



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

## *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

JUNE 2010

### *President's Letter - Upcoming Events*

We are now on hiatus until September. This will give everyone time to relax and regroup and start off fresh in the fall. We have several events that will be coming up. We will be working on summer election forums for the primary election on August 24. The forums will be held in either late July or early August, prior to early voting, which begins July 29th. The number of ballot measures will not be known until mid-summer and we hope to have at least one October forum to cover General Election ballot measures.

The other event we are working on is Voter Registration. Evie Rowland has agreed to chair a voter registration effort and has presented an idea for a "Verde Valley Voter Registration Week", which would involve all Verde Valley communities to get out the vote this election year. The Board agreed that the week of September 19-25 would be ideal, before the last day to register on October 4. It is also "Constitution Week" and this would make it an ideal opportunity to possibly partner with DAR. Registration sites would be established in Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Sedona, Clarkdale (Yavapai College), and possibly VOC.

I hope that some of you would be willing to help work on either of these events.

-- *Fran Levengood*

### *Report from Annual Meeting*

We held our annual meeting on Saturday, May 1, at Manzanita Restaurant. We presented the Minutes from last year's meeting to the membership for approval. We also presented the annual Overview Report of the League's meetings, events, activities and publications. We received various reports: Voter Services, Membership, Treasurer's and the Report from the State League which was given by our liaison, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer. We then adopted our budget and a program for 2010. Program issues for the upcoming year will be land use questions such as the Cottonwood annexation, the Red Rock National Scenic Area, State Lands annexation, State Parks, and community planning. We will stress the need for public participation in all of these areas. We were advised by Robyn that our League also should be prepared to follow the issue of immigration. The LWVUS already has a policy on immigration and we will review that. **New Flash – LWVAZ has officially voted to oppose SB1070.** Many thanks to League member Linda Yee for her update on the Sunrise Adult Care Center in

Sedona and a fascinating talk about the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The talk was largely based on her own family's experiences.

### ***Planning Underway for 2010-2011 League Activities***

Also at the annual meeting, Judy Miller, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Ellie Bauer, and Kathy Heidepriem were elected for two-year terms on the Board of Directors. They join continuing members Fran Levengood, Liz Danbury, Donna Pratt, and Pat George. The board met on May 5<sup>th</sup> to begin work on our new two-year plan. Discussion included a presentation by Evie Rowland on Constitution Week/Voter Registration in the fall; Mary Gassaway's explanation of the Voter Service Committee's plans for the fall candidate forums; and how we might proceed with our expansive program on land use and community planning. Health care, immigration, clean elections, and water resources are other high interest issues for which the League has policy positions that may merit local educational forums or advocacy. We will also be scheduling general membership meetings and the annual anniversary luncheon. Dates and details will be available on the calendar page of our League's website at [www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org) as they get worked out.

Remember to plan to attend the candidate forums, help with voter registration if you can, and don't forget to vote! Also, keep up with current land use and community planning activities in your region, and familiarize yourself with the progress and language of the federal legislation concerning the National Scenic Area. Contact any board member to share your views and let them know if you would like to be involved as our program develops.

Regular meetings of the board will resume in the fall and are tentatively scheduled for the third Thursday each month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Oak Creek Valley clubhouse. (That would be September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and November 18<sup>th</sup>.) All members and prospective members are welcome to attend board meetings. Contact Judy Miller to confirm the date/time and to get directions to the clubhouse.

### ***Voter Service***

The Voter Service Committee plans to hold forums for the State Representative District 1 candidates and for U.S. Congressional District 1 candidates. Arrangements will need to be made for the candidates to appear in the Verde Valley, preferably on a Saturday in late July or early August. The four candidates for the State legislature are Lindsay Bell (D), Andy Tobin (R-incumbent), Karen Fann (R), and Noel Campbell (R). There are 9 Republicans running for incumbent Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick's seat in Congress. The Voter Service Committee will be working on these forums during the summer and there will be a call for forum volunteers when arrangements are final. It is likely that there will be a forum on ballot propositions as well.

The State League normally produces a pro and con guide to propositions that will appear on the November ballot. There are currently 10 ballot measures in the mix, several of which will be of high interest to voters. We will need volunteers to help deliver copies of the guide throughout the Verde Valley as soon as they are available in the fall.

### ***Voter Registration Week***

September 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> is Constitution Week, and our League is planning to make it Voter Registration Week in the Verde Valley as well. Evie Rowland is looking for League members from all of our communities to help at voter registration tables. It looks like we will try to set up tables in Sedona, The Village, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and possibly other Verde Valley locations. Please call Evie Rowland at 282-0039 if you are willing to help with this important endeavor. There will be a meeting and training session beforehand.

