



The Voter

League of Women Voters
Greater Verde Valley
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P.O. Box 966
Sedona, AZ 86339



June 2017



"Candidate Boot Camp" at Yavapai College Sedona

From the President

The League is Non Partisan and the League is Political

People are surprised when the League takes a stand on an issue because the assumption is that the League of Women Voters is non-partisan and therefore not political. Not true.

Think back to the origins of the League in 1920 - our founders were among the suffragettes fighting for women's right to the vote. Voters' Rights has been a top priority for the League throughout its history. And, along with Voters' Rights, League members have studied many other issues on a national, state and local level and formulated positions which become the foundation for League advocacy on those issues. A year ago the League of Women Voters in Arizona took a position against Education Proposition 123 and most recently the League is supporting the grassroots petition effort to have the recently passed expansion of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (vouchers) put before the voters on ballot in November. This is based on the League position which supports "federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12."

League positions are not always popular but they are based on League positions arrived at by consensus after extensive study of an issue. Some assume therefore that if a League position agrees with the Liberals' position, that the League leans Liberal; if the position agrees with the Conservatives' position that the League leans Conservative. The thing to be proud of is that the League takes its position no matter what party is supporting it or what party is in power. Great example -- the League supports stewardship positions related to reducing pollution (air quality), protecting water quality and encouraging use of renewable resources for energy. In *The Atlantic*, December 2, 2010, an article states, "Forty years ago today, Richard Nixon's Administration officially created a new entity, the Environmental Protection Agency. 1970 was a year of tremendous environmental action by Nixon and Congress. The President signed the National Environmental Policy Act on January 2nd, delivered a call to make "the 1970s a historic period when, by conscious choice, [we] transform our land into what we want it to become" in his State of the Union Address, and ended the year with the creation of an independent agency to regulate the environment." Nixon created the EPA and it seems that today's administration seeks to dismantle it. The League still supports reducing pollution, protecting water quality and encouraging renewable resources.

As you can imagine, the parties and leaders flip flop over the



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decades on who supports what; the League's positions do not depend on who or which party is leading - the League is consistent in its positions no matter who is in office. That's making democracy work! You can review all League positions online at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition> or check out your favorite bookstore for a hard copy.

Report from 2017 Annual Meeting

Our annual business and elections meeting took place on June 3rd; we had a good turnout and accomplished our goals. Kathy Davis, Mary Gassaway, and Barbara Litrell were elected for new terms on the board of directors - and we have 2 new directors: Karen Strauch and Jessica Williamson.

Keynote speaker Harriet Young, Ph.D., retired NAU political science professor, spoke about the polarization that has developed in American politics. We honored three local community members with our 2017 Civic Engagement Leadership awards: Ellen Ferreira for her work on the January 21st Women's March in Phoenix; Nathalie Johnson for forming the group "Northern Arizona Voice of Action," which puts on speaker programs on issues and follows up with organized actions; and League member Kathy Kinsella, who organized the January 21 Women's March in Sedona and also led the team that organized our recent "Candidate Boot Camp" workshops for people interested in running for elected office or in helping with campaigns. Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to an exciting year to come!

Sedona

Lynn Zonakis

Sedona



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 19th

Voter Ed Program

#1 Issue in Arizona

Education Funding

12:30-2:00pm

Yavapai College

Sedona

June 22nd

"Let's Talk

Politics"

8:30-10:00am

Sedona Community

Center



LWVGJV President Barbara Litrell with this year's Civic Engagement Award Winners



**June Voter Education Program
Monday, June 19, 12:30-2PM
Yavapai College Sedona, Rm 34**

**“Understanding the #1 Issue in Arizona- Funding Education”
Rosemary Agneessens, Educator/Advocate**



Rosemary is a seasoned leader and organizer in elementary education having served as a teacher, language director, and principal. Following her tenure at Abia Judd Elementary in Prescott, Rosemary “retired” back to her community organizing career to focus on Education Advocacy. In this role, she works with schools all over Yavapai County to educate parents and community members about the serious funding needs in Arizona’s public education system. Her work is all about

empowering others to have a voice in the future of education. Rosemary shows community members and parents how to inform themselves, present the facts and work towards support. She teaches and models how to build relationships with state legislators and regional teams in order to sustain an ongoing dialog. The work is focused on empowerment and voice.

