



League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

MAY 2005

May Action

What you can do

Thinking Locally, Acting Locally

Last month (April) John Kitzhaber and Mike Lowry, former governors of Oregon and Washington, appeared at a symposium on civic engagement in Vancouver (WA). Both men expressed concern about the level of public involvement in civic affairs. "When people cease to believe that civic engagement is a way to solve problems, civic engagement declines," Kitzhaber said.

Kitzhaber also said that the public has an attitude that "it is someone else's responsibility to solve the problems that confront us".

The former governors had a one-hour presentation, and it was followed by an appearance of two Clark County commissioners.

But after Kitzhaber and Lowry departed so did much of the audience. One of the commissioners noted that was a problem that local officials face every day. They "deal with the nuts and bolts of government on a local level, which has an immediate impact on the day-to-day life of residents. But the public often pays more attention to well-publicized national and statewide political figures." The other commissioner agreed adding that "we are making decisions...that will define who we are as a community."

The League of Women Voters

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LEAGUE PROGRAM

Local Program in 2005-2006

At the Annual Meeting on April 26th members present agreed that their prime interest on the local governmental level was "Transparency in Governance". They determined to devote their local league program time to strengthening the Observer Corps. That means that members have an opportunity to choose when and where to observe. Some of the choices are:

- Umpqua Community College Board
- Roseburg (or other) School Board
- Roseburg (or other) City Council
- City Planning Commission (Roseburg or other)
- Board of County Commissioners
- County Planning Commission

These are only the most visible. Perhaps you are interested in Parks and Recreation, Budget Committees, etc. Any choice will help give yourself and your league a clearer picture of the complexities of government. The following is basic information about becoming an observer.

How to be an Observer

It's almost as easy as falling off a log and a lot more fun. After the League

President has sent an official letter to the government body which you will be observing, you appear promptly at the next scheduled meeting. You may introduce yourself as the official League observer if the situation seems to warrant. Otherwise, simply take a seat, and take notes. Try to stay during the entire meeting.

DO NOT MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ABOUT LEAGUE POSITION OR OFFER ANY PERSONAL OPINIONS, EVEN IF ASKED. You are there as an official League observer, not as a private citizen. Only the president or her designee may speak for the League.

Taking notes does two important things. First, notes will help you make your report to the League. Second, public bodies are very responsive to this type of conscientious behavior, and frequently this demonstrated interest encourages the members of the governmental entity to take their jobs even more seriously. They appreciate the attention. They appreciate League.

Obtain agenda, staff notes, and minutes, if possible, at the meeting or by getting on their mailing list. Usually the staff person is the person to approach to get on the mailing list.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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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May 2005

Dear League Members and Friends,

We had quite a conversant annual meeting on April 26th. 22 members attended. The Phoenix School prepared us a good lasagna dinner, and we particularly liked the table configuration of seating which allowed us to have a good and lively discussion. A new member also joined the league that evening. Welcome to Debbie Brown of Do-It-All Services! With Debbie's new membership we now have 52 members.

As we welcome new members, we must also at times say "Good-bye" to board members. We bid farewell to Anne Nicholas and Alice Lackey who are both stepping down from the board after many long years of illustrious service for their communities. Both have been pivotal and will be greatly missed by the board. Anne, our Secretary for years, and Alice, our Action Chair for years, are proud parts of league history in the Umpqua Valley, Oregon. Sincere thanks to both of you.

Our last scheduled public meeting for the fiscal year will be at the Douglas County Library on May 24th at 7 PM. Please come to hear the latest about Measure 37 in Douglas County. Keith Cubic, Douglas County Planning Director, will speak.

This newsletter bids you adieu as we will resume its publication in September. We will be letting you all know about a June Social and a July or August board retreat.

Thank you all for a tremendous year!

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom



Join the League of Women Voters Today!

We Need you with Us! Be informed by becoming a member or renewing your membership today.

Please send us your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and a check for \$60 for annual membership to:

**LWV of Umpqua Valley
PO Box 2434
Roseburg OR 97470**

If you have questions, please call 672-6982 for more information.

And visit: <http://www.lwvuv.org>

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EVENTS & PROGRAM

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

The day was sunny and warm. The setting in the auditorium of Building 16 on the beautiful Veterans Administration grounds was comfortable with sufficient parking (once one found it). Members and guests attending this event enjoyed wonderful fellowship and sharing of information about our many local organizations, their purposes and projects. "Local" included organizations in Elkton and Yoncalla. Approximately 25 women's groups were represented including LWVUV. The meal provided by Aromatica consisted of salad and two delicious quiches, plus cookies for dessert.

Marcia Hall, Trauma Therapist for Women's Health-Mental Health at the VA Medical Center, informed us about the effect of trauma on the lives of both men and women and the difficulties of overcoming the effects of violence. Marcia is currently working for the Oregon Department of Health in developing a Statewide Sexual Assault Prevention Plan. The audience left with much information and heightened awareness of the issue.

■ Betty Mack, Program Chair

Jane McMillin Attorney

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Attend regularly. If unable to attend, get a substitute. Be sure to brief the substitute on the agenda and ongoing discussions.

Date all materials. Read newspaper accounts and compare with your observations.

If you must stop observing your assigned meeting, let the Observer Chair know immediately so that a replacement can be found.

So, get ready for your next League adventure. This is what members will be doing in 2005-2006.

■ Betty Mack, Program Chair



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of the Umpqua Valley will have an emphasis during the coming year of making local government bodies more transparent. If that effort is to be a success each member needs to become more informed about what the local committees and boards are doing at the county and city levels. An active observer corps will help to do that. We need League members to be present at school board, city council, planning commission, commissioner, and other meetings.

You may want to consider applying for a vacancy on one of the committees. In this month's election there are 214 special district positions in the county. Twenty-seven of those positions, on school boards and in fire, water and sanitary districts, have no announced candidates. Many positions have only one candidate.

In Roseburg there are 63 people serving on the city's different boards and commissioners (as of March). Only 7 of those are women. There are still three vacancies (Economic development, budget committee and planning commission.)

I am sure that each one of us in the Umpqua Valley League appreciates this area in which we live. Making it a great community will take the active interest of all of us.

***For more information about Douglas County and Roseburg committees, etc., go to these web sites:

Roseburg - <<http://www.ci.roseburg.or.us>>www.ci.roseburg.or.us
Douglas County - <<http://www.co.douglas.or.us>>www.co.douglas.or.us

■ Alice Lackey, Action Chair



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May 2005 Calendar

- MAY BOARD MEETING MAY 12
CONFIDENCE CLINIC, 308 SE JACKSON STREET, ROSEBURG, 5:15 PM
- COUNTY & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS MAY 17
- STATE CONVENTION MAY 20 - 22
WELCHES, OREGON
- MAY GENERAL MEETING MAY 24
DOUGLAS COUNTY LIBRARY, ROSEBURG , 7 PM
KEITH CUBIC, DOUGLAS COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR, WILL SPEAK REGARDING
MEASURE 37 AND ITS STATUS NOW IN DOUGLAS COUNTY