## **Member Information**

The new League year begins in July, so members will be receiving a dues reminder in the mail soon. Annual dues are \$45 for an individual and \$65 for a family membership. Checks should be sent to LWV of Sedona-Verde Valley, PO Box 966, Sedona, 86339. This is a good time to include a donation to our League, if you are able. We know that the national League is sending out solicitations for membership and donations as well; if you could participate through the local League, it would be greatly appreciated. We're working with a tight budget and also like to be in touch with our members. Thank you.

## **Report from LWV Arizona Council Meeting**

League members from around Arizona met on May 22 for the bi-annual LWVAZ Council meeting. In addition to the adoption of the budget for 2010-2011 and election of new board members, we had workshops in membership involvement and judicial independence. We also had a presentation from former Arizona representative Jennifer Burns on the O'Connor House Project. This project has written a report on suggested governmental reforms for the State of Arizona. Copy this link into your web browser to read an excellent article about the project: <http://www.oconnorhouse.org/pdf/0908-az-attorney-oconnor.pdf>. The most significant decision made at the board meeting following the council meeting was the approval of a motion to officially oppose SB1070. The motion was approved based on our recently completed LWVUS study on immigration reform. In addition, LWVAZ will be joining a coalition in opposition to this measure and submitting an amicus (friend of the court) brief to the court stating our opposition to this law. We are getting strong support from our national organization on this issue.

## **National League (LWVUS)**

Local leagues are assembled at the National Convention in Atlanta as this newsletter is being prepared; we'll provide the news of new officers, program items, policy positions, etc. next time. Meanwhile, several issues on the front burner impact League priorities at all levels.

## **Campaign Finance Reform - LWVUS Call to Action**

Earlier this year the Supreme Court handed down a far-reaching decision allowing corporations and unions to spend unlimited advertising funds in candidate elections. Making matters worse, Citizens United v. FEC allows this unlimited spending to be done in secret!

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. The League has taken up this cause, and now we're asking our supporters to join us in the fight.

Legislation to require disclosure of corporate and union electioneering, known as "The DISCLOSE Act, has been introduced in the House and Senate, and the League of Women Voters is strongly supporting these bills (H.R.5175 and .3295). Our elected officials must protect the rights of voters. Congress must pass a fair and balanced bill before the 2010 elections to ensure these rights. Your voice matters: Encourage your Senators and Representative to support campaign finance reform today.

**Here are 5 reasons you should add your voice to this debate:**

### **Secret money has no place in American democracy.**

Corporations and unions should not be allowed to spend money in elections without full disclosure to the American public. The role of the voter -- not the corporation or organization -- in determining elections must be protected.

### **Corporations and unions should have to stand by their ads.**

When huge sums are spent to urge voters to take a certain action through advertisements, it should be clear who footed the bill. The "stand by your ad" system in elections works for candidates -- we need it in place for corporate America too.

### **Federal bailout money should stay out of electioneering.**

Companies that receive federal bailouts should not be able to spend money in elections. This is a clear conflict of interest that is even more damaging without full disclosure.

### **Coordinated spending should be open spending.**

When a candidate, corporation or union get together to encourage voters to support or oppose a candidate, it should be clear who paid for any advertising or media.

### **Foreign corporations should never have a hand in American elections.**

As it currently stands, *Citizens United* allows foreign corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money, secretly, on campaign advertising to influence the outcome of elections. A company controlled from outside the United States should not spend huge sums to support or oppose candidates

### **Immigration Reform, LWVUS Position on Immigration and LWVAZ position on SB1070**

League members and other members of the public have been asking about the League of Women Voters' stance on illegal immigration and law enforcement – prompted by the recent enactment of legislation in Arizona. The League of Women Voters of Arizona is opposing SB1070. The LWVUS, based on a two-year process of consensus, developed the following statement which was ratified by local leagues at the national convention in 2008. This policy is directed towards any proposed federal immigration reform legislation, but it also can be studied in relation to recent happenings in our state. Please read it. The text of the Arizona bill (SB 1070 as amended by HB 2162 and signed by the governor) can be read on the Arizona Legislature's website [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov).

### **LWVUS Position on Immigration**

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

**Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.** The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

**Administration and Enforcement** The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

**Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.** In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

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***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, 2010-2011**

Francine Levensgood, VOC

Pat George, Camp Verde

Liz Danbury, Sedona

Judy Miller, Cornville

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale

Donna Pratt, Sedona

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Clarkdale

Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona

Off-Board:

Mary Gasaway, Voter Service

Evie Rowland, Voter Reg.