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Press Release – for immediate release

May 24, 2019

RE: Actions Taken by the League of Women Voters of Oregon at 2019 State Convention

The LWV Rogue Valley hosted Leagues from across the state and the LWV Oregon Board at the 2019 biannual State Convention on May 17-19 at the Ashland Springs Hotel in Ashland. Rogue Valley had three official (voting) delegates—President Jackie Clary from Grants Pass, Barbara Klein from Ashland, and Lorraine Werblow from Medford. The delegates were joined by 15 volunteer Rogue Valley League members who attended and supported the event.

The new LWVOR President, Becky Gladstone of Eugene, a biologist, has lived in many countries and states and been involved in numerous civic action groups. She pledged that the League would continue to prioritize voting issues as they have done for the past 99 years. She noted that non-voting citizens determined the President in the last election, which is not the way our nation should elect our top leader. People need to be involved and the League needs to encourage that action, including to prevent voter suppression. While the League is strictly party-neutral regarding candidates, it is a political organization and engages in advocacy based on positions taken by consensus after careful and balanced study.

In addition to adopting the budget for the LWVOR and taking care of routine business items, delegates elected new State Board members, three from the Rogue Valley League (Jackie Clary, Sheila McGinnis, and Kate Culbertson).

Adding to dozens of state and national LWV positions, delegates voted to initiate two new studies, one on cybersecurity and the other on the impact of pesticides and other biocides used in Oregon communities. The assembly also adopted two resolutions. One—based on national LWV positions developed in the early 1990s and 2010—reaffirms support for legislation that would provide universal access to health care for all state residents. The other is a Climate Emergency Resolution that calls on all local Leagues in the state to advocate for “Climate Emergency Declarations” at all levels of government. Local Leagues expressed their opposition to the Jordan Cove/Pacific Connector Pipeline project in solidarity with the Klamath, Umpqua Valley, Coos, and Rogue Valley Leagues’ oppositional stance.

Planning to celebrate the LWV 100-Year Birthday in 2020 has now begun. Watch for state and local events commemorating women’s right to vote, as well as a century of political activity to improve the lives of citizens and the planet’s inhabitants. New LWV member inquiries are welcome at <http://lwvroguevalley.org>.

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