



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

January 2010

President's Letter

Due to the upcoming elections, we have lost two Board members. If you or someone you know (who is a League member) would be interested in becoming a Board member, please contact Judith Miller (dvnjdymlr@cablone.net), the Chair of our Nominating Committee.

On February 10th we will celebrate the League's 90th birthday and our League's 20th birthday. We will have our birthday luncheon at Yavapai College in conjunction with Arizona Town Hall. When you receive your invitation, please make your reservation through Arizona Town Hall as soon as possible; their events are very popular and you want to be sure to reserve a space. See below for details.

April is water awareness month. We will get a jump on the festivities by having our water awareness breakfast on March 31 at the Old Sedona Bar and Grill from 8-10. Mark the date.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 27th: Jerome Candidate Forum, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Spook Hall.

Friday, January 29th: Membership Meeting/Program Planning. Join us for refreshments and a discussion of League activities, program planning, and the future direction of our League. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Contact Fran Levengood (flevengood@gmail.com or 928-554-4509)

Wednesday, February 3rd: Sedona Candidate Forum, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sedona Public Library.

Monday, February 8th: Clarkdale Candidate Forum, 7:00-9:00 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Parish hall.

Wednesday, February 10th: League 90th Anniversary Luncheon and Arizona Town Hall Community Outreach, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Yavapai College Verde Campus, Clarkdale.

Save the Date – Wednesday, March 31st Water Awareness Month Kick-off Breakfast at Old Sedona Bar and Grill – hosted by the League of Women Voters. Tom O'Halleran has agreed to speak.

Board of Directors Meeting: The next meeting of the LWVSVV Board of Directors will take place at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse on Friday, January 29th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The meeting will take place just prior to the membership meeting. All members may attend.

January Membership Meeting:

Program Planning and League Update

Please plan to attend our next membership meeting on Friday, January 29th, at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse. The meeting will start at 12:30 with light refreshments and a discussion on local and national program planning. Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer will lead the discussion. This is your chance to hear about hot League topics and to give your input on what you think are the most important issues that merit our attention in the future. The topics eventually selected at the National Convention in June and at our local annual meeting in May will direct next year's priorities for study, community education, and advocacy. As a grassroots organization, the League of Women Voters needs local input and local support to do its job effectively.

Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley will host three candidate forums prior to the upcoming municipal elections in Jerome, Clarkdale, and Sedona.

Jerome: The forum will take place on Wednesday, January 27th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Spook Hall. We are co-sponsoring with the Jerome Chamber of Commerce. This will be the only candidate forum to take place in Jerome before the March 9 election.

Sedona: The forum will take place on Wednesday, February 3rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Sedona Public Library. It will be the last of four forums to be held in Sedona.

Clarkdale: The forum will take place on Monday, February 8th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 971 First South St (across from the Post Office). Our co-sponsor is the Clarkdale Chamber of Commerce and the last of two candidate events to be held in Clarkdale.

All elections will be by-mail-only. Ballots will be mailed the week of February 15th and must be returned no later than 7:00 p.m. March 9th. The last day to register for the March primary is February 8th; the last day to register for the general election (if required) is April 19th.

Please plan to attend the candidate forums if possible. If you would like to join the Voter Service Committee and enjoy the excitement of helping to put on these forums, contact Mary Gassaway by phone at 634-9888 or by e-mail at mballgassaway@yahoo.com.

League 90th Birthday Luncheon and Arizona Town Hall Program

The League of Women Voters Sedona-Verde Valley cordially invites all members to join us in celebration of the birthdays of the League of Women Voters and the State of Arizona at our luncheon and silent auction on Wednesday, February 10th, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon will take place at Yavapai College, Verde Valley Campus, Building M, Room 137, 601 Black Hills Drive, Clarkdale. Arizona Town Hall President Tara Jackson will speak briefly about Arizona Town Hall and Project Civil Discourse.

Immediately following our luncheon, the Arizona Town Hall Outreach Program will present a program on the Town Hall's 2009 Study, "Riding the Fiscal Roller Coaster: Government Revenue in Arizona". Presenters will be the mayors of Sedona, Chino Valley, Cottonwood, and Prescott Valley; former Sedona mayor Ernest Strauch; and Tara Jackson.

