



League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

FEBRUARY 2005

February Action

DO WHAT YOU CAN DO

Gaga over Goo-goos???

'Good government groups' such as the League of Women Voters and Common Cause are often referred to as "goo-goos". The phrase "goo-goos" was first used in the early 1900's by those who opposed attempts by good government groups to change Tammany Hall rule in New York City.

Last year a California newspaper wrote that goo-goos "perennially promote schemes to limit and regulate political money, contending that removing its influence would somehow produce a better quality of governance..."

I think we should be proud to be called "goo-goos". The League definitely promotes good government. Eighty-five years ago this month the League began as a 'mighty political experiment' designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. On Feb. 14, 1920 the League of Women Voters was founded at the Victory Convention on the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago. At that time 33 states had ratified the suffrage amendment, but three more states were needed. Carrie Chapman Catt,

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LOCAL STUDY

LWVUV Sponsored Meeting Draws Homeless Liaisons Together

A recent meeting of the McKinney-Vento Liaison personnel from districts in Douglas County was a great success. At the invitation of LWVUV, Dawne Huckaby of our ESD, and Dona Bolt, ODE Homeless Education Specialist, and 11 of the 14 district liaisons gathered to describe their populations, programs, problems and ideas for further success in supporting homeless children in their care. As the meeting concluded, the liaisons decided that the value of meeting together was such that they would meet at least quarterly in the future.

Liaisons from Lane County (Eugene and Springfield) offered descriptions of aspects in their programs that spurred the imaginations of the Douglas County liaisons: an ESD sponsored Training Team to help districts meet the spirit of the McKinney law; a McKinney grant that covered 11 small districts; and coordination of services throughout the county to accommodate the constant moving of homeless families and youths. They told of a McKinney-Vento Fair at which services and programs were displayed and described. The Lane County liaisons provide to the homeless kids *A Guide to Resources* and an informational wallet insert describing how/where the homeless can secure the documents and information they need to apply for services.

Your committee also attended this meeting and came away with many ideas that could be included in one of the Summit's breakout groups. They include ideas about simple ways to encourage the homeless students to make connections at school which are crucial to their

success and comfort. We learned that many community groups—churches, civic clubs, and individuals—are already helping meet the needs of the homeless in the schools. We are very encouraged by these reports.

Some quotes from the meeting show the enthusiasm and clarity we heard. "Immediate enrollment in school is essential!" "If you enter the shelter, your kids are registered in school the next day." In reference to the prevalence of methamphetamines, we heard it is "Homeless in a home." The awareness that the school is the stable bulwark for the homeless child is abiding with these people. It can certainly be a strong element of our message.

LWVUV In Action On Homeless Youth Position

The Homeless Youth Committee is active on several fronts these days. If you want in on any of the action, just let us know!! Planning for the Summit on Homeless Youth for next October is a major piece of action in which we are actively partaking. The stakeholders have affirmed the importance of the issue, and are on board to participate in a productive meeting at which participants will find out what they can do to build the bridge to the sustainable life that we dream of for our homeless youth and generate a sustainable action plan. The stakeholders include agency personnel, educators, housing specialists, law enforcement, funders, advocates, churches, individual movers and shakers, and the homeless themselves. Summit sub-committees are activated and will report to the next stakeholders' meeting on February 17th.

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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.

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Jacie Pratt	673-4032
Sharon Lee Schwartz	677-0950

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2005

Dear Friends and Patriots!

Hello once again! I bid you greetings amidst the February flurries of political news and events.

Several League members joined in *The Flag Project* held on January 18th in Roseburg to commemorate the lives lost in the Iraq war. Over 1300 flags, a flag for each lost American life, were displayed in the ground next to the fire station on Garden Valley Boulevard in Roseburg. It was a truly touching time while friends and neighbors from all walks of life paused to hear the reading of the names of the dead. Gail Gaston, project organizer, received good news coverage and was interviewed on three different local TV stations.

February's Funding Oregon public meeting has been moved up to February 15th at 7 p.m. instead of on the usual 4th Tuesday. League members will speak about the revenue and funding dilemma Oregon is in. We're also meeting in a different place this time, at the Confidence Clinic, 308 SE Jackson in Roseburg. If you need a ride, contact me!

