



# League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

DECEMBER 2004

## CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00 pm

Guest Speaker:

**Gilberto Duarte, Jr.**

The December Meeting will be held at  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
823 SE Lane, Roseburg

Please plan to gather at about 5:45 p.m. to enjoy a Mexican dinner to be served at 6 p.m. by Gilberto's Restaurant. The dinner menu features fajitas together with beans and rice and salad at a cost of \$14 per person. Following the dinner, Gilberto Duarte will speak about the experiences of his family as immigrants to this country as well as his own experiences as a first generation citizen. His family moved to the United States from the state of Michoacan, Mexico. This should be a very festive occasion. Please come, bring guests and celebrate the accomplishments of League during this election season.

Call your reservations to:  
Betty Mack, 672-1706  
by Sunday, Dec. 12.

## EDUCATION

### League Legislative Process Day Supplies Tools For Change

**O**n November 19 four Umpqua Valley League members (Robin Wisdom, Betty Mack, Maryann Raney, Alice Lackey) attended a Legislative Process Day in Salem. The morning was broken up into three sessions with information on the budget, legislative and hearing processes, and an afternoon session had a panel on "The Role of the Media in Shaping Public Opinion on Issues." Each session had great information.

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury was the speaker at the legislative process session. He reminded everyone that the on-line blue book is updated daily. (You can find that blue book at his web site [www.sos.state.or.us](http://www.sos.state.or.us).) One of his goals is to make political contributions data searchable on the web site. He would also like to have the committees behind political ads report their contributions at the same time as individuals do. Secretary Bradbury was very pleased with the high voter turn-out at this year's election. But he feels that the initiative signature-gathering process needs improvement.

State League board member Kappy Eaton led the hearing process discussion. League members who

lobby the state legislature spoke about techniques for getting the most out of legislative hearings. The state League is trying to implement four changes in the hearing process. Those changes include

1. A 48-hour notice if scheduled committee hearings are postponed or bills to be discussed at the hearing are changed.
2. Putting those who were invited to testify or are giving public testimony first on the hearing schedule (ahead of the legislators) so those citizens who have travelled a distance do not have a longer stay in Salem.
3. Making legislative work groups balanced politically and having hearings for their reports.
4. A change in the way budget notes or qualifiers may be added by the committee chair and a vote taken without all the committee even being aware of the additions.

We received a seven-page hand-out with tips on lobbying and communicating with legislators. Let me know if you would like a copy of that.

■ Alice Lackey, Action Chair

**MISSION**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government in order to build better communities statewide.

**OFFICERS:**

President: Robin Wisdom 672-6982  
1st Vice President: VACANT  
2nd Vice President: Betty Mack 672-1706  
Secretary: Anne Nicholas 672-3626  
Treasurer: Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195

**DIRECTORS:**

Alice Lackey Jacie Pratt  
Sharron Lee Schwartz Kathy Vejtasa  
Anna Willman Carol Carroll

**CHAIRPERSONS:**

Action: Alice Lackey 670-1154  
Ballot Measure Coord:  
Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195  
Bulletin Editor: Jean Good 496-0835  
Production: Maryann Raney 673-3124  
Membership: VACANT  
Social Issues:  
Sharron Lee Schwartz 677-0950  
Voter Education: VACANT  
Nominating Committee:  
Lois Allen 673-3074  
Public Relations: Maryann Raney 673-3124  
Voters Guides: Beverly Paulson 672-5011  
Program: Betty Mack 672-1706  
Local Study: Homeless Youth:  
Jacie Pratt 673-4032  
Sharron Lee Schwartz 677-0950



**Membership Changes**

As many of you know, Adelle and Marshall Sherwin have moved to Linus Oaks. Prior to their move, they asked League members to help them with their garage sale. The Sherwins generously donated \$506.00 to our League as thanks for help from League members and friends.

Please make the following changes to your 2004-2005 directory:

Jane McGlynn's phone number is 957-1054 and her email is: janemcglynn@computerconnect.net  
Penny Anderson is now Penny Lapham. Her address and phone have not changed.

