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.Update on activities, events, and plans for the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley



# The Voter

League of Women Voters  
Greater Verde Valley  
[www.lwvverdevalley.com](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com)

P.O. Box 966  
Sedona, AZ 86339

DECEMBER 2013 - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
JANUARY 2014 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## President's Message:

And welcome from Tucson where Earl and I are enjoying our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it is good. Being here reminds me that Tucson has the largest League in Arizona – over 200 members. Not that I think that we can grow that big (maybe 199). We can be as big as.....How many more members is not the issue. What is the issue is that we do need new people not only to help with the many ideas that we would like to make realities and to continue to generate the ideas and activities that serve our numerous communities.

How this could happen is up to each of us and all of us. We can each go on a membership grow campaign and do that in each of our uniquely individual ways or we can do that as the League of Women Voters – Greater Verde Valley. It seems to me that both ways are great and we should do both.

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Happy Holidays and  
Best Wishes for a  
Peaceful New Year



**LWVGCV  
Board of  
Directors, 2013-  
2014**

Beginning 2014 this way is great. We will do that. We have a lot of activity planned for the coming year – candidate forums, special issues forums, socializing with the world.....

Enjoy the New Year and let's GET TO WORK building our League. All people are welcome.

Cordially, **Ellie Bauer**

### League Get-Together at Fire Mountain Wines

Fire Mountain Wines has opened a new tasting room in Cottonwood, and it was a lovely setting for our fall membership meeting. The winery has a goal of creating premier wines made from grapes grown on Native American lands and produced by Native American workers. Fire Mountain is also developing a partnership with the Heard Museum to bring fine art to the Cottonwood tasting room. John Scarbrough, the new winemaker for Fire Mountain and owner of Cellar Dweller Wine Co., was our first speaker and he talked to us about the evolution of Fire Mountain and the growth of the local wine industry. We also had the opportunity to taste a few wines.

Our second speaker was Casey Rooney, Cottonwood's economic development director, who described the transformation of Old Town Cottonwood over the past few years. He recommends that other Verde Valley towns do the same so that the Verde Valley may become a destination for travelers; the emphasis would be on people from Phoenix who will find the area attractive for its WINE, FOOD, ARTS, and CULTURE – as well as scenery and walkability.

Rooney explained a new fundraising program, 1 for the Verde. It consists of a community of local businesses who have agreed to collect small voluntary donations from their customers for a fund that will be used to preserve and improve the river resources of the Verde Valley. Participating businesses have signs posted inviting customers to make a small donation when they

**Ellie Bauer**  
**Liz Danbury**  
**Donna Pratt**  
**Marian Sjostrom**  
**Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer**  
**Ruth Kiessel**  
**Kathy Davis**

**A Quick Reminder: If you have not paid your dues for 2013-2014, PLEASE send your dues in today! THANK YOU!!**



### **LWVGWV CALENDAR 2013-2014**

#### **January 16th**

LWGW Board Meeting,  
 2:00pm  
 Yavapai County Bldg,  
 Cottonwood

#### **January 23**

Member Meeting/Program  
 Finance Study/Local  
 Finances  
 Sedona Community Plan

make a purchase, have a meal, or taste some wine. Fire Mountain Wines is a participant in [1 for the Verde](#). Find out more at [www.onefortheverde.com](http://www.onefortheverde.com)

### Sedona Community Plan and “Financing Arizona” to be Discussed at January Member Meeting

The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley is putting together a program that should be of interest to all members. Because the usual spring municipal elections will now be taking place in the fall, the only election in the Verde Valley this March will be a Special Election to adopt the Sedona Community Plan. Since government and planning are of fundamental interest to League, we will have a presentation and discussion of the Sedona Community Plan. Secondly, we will launch our two-year study of Arizona state, county, and local financing with short talks on the subject by local officials or staff from Sedona.

The meeting will be at 3:30 pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Yavapai County Building in Cottonwood - 10 So. Sixth Street, Cottonwood AZ. We'll send out updates in the e-mail blasts and post them on our website [www.lwvverdevalley.com](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com) and our Facebook site “League of Women Voters Greater Valley.”

