

League Lines

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UMPQUA VALLEY

www.lwuv.org

March 1, 2007



New State Position on Homeless Youth in Oregon

Congratulations to the Homeless Youth Committee of LWVUV! The position listed below has special meaning to the Umpqua Valley League. For over four years our League has been committed to the study of Homeless Youth, either on the local or statewide level. And now we can say 'it is done'. A certain level of achievement has been reached. First, we championed the local study. Second, we took our mission to the state level where we saw studies developed in the different counties all over the state of Oregon. And now after completing the state level study we have a position from which we can actually do advocacy and take action. This is a great moment. The Homeless Youth Committee of the Umpqua Valley has done great service for those who have few proponents. Accolades to the Umpqua Valley Homeless Youth committee who have met since 2003! These supercitizens of Douglas County and activist members of the LWVUV who deserve recognition and honor for their selfless service for the greater good for all homeless youth locally and throughout the state of Oregon are Linda Clary, Chair, Lois Allen, Jacie Pratt, Anne Nicholas, and Beverly Paulson.

LWVOR Position Adopted February 2007

Parents are legally responsible for their children. When parents are unable to fulfill that responsibility, the League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that communities and governments at all levels have a responsibility to provide programs and services to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth. In order to help families stay together, prevent youth homelessness, and reduce the need for more expensive

future services, the LWVOR supports providing services such as family crisis counseling, child care, parenting education, mental health and addiction treatment, low-cost housing, and health care.

When youth are separated from their families, the LWVOR supports providing services to these youth, such as shelter, food, education, health care, mental health and addiction treatment, plus outreach to encourage youth to use services. Older youth need additional services, such as assistance with independent living skills and with finding employment and more permanent housing.

These services may be provided by government or by private organizations that receive government and/or private funding. Coordination of these services is necessary to avoid duplication and service gaps. Youth should be served regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. All levels of government should have funding responsibility for preventive and supportive services to families and homeless youth. Private organizations are encouraged to provide funding and services. Government funds should be adequate and allocated according to demonstrated need. Agencies must show that their programs are effective.

The position is also posted on

<http://www.lwvor.org/positions.htm#Homeless>.

by Robin Wisdom, President ■

Action Alert

Your help is urgently needed. Contact both your state representative and senator as soon as possible to urge support for SB 505, which will suspend Measure 37 claims until June 30.

DEADLINE FOR ACTION: ASAP

Our legislative leadership needs your input to fix M37. Attached is a list of the members of the Joint Land Use Fairness Committee and sample points.

continued on page 5

League Lines

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.

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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

President Message: Studies, Linus Oaks Retirement Center and Member News

March 2007

Dear Members and Friends of the League,

Welcome to a new and improved edition of the newsletter! Maryann Raney is now our newsletter editor and has beautifully redesigned the look of *League Lines*. She will also serve on our new board for 2007-2009. (Stay tuned for more news on the “new” League board for 2007 - 2009!)

Our Judiciary Study meeting will now be held on March 27th at 7 PM at Linus Oakes Retirement Center at 2665 Van Pelt in Roseburg. We’ve chosen not to do a Women’s History Month celebration this March as we have 2 more state level studies to wrap up, the Redistricting (meeting on Feb. 27th) and Judiciary studies (meeting on Mar. 27th). Due to so many studies to pay attention to, we’ve decided to save the celebration for our April Annual meeting to be held at Linus Oakes Retirement Center on April 24th at 6 PM. There will be more information in the next newsletter about the annual meeting. Look for the Annual Meeting Program to be mailed out around the middle of March.

The Oregon Channel, <http://www.oregonchannel.org/rams.htm> is a way to find out what’s going on in the state legislature. The state action team is still needing more help in tracking issues. There’s a lot going on in Salem, but because of technology, you can now track it from your home computer. The Legislative report is out and has been emailed to you. It is also available on LWVOR’s web site <http://www.lwvor.org>.

This is also a great link to the “Citizen’s Guide to the Oregon Legislative Process”, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/citizenguide/>.

Congratulations to Sharon Lee Schwartz, Scott Cohan and daughter Sofie on the birth of their new son Samuel who was born on Valentine’s Day weighing in at 8lbs and 8 oz. I’m sure we all can’t wait to see the baby!

Welcome to new member Rebecca Richardson! We’re glad you’ve come aboard!

Sincerely,

Robin Wisdom, President ■
672-6982, rwisdom@jefnet.org

Redistricting Concurrence Meeting on February 27 at Linus Oaks

Robin promised us a “lively” discussion, and thanks to the participants coming prepared to the meeting (most of them having read the League’s redistricting study thoroughly), we indeed did.

There were 16 present and we reached a near unanimous decision on the six paragraphs and statements posed in our report form. We concurred on the first two paragraphs and Statements C and D, but had problems with Statements A and B.

