



League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

SEPTEMBER 2005

Major Fundraiser Announced

Please join us on October 22nd, for our **annual garage sale** scheduled at the Faith Lutheran Church from 8AM until about 2PM. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. In view of all of our projects, we will rely heavily on the outcome of this event.

Please go through your giveaway items and give us a call to come pick them up at 672-6982. It would be best if you would price them yourselves, marking your donations with a sticker or in some other way. That would help us immensely.

We also need volunteers to make this happen. We'll be organizing on Oct. 21, Friday, at the Church after 1PM. Please join us then for a few hours or during the sale on Saturday starting at 8AM. Call 672-6982 to volunteer to work on the prep day 10/21 or the actual sale day 10/22 for a few hours.

Support Your League in its largest fundraiser of the year!

Mark your calendar!
Saturday, Oct. 22nd,
Faith Lutheran Church,
820 Kenwood, Roseburg
8 AM until 2 PM

LEAGUE PROGRAM

The Douglas County Courts in 2005 and Beyond

Our speaker on September 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 900 SE Douglas Avenue in Roseburg, will be Circuit Judge Joan Seitz.

Judge Seitz has been a member of the Oregon State Bar for 31 years and a Circuit Judge in Douglas County for almost 20 years. She was a deputy district attorney in Klamath Falls, an assistant public defender in Douglas County and assistant county counsel for Douglas County. She entered private practice as a lawyer before becoming a judge. Currently, she is the judge assigned to all domestic violence cases filed in our court system. With the help of the local community, in 1999, she created a specialized domestic violence court program. She was instrumental in creating the mediation and arbitration programs for small claims cases and landlord/tenant cases. She was also instrumental in creating a mediation program for cases involving guardianships and conservatorships for

the elderly. She has served on numerous Oregon Judicial Department committees.

Judge Seitz was born in Chicago. Raised in Klamath Falls from the age of 5, she attended Klamath Union High School. She received her Bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Southern Oregon College and her doctorate of jurisprudence from Willamette University College of Law. Her husband is a practicing lawyer in Roseburg and they have one grown daughter. She has won four elections for her office.

Speaking from her broad background, Judge Seitz will give an overview of the Douglas County court system. This program will be the first of several related to the League of Women Voters of Oregon two-year study of the Oregon Judiciary.

■ Betty Mack, Program Chair & Local Judiciary Study Chair

Judge Joan Seitz Speaks
at the Roseburg City Hall
900 SE Douglas, Roseburg

Sep. 27, 2005 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers

Be Sure to Attend
the 1st meeting of
the Year!

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: Betty Mack . . . 672-1706
2nd Vice President: Lois Allen 673-3704
Secretary: Jean Oswald 673-3001
Treasurer: Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195

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Jacie Pratt Sharon Rice Anna Willman

CHAIRS

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Bulletin & Website
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Nominating Committee Chair:
Beverly Paulson 672-5011
Program & Local Judiciary Study:
Betty Mack 672-1706
Public Relations: Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195
State Homeless Youth Study:
Linda Clary 464-8883
Voters Guides: Beverly Paulson 672-5011

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

We've adopted new membership guidelines to make it easier for you to be a member! Also ask us about scholarship opportunities for those who participate on a regular basis.

Please send us your name, mailing address, phone number, email address and a check for:

- \$60 for Annual membership for an individual
\$90 for a Annual household membership
\$30 Full-time Student membership

LWV of Umpqua Valley
PO Box 2434
Roseburg OR 97470

If you have questions, please call 672-6982 or visit http://www.lwvuv.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2005

Dear League Members and Friends,

This new fiscal year for the league promises to be eventful and inovative. If you're not a full-fledged member yet, be sure to join now to be engaged in an enthralling political year in Douglas County and the State of Oregon.

Each year our board reviews its nonpartisan policy as a reminder of our mission which is nonpartisan political involvement. We support issues, not candidates or political parties.

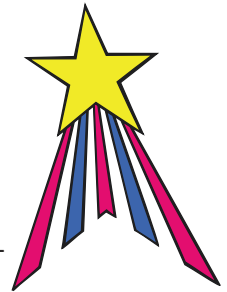
As the political scene moves rapidly so must we as League members move quickly. We find out proposed changes by attending meetings, and make those proposals known involving public trust, and we do all this in a timely fashion, allowing input before decisions are made. Thus we serve our communities well.

But none of us do this alone. Show your support for your workers by signing up to become a member or making donations of time or money. And please note our upcoming Garage Sale (page 1). Financial donations are needed as well as those who will serve as Observer Corp members, those who attend public meetings and take notes.

