



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
GREATER VERDE VALLEY

The VoteR

League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

www.lwvverdevalley.com

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

April 2013

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS – ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 11TH**

UPDATED POLITICAL DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION MAY 18TH-19TH



Moderator Linda Buchanan Leads Panel Discussion on “Agricultural Renaissance”



President's Message:

Hello Everyone –

This has been one of those months that is best left undescribed. Two of our very long-time League members passed away – Amelia Jaskulski and Dr. Louis Getoff. I last saw Amelia at Verde Valley Medical Center where I kind of upset the medical profession when I came into Amelia's room with a rose. Amelia and I had a good laugh. And Lou and I chatted briefly at LWVGVV's last bash at the Olde Sedona Bar & Grill. As I think about it, we as League members haven't done a very good job of building our membership, particularly with people under 50. So let's get with the program of building our League.

The LWVAZ is holding its State convention this year – May 18 & 19 in Tucson. We're allotted 3 delegates. So far, we have only one – ME.! I'd sure like company and I'm not a good make-up artist and can't switch my personality. If you are interested in going – contact me by phone or email!

We've been offered a meeting room at The Yavapai County Building in Cottonwood at 10 South 6th Street. We'll have our next board meeting there on April 18 at 2pm. If you are in the area – you are welcome to attend.

SOME NOTES FROM THE PAST or

A SHORT CURRICULUM FOR OVER-ACHIEVERS

PSYCHOLOGY: Based on your knowledge of their works, evaluate the emotional stability, degree of adjustment and repressed frustrations of each of the following: Alexander of Aphrodisias, Ramses ii, Gregory of Nicea, Hammurabbi; support your evaluation with quotations from each man's work. It is not necessary to translate.

ECONOMICS: develop a realistic plan for refinancing the national debt. Trace the possible effects of this plan on Cubism, the Donatist controversy, and the wave theory of light.

PHYSICS: explain the nature of matter include in your answer an evaluation of the impact of any other kind of thought.

SOCIOLOGY: What sociological problems might accompany the end of the world? Construct an experiment to test your theory.

MUSIC: Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with flute and drum. You will find a piano under your seat.

EPISTEMOLOGY: Take a position for or against truth. Prove the validity of your position.

BIOLOGY: Create life. Estimate the differences in subsequent human culture if this form of life had developed 500 million years earlier, with special attention to its probable effect on the English Parliamentary system. ETC.,ETC.,ETC.

Ellie Bauer

LWVGCV Annual Meeting, Breakfast, Speaker - May 11th

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 11th, and plan to attend the annual membership meeting – our final gathering for the year. We will be setting our course for the future. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and we will then enjoy breakfast followed by a talk on Judicial Selection/Independent Judiciary and our business meeting. It's important to come and hear the Board's report to the membership, vote on the budget and next year's program of issues, and select directors for the new League year. This meeting is an excellent chance for prospective members to learn more about the league, hear about the importance of supporting the independence of the judicial branch of government, and to socialize – so feel free to bring a friend! (Only League members will be allowed to vote during the business portion of the meeting.)

Membership Chair Donna Pratt is taking reservations right now, and up until May 5th. Please call her as soon as possible to let her know that you will be joining us.

We hope to see you there!

Candidate Forum for Cottonwood City Council Runoff Election

Cottonwood City Council candidates Randy Garrison and Karen Pfeifer were elected to two of the three vacant seats in the primary election; incumbents Tim Elinski and Linda Norman will be participating in the runoff general election for the remaining seat on May 21st. This will be a mail-in election.

The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley plans to conduct an in-studio forum at Yavapai Broadcasting – Verde Valley TV on May 2nd at 2 p.m. Liz Danbury will do the moderation for the League.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES: League members and the public may submit questions for the candidates via e-mail at lwvsvv@yahoo.com. We will accept questions from the public until April 30.

NEW Verde Valley Political Directory Available on Website

We are happy to announce that the League's "POLITICAL DIRECTORY for Voters of the Greater Verde Valley, Coconino and Yavapai Counties 2013-2014" has been updated and is available on our website (www.lwvverdevalley.com) for viewing, download, and/or printing. It contains voter information and contact information

for Federal, State, County, City/Town, Community Association, Fire District, and Yavapai-Apache Nation officials. By having it on our website we expect to be able to update it soon after elections or new appointments take place.

Independent Judiciary to be Topic of Annual Meeting Keynote

The LWV of the United States has been working to promote the importance of fair and impartial courts nationwide; included in this support is encouragement and funding to State League campaigns for merit selection of judges (as opposed to elected judges) and for more diversity on the bench.

