



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
GREATER VERDE VALLEY

The VoteR

League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

www.lwvverdevalley.com

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

June 2013

LWVGCV UPDATE

LWVAZ CONVENTION REPORT

TIME TO PAY LEAGUE DUES!



Ellie Bauer

President's Message:

Hello League members and friends –

The warmth of summer is with us, do keep enough fluids in your body – DRINK LOTS.

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer and I attended the LWVAZ Convention in Tucson. It was good, filled with interesting information (well-presented) and interesting individuals. The program was jam-packed. One of the most interesting bits was the research report from this convention's Membership Project. It is based on two questions.

Question 1: Why did you join the League of Women Voters?

Responses: To have intelligent conversation which was lacking in my area. (I was invited to a unit meeting –joined there)

Because I agree with League tenets and feel I must support it.

I joined the League to get some moral support....the politics in Arizona seemed all but impossible. I found lovely, intelligent women who had some ideas about what AZ politics could use.

Meet new people in my new community. Find out about the issues in within my new community.

It's a family thing.

LWV membership is good for my brains.

Responses to this question will be continued in next Voter issue.

Question 2: Do you have any suggestions for the LWV? (attendees requested to respond)

- Print out and carry and hand-out the "join us" cards on website (lwwv.us). A "committee" effort to get these printed for local League members would probably get this done....
- Develop teams to work together on League activities.
- Go to gatherings and ask.
- Keep membership open to all.
- Wear a League pin to everything.
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again.
- Parade involvement (marching with signs at historical accomplishments), Visibility: speakers' bureau, letters to the Editor re: local issue with League position when possible.
- More specific mentorship program so that people can learn more of each of the jobs. We do not have enough people who know different jobs.
- Have voter registration tables at soccer games and /or outside sports events
- Send letter to recent retired teachers asking to join.
-Need to target greater population in grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores.
- Send invitations to other clubs in the area to join us at our general meeting.
- Make social time rather than all events being speakers and work.
- More public information about League. More educational forums. More League forums.
- Emphasize projects –engage members into project teams based on interests.

To be continued in next Voter issue.

Annual Meeting:

League members enjoyed a pleasant morning at the Olde Sedona Bar and Grill for the annual business meeting on May 11th. The main jobs that we had at the meeting were to elect board members, adopt a budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and adopt program issues for the upcoming year. Our speaker was Sandra Goodwin, a member of the Central Yavapai League and the State League's Director

for Impartial Courts. She provided a thorough explanation about how Arizona's Merit Selection and Retention of Judges works and why it is so important for citizens (and especially League members!) to know about and support this system.

Elected to the board for 2013-2015 were Donna Pratt, Liz Danbury, and Ruth Kiessel – all of whom were incumbents – and new board member Kathy Davis. (Our Board Secretary, Marian Sjostrom, was subsequently appointed to continue on the board for another year.) Also continuing on the board are Ellie Bauer and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer. Many thanks to all of you for stepping up. And thanks also are due to Judy Miller, who retired from the board this year in order to do some traveling and to longtime board member Rita Livingston, who chose not to run for another term.

Members agreed to pursue an ambitious program that will likely take two years to accomplish. The League of Women Voters Greater Valley will be taking the lead in an LWVAZ State and Local Finance Study of revenue sources and allocation of those revenues. There are longstanding national level League Principles about appropriate ways to finance government, but by conducting a study specific to Arizona we will have a chance to develop positions on taxation and spending that can be used when looking at state legislation in this combustible area. During the time of the study, we expect to provide community forums on state and local finance issues. So there should be lots of work and lots of opportunity to learn for all members who would like to become involved.

Member Information

LWVSVV membership dues should be paid by June 30. At the bottom of this newsletter is a renewal form. PLEASE complete the form and send your dues in today! THANK YOU!!

LWVGWV Board Meetings to Resume in the Fall: The next meeting of the LWVGWV Board will take place on Thursday, September 19th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Yavapai County Complex in Cottonwood, 10 South 6th St. (second floor), near the corner of 6th and Mingus Ave. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Call Ellie Bauer for information and directions.

A Word About 501 (c)4 Tax-Exempt Organizations

The LWVUS, most State Leagues, and many local leagues are organized as 501(c)4 organizations. During the past year, the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley sought and obtained this designation. Just in case members might be uneasy or wondering about all this, LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara has sent out the following comments about how the situation may affect the League:

"This past week, we can't pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without seeing the word 'scandal'. The most prominent this week has been the alleged 'scandal' at the IRS involving determinations of tax-exempt status for conservative groups. It seems everyone is jumping on the bandwagon and proclaiming or conceding that IRS employees committed some degree of wrongdoing.

"As the facts continue to emerge, the LWVUS is resisting the temptation to offer an opinion or propose a solution. The situation at the IRS concerning tax exemptions for groups engaging in electioneering has serious implications both for the League as a 501c4 organization and for the ongoing battle to control campaign spending. It remains to be seen whether the swift condemnation of these workers by politicians on both sides of the aisle will render the IRS helpless to enforce its legitimate rules or to promulgate rules that more clearly define what it means to be a social welfare organization.

