



League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwvuv.org

APRIL 2006

April Action Alert!

What you can Do

ARCTIC REFUGE THREATENED AGAIN IN BACK-DOOR BUDGET TACTIC 3/29/06

Action is needed to prevent Congress from trying again to use the budget process to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling! Drilling proponents still do not have the votes to open the Refuge outright, so they are trying to use the budget as a filibuster-proof vehicle to give oil companies access to the pristine lands. The Senate has passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2007 that includes revenues from new oil and gas leases in the Arctic. So, once again it is up to the House of Representatives to reject this maneuver.

Urge the House of Representatives to keep ANWR out of the budget!

Last year, League members and other concerned citizens succeeded in preventing Congress

Continued on page 3

LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting Date is April 27th!

The previously set date for the Annual Meeting has been changed to Thursday evening, April 27th at Jasmine's Event Center. The dinner will start at 6 PM. Our main speaker will begin sat 6:30 PM. We would like to get started earlier so that the meeting doesn't not go too late.

More importantly our **keynote speaker this year is Margaret Noel, LWVOR state president.** We've asked her to speak about the latest state issues and also about the league's nonpartisan stance and what it means to be "nonpartisan".

Annual meeting programs were mailed out to each member (or one per couple at one address) along with the annual meeting agenda. Included in the program are proposed bylaw changes, a recommended slate of officers and board of directors for 2006 - 2007 and beyond and proposed program for 2006 - 2007.

There are two proposed bylaw changes. The first is much like the state league's changes they made at the last state convention. LWVOR voted on

changing their bylaws to include a way to make decisions through the use of email and or telephone. This way the board can act quickly and not have to wait for monthly board meetings before making a decision on an issue.

The second proposed bylaw change would effect membership due dates and change them to one annual anniversary date, Oct. 1st. This would make tracking and collection of dues easier.

Please read over your annual meeting program and join us at Jasmine's on Thursday, 6 PM, April 27th for this important league activity and rare opportunity to meet LWVOR President Margaret Noel in Roseburg.

◆ Robin Wisdom, President



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 673-3074
Secretary: Jean Oswald 673-3001
Treasurer: Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195

DIRECTORS

Jacie Pratt Anna Willman

CHAIRS

Action: Anna Willman 440-3075
Bulletin & Website
Editor: Robin Wisdom 672-6982
Hospitality Chair: Linda Clary 464-8883
Membership Chair: Lois Allen 673-3074
Nominating Committee Chair:
Beverly Paulson 672-5011
Program & State Judiciary Study:
Betty Mack 672-1706
Public Relations: Kathy Vejtasa 672-7195
State Homeless Youth Study, State Chair:
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! 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

To: LWV of Umpqua Valley
PO Box 2434
Roseburg OR 97470

Visit http://www.lwvuv.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2006

Dear League Members and Friends,

We've had productive months and fun in February and March. First with Barbara Nielsen, Douglas County Clerk, who spoke to the league on Feb. 28th about the upcoming election year. She is a wealth of knowledge having worked in her department for many years as well as being newly elected to a four year term.

We were fortunate as March, Women's History Month, brought us Shannon Applegate and an evening at the Betty Long Unruh Theatre. Even though this was our second annual get together at the Theatre, I hope you were able to attend this singular evening. Shannon's historical research and insight delighted 69 people on the evening March 28th. The League and UACT cosponsored the benefit that included a successful and delicious dessert auction.

With the primary election on May 16th, we've got a big April ahead of us and new opportunities as well. April brings us candidates forums. We've heard of all kinds. The League's are yet to come and scheduled for the evening of April 18 and during the day on April 28th. Please support these forums that will be fair and unbiased. This year we have a new opportunity to co-sponsor a daytime forum with Linus Oakes Retirement Center. See a sidebar on page 7 in this newsletter for more details.

Our Annual Meeting is also scheduled for April 27th at 6 PM for dinner and at 6:30 PM for a special presentation by State League President Margaret Noel. This is one of the most important membership meetings of the year. By now you've received your Annual Meeting program. Please bring it with you to the meeting on April 27th This is a rare opportunity. Please come to Jasmine's Event Center for fine cuisine, annual meeting and to meet our state leader.

Sincerely,

Robin

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

LEAGUE PROGRAM

County Clerk Addresses The Election Year

The League February 28th General Meeting was held at Jasmine's Event Center. Barbara Nielsen, the Douglas County Clerk, was the guest speaker. Following dinner she gave us a short presentation discussing the many responsibilities of her position.