### .Verde Valley Agriculture Coalition to Host Food Forum, January 28<sup>th</sup>

The VVAgC's forum on food security, originally set for November 19<sup>th</sup>, has been postponed until January. This issue is an important one for our region and also is relevant to what happens with the long-delayed U.S Farm Bill, and to the League's current update study on U.S. Agriculture Policy. The forum will take place on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> in Cottonwood. The cost will be \$15 if you pre-register, \$20 at the door. For information, please call Bernadette Selna at 928-300-8350.

The forum will be “a day of presentations, panel

### **January 28th**

Verde Valley Agricultural Coalition  
Forum on Food Security

### **February 14 (tentative)**

League Anniversary Event and Fundraiser

### **February 20**

LWGW Board Meeting  
2:00pm  
Yavapai County Bldg  
Cottonwood

### **March 11**

Sedona Special Election  
Sedona Community Plan Adoption



***The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages***

discussions and work sessions focusing on food security and self-reliance.” Speakers will specifically address farming and production, farmers markets and CSAs, use of local food in restaurants and best-practices land stewardship for healthy food production. Break-out sessions will allow time to develop ideas from the panel presentations and group discussions, focusing on the community’s wants and needs in the realm of food security and on the VVAgC’s work to establish a food hub in the Verde Valley.

We encourage interested members to attend this forum and to let others know about it.

### Member Information

1. Our condolences go out to Lelia Schoenberg on the loss of her husband, Harry Schoenberg, who passed away on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Both were longtime League members, and Harry once served on our Girl Power Committee. Also, League Member Jan Oswald lost her mother, Muriel Keith, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our sympathies are with her as well.

2. If you have a problem with this e-mailed newsletter --- or if you should misplace it! – you can find it posted on our website at [www.lwverdevalley.com](http://www.lwverdevalley.com)

3. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place from 2:00-4:00 on January 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Yavapai County Building at 10 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Cottonwood. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings. It’s the best place to get to know the league better!

4. Don’t forget to like us on Facebook!

### Membership Survey

We have received a few responses to our membership survey but we would "LIKE" to hear from all of you! Take a moment a give us your comments. Here is the survey!

***informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.***

**Projects:** For 2013-2014 they include:

1. Voter registration (write media releases, op-eds, or letters to the editors about voting rights, how to register to vote, and importance of voting).
2. Voter services (help with candidate forums: moderate, assist at forum, contact candidates, locate facilities, arrange publicity, etc.).
3. Membership (help to retain current member and expand membership).
4. Leadership (participate on the Board and taking a lead role in projects).
5. Communication (distribute information via social media, writing press releases, writing letters to the editor, etc.).
6. State and Local Finance program (help respond to this state program by gathering information for your town).
7. Fund raising (help gather funds to cover costs of rooms for forums, administrative supplies, etc.).

**Survey:** If you are willing to help, please respond to the questions below and return to **LWVGWV** either by email ([lwsyv@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsyv@yahoo.com)) or mail to: POB 966, Sedona AZ 86339.

Name:

1. What work draws your interested?
2. What can you do best...organized an event; lead a project; lead a discussion/forum; write press releases, letters to the editor or op-eds; use social media; other?
3. What is an issue that the League of Women Voters in the Greater Verde Valley should focus on, and would you be willing to help?
4. Any comments or suggestions?

THANK YOU!!!!

### League of Women Voters of Arizona

As the new year legislative year begins on January 13, we look forward to issues being discussed such as repeal of Clean Elections, Election Reform, Campaign finance reform, Education reform - common core

standards implemented, water, and the independent judiciary. Because of the recent actions of the Arizona State Attorney General concerning the dual voting system for those who registered using the federal form vs. those using the state form - the Arizona League has sought to intervene as defendants in the case Kobach, et al v. U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) along with the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Kansas. This is our continuing effort to protect the right to vote!

Also we will be launching our armchair activist program! Soon you will receive an easy way for you to become an advocate for those issues that are important to you in Arizona. The program will tell you how you can sign-up to comment directly to our elected representatives in the Arizona legislature about issues you care about! So look for the email and get involved today!

### [League of Women Voters of the United States](#)

The National League continues to remind all members of the many voter rights issues that are now before us. The restoration of crucial provisions of the Voting Rights Act is one of the most important.. There is a bipartisan effort to craft a piece of legislation that will pass Congress as soon as possible. The League will be sending guidance and action alerts so that local leagues and members can participate in getting this done. In the meantime, we can access a [background information piece on the history of the VRA](#) and [talking points](#) to better educate ourselves.

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