



# League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

[www.lwvuv.org](http://www.lwvuv.org)

JANUARY 2005

## DO WHAT YOU CAN DO January Action

This year should be a most interesting one for League members. The 73rd Legislative Session will begin on January 10, and the League plans to be very involved with such issues as budgetary spending limits, tax reform, campaign finance, Measure 37 fixes, and Oregon Health Plan issues.

Be sure to read your issue of the state League's Voter - Winter 2004 to read more about the state's agenda and issues involving Measure 37.

Locally we will be monitoring Measure 37 actions taken by the county commissioners and city councils and deciding on action to be taken in relation to our homeless teens position.

So please be ready to write letters, contact legislators or do whatever action you are asked to do in the coming months.

We need each member to participate when an action item needs attention.

This should be a very exciting year!

■ Alice Lackey, Action Chair

## PROGRAM

### January is the month for PROGRAM PLANNING

In January 2005, LWVUV members will consider program topics to be adopted

- (1) at the local league annual meeting in April and
- (2) at the state league convention in May.

In choosing a new program item at either level, the following criteria should be considered:

1. The issue must fall within the Principles of the League of Women Voters.
2. The issue must be one of local importance on which government action is needed.
3. The issue should add balance to League Program and have good member appeal.
4. Availability of member volunteer time and financial resources should be considered.

The LWV of the Umpqua Valley has four current local positions under which action may be taken:

1. Diversity and Discrimination in Douglas County (Adopted March 1995)
2. Homelessness in Douglas County (Adopted February 1998)
3. Sustainable Community (Adopted November 2001)
4. Homeless Youth (Adopted September 2004).

At the December 2004 board meeting, the LWVUV board discussed and recommended for consideration a local study item or possibly, issue for emphasis, to be entitled: Transparency

in Governance. Under this umbrella, League members could be active in the community providing voter education, as to the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Another important element of such a study and/or program emphasis would be member participation in the Observer Corps.

As to recommendation of a state study item, the consensus adopted relating to the Homeless Youth study included direction to the board to provide information to the other local leagues within the state and to encourage that a statewide study of this issue be adopted at the League of Women Voters of Oregon convention in May 2005. This information has been provided directly to each of the other leagues and is posted on the LWVUV web site <http://www.lwvuv.org>.

Included in this newsletter, members will find the form to be provided to the LWVOR program planning chair by February 7, 2005. Members are asked to review the state positions previously adopted. The form allows members to recommend to retain, drop, update or restudy. So take the time to review your copy of *Issues for Action*. Positions are also listed on the state web site: <http://www.lwvor.org/PositionsForAction1203.htm>.

Member participation in program planning is important in this grassroots organization. Plan to attend the meeting on January 25.

■ Betty Mack, Program 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
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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Betty Mack	672-1706
Secretary: Anne Nicholas	672-3626
Treasurer: Kathy Vejtasa	672-7195

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Alice Lackey	Jacie Pratt
Sharron Lee Schwartz	Kathy Vejtasa
Anna Willman	

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Kathy Vejtasa	672-7195
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Local Study: Homeless Youth:	
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

January 2005

*Dear Citizens,*

Happy New Year! After a renewing holiday we prepare for challenges ahead. While our tasks are looming large, we will tackle them one bite at a time. We must look to each. Working together makes tasks manageable. Get a friend to help and the time will go by more pleasantly and you'll get twice as much done.

The Observer Corp is reforming. If you are interested in attending public meetings and taking notes, please contact us. This may seem a very easy job, slightly time consuming, and of little use. But it is a very important job and can have dramatic overall results.

Our web site continues to grow. <http://www.lwvuv.org>. We hope it will be a source of good information locally and will reflect input from citizens. The Homeless Youth Study documents are available from [http://www.lwvuv.org/local\\_study.html](http://www.lwvuv.org/local_study.html). We also plan to post our newsletters online and you'll be able to go online and download archived bulletins as pdfs.

You've probably noticed our new bulletin format. We are all very proud of the work that one of our newest members has achieved for us. Maryann Raney is our newsletter compiler and redesigner. You've also probably received last month's bulletin via email for the first time. This is a big money and labor saver. We are able to cut newsletter costs by at least one half by emailing the bulletin. However, we'd like to know if you'd rather receive it in printed form. We'd like to provide the newsletter in a format you'd prefer. Let us know.

Thank you, Everyone, and Happy New Year!

Robin Wisdom  
President of the League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley  
541-672-6982

**'Clean Campaigns' Video Available for Loan**

LWVUV has a video of interest they would like to share with the community, "The Road to Cleaner Elections". Bill Moyers narrates this short 14-minute video. More competition, a more diverse candidate pool, more time spent with regular voters, freedom from conflicts of interest—these are among the signal accomplishments of Arizona and Maine's new Clean Elections laws as shown in the video. The video features candidates on the campaign trail, lively testimonials by candidates who ran for office under their states' voluntary full public financing systems, and assessments of how well 'Clean Elections' works by campaign finance reform experts and activists.