**The program is free, open to the public and is a partnership with OLLI
For info, contact Barbara Litrell 649-0135 or blitrell@aol.com
www.lwvverdevalley.com**

**June 24
"We the People
Summit"
Phoenix
Convention
Center**

**July 1
Political Book
Club - "The
All New Don't
Think of an
Elephant" by
George Lakoff
1:00-3:00pm**

**July 10
New and
Prospective
Member
Gathering
5:00-7:00pm**

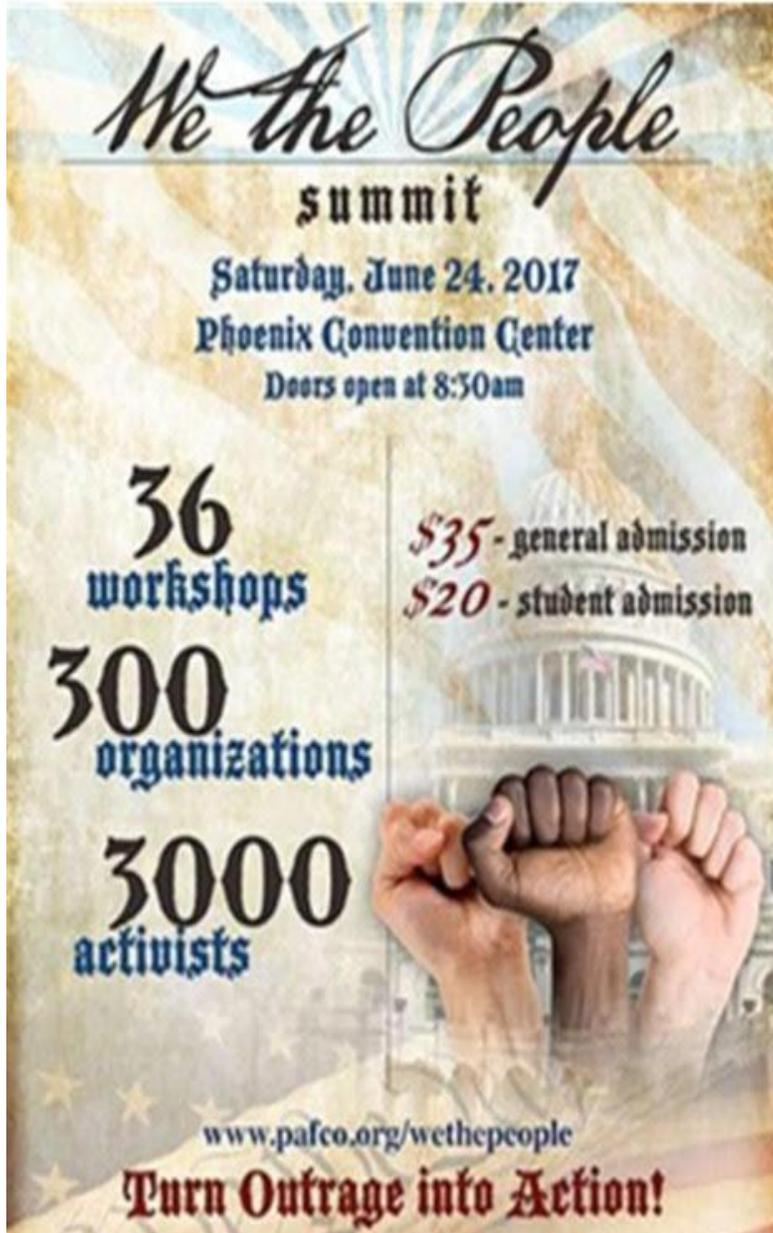
**July 17
Voter Ed Program
Topic TBD
12:30-2:00pm
Sedona**

**July 20
Board Meeting
Yavapai County
Building,
Cottonwood
2:00-3:30pm**

**July 27
"Let's Talk
Politics"
8:30-10:00am
Sedona**

State League Action Alert: We the People Summit

The League of Women Voters of Arizona invites League members to attend this summit.