Some of those who serve our community are our new board of directors for the year 2005-2006. We have a dedicated group who will serve as your league leaders and contacts. Betty Mack is first Vice-President, Lois Allen is second Vice-President, Jean Oswald is Secretary and new to the board, Kathy Vejtasa is Treasurer. Also welcome to new board members, Sharon Rice who is now our new Membership Chair, Jacie Pratt , our new Development Chair, and Anna Willman, our new Action Chair. Linda Clary has joined the board as our State Homeless Youth Study Chair, and I will continue on as your President 2005 - 2007.

Thank you all for your membership, leadership, support and your constant dedication to the cause of liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Robin Wisdom
League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley, President



State League Regional Meet

Have your finger on the pulse — attend the Fall Regional Workshop sponsored by the Oregon State League in Eugene on Saturday Oct. 8th, at EWEB, Eugene Water & Electric Board HQ, located at 500 E. 4th Avenue near 5th Street Market. Be informed and find out the latest issues for Oregon.

Meet at 7:30AM on Oct. 8th at the Fowler Street parking lot next to the Douglas County Library if you'd like to carpool. We will return the same day by about 5PM. Cost is \$17 per person and lunch will be catered by EWEB. Call 672-6982 for more information.



Oregon's Homeless Youth October 7th Summit in Roseburg

Douglas County Fairgrounds
8:30 am – 4 pm
October 8th – Fall Workshop in Eugene 9 am

The League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley, as a result of their two year study, embarked upon a campaign to educate the community about the issues facing homeless teens. In the process of doing so we noticed that most people in Douglas County, were not aware of this sizable population (informal count of 200-500 homeless youth) that lives under the bridges, in the dug-outs, under the broadcast antennas, in campgrounds etc.). We met denial. We needed a way to inform the public such that solutions for these children could be crafted and attained.

Thus we partnered with the Douglas County Commission on Children and Families (it was such a nice coincidence that one of our study committee members is the chairperson of the CCF!) and decided we needed to include our community in creating solutions for these children. Since Spring, 2004 we've brought together, in three separate meetings, the various human service providers – also called stakeholders - that work with

this group of youth and discussed the appropriateness of a Summit and the results would they like to see. Together, we've identified several outcomes for the Summit:

1. An action plan, describing who does what and when.
2. A Homeless Youth Bill of Rights.
3. Ownership of the problem by all within the community.
4. Provide easy access to information for not only the youth but all those involved.
5. Address the housing issue.

Susan Pickrel, M.D., the keynote speaker, will address adolescent behavior and launch us into a day filled with panel discussions by experts (local service providers and teens that have been/are homeless), focused small table discussions, and a presentation by Klamath Falls' homeless youth shelter - Integrated Youth Services.

We've raised approximately \$9,000 through two grants from local foundations to cover expenses. Our marketing campaign includes distributing brochures, flyers, and posters throughout the community, to the stakeholders, other Leagues, faith-based organizations, the schools, and the business community. Three public service announcements, with telling the youths' stories, are getting air time on local TV and radio stations. The local newspaper will be running a series of articles leading up to the Summit and covering post-Summit outcomes. Electronic brochures, flyers and posters will be sent to your League liaison and these include registration forms.

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LWVUS Launches New Web Site

LWVUS has launched its new Web site! You can visit the new, improved, user-friendly site here: <http://www.lwv.org>. Remember, the first time all members visit the new Web site, they will need to register with the League and set up their account information. It's a simple, three-step process:

Register at <http://www.lwv.org/PreRegister/>. You will be asked for your first name, last name and e-mail address.

Update Your Information and Set Your Password. After you register, the system will send you an e-mail containing your initial log-in information and how to access the LWV Online System. Using the information in the e-mail, log in to the LWV Online System. After logging in, members can update their personal information (name, address, e-mail, password, etc). To update your password, click "Change Password" in the left hand navigation and enter the requested information. Remember to SAVE your changes.

To Log in go to <http://www.lwv.org/> and click on "Login" on the right hand side of the top red bar. Fill in the form with your e-mail address and your password and click on "Login." That's it! You will see a "Welcome Back!" message. LWVUS looks forward to your visit!

Study of the Oregon Judiciary

The LWVUV welcomes other League members to this event. Prospective attendees can contact Robin Wisdom (President) to arrange for our local “Bed n’ Breakfast” hospitality, offered by our League members. Robin’s contact information is 541.672.6982 and her email is rwisdom@jeffnet.org.

State Study Committee: The Fall Workshop is October 8th and will include a discussion and training session dealing with interviewing agencies that work with homeless youth as well as a discussion on interviewing the young people. The State Study committee is fortunate to include in its membership Jean Lasater of NW Human Services (an organization that works with these children). Jean will lead the discussion and training.

For more information on the State Study committee or the Summit please contact Linda Clary at 541.464.8883 or (please note new email) address: linda.clary@mcsi.net.

