



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® GREATER VERDE VALLEY

The VoteR

League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

December 2012 – Happy Holidays to All!



President's Message

I was reading my Kindle the other evening when, much to my surprise Aesop's Fables was on the menu.

An Old Woman and a Wine Jar

An old woman found an empty jar which had lately been full of prime old wine and which still retained the fragrant smell of its former contents. She greedily placed it several times to her nose and drawing it backwards and forwards said,

"O! most delicious! How nice must the wine itself have been, when it leaves behind in the very vessel which contained it so sweet a perfume!"

The memory of a good deed lives.

A Lion and a Mouse

A Lion, fatigued by the heat of a summer's day, fell fast asleep in his den. A Mouse ran over his mane and ears and woke the Lion from his slumbers. He woke up and shook himself in great wrath, and searched every corner of his den to find the Mouse. A Fox, seeing him said: "A fine Lion you are, to be frightened of a Mouse." "It is not the Mouse I fear" said the Lion, "I resent his familiarity and ill-breeding."

Little liberties are great offenses.

Cordially,

Ellie Bauer

Voter Service Report for 2012 Fall Election Season

We had a very active election season with four forums held for primary candidates and three forums held for general election candidates. I want to thank all of those who participated in or helped with the forums.

The candidates who participated are the core of these forums and I thank them for their involvement in informing the electorate. The Cottonwood Recreation Center, the Sedona Library, the American Legion, the Cliff Castle Casino Hotel, and the Sedona Chamber of Commerce all provided a facility or co-sponsorship. Without their help, the forums would have been impossible. Ryan Nichols of Yavapai Broadcasting was a delight to work with and his involvement helped us reach additional people.

I appreciate Liz Danbury's stepping up to organize the CD1 primary forum. Liz Danbury, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Judy Miller, and Mary Chicoine were all excellent moderators and provided a very competent reflection on the League. The timing provided by Kathy Davis, Mary Gassaway, and Richard Kiessel kept things moving right on schedule. Sorters and helpers were many of the above mentioned members, along with Ellie Bauer and Donna Pratt, and I thank them all for keeping things organized and providing me great support in my setting up the forums. Kathryn Heidepriem and Rita Livingston, along with the other participants, were invaluable in getting the word out.

I especially would like to thank Mary Gassaway who not only guided me through the process, but generously stepped in to handle the primary forums when I experienced health problems.

Looking back over the last year's candidate forums, I believe it is time to reexamine our forums in light of modern politics and technology. We now have many different methods for getting information, and it was very useful to have Yavapai Broadcasting televise our forums. As a result, the forums were available on cable television and the internet. The Board will be reevaluating how we conduct future forums in light of the expanding opportunities now available.

I am resigning as voter services chair, and we will need others to volunteer to pick up from here. Other than the possibility of forums in February for the cities of Cottonwood and Camp Verde, things should be pretty quiet until the 2014 elections.

-- ***Ruth Kiessel, Voter Services Chair***

Nice Turnout for Post-Election Party

Thanks to all who attended on November 8th – we had a good group to discuss the recent election, congratulate ourselves for all of the voter services we provided, become informed on the recent study of charter schools in Arizona, participate in the statewide concurrence on that issue, and to enjoy the Olde Sedona Bar and Grill's appetizer buffet.

Reflecting on the recent election, the league has identified some themes that the League of Women Voters at all levels likely will be pursuing to improve future elections. Among these themes are "Money in Politics," "Primary Election Ballot Access" (ways to provide better access to the ballot for non-party candidates who want to run in primary elections); "Voter Identification and Voter Suppression"; "Election Fraud"; and "Direct Election of the President." We can expect to hear lots more about all of this as time goes by.

Member Information

The LWVGCV Board of Directors met on November 15th and discussed in some detail how the election season went and ways that we might improve how our candidate forums are conducted. The board accepted the LWVAZ Charter School Concurrence, with the stipulation that student progress be tracked and that there is equality in the information that is provided to parents. LWVGCV Vice President Judy Miller has agreed to update our "Political Directory for Sedona-Verde Valley Voters in Coconino and Yavapai Counties 2009-2010." The directory is available on our website, but is badly out of date.

Activities for the winter-spring season will be forums for the Cottonwood and Camp Verde elections, the League Anniversary luncheon on February 14th, a member meeting with speaker in late March or early April, and the annual business meeting with brunch and a speaker on Saturday, May 4th.