Anne Tunzi should be Anne Taggart Tunzi.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Campaign Finance Reform is Action Item**

Now that the elections have taken place and as more and more reports reveal the election process itself, our work has never been more important. It is now widely known our elections systems are in disarray in many parts of the nation. It appears our mail-in elections systems here in Oregon have gone relatively smoothly. Please note an article in this newsletter about our involvement with our own county elections division. We were there not as observers but as workers along with staff and election boards.

Campaign Finance Reform is an action item for the state league so watch for more on this subject. We just had a general meeting on this subject and watched the video, "The Road to Clean Elections" narrated by Bill Moyers. It is a compelling story about how both Arizona and Maine have successfully started "clean campaigns" which are engaging more voters, opening doors to more qualified candidates and cleaning up campaigns by fewer promises owed to soft money interests. And it's saving millions of dollars. It's been estimated this national election cost about 4 billion dollars.

Please let others know we want to loan this video to other organizations to share with their members. For more information, call 541-672-6982.

Did you see the acclaim we received in *The News-Review* on Sunday, October 31st? The entire editorial was dedicated to acknowl-

edging the nonpartisan educational work our local league has done in the last year. Many of you have worked very hard this past primary and general election season, therefore, it was gratifying to have our work appreciated. Our thanks go to The News-Review for acknowledging us in such a way and for also being supportive of our mission.

<http://www.oregonnews.com/article/20041031/EDITORIALS/111010034/0/ARCHIVES>

We're also headed for the State Capitol once again on Dec. 13th, invited by Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury, to witness Oregon's electoral college vote. Mr. Bradbury will give opening remarks and explain the process, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Carson will swear in the members of the Electoral College. This will be held in House Chambers from noon to 1 p.m. on the 13th. You are invited to join Alice Lackey and myself to ride along with us. We will leave Roseburg at approx. 9:30 a.m. Please call me for more information.

Thank you, everyone, for your stalwart activism!

Happy Holidays, Everyone!  
Robin Wisdom  
President, LWV of Umpqua Valley  
541-672-6982

*"Never doubt that a thoughtful group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead*

## LEAGUE WORK

### Working with the Douglas County Election Division Brings New Insight to League Members

Based on long time association over the years between our local league and the Douglas County Elections division, including our recent work experience with the division, our board compliments the Elections Department and its newly elected leader, Barbara Nielsen, on a hard job well done during the recent election cycle.

Although not actually present when the ballots were counted by machine, I worked for four days before and on Election Day; Kathy Vejtasa also worked earlier in the process, when ballots were mailed out. We were impressed by the diligence of staff and election boards. The boards are paid county residents, many who used to work at the polling places back before vote by mail in Oregon was law. Now they make themselves available around election times to continue to serve their community.

#### The process

I worked among four tables of four people called a 'board'. At each table there were two Democrats and two Republicans. Each person had one main task. We completely finished our tasks the morning after (Nov. 3rd) at about 4:30 a.m.

The boards only open and prepare the ballots for counting after much work has already been done. As the ballots were received by mail or dropped off, the signature on the outer yellow envelope is verified as authentic. If there's any question regarding a match of signatures, the person whose signature is in question is called and asked to come in to the department and sign again. The signature is then confirmed and the envelope containing the ballot is filed as ready to be opened. I heard many people comment it was a good thing ballots started coming in early instead of at the last minute. This process takes days, even weeks.

The ballots need to be checked by trained human eyes before they can be counted. If a pen is used to fill out the ovals next to candidates' names or ballot measures, the ovals must be gone over

with graphite pencil so that the computerized counting machine can detect the votes. This is done carefully in front witnesses who are other board members. Both witnesses, one of each political party, initial each "enhanced" ballot.

If more than one oval is filled in per candidate or ballot measure, then that counts as an 'over vote' and cancels out any vote at all for that section. If no ovals are filled in per candidate or measure, it is counted as an 'under vote', or in other words, does not count as a vote.

Write-ins are manually counted and set aside until after all other ballots have been counted by machine. After the election the write-in ballots are completely counted again and added into the existing totals.

