

League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwuv.org

December 5, 2007

Are we locking them out, or locking ourselves in?



Immigration Consensus

Maryann Raney

The questions are out. Where do you stand? Our first meeting on immigration was held at the Douglas County Library on November 27. About twenty people came to hear a panel of guest speakers that included Julie Shoufler, and Rob Searles from Lone Rock Timber Management Company which is a family owned forest management organization responsible for of 115,000 acres employing a 100 people. Ten percent are Mexican immigrants.

Julie Shoufler explain the in order to work in the US a worker needs a Social Security card and driver's license or identification card. Employers accept ID's such as these if they look authentic.

Lone Rock is not involved in the guest worker program. All of the immigrant employees are permanent residents. They work all year and have benefits, such as health insurance, paid vacations and 401Ks.

Rob Searles is a Crew Leader and has worked in this capacity for twenty five years. He said that it was very difficult to find non immigrant people to work clearing brush, thinning, and tree planting.

Searles shared that his workers are grateful to have these jobs, and they have strong work ethics. These workers get incentive pay along with their regular wages.

The third speaker was a League member, Shelley Wetherell, who has a small agricultural operation hiring 35 to 50 people to pick grapes and harvest Christmas trees. They have been in the farming business since 1975.

The work her business offers is seasonal. Shelley has not used the Guest Worker Program because of the requirements. The employer must provide housing and transportation. This is not practical for her situation.

All three speakers agreed that what we need most is reliable verification that the worker is here legally.

Attendees were eager to ask questions that would give insight to this perplexing problem.

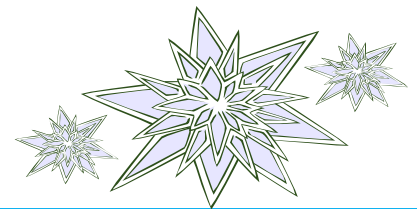
Some questions were:

Q: Have you heard from the your immigrant employees that they have been treated unfairly or targeted by the police?

A: No one knew of any instances of this happening.

Q: What kind of problems have you had working with immigrants?

A: The biggest problem was language. Of course, everyone is more comfortable speaking the language that they learned growing up. People do adapt though.

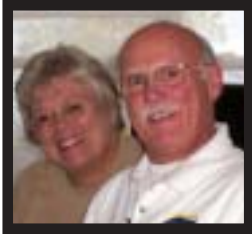


Celebrate the Season

Lunch at Ami Sushi
December 6, 11:45 am

Catch up on the League, share ideas, learn about our local studies, and have some fun.

See you there!



CO President's Message

Jim Williams & Linda Clary

National Studies

The Immigration Study that is underway is somewhat of a unique event. It is the first National Study in 15 years. For many of us "newbies" it is something we have never experienced, and it offers us an opportunity to understand the process as we attempt to address a question that is bedeviling the body politic.

The eight background papers are very well written, and present the issue from a variety of perspectives. These papers demonstrate two of the strengths of the League. That is we have a commitment to carefully and fully study a subject. And, because of the number of members, we are able to draw on people who have expertise to address these subjects.

After the material is considered, we go through a process that, I believe, is another strength of the League. That is the consensus process that we are about to undertake. In this process we are trying to get the majority of the members to come to a consensus about the issue such that the League can adopt a position on the subject.

It is from this position that we can then take an advocacy role.

Elsewhere in this issue is material and sources for the specifics of the immigration study. This is a unique time for us, and your input will help the League (US) determine how the League will weigh in on this subject. The next two of our membership meetings will have us consider the consensus questions and establish the position of our local league for response to the US League's Consensus Questions regarding Immigration. This is your chance

to help influence the League's position, and perhaps the country's response to this issue. It is truly an opportunity to be part of grassroots decision making on a local level that can influence the national position.

Come, be part of that effort at our December and January Meetings as we consider the Consensus Questions of the League (US). Our response is due on the 1st of February.