The cost is \$35.00 for both the luncheon and the Town Hall presentation. All reservations must be made through Arizona Town Hall, either by mail, fax, or online no later than February 1st. To register online, go to www.aztownhall.org. The mailing address is Arizona Town Hall, 1 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 530, Phoenix, AZ 85012. The fax number is (602) 252-6189. The e-mail contact is lmadrid@aztownhall.org. The telephone contact number at Arizona Town Hall is (602) 252-9600.

Do not send a check to Arizona Town Hall. Payment will be at the door during registration at 11:00.

The League will hold a Silent Auction during the event as a League fundraiser. We are looking for a number of quality donations for the auction; contact Liz Danbury (ldanbury@esedona.net or 282-5061) or Mary Gassaway (mallgassaway@yahoo.com or 634-9888) if you can provide a donation or help at the event.

We would like an excellent turnout of League members for this very special occasion. If you have any problems with signing up, contact Mary Gassaway or Fran Levengood, who will help you.

Member Information

Nominating Committee to Seek Board Candidates Judy Miller, Donna Pratt, and Kathy Heidepriem were elected to the Nominating Committee at last year's annual meeting. They will begin meeting soon to develop a slate of candidates for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for next year. If you are interested in stepping up and serving on the board or the Nominating Committee, please let Judy know (dvnjdymlr@cableone.net). If you would like to recommend someone else, you can do that too. As noted in Fran's President's Letter, we are currently short a couple of board members and could use some interim directors right away as well.

State and National

The 2010 Census: Counting Everyone Once – And Only Once – And In the Right Place

(The League of Women Voters is a national partner in the upcoming census, and has provided the information below so that members can be informed and answer questions from their communities.)

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. To achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders; the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more.

Reaching a Diverse Population: The goal this year is to count all residents living in the U.S. on April 1st. The Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure that the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian – as well as language guides in 59 languages – will be available on request.

Recruiting Census Workers: There are an estimated 310 million people residing in the U.S. and the Census Bureau is hiring about 1.4 million temporary employees to help conduct the census; some will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of census questionnaires.

10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete: With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes to complete.

No More Long Form: Instead of the Long Form of the census, received by some households in the decennial censuses, the Census Bureau will now be relying on the "American Community Survey" (ACS) for information on social, economic, and housing characteristics. The ACS is sent out to a rolling sample of addresses every month, every year, throughout the nation. The ACS began to be issued in 2005, and will now replace the Census Long Form.

Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential. For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site at www.census.gov/2010.

LWVUS 49th National Convention, June 11-15, 2010

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs. This year's convention is themed, "***Making Democracy***

Work: A History of Change, A Future of Hope.” While all League members are welcome to attend, the Presidents of state and local leagues appoint their groups’ official delegates. The delegate body will debate and adopt the 2010-2012 National Program, next year’s budget, by-law amendments, and election of LWVUS officers; non-delegates are welcome to attend and enjoy the excitement. This year’s convention will take place at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis in downtown Atlanta, GA. Contact Robyn Prud’homme Bauer if you might be interested in attending.

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.

LWVSVV Board Members 2009-2010

Francine Levengood, VOC (Chairperson)

Pat George, Camp Verde

Liz Danbury, Sedona

Mary Gassaway, Clarkdale

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Donna Pratt, Sedona

Off-Board: Robyn Prud’homme Bauer
Representative to LWVAZ

Off-Board: Kathy Heidepriem
Newsletter and Website

LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar 2009-2010

Date	Event
January 27 th , Wednesday	Jerome Candidate Forum, 6:30 – 8:00 pm "Spook Hall" in Jerome
January 29 th , Friday	League Board Meeting, 10:00am - noon Sedona Shadows Clubhouse 6770 W. SR 89A
January 29 th , Friday	Membership Meeting, 12:30 – 2:30 pm Sedona Shadows Clubhouse
February 3 rd , Wednesday	Sedona Candidate Forum, 6:00-9:00 pm Sedona Public Library
February 8 th , Monday	Clarkdale Candidate Forum, 7:00-9:00 pm St.Thomas Church, 971 First South Street, Clarkdale
February 10 th , Wednesday	League 90 th Anniversary Luncheon, Silent Auction and Arizona Town Hall Outreach Program 11:00am-3:00pm Bldg M, Room 137 Yavapai College Verde Campus 601 Black Hills Drive, Clarkdale
March 31 st , Wednesday	Water Awareness Breakfast, 8:00 – 10:00 am Old Sedona Bar and Grille
May 1 st , Saturday	Annual Meeting and Elections TIME TBD LOCATION TBD