We disagreed with Statement A (2) which states that any redistricting plan should “promote competitiveness and partisan fairness such that voters are effectively able to hold their public officials accountable, responsible and responsive.” We felt that this was an unrealistic criteria, in light of the Redistricting study, which strongly suggested that no one yet knows how to increase electoral competitiveness through redistricting. Furthermore, the process seems to be irrevocably political and therefore partisan, so setting competitiveness and partisan fairness as a criteria for a redistricting plan seemed unrealistic. It would also require the redistricters to examine past voting records and party registration, which made the group uncomfortable. Last fall’s elections also have shown that previously “safe” districts can indeed become competitive without changing the redistricting process.

On the other hand we did agree that it was important to hold public officials “accountable, responsible and responsive” and recommended that phrase be included at the top of A as a general goal rather than listed as a criteria.

Statement B also caused us problems. It reads: “The redistricting plan should be developed by a nonpartisan redistricting authority that functions independently of the legislature and that may afford the Legislature the opportunity to review the plan and accept or reject it.” We felt that requiring that the plan be drawn by a “redistricting authority” that was independent of the legislature was too limiting and didn’t allow for possible proposals that might include the legislature and still be effective. We felt that what was crucial was that whatever system be proposed include checks and balances to assure fairness. Some of us were not sure the Oregon system was actually “broken” and therefore there was doubt as to whether or not it needed to be “fixed”. There was also concern that setting up a new agency to do redistricting could be costly and add to bureaucracy. On Friday, March 2, I went to Salem to meet with the state redistricting committee and review the reports from local leagues, and I am pleased to say that our comments were heard with interest and that some changes in the statement being sent to the Board for approval reflect the committee’s response to our (and other local leagues’) concerns. We should be hearing the Board’s decision soon.

Anna Willman ■

“lively” discussion brings new perspective to Redistricting Concurrence Meeting on February 27 at Linus Oaks



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The Spring Fair is Coming!

The League has a booth at Spring Fair 2007, March 23, 24 & 25th, Fri., Sat., Sun. at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Douglas Hall, the large building in the center. We are sharing the booth with the Women’s Coalition of Service Organizations. In mid-March a sign up sheet for working a two-hour block will be emailed to League members. Please sign up! Come see your friends and make new ones. The Spring Fair is fun. It is sponsored by the InnerSpace Family, who has donated the booth to us for no cost. This is their 32nd annual fair in Douglas County. All those who come to the Fair to work at the booth will get into the Fair free. Just tell them you’re working at our booth.

Thank you!

Robin Wisdom,
President ■



LWVOR strongly supports a SUSPENSION as soon as possible of the clock-ticking disasters prescribed by Measure 37. This suspension would give the Legislature time to FIX the problems with Measure 37. The Joint Legislative



Committee on Land Use Fairness is considering SB 505, legislation which will SUSPEND Measure 37 decisions until the Legislature can FIX the problems. Members of that Joint Committee need phone calls, letters, and e-mails immediately: Co-Chairs: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, (D-Eugene), Rep. Greg Macpherson, D-Lake Oswego) Members: Sen. Larry George (R-McMinnville), Rep. Bill Garrard (R-Klamath Falls), Sen. Roger Beyer (R-Molalla), Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose), Sen. Kurt Schrader (D-Canby), Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem), Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), Rep. Patti Smith (R-Corbett). Each of you needs to contact both your Representative and Senator, particularly if on the above list. Because this is a "joint" committee, if the bill passes in the Senate it will go directly to the House floor. If you don't have phone number information, go to <http://www.leg.state.or.us/www.leg.state.or.us> and click on the upper gold-color tabs for Senate and House. Contact information for all legislators is available here. If you need to find out who your legislator is go to, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/http://www.leg.state.or.us/vfindlegsltr/>. Tempus fugit. Please act at once. Oregon's State-wide Land Use Planning System can't stand much more of Measure 37. Personal accounts of Measure 37's unfairness and unraveling of the system are powerful

messages, and we urge you to include these accounts in your communications.

BACKGROUND:

The State of Oregon has received about 6,500 claims (3,309 were received between November 17 and Dec. 4, 2006). Counties re-

port receiving 7,153 claims (3,672 after Nov. 1st). M37 requires processing of claims within 180 days or claimants can go to court. There are at least 130 Measure 37 court cases under way. The claims exceed \$10 billion. SB 505 suspends Measure 37 until June 30, 2007, to allow the Legislature time to address the issues of clarifying ownership and other issues under litigation. It allows claimants who want only ONE dwelling or lot for a dwelling to be processed, while others wait for the Legislative "fix". It stops future lawsuits until new legislation is passed. For more information, contact: Liz Frenkel, LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator (541754-6789, mail to: lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com or Peggy Lynch, LWVOR Natural Resources Assistant Coordinator (541)754-1025, mail to: zuludar@aol.com

Sample points to make in addition to your personal touch:

☞ Measure 37 needs to be fixed, Oregonians want fairness, not windfalls for some property owners at the expense of their neighbors and future generations of Oregonians.

