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The Voter

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FEBRUARY 2017

The Year of Civic Engagement

***Happy 97th Birthday,
LWV!
- FOUNDED Feb 14, 1920***



President's Message

As we continue through this Year of Civic Engagement,

we're grateful to the Mayors and City Councils of Sedona, Cottonwood and Camp Verde for proclaiming 2017 The Year of Civic Engagement and encouraging their community members to participate in activities that further their knowledge of how government works and to interact with their local, state and national representatives. Anne Schneider's talk at our February 15 Birthday Luncheon for the League outlined effective things we can all do today. Some LWVGVV members are mailing postcards, some are phoning or emailing our representatives, and some have gone down to Phoenix and Prescott to make in person calls at our representatives' offices.

And more than 45 people have signed up for the 6 week OLLI Class on "Healing the Heart of Democracy." The conversation each week, based on Parker Palmer's book of the same name, has been stimulating --downright exciting --- as we explore the risks to democracy, the habits of the heart needed in a democracy, the structures and processes of a democracy and what exactly do we all believe in who live in this US democracy. The course will be offered again at OLLI in the Spring Semester beginning in April.

Given the importance of our participation members of the class talk a lot about "doing democracy every day" - that's what it takes to make democracy work.

This monthly newsletter outlines activities of the League --- this is not the year to do armchair democracy --- unless you're speaking to our representatives through the Arizona Legislature "Request to Speak Program"... beyond that it's about getting out and being involved - learning, teaching, doing, and having fun along the way. Someone who went to Phoenix to call on our Senators said, "Once you do this, it's empowering and you want to do it again!"

- Barbara Litrell

Happy 97th Birthday to the League!



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We celebrated the League's birthday on Wednesday, February 15th, with a buffet lunch and a talk by Anne Schneider, a member of the Chandler League, former university professor, author, and advocacy specialist in social justice for the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Dr. Schneider spoke on the topic "The Most Effective Actions You Can Take Today." She sends out a weekly email newsletter, "The Arizona Legislative Alert," which you can request by emailing her at Anne.Schneider1941@gmail.com.

Her first point was about the need to take action and encourage others to do so as well. People are not likely to do something new if it has never occurred to them to do so. SO TELL THEM!

She noted that things have changed; we seem to have entered a "New Politics of the 21st Century" which entail "alternate facts," tweets, and efforts to run the government as a business rather than a democratic structure. This may require resistance as well as normal political opposition.

Her third suggestion was that individuals should figure out what they care about most, become informed, and then speak out in favor or against when legislation is brought forward. Fourthly, she recommends that, in the current environment, it is best to pace yourself; don't try to take on too many political concerns at one time or you will burn out. Fifth: donate to advocacy groups which are working on your issues.

Dr. Schneider's 6th point was an admonition: "Don't Circle the Firing Squad." Activists banding together in tight circles are not only keeping others out; they are likely to end up shooting each other down. To win in a democracy you need a broad coalition; it's imperative not to walk away from the moderates, independents, and people in and around the center.

Seventh: Legislators are people too!!! Be civil in your communications and meet with them personally if at all possible. Tell them your own story and your own



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

League Board
Third Thursday
Yavapai County
Offices, Cottonwood
2:00-3:30pm

February 20th
Voter Education
Program
12:30-2:00pm
National Popular
Vote Compact
Sedona

February 23rd
General Meeting
of the Membership
Cottonwood

concerns; arguing or pursuing policy details take up valuable time. Legislators likely already have their policy positions and/or have people working for them who are experts. But normally they will listen.

Eighth: Make it easy on yourself. Have the contact information for your elected officials close at hand, and know how to do research if needed.

Ninth: DO send emails and letters. Many legislators will respond. Call the offices; you will eventually get through. Being a part of an advocacy organization is important, but personal contacts are important also. Try to do something every day.

Tenth: Identify timely issues that you care about so that you can react quickly. Currently in the Arizona legislature there are bills about Clean Elections, Expansion of Empowerment Scholarships, making the initiative process more difficult, retracting the Voter Protection Act via referendum, and possibly consideration of the National Popular Vote Compact.

A lively Q&A followed the talk, and our fundraising auction was a success. The luncheon sold out; thanks to all who attended, and a special thanks to all who put the event together.

Voter Education Program on National Popular Vote

Our monthly meeting on National Popular Vote Compact was held on February 20. For more information about the compact go to: www.nationalpopularvote.com. LWV does support the compact as a method for getting direct election of the president.