There are many other issues that must be addressed by elections divisions and county clerks. "Re-issue" ballots were a cause for concern due to the possibility of someone attempting to vote twice; however, this was carefully tracked and checked numerous times. The name of any person caught trying to manipulate the system is sent with accompanying evidence to the Secretary of State's office.

In this last election, with 26 ballot "styles" (different ballot contents because of local levies, etc.) in Douglas County alone, it's a complicated process. An attitude of fairness, attention to detail, accuracy and precision are necessary qualities for an elections department to insure accurate elections. Although I've had no introduction to the counting devices used, they are the same machines that other league members have investigated prior to this election.

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley, I would like to thank the Douglas County Elections Division and Barbara Nielsen, County Clerk, for welcoming the league to be part of the process. We congratulate her, division staff and the election boards on a good job in an election process during record voter turn out.

■ Robin Wisdom

### Observer Corp Makes Government Responsible to Public

It is time to activate the Observer Corp. For those of you who are new to League this is a great way to bring important information to the League. For now we are asking for observers at the:

- COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
- ROSEBURG CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- ROSEBURG SCHOOLBOARD MEETING

(other districts could have them also).

If you would like to be an observer, choose which meeting you would like to observe, let Robin know, and attend the meeting. Write a short summary of the main items. The body will be notified that the League will have an observer present. An Observer normally doesn't speak at the meetings since they are representing League, so sometimes you have to bite your tongue. Good luck! The meeting times and places are listed belows:

Staff meetings (open to the public):

#### \*Commissioner Meetings

**Wednesday, Rm 217 - 8:30 am**

Wednesday, Rm 216 - 10 am

#### Roseburg City Council

**Monday, Council Chambers**

2nd and 4th, 7 pm

900 SE Douglas, Roseburg

#### Roseburg Schoolboard

**Wednesday, Central Office**

2nd and 4th, 7pm

1419 NW Valley View, Roseburg

\*Since these meetings are weekly it is a good chance for two people to share the attendance.

**Jane McMillan**  
**Attorney**

(541) 672-2058  
1155 SE Douglas St  
P.O. Box 81  
Roseburg OR 97470



**Check out our new web site  
frequently for changes and  
improvements!**

<http://www.lwvuv.org>



For more information, contact:  
Marge Easley (503-638-7023,  
[marge.easley@verizon.net](mailto:marge.easley@verizon.net)) or  
Liz Frenkel (541-754-6790,  
[lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com](mailto:lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com))

## **ACTION ALERT**

### **Something YOU can do about Measure 37**

**TO:** Local Leagues and Action Chairs  
**FROM:** Marge Easley, LWVOR Action Chair  
**ACTION NEEDED:** Send letters to local government officials (mayors and/or county commissioners) or testify at city council or county commissioner meetings.

**ACTION DEADLINE:** Immediate

#### **MESSAGE TO CONVEY:**

The following can be used as the basis for your letters or testimony:

Dear Public Official,

In preparing your plans for implementation of Measure 37, the League of Women Voters strongly urges you to carefully consider the importance of keeping the compensation process as open to citizen involvement as possible. We firmly believe that local government can best accomplish this by involving the public up front in the implementation planning and also by establishing claim procedures that involve public notice, public review, opportunity for testimony by interested parties, and some means of legal recourse, such as appeals.

Despite the fact that Measure 37 stipulates that compensation claims are not subject to provisions of ORS 197.763 for notice and appeal, it is vital that this key component of land use decisions be maintained in the interest of transparency of the process as well as fairness to all who are affected by the decision. When a landowner files a claim, neighbors and the public at large have a vested interest in the outcome and certainly deserve a say in the review process and decision-making.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the views of the League of Women Voters on one of the fundamental tenets of good government - citizen access at all stages of decision-making.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

With the recent passage of Measure 37, the land use bill that stipulates that governments must pay landowners, or forgo enforcement, when certain land use restrictions reduce property value, the fate of Oregon's vaunted land use system has been thrust into uncertainty and confusion. Many League members have

wondered what immediate positive steps we can take, given that local government have until December 3 to begin accepting Measure 37 claims, and it is uncertain what steps the 2005 Legislature will take to remedy the situation.