Sandra Goodwin, a member of our neighbor league, the LWV of Central Yavapai County, will be the speaker at our annual meeting on May 11th. She is the Arizona League's Director for Impartial Courts. Sandra is an eloquent speaker; we are privileged to have her visit Sedona to present on this subject.

The following is the position that the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ) has taken regarding "Judicial Selection and Tenure":

The LWVAZ supports the selection of judges by appointment, with voter approval for retention; adequate judicial salaries; longer terms; higher qualifications for justices of the peace and magistrates; a judicial nominating commission, responsible to the governor; and a competency review commission.

To assure that our judges are free of political bias and possessed of the proper qualities of temperament and intellect, and yet retain ultimate control of the courts in the hands of the people, The League of Women Voters of Arizona supports:

- 1) Appointment of judges by the governor from a list of qualified nominees submitted by a bipartisan commission of legal and lay members.
- 2) Retention of a judge in office, after an established period of time, only by a "yes" vote of the people, a "no" vote requiring a new appointment by the governor.

(This system of judicial selection and tenure has been adopted for Pima and Maricopa counties and is optional for other counties. Although we have basically accomplished our goal, we retain the position because in each session of the Legislature, there are efforts to return to the old elective system.)

Member Information

Our League lost two faithful, long-time members recently. **Amelia Jaskulski** was a member of our local league for over 20 years. Amelia had a giving spirit, a quick mind, and a wonderful sense of humor. **Dr. Louis Getoff** passed away the same week. Lou and his life partner Ethel Schelz were members for 15 years. Lou was famous for asking the hard questions at our meetings and he always enjoyed a lively debate. We will miss them both.

Next Board Meeting: The April meeting of the LWVGCV Board will take place on Thursday, April 18th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Yavapai County Building, Mingus Room in Cottonwood at 10 South 6th St. (at the corner of 6th and Mingus Ave.) All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Call Ellie Bauer for information and directions.

New Website Name and Location: With our recent league name change, we have had to change our website address. You can now find the LWVGCV website at www.lwvverdevalley.com. There will be forwarding from the old name for a while, but please change your bookmarks before that service goes away.

Facebook: The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley can now be "found on Facebook." A prototype page is now available. If you do Facebook, please check out our page and **LIKE** it so that it can flourish and grow. www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Greater-Verde-Valley. If you don't do Facebook, you could sign up....at www.facebook.com !

Grow Local --- Buy Local: Enhancing the Quality of Life in the Verde Valley Region

League members and others who attended our April 11 program on new local agricultural initiatives in the Verde Valley were treated to a wealth of information on how our region might again become "the breadbasket of Northern Arizona."

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer led off the evening by explaining the League's history of education and advocacy concerning agricultural issues. The national League's 1988 policy position is being updated this year. In general, the League believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound, and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices. Of the specific policies supported, the League believes that the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and free market principles. The LWV policy update will focus on today's technology issues such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, sustainable farming, water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling. It will also address finance issues, consolidation in agriculture industries, and the federal regulatory process.

The themes of the evening's program on local initiatives tied in nicely with the League's interests and policies. Linda Buchanan, Interim Chair of the Verde Valley Agricultural Coalition (VVAgC), led a panel of experts in describing the mission of the coalition, the Food Hub concept, and their vision of a renaissance of agriculture in the Verde Valley. The Coalition's principles include: Wise land use, Sustainability, Food Safety and Security, Quality of Life, and Water Management. We should be concerned because hunger exists and because "Everyone eats so we are all stakeholders."

The first speaker was Debra Emmanuelle, Executive Director of the Verde Food Council; she is also founder and CEO of Green Papillon, a greenhouse business, and serves on the Arizona Hunger Advisory Council. She talked about hunger in our

region, noting that in the Verde Valley 15,000 people in a population of 65,000 are affected. Child hunger can lead to learning disabilities, and thus has an impact on education. Though we in the U.S. are fortunate not to have the starvation that occurs elsewhere, there is widespread malnourishment. On the upside, there are movements everywhere to promote clean, good food and sustainable agriculture. She sees such a movement here, and also the prospect of job creation through "growing local"; she would like to see local, healthy food affordable and accessible to everyone.

Bernadette Selna grew up here, taught at Clarkdale Elementary, and is described as "a tireless champion of things green and growing." She is a founding member of the VVAgC. Bernadette explained the idea of a Food Hub. Over 160 Food Hubs now exist in the United States, mostly in the north and north-central regions but they are spreading nationwide; there is now a food hub in Phoenix. Each one is unique to the needs of its specific area, but basically they are a central place to bring together producers, distributors, and marketers – a "connection place" similar to a FEDEX hub – to coordinate the movement of primarily locally/regionally produced foods from multiple producers to multiple markets. Food hubs help to ensure that the growers are providing products that the consumers want, need, and can afford; they also work to be financially viable while having positive impacts within their communities.