Next Board Meeting: The January meeting of the LWVGCV Board will take place on Thursday, January 17th, at 2:00 at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. The Sedona Shadows community is located at 6770 W. SR89A (next to Sedona Pines resort between Sedona and Page Springs). After you make the left turn into Sedona Shadows, follow the signs to the office and the meeting rooms are behind the swimming pool.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

Here is an article by Luige del Puerto Senate Reporter for the Arizona Capitol Times. This gives us a look at the upcoming Arizona Legislative Session.

Election results official — let the bill introductions begin

by Luige del Puerto

Published: December 7th, 2012

Now that the election results have been officially canvassed and certified, returning legislators and their new colleagues can start introducing legislation for next year's session.

About 1,500 bills are typically offered each year, but only roughly one-third eventually makes it to the governor's desk and becomes law.

Also, only a tiny portion of those measures generate controversy, and they typically have a difficult time getting sufficient support to pass.

The Legislature will face two big and related issues next year: the shape of the state budget for fiscal 2014 and whether to expand the state's Medicaid population.

The health care industry is expected to lobby hard for the lifting of an enrollment freeze that has led to the uncovering of thousands of residents who don't have dependent children but whose

income falls below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Industry representatives have argued that lifting the freeze is congruent with the public's decision years ago to pay for the health coverage of low-income residents.

Meanwhile, the education community is also expected to push for more funding for K-12 schools, an idea that legislators and the governor appear to favor.

In addition, legislators are expected to propose bills that deal with election laws, the economy, immigration, the environment and unions. The session starts in January.

Secretary of State Ken Bennett and other state officials on Dec. 3 signed the official canvass and certified last month's election results.

League of Women Voters of the United States

The looming "fiscal cliff" is inspiring opinions, protests, commentary, and grumbles from every corner of the country. The League of Women Voters has joined the crowds that are lobbying Congress and the White House for their preferred solution to a big problem that has many causes. Below is the text of a request for League members to participate in all the fun. If you agree with the League position and would like to take action you can go to www.lwv.org, which has a quick way to make your views known your Representative and Senators.

"With a January 1 deadline fast approaching, when steep and unsustainable spending cuts and tax increases will harm the economy, the time has come for our leaders to come together and move our country forward. Congress has an historic opportunity to support a new direction for federal fiscal policy.

"The League of Women Voters supports a federal fiscal policy that recognizes the importance of a fair tax system, that provides for social needs, and that will carefully manage the deficit and the economy. It's time to recognize we need change and to take things in a new direction. Join us in telling Congress to support a new direction for federal fiscal policy.

"More than 20 million people are in need of full-time work, and unemployment continues to hover around 8 percent. But budget "hawks" are pushing for huge spending cuts that will harm the economy. At the same time, the top two percent of taxpayers are not paying their fair share. Millions of seniors, children, people with disabilities, and others are depending on social programs to get by. Our fiscal policy must support people in need, while carefully balancing the deficit and the economy.

America is facing a financial crisis. Tell Congress to provide a long-term solution by increasing revenue, protecting the social safety net, reducing defense spending, and carefully managing the deficit."



*The League of Women Voters Thanks All Members For Your Faithful Support
We Wish You and Your Families a Wonderful Holiday Season and All the Best in the Coming year*

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2012-2013
Date	Event
January 17th, Thursday 2:00-4:00pm	Meeting of LWVGVV Board of Directors Sedona Shadows Clubhouse - 6770 W. State Route 89A
February 14 th , 2013	League Anniversary Luncheon Details will be announced at a later time
February (dates to be decided)	Candidate forums for municipal elections in Cottonwood and Camp Verde
March 12 th , Tuesday	Municipal Elections, Camp Verde and Cottonwood
March 28 th or April 4 th	Membership meeting or public educational program with speaker
May 4 th , Saturday (a.m.)	Business meeting, elections, brunch, and a speaker.

Board Members 2012-2013

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
President

Judy Miller, Cornville
Vice President

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Marian Sjostrom, Sedona
Secretary

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

Donna Pratt
Membership

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood
634-5827

Rita Livingston, Sedona
204-1927

Off-Board
Kathy Heidepriem
Newsletter/Website

Off-Board
Evie Rowland
Voter Registration

Off-Board
Mary Gassaway
Voter Service

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.