



## *The Voter*

**League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley**

***[www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org)***

**P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339**

***JANUARY 2011 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!***

### **President's Letter**

Happy New Year. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back to work. Our anniversary luncheon will be held on Monday, February 14, at 11:30 a.m. Donna Pratt is coordinating the luncheon with Rosalie's and as soon as the menu is set, you will receive a copy, along with an RSVP. This luncheon will be held at Agave in West Sedona. Be sure to attend as door prizes will be awarded. Please save the date. Chip Davis, the Yavapai County Supervisor, will be our guest speaker. Chip will be speaking about redistricting.

A candidate forum for the Cottonwood municipal elections will be held on the evening of January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to attend if you can.

We would also like to hold another "get together" in March and are currently looking into the possibilities. We are planning a forum in April on "Regionalism" which will be held at Yavapai College. Details will follow.

**- Fran Levengood**

### **Voter Service – Candidate Forum for Cottonwood**

There will be a Cottonwood Council and Mayoral Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 from 6pm to 8pm at the Meeting Room of the Cottonwood Recreation Center. The center is located at 150 South Sixth Street. All candidates have been invited to attend. The forum will be videotaped by Yavapai Broadcasting, Verde Valley Television, for broadcast on Cottonwood Cable Channel One several times before the election on March 8.

The candidates are:

Mayor: Diane Joens (incumbent)

Running for 3 open seats on the City Council are:

Jesse Dowling

Maryk Eichman

Ruben Jauregui

Duane Kirby (incumbent)

Alan E. Lawhorn

Terence Pratt (incumbent)

Darold Smith (incumbent)

Camp Verde will also be holding municipal elections in March. Details of a candidate forum are still being worked out. When available, the information will be sent to all members and posted to our website at [www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org).

### **Mary Gassaway, Voter Service**

## **League Anniversary Luncheon Returns to Sedona on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day – Save the Date!**

The League of Women Voters of the United States celebrates its 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Valentine's Day, and local leagues around the country help to celebrate that event with a special luncheon or other public activity. Our League will invite all members, friends and the public to attend this year's anniversary luncheon at the Agave of Sedona Event Center (located adjacent to the Best Western Inn of Sedona at the corner of State Route 89A and NORTH Airport Road). Rosalie's of Sedona will be catering, and our speaker will be Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis. He will be addressing the topic of redistricting, a hot topic at the county, state, and national level since electoral maps are redrawn in the year after a national census.

Information on the menu selections and cost will be sent out soon. Please RSVP to Donna Pratt as promptly as possible.

### **Speaking of Redistricting...**

The most recent LWVUS Leaders' Update advises that "With the 2010 Census now complete, the redistricting process will likely begin in your state in the next several weeks. From fighting to reform the way districts are drawn, to promoting an open and transparent process and holding decision makers accountable, League leaders are at the forefront of making sure leaders draw lines that work for their constituents – not the reverse. Want help getting started? [Use the Redistricting Reading List found on this Training and Resources webpage](#) to inform yourself and your League colleagues about the issues and processes that will impact your state's redistricting process. State

Leagues across the country are taking action on this issue that is so fundamental to our democracy.”

Take a look if you would like to know more.

## **Take Action Against the Repeal of Health Care Reform**

The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote soon on repealing the Affordable Health Care Act, the comprehensive health care reform law passed by the last Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The League of Women Voters of the United States is *asking all members to contact their Representatives* and request that they vote against the repeal. (Should the vote take place before you have a chance to take action, there will still be the opportunity to provide feedback on the voting and also on likely amendments that will come up during the new session of Congress.)

“The Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a step in the wrong direction. In just the past few months, the Affordable Care Act has brought about positive changes: children are no longer denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage, adult children can stay on their parents' health plans up until age 26, and Medicare recipients can receive preventive services without being charged a deductible, co-pay, or co-insurance.

As provisions of the Affordable Care Act continue to be implemented, more and more Americans will have health care coverage while health care costs are reduced for individuals, businesses and communities.”

**Rep. Paul Gosar is the new U.S. Congressman for Arizona District 1. His contact information is as follows:**

### Washington, D.C. Office

504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-226-9739

### Casa Grande, AZ Office

211 North Florence Street  
Suite 3  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
Phone: 520-836-8417

OR...E-mail Congressman Gosar at his web site, [www.gosar.house.gov](http://www.gosar.house.gov).

While there, you can sign up for his e-newsletter as well.

## **PROGRAM PLANNING AND THIS YEAR'S FORUM**

Every year in late winter and early spring, the League of Women Voters begins its program planning process. Selecting issues for future emphasis can be daunting, but the task has a way of focusing our minds on what, in the public arena, is really important to who we are, where we are, and what's going on.