☞ Measure 37 needs to work for individual property owners who wanted to build a single home on their land no subdivisions, no commercial development.

☞ Measure 37 harms communities. Neighbors of claims and communities need protections to ensure that they are not harmed by poorly planned development.

☞ Farm and forest lands need protection from scattered developments to ensure that they can remain a viable part of Oregon's economy.

☞ Developers and timber companies are the biggest beneficiaries of Measure 37.

☞ Plum Creek Timber Company filed a claim on over 32,000 acres of coastal forests-land area three times the size of the city of Beaverton.

☞ Menasha Forest Products Corp, Davidson Industries Inc., L & H Lumber Company, and Lone Rock Timberland Company are among those that have filed claims on forest land in Douglas County.

Thank You your help.

Shelley ■



Diana Wales , PC

Attorney at Law

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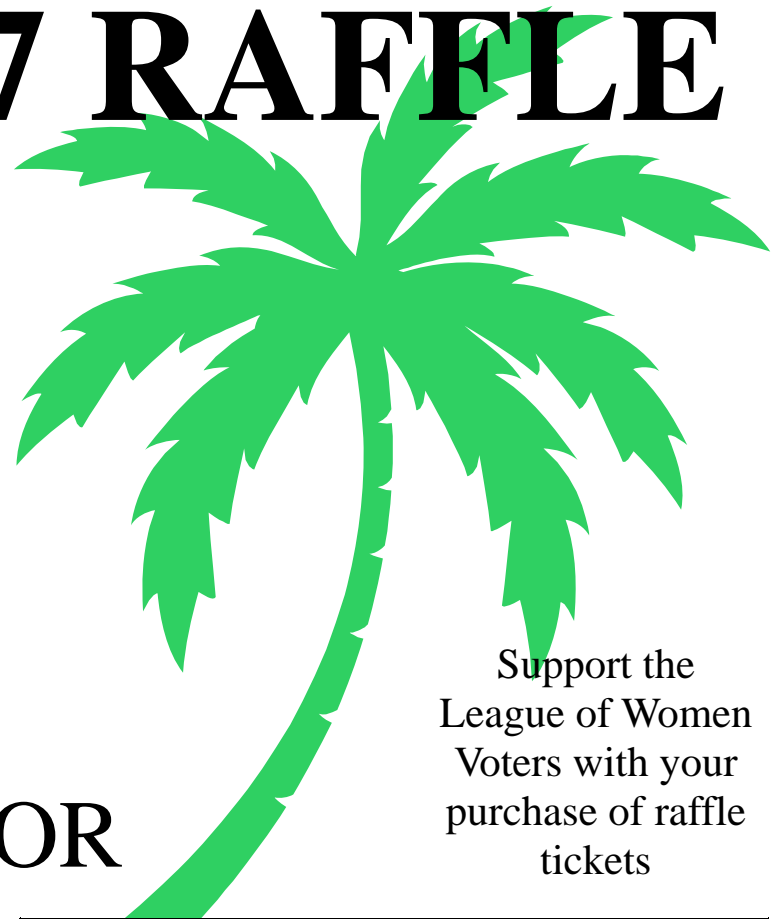
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League of Women Voters® of Oregon

2007 RAFFLE



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tickets

Win a week in Maui

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from PDX, SEA, EUG, RDM
or MFR

7 nights 1 BR condo at the
Shores of Maui
across from the beach

7 days car rental
\$3,000.00 Value

OR

Win a week in San Diego

Roundtrip airfare for 2
from PDX, SEA, EUG, RDM
or MFR

7 nights at the Dana
on Mission Bay Resort

7 days car rental

Pass for 2 to Sea World, San
Diego Zoo, and Wild Animal
Park

\$3,000.00 Value

Price: \$10.00

- Drawing will be held May 19, 2007, 8 pm at Edgefield in Troutdale, Oregon
- Ticket holders need not be present to win
- Maximum number of tickets to be sold: **2000**

Award must be used by 5/19/08. Arranged by Walker Travel & Cruises. Thirty days advance notice of travel dates is required. Board members and employees of LWVOR and their household members are not eligible to win.



League of Women voters of Umpqua Valley
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Roseburg, OR 97470

www.lwvuv.org

Garage Sale Reminder!

April 14th

Faith Lutheran Church,

820 Kenwood, Roseburg

8 AM to 2 PM

Drop off your recycled Treasures
 at the Church on

Friday, April 13th, 2 – 4 PM

call Kathy Vejtasa or Minnie Grossen
 for more information.



Your League March Calendar 2007

Board of Director's Meeting at 5:00pm March 8

Umpqua Community Development Corporation,

605 SE Kane Street, Roseburg

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Judiciary Study 7:00pm March 27

Linus Oaks Retirement Center,

2665 Van Pelt, Roseburg