The Douglas County Clerk is a nonpartisan, elected office and is for a four year term. She is responsible for keeping a permanent record of most official transactions involving the county as well as for conducting and administering all elections in the county.

After a brief rundown of her duties she focused on the election/ballot counting process and the changes that are taking place. In particular she discussed what the county and state have to do to meet HAVA requirements and

how these changes are funded. Comments by league members during the presentation were almost unanimous in the opinion that the most important aspect of assuring an accurate vote count in future elections requires paper verification. Mrs. Nielsen assured the group that that was a goal, but that even without such verification, the process of vote counting



Umpqua Valley snow floor, March 2006

in Douglas County is done in such a way that it would be very difficult to commit voting fraud.

I have a copy of the questions provided by Betty Mack and Robin Wisdom that Mrs. Nielsen discussed which pretty much covers everything if anyone is interested in reading those notes I would be glad to share them.

❖ Kris Bennett, member of LWVUV

Action Alert: ARCTIC REFUGE THREATENED AGAIN

Continued from Page 1

from using the budget process as a means to open the Refuge. In the end, House moderates managed to have the provision to open ANWR removed from the fiscal year 2006 budget before the final vote. Members of the House should be thanked for protecting the Arctic Refuge and the legislative process from this kind of manipulation last year, and encouraged to work again to ensure that ANWR is not in the House budget resolution for fiscal year 2007.

On March 16, the Senate passed a budget blueprint for 2007 that not only includes revenues from oil and gas exploration in the Refuge, but also ties those revenues to the funding of restoration in the Gulf Coast. Drilling proponents hope that this will make it harder to strip the measure. As in last year's fight, the fate of the Arctic Refuge rests with the reasonable members of the House rejecting the use of the budget in this way.

Thank your Representative for rejecting back-door attempts to open the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas drilling!

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a 19.3 million-acre refuge situated between the



Attend
"The Latest Science on Global Warming"
by Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Expert

Wednesday, April 19th 7 PM
Roseburg High Rose Theatre
Sponsored by the Global Warming Coalition
For more information call 672-9819

Continued on Page 4

Action Alert: ARCTIC REFUGE THREATENED AGAIN

Continued from Page 4

Arctic Ocean and the Brooks Range in the northeastern corner of Alaska. The Refuge covers an amazing diversity of habitat, from rugged peaks and glaciers to tundra and the coastal plain. Estimates suggest there is a limited amount of oil under the Refuge, perhaps a six-month supply for the U.S. Modest fuel efficiency improvements for motor vehicles alone would save approximately five times the amount of oil estimated to be under the Arctic Refuge.

Take action now to protect the Refuge!

ACTION NEEDED

1. Contact your Representative now, by phone and email and urge her/him to oppose any attempt to include drilling in ANWR in the budget! Tell your Representative that you oppose oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the use of the budget process as a back-door maneuver to allow access to the Refuge. Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-225-3121 or 202-224-3121.

◆ Anna Willman, Action Chair

LEAGUE PARTNER

The Final Patriot Package: A View by the ACLU

Expanded analysis of final package on the Patriot Act – the conference report on H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and S. 2271, the USA PATRIOT Additional Reauthorizing Amendments Act of 2006

3/1/2006. Today, President Bush signed into law two bills – the conference report (“conference report”) on H.R. 3199, reauthorizing the USA PATRIOT Act, and separate legislation reflecting an agreement reached outlining a few proposed changes urged by Senator Sununu and others. These changes, which were passed separately as S. 2271, are at best minor, do not correct the major flaws in the conference report, and in some respects even make the conference report worse.

Both the conference report on H.R. 3199 and the additional amendments in S. 2271 will still make virtually all of the expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act (Patriot Act) permanent without including necessary changes to restore checks and balances. While the conference report and the additional amendments contain some improvements to the Patriot

Act that reflect the tireless work of members on both sides of the aisle, the final legislation remains substantially flawed and continues to infringe on our constitutional rights.

We appreciate the efforts of the many Senators and Representatives who worked to improve the Patriot Act to add civil liberties safeguards. As we explain further below, a few of the many provisions in the conference report make meaningful changes to the law to protect civil liberties, but many other changes either are cosmetic or take a big step backwards. Indeed, taken as a whole, the conference report’s changes to the Patriot Act, together with the additional amendments, simply do not do enough to protect civil liberties to make the extension of these controversial powers consistent with fundamental American freedoms and in some cases would make current law substantially worse.