A statement written by Mitch Rohse, City of Salem Consultant declares that compensation claim decisions are not to be considered land-use decisions. Hence, they are not subject to ORS 197.763's provisions for notice and appeal. But that doesn't bar local governments from using review procedures similar to those used in making land-use decisions — and they should. If one landowner can file a claim for a million dollars of compensation or a waiver of land-use regulations, then his or her neighbors should know about it in advance, and they should be able to participate in the decision-making.

Insisting on a public review process for Measure 37 is not about "thwarting the will of the voters" or trying to interfere with the application of this new law. Rather, it is about ensuring fairness and effectiveness and about guarding against the enormous potential for abuse of the compensation process. Oregon has an array of laws intended to see that government officials make their decisions equitably and openly in awarding a \$5,000 contract to repair a courthouse wall. It seems only proper, then, that we have similar laws in place to govern decisions that might involve an award of \$5 million dollars in public funds or the waiver of land-use regulations to one landowner. Right now, cities and counties throughout Oregon are rushing to devise local procedures to implement Measure 37. Let's make sure that provisions for public review and decision-making are a major element of those compensation systems.

■ Mitch Rohse, AICP

## LEAGUE PROJECTS

### “Changing the Face of Poverty” Conference

Un-caging the Cheetah, Navigating the System, YouthBuild offers Opportunities, In the Shadows of the Recovery, 40 ways in Five Years to Make a Difference, Foods Stamps Can Help Students Make Ends Meet, These were some of the titles of reports available at the Poverty Conference held in November, at Seaside. Jacie Pratt, Beverly Paulson, and Lois Allen attended this conference presented by the Community Action Directors of Oregon. They went with two intentions: first, to learn all they could about the dimensions of poverty in Oregon and the activities of the agencies that serve the lives of these people in the name of the public; and, second, to make contact with local people and people who might be interested in the Summit Conference planned for October, 2005.

We accomplished both ends. The three of us each attended five sessions on topics like identifying the gifted and talented among the poor children (referred to as Cheetahs), the YouthBuild program where Homeless young people build houses while they

rebuild their lives, and new ways of visioning the end of hunger and homelessness in Oregon. And we went to every reception and gathering where we might meet knowledgeable people who could tell us about their successful programs. We also held a get-together for Douglas County people to meet one another, and to share problems and successes from our area. It was a grand success! We learned how important personal contact is for people to know they have support when they are under pressure from the powers that be.

So we met people, and talked about our Homeless Youth project, and listened to a vast array of ideas. We came away inspired and enthused about the people who are working out ways to find bridges out of poverty. And we discovered that we in the Umpqua Valley League of Women Voters know quite a bit about a very important problem. So our adventure continues, and we are still riding a wave of energy from many sources in the quest for protection, education, and independence for our homeless youth.

■ Jacie Pratt, Local Study Chair

### How You Can Help Finance Our Local League

Membership dues of \$60 are distributed as follows:

- \$25 to LWV of Oregon;
- \$23 to LWV of US;
- \$12 stays with our local league.

To supplement member dues, we have the following fundraisers:

◆ A Garage Sale in late April (Please save your unwanted items for the League)

◆ T-Shirts that say, “**Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport**” are being sold for \$12 to benefit our League. We have 5 sizes and 3 colors! Add \$2 for shipping.

◆ Donate unwanted clothing any time of the year to “**Next to New**” on Jackson Street. Name the League and we will receive the donator’s share of the sale.

◆ Bring your pennies to League meetings (rolled or not) they add up to help us!

For more information about the League:

**LWV of Umpqua Valley**  
[www.lwvuv.org](http://www.lwvuv.org)

**LWV of Oregon**  
[www.lwvor.org](http://www.lwvor.org)

**LWV of United States:**  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)



[dwales@internetcds.com](mailto:dwales@internetcds.com)

**Diana Wales, P.C.**  
Attorney at Law

318 SE Jackson St  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
541-673-0696 ~ 541-673-9791 (fax)

Divorce & Family Law



December 5, 2004

Memo: To Presidents of Oregon Leagues of Women Voters

Re: Information on Homeless Youth

Please forward this notice to Program Chairs and others interested...