The League published a paper a few years ago called "Issues with Legs." Issues with Legs" are defined as "issues that transcend demographics and unite rather than divide your community. They are issues that lots of people care deeply about and have an impact on the broad community – people are motivated to address them." Local leagues such as ours have the opportunity to select issues that may not be at the forefront on the national scene, but that resonate within their own communities. Schools, city services, and land use policies are examples of local issues that can pique the interest of League members AND can help us to bring in more members to help work on them. If the League's efforts to study and take action on high-interest local issues are seen as successful, the League will be seen as an organization that can make a difference.

Our program items for the current year include regionalism and the management of public lands. Judy Miller is leading an effort to develop an educational forum on "Regionalism at Work", to take place at the Clarkdale Campus of Yavapai Community College in April. We are looking for League members and members of the community to help put on this forum. We would especially like to have representation from all of the Verde Valley communities on the organizing committee. Please call Judy at 649-6416 to volunteer for this important Verde Valley-wide community service effort.

The League paper on "Issues with Legs" can be found at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org); enter the title into the search box on the home page. Or call Kathy Heidepriem for a copy. Look at it and then put on your thinking cap to help identify an issue that can make a difference for next year.

## **The Tragedy in Tucson**

As you finish reading this VOTER, please take a moment to read the statement from our national president, Elisabeth MacNamara, on the tragedy in Tucson.

**Washington, DC** – "The League of Women Voters joins with all Americans in expressing our shock and dismay at the tragic shootings in Tucson last weekend. We express our deep sorrow to the families of the victims, and offer our sincere hopes for the recovery of Representative Giffords and the other survivors. We applaud the courage of the individuals, thinking they were just out for a Saturday conversation, who took immediate action to help the injured and end the rampage.

"What can we make of this madness, this senseless act of violence? And terrible though this event was for all of us now, what might the long term effects be? Will it make public

figures - politicians, media figures, celebrities - more mindful of the potentially harmful impact of their angry words - or will everyone continue to put their own agendas first, without regard to the climate they create? Will it make the public more trusting of the patriotic motivations of their elected leaders - or will respect for them be further diminished? Will it make our elected leaders more willing to reach out to meet and hear from their constituents directly - or will it reinforce the growing gap between voters and those they put in office? Will it allow Americans to feel comfortable and welcome in the public space - or will they conclude that it is safer to stay home and drop out of the conversation? It is clearly time for each of us to consider these issues, individually and as a community.

"For 90 years, the League has worked to facilitate the civil exchange of different points of view, to bridge the gap between the voters and the elected, and to help improve the functioning of government. We hope that moving forward our nation will come together to foster and strengthen the very essence of our representative democracy: 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.'"

***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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.***

Not only did Representative Gabrielle Giffords serve as a representative from Arizona in Congress, she was a former Arizona State representative and senator from 2001 to 2005. Expanding health care access was an issue of interest for Rep. Giffords when she served in the legislature. She also pushed for bills related to mental health and was named by the Mental Health Association of Arizona as the 2004 Legislator of the Year. Rep. Giffords also worked on the bipartisan Children's Caucus, which sought to improve education and health care for Arizona's children. She worked with Governor Janet Napolitano to promote all-day kindergarten.

She is a native of Tucson and only the third woman in Arizona's history to be elected to the U. S. Congress. We wish her a full recovery and look forward to her continued service to the people of the state of Arizona.

## **LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar 2010-2011**

Date	Event
January 20 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse Call Judy Miller for directions
January 26 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Cottonwood Candidate Forum  Cottonwood Recreation Center
Monday, February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 a.m.	Annual League Anniversary Luncheon  Agave Room, Best Western Inn of Sedona 1200 West SR89A
February 17 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
March 9 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-dinner "whine o'clock" Alcora Showroom and MIC e-go Gallery 921 Main Street, Clarkdale
March 17 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
April, date to be determined	Spring Educational Forum on Regionalism Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May, date to be determined	LWVSVV Annual Meeting and Elections Place to be determined
May 21-22, Saturday-Sunday	LWVAZ Convention

### **LWVSVV Board Members 2010-2011**

Francine Levengood, VOC  
President

Judy Miller, Cornville  
Secretary

Liz Danbury, Sedona  
Treasurer

Donna Pratt, Sedona  
Membership

Robyn Prud'homme Bauer, Clarkdale  
Representative to LWVAZ

Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona  
Newsletter and Website

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale

#### **OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**

Voter Service Chair  
Mary Gassaway

Voter Registration  
Evie Rowland