The League offers this VHS tape out for loan to any groups interested in learning about 'clean' campaigns. For more information, call 672-6982.

## LEAGUE WORK

### ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN ACTION TRIP

On Dec. 13 Robin Wisdom, Sharon Lee Schwartz and I traveled to Salem to observe Oregon's seven electors cast their votes for John Kerry and John Edwards for President and Vice-President. What an interesting time we had seeing this part of the election process. The seven electors (including Shirley Cairns from this area) sat in the front row of desks in the Oregon House chamber, and the three of us from Roseburg sat in the row right behind them. It was quite a serious program which began with a call to order by our state election director and a welcome and outline of the electoral process by Secretary of State Bill Bradbury. That was followed by a roll call of the electors and the presentation of their credentials. The chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court then administered the oaths of office, and the electors signed those oaths. They agreed to support the constitutions of the United States and Oregon and to "discharge the duties of presidential elector according to my abilities."

The written votes for President were then made and delivered to the Secretary of State who announced that there were seven votes for John Kerry. Those in the chamber applauded. Votes for Vice-President were then taken and given to the Secretary who announced that there were 7 votes for John Edwards. Again there was applause from those observing. The electors then signed six 'certificates of votes' which were later sent to Congress and kept at the National Archives. The meeting was then officially adjourned, and electors were reminded to fill out their travel vouchers so they could be paid.

Media people interviewed the electors, and Secretary Bradbury stayed around for some time to speak to the many high school students who were in attendance for the vote.

The three of us were also able to sit in on a Senate hearing for a very short time and to see/hear Governor Kulongoski speaking to a group of National Guard. So we felt our day in Salem was informative and a great deal of fun.

■ Alice Lackey, Action Chair

#### **Diana Wales, P.C.**

**Attorney at Law**

*Divorce & Family Law*

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### League's Legislative Interviews

At the start of each session of the Oregon legislature the State League asks that each local group interview its own legislators with questions sent by the State. The purpose of these interviews is two-fold. First, it gives local leagues an opportunity to personally meet with their legislators, develop relationships and remind them of the League's interest in dealing with important local and statewide issues. Also, the responses give the LWVOR Action Committee an initial idea of the legislators' thinking as they head into the session which helps prepare the League for its lobbying efforts.

This year there are five questions to be asked, and they deal with revenue issues, voting, Measure 37, citizen access to government, and constituent concerns. Responses will be "off the record", and they will not be published in any form. We will not include the responses in our newsletter.

Our League will try to set up appointments with legislators Susan Morgan and Jeff Kruse. If you are interested in participating in the interviews please contact me ASAP. Appointment dates and times should be ready by the time the newsletter is sent out.

■ Alice Lackey  
Action Chair, 672-1154



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## *January Calendar*

- Town Hall Meeting In Portland With Senators ..... January 9
- Board Meeting, Confidence Clinic, ..... January 13  
308 SE Jackson, 5:15 PM
- Program planning ..... January 25  
Tom Tom Restaurant at 6pm for dinner, program at 7 pm

*Happy New Year!*

**Due: February 7, 2005**

Local League \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number Present \_\_\_\_\_

### LWVOR Program Planning

- Drop:** Position may not again be incorporated
- Update:** Add Background information to support the position, usually can be provided by Portfolio Chair into the program without a new study.
- Retain:** No change in position.
- Restudy:** Requires a resource committee which informs members and may seek a new member agreement on the position.

PRESENT POSITIONS	RETAIN	DROP	UPDATE	RESTUDY
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>				
Constitutional Provisions				
Economic Development Revenue Bonds				
Election Laws				
Emergency Board				
Fiscal Policy				
Initiative and Referendum				
Judicial System				
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>				
Air Quality				
Coastal Management (and Offshore)				
<b>ENERGY:</b>				
Conservation				
Nuclear				
Land Use				
Parks				
Seismic				
<b>WATER:</b>				
Policy and Planning				
Quality				
Resources—Columbia Basin				
<b>SOCIAL POLICY</b>				
Adult Corrections				
Child Care				
Children at Risk				
Education—Postsecondary				
Farmworker Issues				
<b>HEALTH POLICY:</b>				
Adult Mental Health				
Mental Health Services for Children & Youth				
Juvenile Justice				

**PROPOSED NEW STATE STUDY ITEMS:** Include Title, Scope, and Outlook for Work; use additional sheet if necessary.

**STATE BYLAWS CHANGES:** Please review the state bylaws and write below any changes your League recommends. Use brackets or parentheses to designate those words you wish to add.

**RETURN BY FEBRUARY 7, 2005**

(Keep one copy for your League's files.)

Return to: League of Women Voters of Oregon  
2659 Commercial St. SE Suite 260, Salem, OR 97302