February Meeting of the Members in Cottonwood

Our monthly membership meetings give us a chance to

8:30-10:00am

February 25th

1:00-3:00pm

Political Book Club

Call Barbara

649-0135 if

you are interested

March 9th

"The Roots of our Political Opinions"

Panel Discussion in cooperation with OLLI

6:30-8:00

Sedona Library

March 13th

New Member

Orientation

5:00-7:00pm

Sedona

Light supper

and discussion

RSVP Barbara

649-0135

April 6th

Philosophy and Politics

Cottonwood

6-7:30pm

April 17th

Voter Ed Program

Sedona

12:30-2:00pm

come together to talk politics, community issues, and to learn about what's going on with the League of Women Voters nationally, statewide, and locally. These round table discussions are on the fourth Thursday each month from 8:30-10:00am - alternating between Sedona and Cottonwood.

The next meeting will be on February 23rd in Cottonwood.

New Members

Welcome new members -- we are now over 100 in numbers! Please come to our meetings and events so that we can all know one another. The next new member/prospective member meeting is on March 13th. See you there!

Hannah and Mike Abrahamson, Sedona
Marilyn Bernhardt, Sedona
Velda Bice, Cottonwood
Patsy Brunner, Sedona
Cynthia Correll, Sedona
Dottie Correll, Sedona
Anne Crosman, Sedona
Gail Digate, Sedona
Kristine Follett, Clarkdale
Susan Gould, Sedona
Jane Iddings, Sedona
Pat Lalli, Sedona
Deborah Losse, Sedona
Madeleine O'Callaghan, Sedona
Anne Pyron, Phoenix
Yvonne Sheer, Sedona
Kit Stack, Cottonwood
Yolande Van Burk, Sedona

New Member Gatherings

These meetings are an opportunity for new members to learn about the League and upcoming activities. Anybody who may be interested in joining the League

LWVAZ Convention

May

**"Campaign Boot Camp" - Running for Office
Led by Kathy Kinsella
Info to Follow**

June 3rd

**LWVGCV Annual Meeting, Elections
Details to Follow**

November 16th

**11:30am-1:00pm
Review of 2017
Looking ahead to 2018**

Mission Statement:

is also welcome. (RSVP required)

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 13th,, 5:00-7:00 PM at Barbara Litrell's, 75 Lolomi Dr, Sedona. There will be an introduction to the League and a preview of opportunities and events that are coming up. Attendees will be able to ask questions and also to share what issues are of most importance to them. A light supper is included.

Please RSVP to 649-0135 or blitrell@aol.com if you would like to attend.

Political Book Club

The LWVGVV book club meets monthly to discuss a book of interest determined by the group. The next meeting is February 25th , 1:00-3:00 PM, at a member's home. The book to be discussed is "Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World" by Linda Hirshman.

Call or email Barbara (649-0135 or blitrell@aol.com) if you want to read the book and attend. League members only, please.

League Joins with OLLI to Present "The Roots of Political Opinions"

Paul Friedman, of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (and also a League member), has asked the League to partner with him to create a nonpartisan program "Understanding the Roots of Our Political Opinions", 6:30-8pm at the Sedona Public Library. There will be a panel of speakers of different political opinions who will talk about how they came to believe what they believe. The audience will then do a similar thing in small groups. More information to come; save the date!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



From the League of Women Voters of the United States

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT CHANGES TO OR REPEAL OF ACA

The League of Women Voters of the United States is urging all members to take action regarding the Affordable Care Act. You can go to www.lwv.org to send a personalized email to your Congressman or Senators, or you can take your own action locally by email, telephone, letter, or a visit to their offices.

LWVUS ACTION ALERT: NO REPEAL WITHOUT REPLACE

Congress has taken the first steps to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in both the House and Senate. They are rushing to make major changes that will harm millions of Americans while throwing the U.S. health care system into disarray.

Repealing the ACA without an effective plan to replace it is unacceptable. An analysis done by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 32 million Americans will lose health insurance, premiums will double and out of pocket costs will sky-rocket. Access to adequate, affordable coverage for people with pre-existing conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease could be endangered. Young adults would no longer be covered under their parent's plans, and women could face discriminatory rates.

It is critical that you tell Congress that now is not the time to take away health care protections and coverage without an effective plan that will assure we have affordable, quality health insurance. Stand with the League today and tell Congress that they cannot repeal the ACA without a comprehensive plan to provide health coverage for all Americans.

Note: If you have problems reading this newsletter, or if

your email version is incomplete, you may access it via our website, www.lwvverdevalley.com. If you need to have a copy mailed to you, please contact Kathy Heidepriem at wm@lwvverdevalley.com.

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