Community
Center

July 29
Political
Book Club
"The Great
Suppression"
1:00-3:00pm

LWVGCVV League members and friends: If you are interested in going to this summit, please register today! Carpools are being formed to go down from Sedona and the

Verde Valley - contact Sue Gould

at gouldsue@me.com or blitrell@aol.com

When: June 24th, 2017, starting at 8:30am

Where: Phoenix Convention Center

Who: Sponsored by the Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition. Find out more at <https://www.pafcoalition.org>

Why? To educate yourself; there will be more than thirty workshops offered, covering all aspects of elections, campaigning, and political action of every type.

The Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO) is an inclusive and nonpartisan alliance of health and human service agencies, faith-based communities, and advocacy networks. This organization is the sponsor of the Summit. According to PAFCO, "over the last few months, Arizona has been experiencing a political awakening with citizen involvement growing and outrage reaching a high. We the People Summits are designed to provide education and resources to each unique call to action. We strive to make progressive change in Arizona by listening to the voices of our citizens and activating them through collaborative efforts and targeted workshops.

We the People is a series of three summits designed to bring together individuals, grassroots organizations, and established nonprofits to collaborate in forming a message and support of progressive values and to effect change in Arizona.

Cost: \$35

Location: Phoenix Convention Center

100 N 3rd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Register NOW!: <https://www.pafcoalition.org/wtregister>

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

Let's Talk Politics - Thursday June 22nd

Every month, LWVGVV gives its members the opportunity to come together for an informal conversation about the issues of the day and for updates on what's happening at the state and national levels of the LWV. We'll meet at the Sedona Community Center from 8:30-10:00am.

Start Thinking Voter Registration!

The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley will do Voter Registration events during the June-September time period leading up to National Voter Registration Day on September 26. We have a great group of voter registration volunteers but always can use more.

Board Member Jessica Williamson has already set up several events and dates for the summer. Let her know if you are interested in being on her list of volunteers. Training and materials will be provided. Usually we pair less-experienced volunteers with veterans so that more can learn.



Member Information

The 2017-2018 League year begins on July 1st, and that is when dues are due. You can join or renew at our website www.lwvverdevalley.com/join.html. Unfortunately, we still cannot accept online payments via the website. If you have questions, contact our treasurer, Mary Gassaway, by going to the Contact Us page on our website.

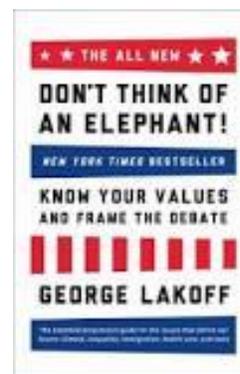
Editor's Note: If you have problems reading this newsletter, or if your email version is incomplete, you may access this issue (and previous ones) via our website, www.lwvverdevalley.com. If you need to have a copy mailed to you, please contact Kathy Heidepriem at wm@lwvverdevalley.com.



LWV Political Book Club

The next meeting of the book club will be on Saturday, July 1st; the group will be reading George Lakoff's "The All New Don't Think of An Elephant!" It's timely for the current political debate and planning for 2018 elections. The book includes new strategies for progressives about how to frame today's essential issues - the importance of language in winning political battles - this book is the blueprint for how to better communicate ideas.

If you have an interest in this book, and would like to join the discussion, contact Barbara Litrell at blitrell@aol.com or 649-0135. Members only, please!



Heads Up! The selection for July will be Zachary Roth's "The Great Suppression," This should be of high interest for the League because it's about "Voting Rights, Corporate Cash, and the Conservative Assault on Democracy."

From the National League:

Most urgent on the League's weighty agenda these days is the need for everyone to contact their senators and ask them not to pass the pending House bill on the "American Health Care Act." It is being said that the Senate is working on its own bill, and the League of Women Voters vehemently insists that -



**Chris Carson
President
LWVUS**

Any bill that moves forward must do the following:

Guarantee that pre-existing conditions can't be used to deny coverage or raise rates.

Ensure health insurance rates and access do not discriminate against women.

Provide coverage of preventive care, limit out of pocket costs and prohibit life-time insurance caps.

Ensure that Medicaid recipients can continue to receive full health care services.

Senator John McCain:
via his website at www.mccain.senate.gov
by phone 602-952-2410
snail mail: 2201 E. Camelback Rd. Ste 115, Phoenix 85016

Senator Jeff Flake:
via his website at www.flake.senate.gov
by phone 602-840 1891
snail mail: 2200 E. Camelback Rd. Ste 120 Phoenix 85016

Please act now and let your voice be heard!

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