UMPQUA VISIONS

Linda Clary – Co-President

The League has been working on energizing Umpqua Visions for the past twelve months with several of the community's leaders: Mike Fieldman (UCAN), Fred Alley (City of Roseburg), and Kelly Morgan (Mercy Medical Center). Currently this cohort is preparing to meet with the local public-private partnership (being promoted by Umpqua Economic Development Partnership) to discuss expanding their vision of the future to encompass more than growing and attracting new businesses. Umpqua Visions is certainly operating in parallel with "Envision Oregon". Please take a moment to read this synopsis from their web-page. I invite you to reference their Blueprint for Oregon. These can become exciting times – aren't we blessed to live in them? From Envision Oregon – an effort supported by LWVOR:

"Thousands of Oregonians have spoken. Over the past two years, 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Bus Project, and over 50 other organizations hosted a series of town hall forums in 16 locations across the state. Called "Envision Oregon," these forums challenged more than 2,200 participants from over 140 towns and places in Oregon to describe their vision for Oregon's future, and to help create strategies for making that vision a reality.

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League Lines

Nonpartisanship Statement

The LWV takes political action on issues on which members have reached agreement. The LWV never supports or opposes any political party or candidate for elective office. However, as individuals, LWV members are encouraged to join fully in the political process. Because of scrupulous adherence to this nonpartisan political policy, the LWV takes action only in the public interest.

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Please email newsletter articles for this publication by the 22nd of each month between September and May to miraney2003@yahoo.com



Our Members

Kathy Vejtasa was born, educated, and primarily worked in California until she moved to Oregon nearly 13 years ago. She happily dropped out of the corporate world to focus her energies on outdoor recreation and volunteerism. While in the corporate world she was a strategic planner for the energy industry. When she moved to Roseburg, Kathy spent two years teaching job skills workshops around the county for UCC.

Biking, hiking, paddling and gardening are Kathy's passions. In addition to her outdoor pursuits, she volunteers as a mediator for the small claims court, as a weed puller and flower counter for the Nature Conservancy and as an occasional volunteer for other organizations. She is Treasurer of the League of Women Voters as well as the Umpqua Valley Audubon Society. She is married to Stan and they have 4 grandchildren.



James G. Williams

Service has been part of my life since high school. I grew up in a small town in Northern New York (Northville) attending the local Central School. While in school, I was a member of the school paper, and a member of the National Honor Society. Upon graduation (my graduating class had 22 students!), I followed an older student from my high school to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and graduated from the Academy. Later in my Coast Guard career I attended and graduated from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and the University of Alaska.

I had the good fortune to serve in a variety of positions in the Coast Guard both ashore and at sea. These assignments took me to Hawaii, Alaska, California, Maine, Washington State, and D.C. My final assignment before retiring was a Chief of Communications for the Coast Guard.

Upon retirement from the Coast Guard, I held several positions in the corporate world with Fortune 500 companies. With my wife, Linda Clary, we established a consulting firm to large companies that offered network designs and project management for implementing those designs. I, also, taught

telecommunications at the undergraduate and graduate level at Golden Gate University.

We moved to Roseburg knowing we wanted to become involved in the community prior to retirement. Upon arriving here, a set of quirky circumstances allowed me to fulfill one of many dreams – build my own home. Linda and I strung wire, climbed ladders, painted walls and tiled our home. Thus, we became involved in the construction community. Then Linda joined the League and we REALLY became involved in the entire community. Active League membership provides me with a way to serve not only the Umpqua Basin community but to impact state and national policies.

How much water do we use?

The State Water Study is up and going. The study committee encourages all members to think water and will periodically share factoids to keep you thinking.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in the year 2000, the State of Oregon withdrew 6,077.04 million gallons daily (MGD) of surface and ground water for use in irrigation, 563.61 MGD for public use, 194.81 MGD for industrial use and 15.32 MGD for thermo electric use. Malheur County was the biggest water user by far using 1,019.23 MGD of water (986.61 MGD from surface water sources and 32.62 MGD from ground water sources) *just for irrigation*.

For more information visit <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/2004/circ1268>.