In summary, the legislation:

*** Permits the records of ordinary Americans to be secretly obtained without adequate safeguards (sections 106, 115).** While the conferees rejected a call for new FBI “ad-

Continued on Page 5

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LEAGUE PARTNER

The Final Patriot Package: A View by the ACLU

Continued from Page 4

ministrative subpoenas” without any prior court review, the conference report continues to allow records that are not connected to an international terrorist or spy to be obtained using either a secret court order under section 215 of the Patriot Act or a “national security letter” (NSL) that can be issued by an FBI official without any court oversight.

*** Continues to gag recipients of records demands without any prior court finding, with new criminal penalties (sections 106, 116, 117).** Both secret section 215 orders and NSLs would continue to contain a gag provision that bars a recipient from telling anyone (other than the recipient’s lawyer) that records have been obtained.

*** Allows sneak-and-peek searches under a broad standard; new time limits would still allow such searches to continue to remain secret for weeks, months or even years (section 114).** The legislation would preserve the overbroad standard for sneak-and-peek searches that permits notice of the search of a home to be delayed whenever immediate notice might

“seriously jeopardize” an ongoing investigation. Delays would no longer be allowed for any “reasonable time” but would be presumptively limited to an initial 30-day period, with an unlimited number of 90-day extensions if approved by the court. These modest limits could be waived by the court, which has broad discretion to set a longer initial period or a longer renewal period. The Justice Department has acknowledged that fully 88% of sneak-and-peek searches are unrelated to terrorism investigations.

*** Allows secret eavesdropping and secret search orders that do not name a target or a location with enhanced court oversight (section 108).** While the legislation requires some additional court oversight of the government’s use of this broad power, it would still permit the government to obtain what amounts to a blank or general warrant – an order that allows the government to eavesdrop on a telephone conversation or secretly search a home or business and, in effect, fill in the names and locations later. No requirement that the government ascertain that a suspect is using the telephone it is monitoring is included.

*** Omits modest limits on a host of additional Patriot Act surveillance**

powers. Many Patriot Act surveillance powers are made permanent with no change, or even with expanded scope. For example, FISA surveillance of non-U.S. persons can continue for as long as a year with no additional court review. Likewise, confidential information gathered in criminal investigations can continue to be shared with the CIA or foreign intelligence agencies without adequate privacy safeguards, or even notice to the court overseeing the criminal investigation.

*** Creates additional death penalties.** Although the final reauthorization package does not include the most extreme death penalty provisions sought by some, it would create a number of new crimes, including new death penalties, without adequate consideration by Congress.

*** Allows Justice Department, not federal courts, to determine that a state has a competent death penalty system.** If a state establishes an effective system for providing competent counsel to indigent defendants in death penalty proceedings, it will qualify for a relaxed set of procedural rules for federal habeas proceedings that stack the deck in favor of the state. Section 507 takes the decision of whether there is an adequate system out of the hands of the federal courts, and gives it to the U.S. Attorney General.

*** Expands the jurisdiction of the Secret Service to impose “exclusion zones” – which cannot be entered on pain of federal imprisonment – to non-Presidential events.**

For much more and the ACLU’s detailed analysis see web page: <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/24314leg20060301.html>. ■

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541-673-9791 (fax)**

Council & Convention Schedules

LWVUS

47th National Convention in
Minneapolis MN

"Meeting in the Middle"

June 10-13, 2006

Keynote Speaker is
Garrison Keiler



LWVOR
State Council in
Ashland, OR

"Passion, I see, is catching."

May 20-21, 2006

Banquet Speaker:
Libby Appel, Artistic Director,
Oregon Shakespeare Festival.
"The Case for Art in Perilous
Times"

2 Delegates from the Umpqua
Valley League will attend the
LWVOR State Council: Betty Mack
and Robin Wisdom.

1 Delegate from the Umpqua
Valley League will attend the
LWVUS Convention: Robin
Wisdom, first time convention goer.

LEAGUE EVENT

Women's History Month Celebration

On March 28th, Shannon Applegate captivated an evening crowd of 69 people at the Betty Long Unruh Theatre.