I sense a political vitality that remains after the election and inauguration. Perhaps if you are not already a member, and you find yourself invigorated by the season or if you're inspired to somehow show your support, please join us. No matter what level of support you can offer, all levels are appreciated and respected.

Sincerely,
Robin Wisdom
League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley
541-672-6982, rwisdom@jeffnet.org



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Our LWVUV part is developing a dynamic speakers' bureau that will carry the power of our message to the community, group by group, town by town, event by event. Jane McGlynn and Robin Wisdom are developing speeches and material for presentations of varying lengths and focuses. We need wordsmiths, men and women who can carry our message persuasively. We are slowly making contact with young people who can embellish our message with the realities of their stories. This is not arcane information we are disseminating—It is our conviction that these are our children and we are their village. Help us carry the message. Let Jane know that you can help. Her phone number is 541-957-1054.

Lorrie Agost is also beginning to work on a Street Wise Handbook. Her committee has openings with research to do, information to gather, and cartoons to draw, creativity to express. Is this your thing? Do you have a friend who fits this job? Let Lorrie know, please.

Are you the one who talks to whomever you meet at the store, in the line? Do you have the ear that draws everyone's story? Would you like to sit at dinner with homeless kids and learn their stories? Now is the time, and this is the place. Let Jacie know you are game for direct contact with the young ones we want to assist.

So let us demonstrate that the actions of a small group of dedicated people is the way change happens!!

■ Jacie Pratt, Local Study Chair, and Linda Clary

Jane McMillan
Attorney

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1155 SE Douglas St
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LEAGUE WORK

Campaign Finance Report

Campaign Finance Report - The final campaign expenditure report on the Circuit Court judge election shows that Randy Garrison spent \$27,053.76 (Cash - \$18,432.14 and in-kind expenditures \$8,621.62). George Ambrosini's total expenditures were \$3,729.97 (Cash - \$1,424.15 and in-kind -\$2,305.82). According to reports submitted as of December, Garrison spent more than any circuit court judge candidate in the state. (Reports available at secretary of state site - <http://www.sos.state.us>)

State Bill Watch

State bill watch - SJR 3 - proposes amendment to the Oregon constitution allowing the enactment of laws limiting or prohibiting contributions made in connection with financing of election campaigns.

HB2022 - Directs state commission on children and families to work with certain state agencies and advisory committees to develop state policy regarding runaway and homeless youth and their families. (On Jan.12th this bill was referred to the House committee on Health and Human Services.)

To find out the progress of the bills above and any other bill go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us>. You can type the number of the bill in the search space, and you can learn the present status of the bill.

■ Alice Lackey , Action Chair, 672-1154

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founder of the League, summarized the effort involved in securing passage of the 19th amendment in August, 1920 - "To get the word 'male' out of the Constitution cost the women of the country fifty-two years of pauseless campaigns...During that time they were forced to conduct fifty-six campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to get Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to get State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks in party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses."

Today the League's impact is felt at all levels of government."The League's work is based on the belief that citizens who have well-researched and unbiased information will make wise decisions for their communities and their nation." (Quote from the LWVUS web site.) From its beginning the League has believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. And we build coalitions with other good government groups to ensure that voices of citizens are heard at the local, state and national levels. So "Hurray for goo-goos" and congratulations to the League for the work it has been doing for 85 years!

■ Alice Lackey
Action Chair, 672-1154



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February Calendar

- WOMEN'S COALITION MEETING FEBRUARY 7
KAREN'S COFFEE CUP AT 11:30 AM
- BOARD MEETING, CONFIDENCE CLINIC, FEBRUARY 10
308 SE JACKSON, 5:15 PM
- UMPQUA WATERSHEDS 9TH ANNUAL BANQUET FEBRUARY 12
DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, 5:30 PM, CALL 672-7065 FOR TICKETS
- FUNDING OREGON GENERAL MEETING AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FEBRUARY 15**
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7 PM — PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND— ALSO SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY!

****NOTE: DATE CHANGE!**

Happy Presidents' Day • February 21st!