How about individual users? According to the 2005-2006 Demand Consumption Information from the Portland Water Bureau, the per capita consumption in Portland was 116 gallons (15.5 cf) of water per day. This is about four round trash cans full or a very full bath tub or 23 five gallon buckets of water per person. Imagine having to carry 23 buckets of water from the well or stream for each member of your family.

by, Marnie Lonsdale,
Water Study Co-chair: lonsdale9066@comcast.net



Global Warming

Robin Wisdom

The LWVUS has taken a position on Global Warming. As the local Leagues' representative to the local Global Warming coalition, Robin Wisdom will keep us current on local and global developments.

Climate Change Update

In October 07, the Nobel peace prize was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore for their outstanding work on climate change.

“This is an honour that goes to all the scientists and authors who have contributed to the work of the IPCC, which alone has resulted in enormous prestige for this organization and the remarkable effectiveness of the message that it contains”, says Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, the Chairman of the IPCC. The IPCC is a scientific inter-governmental body set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988.

The IPCC just released its fourth assessment report on Nov. 17th, 2007. Over 2500 scientific expert reviewers, 800 contributing authors from over 130 countries contributed to this report. The released facts are even more alarming than earlier believed.¹

The following are some of the key highlights addressed in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Synthesis Report.

* There is strong certainty that most of the observed warming of the past half-century is due to human influences, and a

clear relationship between the growth in manmade greenhouse gas emissions and the observed impacts of climate change.

* The climate system is more vulnerable to abrupt or irreversible changes than previously thought.

* Avoiding the most serious of impacts of climate change – including irreversible changes – will require significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

* Mitigation efforts must also be combined with adaptation measures to minimize the risks of climate change.²

Some devastating facts revealed are: Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, global air and ocean temperatures have increased, the global average sea level has risen from 1.8mm/year to 3.1mm/year from 1961 to 1993. The reason for sea level rise has been due to thermal expansion, melting glaciers and ice caps and the polar ice sheets.³

In the U.S., discussions on whether or not to ratify the Kyoto Protocol began in the late 1990s. In 1997, prior to the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, Congress passed the non-binding Byrd-Hagel Resolution. The resolution states that the U.S. will not enter into an agreement that (1) will be detrimental to the U. S. economy and (2) does not require “meaningful involvement” on the part of developing nations. The Kyoto Protocol agreement does not contain binding agreements for developing countries. However, in 1998, the U.S. under President Bill Clinton agreed to a 7 percent reduction in emissions, something the Senate is yet to ratify.

In 2001, with the change in administration, the U.S. announced it would not implement the Kyoto Protocol. In 2007, the increased certainty of the science of climate change (as shown in the recently released IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report) and a broader recognition of the problem by the public has nudged Congress towards federal legislation. committee hearings have been held in both the Senate and the House with the purpose of creating legislation that will significantly lower GHG emissions.

Legislation addressing climate change has been introduced in Congress since 1999, but most action has occurred at the city or state level. States are addressing the issue using a wide range of methods. Alaska, North Carolina and Arkansas have created Climate Change Commissions. Others, such as Maine and Connecticut, have created action plans that establish goals for emission reductions by certain future dates. Legislation requiring emission inventories and reporting the extent of emissions has been enacted by several states, including Wisconsin, West Virginia and California.⁴

In Oregon in May 2006, Governor Ted Kulongoski established the Governor’s Climate Change Integration Group (CCIG). The 20-member group, which includes university and agency scientists, along with business, environmental, agriculture and forest leaders, is looking at

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future economic and societal implications of climate change and global warming. The Oregon Department of Energy is staff to the group.⁵ The Governor established the Integration Group to continue and expand on the work of the Governor’s Advisory Group on Global Warming, which prepared the Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions in 2004 as part of a West Coast regional effort called the Western Climate Initiative. Oregon’s regional partners are: Arizona, British Columbia, California, Manitoba, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington.

The Governor’s direction to the Climate Change Integration Group is to continue and expand on the work of the Global Warming Advisory Group to develop a climate change strategy for Oregon that provides long-term sustainability for the environment, protect public health, consider social equity, create economic opportunity, and expand public awareness.