Shannon revealed some of her research of historic women who have worked for building better communities. And they did this in frustrating times. The name of her talk was *Rx for Controversy*, for the women she spoke of were indeed controversial. One of these women who lived on the North Umpqua was Mary Pricilla Sawtelle,

who actually had a long list of names as she was married quite a few times which was very unusual for the day. She lived on the North Umpqua for a short time before escaping from an abusive husband. In San Francisco she became a doctor. Another woman profiled also was a doctor. Both led outspoken lives speaking freely on behalf of issues such as domestic abuse and violence and suffrage.

The evening was enjoyable. Shannon signed books. Her latest book named *Living Among Headstones: Life in a Country Cemetery* is available at While Away Books in Roseburg or at Amazon.com.

A dessert auction was held during an intermission that netted for the League and Umpqua Actors Community Theatre and the Unruh Theatre

\$95. The benefit event ticket sales and dessert auction proceeds came to \$440.

Thanks go to many league members: Those who made desserts, Jim Williams and Linda Clary for helping with the Dessert Auction, and Jacie Pratt for organizing the event. Thank you to Marianne Jones, meticulous ticket-taker, the Umpqua Actors Community Theatre (UACT),

Daniel Robertson and the Betty Long Unruh Theatre for being such a great community place. Special thanks to Shannon Applegate who can focus in the depths of detail and then deliver her knowledge with insightful meaning.

❁ Robin Wisdom, President



Shannon Applegate, March 28, 2006



Shannon Applegate and husband
Daniel Robertson

LEAGUE INFO

TABOR INITIATIVE OPPOSED BY LWVOR

Oregon voters are urged not to sign Initiative Petition #6, the proposal to put a cap on state spending, which the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) says could lead to severe consequences for seniors, the disabled and children.

If enacted, the measure would tie state spending to inflation rates and population growth. Known as "The Taxpayer Bill of Rights" or TABOR, this initiative would put into the Constitution a rigid and arbitrary spending cap on funding for public services such as education, health care, transportation and law enforcement.

According to LWVOR, the costs of some state services, such as provided in the Oregon Health Plan, are rising faster than inflation. In this time of rapidly changing economics, the inability of the Legislature to act quickly in fiscal matters could be disastrous to Oregon's future.

Data from Colorado's 13 years of TABOR shows a decrease of 25% in funding for education and social services. Voters suspended

the law for five years in 2005 after tuition for in-state higher education rose 21%, and Colorado dropped from 37th to 44th in the nation in K-12 education spending as a percentage of personal income. California voters turned down a similar proposal in November 2005.

According to an analysis done by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office, Oregon's General Fund would have been reduced by 25.6% if a TABOR-like measure had been in effect from 1990 to 2005.



LWVOR has long supported adequate, fair and equitable funding for Oregon's institutions of public education, human services, and public safety. "Initiative #6 would have far-reaching, unintended consequences for Oregonians," stated

Kappy Eaton, Governance Coordinator for the LWV, "and we urge citizens not to sign the petition."

The LWV is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. More information can be found on its web site, www.lwvor.org.

* LWVOR Press
Release, dated 4/3/06

Candidates Forums Sponsored by Umpqua Valley

**April 18th, 2006
Tuesday Evening
7 PM**

Roseburg City Hall Council
Chambers
900 SE Douglas, Roseburg
Douglas County Commissioner
Candidates

**April 28th, 2006
Friday Daytime
12:30 PM**

Linus Oakes Retirement Center
Community Room
Co-sponsored with Linus Oakes
Retirement Center
Douglas County Commissioner
Candidates

Free and open to the public!

League Members, your help will be needed to assist a smooth flow at these events. Please respond favorably when called! Thank you!





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

www.lwvuv.org

Your League April 2006 Calendar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING AT 5:15 PM, THURSDAY.....APR 13

JASMINE'S RESTAURANT, 809 SE MAIN, ROSEBURG
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

CANDIDATES FORUM AT 7:00 PM, TUESDAYAPR 18

ROSEBURG CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
900 SE DOUGLAS, ROSEBURG
FREE TO PUBLIC

CANDIDATES FORUM AT 12:30 PM, FRIDAYAPR 28

CO-SPONSORED WITH LINUS OAKES AT LINUS OAKES COMMUNITY CENTER
2665 NW VAN PELT, ROSEBURG
FREE TO PUBLIC

ANNUAL MEETING AT 6:30 PM, THURSDAYAPR 27

MARGARET NOEL, LWVOR PRESIDENT, IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JASMINE'S RESTAURANT, 809 SE MAIN, ROSEBURG
6 PM DINNER BEGINS
6:30 PM PRESENTATION
VISITORS ARE WELCOME WITH MEMBERS