The Report from the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley

Homeless Youth: Tomorrow's Burden, or Tomorrow's Citizens now available on this website: <http://www.lwvuv.org/>

We hope this presentation of our local study will encourage you to elect a study of homeless youth as a state item at your programming meetings. Our committee is eager to offer any other information about this timely issue, so please contact Linda Clary at [Linda.clary@starband.net](mailto:Linda.clary@starband.net) or Jacie Pratt at [jjpratt@rosenet.net](mailto:jjpratt@rosenet.net).

"Timely" is an important word! We have experienced a tsunami of energy waiting to find a direction as we become aware of more and more local efforts to provide a "right track" for these young people. The track they are on leads to prison, prostitution, and a dissolution of spirit that degrades us all. Bringing our communities to acceptance of these children as our children is crucial. Check in with your county Commission on Children and Families to gain quick entry into this issue. ■

# LOCAL STUDY

## Homeless Youth Study Brings on New Partners

We have partners in producing our Summit on Homeless Youth!! The Commission of Children and Families and the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley hosted a gathering of stakeholders on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-two people attended this four-hour work session, and many signed on for committee work as they left! Harry Mullins, of Operational Excellence, the producer of our conference, guided the us through brainstorming, clarifying objectives and other exercises leading to definition of goals and themes to be covered in presentations at the Summit. All agreed that the outcomes of the Summit must be plans for action that will be sustainable. There will be follow-up meetings of smaller groups and committees for fund raising, advertising and media work, presentations, and logistics. The time and the place are nearly set—Early October and here in Douglas County.

So, it's time for you to consider how you will most enjoy making this Summit real. Some of you have signed on to write speeches and to form a speakers bureau. We will begin these things in January. We are getting in touch with homeless and formerly homeless young people—do you know anyone who has that experience? Do you want to get in on the ground floor talking to these boys and girls? Let Jacie know. There is room for artists, musicians, and playwrights. Have you heard any dynamic speakers who have something to say about homelessness? Is there interest in your church? Be aware! Notice anything that comes up that can be used to help our community become ready and willing to see these kids as "our kids."

We will be in touch!!!

■ Jacie Pratt,  
Local Study Chair

For quick access our Local Study Committee has posted their work available at these two web site addresses:

<http://www.lwvuv.org/> and  
[http://www.lwvuv.org/lwvuv\\_study.html](http://www.lwvuv.org/lwvuv_study.html)

*Congratulations on your achievements, LWVUV Local Study Group and Chair Jacie Pratt. All your hard work is making our state, our world a better place for more people.*



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*(WE NEED YOU WITH US!)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to the LWVUV and return with your application form to:

**LWV of Umpqua Valley  
P.O. Box 2434  
ROSEBURG, OR 97470**

Membership dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.

- YES**, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (Please check one or more)
- \$60 ONE-YEAR individual membership
- \$90 HOUSEHOLD (for one-year membership for two members who share an address)
- I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a CONTRIBUTION OF \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Please send me more INFORMATION!
- I am renewing my membership in LWVUV. My check is enclosed for \$60 annual dues.

As an added member benefit, all League members receive *The National Voter* magazine and local and state League newsletters, plus significant discounts on publications, videos and other valuable resources.

Please note that \$60 dues enrolls member in LWV of Oregon (\$25), LWV of United States (\$23) and LWV of Umpqua Valley (\$12).



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LWVUV, CALL 672-6982



League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley  
P.O. Box 2434  
Roseburg Oregon 97470-2434  
<http://www.lwvuv.org>

### **Electoral College Invitation**

Come to the State Capitol to witness  
the Electoral College vote  
on Monday, December 13, from 12:00  
to 1:00 pm at the State Capitol, House  
Chambers in Salem.  
Call 672-6982 for more information.

## *December Calendar*

BOARD MEETING, CONFIDENCE CLINIC, .....DECEMBER 9

308 SE JACKSON, 5:15 PM

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY .....DECEMBER 10

ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE .....DECEMBER 13

CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY.....DECEMBER 14

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 823 SE LANE, ROSEBURG, 6 PM

SPOUSES, FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

*Happy Holidays!*