The most immediate responsibility assigned to the group is to make a preliminary assessment of the how the state should prepare for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and deliver a report to the Governor with initial recommendations and a more detailed report by the end of 2007.

The Governor has acted to implement many of the key recommendations of the Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas reductions, but these initial steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not enough. Oregon also must begin planning for adapting to the impacts of the climate change that already has begun. In addition, the state must expand the research, outreach and education that will complement our mitigation and adaptation efforts while sustaining our economy and environment. The Governor has asked the Integration Group to address these four areas:

1. Oregon Strategy for Greenhouse Gas Reductions (2004); receive reports from state agencies and other implementers, and make additional recommendations to achieve the goals of the strategy;

2. Assess the current state of knowledge about the sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and vulnerability of natural as well as human economic and social systems to climate change in Oregon and prepare recommendations about how the state can become more resilient and adapt to unavoidable changes;

3. Stimulate new research programs on mitigation and adaptation strategies in collaboration with the Oregon University System; and,

4. Provide a clearinghouse for sharing information with citizens about climate change impacts and opportunities in Oregon to address those impacts in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner.⁶

This article’s sources are also footnoted in a Word document. If you would like a copy, please contact Robin Wisdom at 672-6982.

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Forum participants represented all types and sizes of communities from very rural to very urban, and a mix of ages, gender, and party affiliation. Yet what emerged was a remarkably consistent set of values we hold and visions we have for our future. Scientific polling results confirm these values are shared by Oregonians statewide.

Our shared goals include:

1. Economic security for our families. Oregonians need secure, fulfilling jobs that pay enough for families to live on. Land use planning can play a big role in ensuring we meet that need. The Oregon economic engines of farming, forestry, tourism, and recreation are based on our ability to protect Oregon’s incredible farm and forest lands, rivers, habitat, and other natural resources from damaging development. Our vibrant communities and stunning landscapes are a competitive advantage, drawing talented people and entrepreneurs from across the country. Growing efficiently saves households and taxpayers money. Finally, restoring and protecting “green infrastructure” such as streams, habitat, and parks provides economic benefits through increased property values, water filtration, temperature moderation, and cleaning the air.

2. Improved health for our families. Our families deserve clean drinking water and clean air. Oregonians want safe neighborhoods where children can walk to school, and communities where people of all ages and abilities can walk, ride a bicycle, or take transit instead of having no choice but to drive everywhere or be isolated in their homes. We can benefit from local agriculture, which provides healthy food while supporting community-building farmers markets and the emerging economy focused on Oregon food.

3. Protection of the places that make Oregon a place we’re proud to call home. Oregon’s verdant farmland, vibrant cities, bucolic coastline, rugged mountains, and inspiring deserts are legendary. We have a responsibility to make certain that future generations can enjoy these treasures, by ensuring growth enhances our home, rather than marring Oregon’s unique beauty and undermining our economic engines.

For more information please go to this link - <http://www.friends.org/issues/blueprint.html>



December Meeting

Betty Mack, Program Chair

LWVUV DIVERSITY CELEBRATION

on December 11, at the Presbyterian Church

Not just a party although it will have some aspects – food and games – however, I wish to speak to the program part. The Leagues of the LWVUS have a quite incredible immigration study going. The Congress has proved unable to move legislation on the subject while Homeland Security and other agencies have been acting on our (the US public) behalf under existing laws. But no one seems to be entirely happy with any of the above so we members of the LWVUV and other leagues get to give our opinions on the subject. The LWVUS convention to be held at Portland in June 2008 will adopt a consensus to guide any further efforts of our organization if a consensus can be framed from our responses.

We had an interesting panel on November 27 with Julie Shoufler and Rob Searles, of Lone Rock Timber telling about their immigrant reforestation crew who are fully integrated employees of this local business and Shelley Wetherell telling of her small farm operation using seasonal labor. There have been articles in National Voters issues about immigration issues for the last two years. Eight position papers have been accessible from the LWVUV web site. These were discussed at a meeting last May. The web site has guided you to and other communications have attached a copy of the consensus questions.

Now you are needed at the December 11 and the January 22 meetings while we finalize our responses to the consensus questions.

