. Spouse dues \$28 and include 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) _____

DECEMBER 2009 Calendar of Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
	1	2	3	4	5/6
7	8	9	10 LWVRV General meeting	11	12/13 Happy Chanukah
14	15 LWVRV board meeting CANCELLED	16	17	18	19/20
21 Winter begins	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas	26/27 1st day of Kwanza
28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2010 Calendar of Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!					
				1 HAPPY 2010!!!	2/3
4	5	6	7	8 Ballots mailed LWVRV Book Club, see p.7	9/10
11	12	13	14 LWVRV General meeting	15	16/17
18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 LWVRV board meeting	20	21	22	23/24
25	26 ELECTION Day Ballots due	27	28	29	30/31

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ROGUE VALLEY
PO BOX 8555
MEDFORD, OR 97504