■ Linda Clary, Homeless Youth
State Study Chair

The LWV of the Umpqua Valley delegates to State Convention in May were on a mission to have the Homeless Youth issue become a state study. An equally determined group of delegates were as intent on adopting a study of the Oregon Judiciary. The convention delegates voted to adopt both as state studies for the next two years.

Why a study of the Oregon Judiciary? The current state position on the Judicial System was adopted after study in 1979. This position included:

Criteria for evaluating a system of selecting judges in Oregon, which should:

1. Be as free from political influence as possible;
2. Encourage and attract the most competent and experienced people;
3. Include a method of evaluating judges by which the public and/or commission can make judgments;
4. Provide increased citizen participation.

Criteria for evaluating a system of financing the district and circuit courts, which should:

1. Provide equalization of services statewide;
2. Provide fiscal accountability;
3. Provide adequate and stable funding;
4. Preserve flexibility and local control.

In financing district and circuit courts in Oregon, the system should provide for continuation and expansion of partial state funding. State mandated programs or procedures should be funded by the Legislature.

There have been successes in making the changes the position recommended. In 1981, the League took an active role in supporting the legislative effort that created a statewide judicial system, excluding municipal courts and justice courts, with the chief justice of the Supreme Court as the administrative head. Since 1983, the General Fund has provided full funding for district and circuit courts. In 2002, the League opposed two ballot measures on the General Election ballot. One would have required Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals justices to be elected by district and to reside within those districts. The other would have revised the procedure for filling judicial vacancies, holding judicial elections and allowing a “none of the above” vote in judicial elections. Both proposed constitutional amendments were narrowly defeated. The first is presently being initiated again.

Jane McMillin
Attorney

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 1155 SE Douglas St
 P.O. Box 81
 Roseburg OR 97470

June Social Success

It was a delightful evening at the home of Sharon Lee Schwartz and Scott Cohan on June 28, 2005 when a number of league members gathered to enjoy a social potluck. The Friends of Douglas County were guests of honor with three of their members in attendance. The potluck meal was delicious, the surroundings warm (we were able to dine outside on a lovely veranda) and Shelley Wetherell was interesting in her description of what the Friends do. The Friends are affiliated with the 1000 Friends of Oregon who are active in protecting state land use laws. The Friends locally mostly try to protect farm and rural lands from re-zoning. It is also the league's belief and part of a league position that we as a state should maintain our quality farmlands and not allow development for the sake of development only. Shelley said they had four appeals going at the time. Some are in LUBA, Land Use Board of Appeals, presently waiting on decision. Shelley also said that Measure 37 applications are not the problem right now, but larger projects are on the way. She feels that other parts of the state have been hit harder by M37. Her group also lobbies the Oregon state legislature.

■ Robin Wisdom, President



Voter Registration at UCC

This year Voter Registration will be held again during the first week of school at Umpqua Community College sponsored by the Umpqua Valley league. The dates are September 26-30, Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 1PM in the lobby of the Campus Center. All members are encouraged to come to the Campus Center even if only for one hour. It would also help if you would call first to arrange a time.

This is also a time for celebrating the league by letting others know about it. We'll have all our materials at the table and we'll be ready to talk to all who pass by. Please come and have some fun out at the college during this important time. Last year we registered 50 people during the same week in a presidential election year.

■ Robin Wisdom, President

Diana Wales, PC
Attorney at Law

673-0696

**Divorce & Family Law
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318 SE Jackson St
Roseburg, OR 97470
541-673-9791 (fax)

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Oregon League has been a part of a LWVUS Judicial Independence Project for several years. This project emphasizes the importance of judicial independence in a fair and just legal system.

The existing state position was adopted 25 years ago. The Convention delegates acknowledge the need to consider the system as presently constituted in order to be more effective in speaking to the issues affecting the system in the future. Please read the description of the new study in this newsletter.

This fall the State Judiciary Study Committee will be asking local Leagues to ask questions of and gather facts from the Presiding Judge. In the spring LWVUV will be holding a meeting using written materials provided by the State Committee.

If you would like to be part of the state or the local committee, let Robin or me know of your interest.

■ Betty Mack, Program Chair

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League of Women Voters of Umpqua Valley
PO Box 2434
Roseburg OR 97470-2434

<http://www.lwvuv.org>

Your League September 2005 Calendar

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING..... SEP 6
- VOTER REGISTRATION AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SEP 26 - 30
CAMPUS CENTER, 9 AM TO 1 PM DAILY,
VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED.
- GENERAL MEETING SEP 27
JUDGE JOAN SEITZ SPEAKS AT ROSEBURG CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 900 SE DOUGLAS, 7 PM
- GARAGE SALE (ON OCT. 22) COLLECTION MONTH ALL MONTH
CALL 672-6982 FOR ITEM PICKUP OR TO VOLUNTEER, DONATIONS WELCOME.