The next speaker was Casey Rooney, who is the Economic Development Director of the City of Cottonwood. He sees three goals of economic development: create jobs; create wealth for the community; and enhance quality of life. He wants agriculture to be one of the focus areas in seeking to reach these goals. We are seeing success in building our local wine industry; why not try to do the same with other types of agriculture? Rooney has been pushing this idea through local forums and has garnered quite a bit of support. He notes, however, that there are obstacles such as competition from other interests for water rights.

Mary Chicoine, President of the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO), was the final speaker. The VVREO is highly respected for its selectivity in choosing projects and for its dedication to working collaboratively with regional partners. Her group has now identified agriculture as an economic driver for our region and a critical component of what the Verde Valley IS. She pointed out that agricultural interests could use some favorable legislation in a number of areas, so there need to be activists and organizations willing to lobby for action. Examples of some recent initiatives include a propose to amend Clarkdale's Zoning Code to include a policy statement supporting local sustainable agriculture, a State law passed last year that removes obstacles to the donation of Arizona-grown food crops to charities, and a provision of the federal American Tax-Relief Act that extends incentives for the donation of food and grocery products from small businesses to food banks.

A short Q&A session followed the presentations, but could not begin to satisfy curiosity about all that had been covered in such a short time. You can be sure that we will be hearing much more on this topic in the future. Anyone who is interested in learning more – or becoming involved in the effort – can check out the website of

the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (www.vvreo.org). Click on About VVREO and you will find a list of its affiliates, including the VVAgC.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

LWVAZ Convention will be held on May 18 and 19 at the Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites in Tucson. Our League can have 3 delegates- so far we have one. If you are interested in joining Ellie and Robyn – email Robyn. In addition to choosing a state program, adopting a budget and electing officers and directors, we have several terrific speakers: U.S. Congressman Ron Barber; Secretary of State Ken Bennett; Paula Aboud, Former AZ Legislator; Ann Weaver Hart, President, University of Arizona; Karen Nicholson, LWVUS Board Member; U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva; and David (Fitz) Fitzsimmons, Editorial Cartoonist, *Arizona Daily Star*.

The recommended program is State and Local Finances, a study of state and local revenues sources and allocation of revenues. Our League has agreed to lead the study if it is adopted at the convention. If any of you are interested in this topic and like to be a part of the study committee – Robyn would like to hear from you!

LWVUS Action Alert: Senate to Vote on Gun Control Legislation

For months, our nation has debated the laws governing the use of guns and ammunition in our country. It's clear that the majority of Americans want Congress to take new strong steps to relieve the epidemic of gun violence across our nation.

Following its recess, the Senate will vote on S. 649. Tell our Senators it's time to stop the violence. The League has been lobbying for common sense solutions to gun violence that will protect our children and our families and help restore public confidence.

S. 649 will require background checks on all gun purchases and impose stricter penalties for "straw purchases," where one individual buys for another. There will also be amendments from the floor of the Senate that the League strongly supports. These amendments include Senator Feinstein's Assault Weapons Ban and an amendment to limit the size of high capacity ammunition magazines.

Millions of Americans are at risk every day from senseless violence. Responsible gun legislation is a critical matter of public safety and public health. Tell our Senators this issue is too important to ignore any longer and that common sense solutions to gun violence will save lives.

The League of Women Voters has had a policy position on gun control since 1990; now is the time to use it.

Senator John McCain at www.mccain.senate.gov or by phone at (202) 224-2235

Senator Jeff Flake at www.flake.senate.gov or by phone at (202) 224-4521

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2012-2013
Date	Event
April 18 th Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.	Meeting of LWVGVV Board of Directors Yavapai County Complex, 10 South Sixth Street, Cottonwood
May 11 th Saturday, 9 a.m.	Business meeting, elections, breakfast. Sandra Goodwin of Central Yavapai League will speak on judicial review/independent judiciary. Olde Sedona Bar and Grill
May 18 th and 19 th , Saturday and Sunday	LWVAZ Convention Tucson

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.

Board Members 2012-2013

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
President

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Robyn Prud'homme- Bauer, Clarkdale
State League Vice President

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood

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Newsletter/Website

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Secretary

Donna Pratt, Sedona
Membership

Rita Livingston, Sedona

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Evie Rowland, Sedona
Voter Registration