In addition, we will be giving some thought to program planning for the 2008-2009 league year at both the national and the local level. Our most recent local study was Homeless Youth which we turned into a statewide study with our own Linda Clary as state chair. There is a possible proposal for a reversal of this procedure. Come to the meeting and hear about it.

As to National Program Planning, a copy of the current LWVUS positions in brief has been sent to you. Look them over. See if you have any ideas about updating or any suggestions for a new study once immigration is completed.

Attending meetings is essential for your opinions to be heard and incorporated. So do try to attend. If you have questions, give me a call 672-1706.

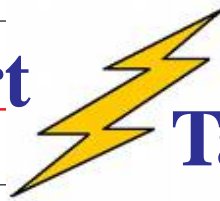
Here's the link to the different consensus documents:

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consensus_Kit&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=149&ContentID=9387





Action Alert



Take Action

ACTION ALERT: We Must Restore Civil Liberties

Earlier this year, Congress gave sweeping new surveillance powers to the Executive Branch, including widespread warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, in the so-called Protect America Act.

Now, the Senate is poised to reconsider the Protect America Act. We must make sure that this legislation reinstates protections for civil liberties and reestablishes checks and balances in government. We need you to contact your Senators to insist that they vote to repeal the Protect America Act and to limit the ability of government agencies to obtain information about American citizens without the appropriate judicial constraints.

Take action today to protect Americans against government spying programs!

The Protect America Act was rushed through Congress earlier this year with little public debate. It is critical that the Senate pass legislation that reinstates needed checks and balances. This legislation must ensure that government agencies obtain individual warrants before wiretapping the communications of American citizens and not provide retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that have provided government agencies with information on their customer's records.

Send a message to your Senators to urge them to vote to repeal the Protect America Act.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators now, by phone or by email, and tell them to repeal the Protect America Act. Tell them that widespread warrantless wiretapping of Americans is unacceptable in a democracy and any legislation to reform the Protect America Act must clearly state that the

government must obtain an individual warrant when it wiretaps the communications of American citizens. Tell your Senators that Congress must also guard against providing retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that have provided government agencies with information on their customer's records.

2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens in your state - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

BACKGROUND

Learn more about what the League has done to protect civil liberties.

Sign up to receive Action Alerts directly by email. Don't miss an opportunity to take action! It's easy to sign up and the League will never share your email with others: <http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/mlm/signup/>. For additional information, please contact LWVUS Grassroots Lobbyist Christina Vamvas at lobbying@lwv.org.

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Water Study Update

The 30-month Water Study approved at the 2006 convention has begun in earnest. There are 11 members and 2 Co-Chairs, Marnie Lonsdale and Robin Wisdom. Maryann Raney has been producing minutes of the meetings. Basically, this is a two-pronged study of quantity and quality of water in Oregon.

While also gathering data from

othersources, the group is now updating LWVOR's 1985 study called "Water Currents of Oregon", an excellent report. In the process the group will be looking for gaps in data and League positions. We are still researching ways to address the water quality issue.

In November and early December study members asked local Leagues these questions: 1) has your League participated in any water related studies in the past? 2) are you currently engaged in a water study or beginning a water study? If so, what is the scope and timeline,? 3) do you have any particular water issues in your area? and 4) What can you share regarding your studies (printed materials or internet links)?

The Committee has been alternating its meeting site between the Lane League office and the Salem office. Meetings are two hours long, and conference calls for those unable to drive far distances will be available. Interested parties are encouraged to be connected via email. Email Robin Wisdom your email address to be included in what's flowing in. Or if you crave the full Monte, join us now on the ground floor for a dive into Oregon's water issues!

by Robin Wisdom, Water Study Co-Chair
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League of Women voters of Umpqua Valley

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Calendar for December 2007

December 6th - Lunch at
Ami Sushi - 11:45am

Board of Director's Meeting
December 4th- 5pm
UCDC
605 Kane Street
ALL MEMEBERS WELCOME!

December Meeting
December 11th-7pm
Presbyterian Church (basement)
Lane Street Downtown