"This is a situation that we are watching closely. In the best tradition of the League, when we have the facts, we will be in the best position to act, if action is required. In the meantime, we will all stay tuned!"

(If you want to look at an interesting diagram of the "tangled web of campaign finance" which displays the different forms that registered political and social welfare organizations take, visit the following page on the Sunlight Foundation's website:

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/feature/why-does-the-irs-regulate-political-groups-a-look-at-the-complex-world-of-campaign-finance/>)

Reminder: All League members are eligible to receive via e-mail the weekly LWVUS "Leaders' Update." It is a timely, newsy, and short message that provides announcements and opportunities meant only for League members, and also updates on important news and events. League board members receive this automatically, but any League member can subscribe to it by sending an email to database@lwv.org. If you have any problems getting signed up, call Kathy Heidepriem or Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer and we should be able to get it done.

Note: If you have a problem reading or downloading this newsletter, please contact Kathy Heidepriem (204-1480). It can also be accessed on our website at www.lwverdevalley.com. If all else fails, call Donna Pratt for a copy by mail.

First Exclusive Web and TV-Only Candidate Forum: What do you Think?

The candidate forum for the Cottonwood City Council runoff election was conducted at Yavapai Broadcasting on May 2nd. If you accessed it via TV or online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgSu-GCvBv0&feature=youtu.be>, why don't you let us know your thoughts on the use of tv/web broadcasts as opposed to the usual live, in-person public candidate forums? Do we need just one or the other, do we need both sometimes....or...neither?? Don't answer until you see how

the Cottonwood broadcast turned out. It was a professional job and very informative. Kudos to Liz Danbury, Mary Gassaway, Ellie Bauer and the folks at Verde TV for making this experiment a success. (The runoff was between two incumbents – Linda Norman and Tim Elinski. Tim Elinski won.) Now that we have all the results from the spring elections, we will be updating our electronic Political Directory on the website shortly.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

LWVAZ Convention 2013 was great fun! We had several good speakers that spoke about a variety of issues: Secretary of State Ken Bennett gave a practical presentation on the responsibilities of the election process and voting – most of the responsibilities reside at the county level – county recorder and elections departments! Former State Senator Paula Aboud spoke about her latest cause. US Congressman Ron Barber gave us his insight into being a congress member. Our dinner speaker was Univ of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart. Her topic was “Go West Young Woman OR Hard Hat Required: Breaking the Glass Ceiling, A Career in Higher Education.” She is a wonderful spokesperson for the University! Our final guest was David (Fitz) Fitzsimmons, Editorial Cartoonist, The Arizona Daily Star. Always insightful about politics in Arizona! Our local League president, Ellie Bauer, was also a topic for his cartoon – See the wonderful picture of her at convention!

Also we adopted the following program for 2013-2015:

State and Local Finance Study

Scope: A study of state and local revenues sources and the allocation of revenues, using the League of Women Voters principles:

- that government must maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation
- that efficient and economical government requires... adequate financing

Arizona Legislature’s Strike-all Procedure

Write a white paper on the use of “strike-all” bills by the Arizona Legislature and the alternatives, for concerted action by League of Women Voters of Arizona.

End of Life Choices

Develop a white paper on end of life choice and related legislation as it relates to the League of Women Voters’ Health Care position.

And lastly LWVGVV and LWV Central Yavapai County will be hosting the 2015 LWVAZ Convention.

In June, I will be off to the LWVUS Council meeting in Washington DC. This is a training event for League leaders around the United States.

League of Women Voters of the United States

By just looking at the news you can tell that there are many hot issues threatening good government and a healthy democracy – almost boiling over at times it seems. These are the times when the League of Women Voters is most needed and can have a positive impact. LWVUS is telling us that “Voters crave authentic solutions and want nonpartisan, factual information from a trustworthy source...THE LEAGUE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!”

To help meet these needs, the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program is working hard to strengthen our organization by growing its membership and making sure that the leadership is there to train and mentor both new and current members. The program is active in 41 states and in D.C.; the goal is to be in all 50 states by 2013; the hope is that ALL leagues will strive for the reputation and impact that the League of Women Voters has earned over the past 90+ years. Look for your chance to make a difference in Arizona when the MLD comes calling on you.

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2012-2013
Date	Event
June-September Summer Hiatus	Board meetings and League activities will resume in the fall. Contact Ellie Bauer if there are issues or events that you would like to know about.
September 19 th , Thursday, 2:00 p.m.	Meeting of LWVGVV Board of Directors Yavapai County Complex, 10 South Sixth Street, Cottonwood
November	By mail only Sedona budget increase override election

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.



Ellie Bauer – LWVAZ Convention 2013

Board Members 2013-2014

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
President

Donna Pratt, Sedona
Membership

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Marian Sjostrom, Sedona
Secretary

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

Kathy Davis, Camp Verde

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood



League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

YES, I want to continue my membership in the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley!

- Individual Membership \$ 50.00
- Supporting membership \$ 60.00
- Household Membership (2 or more) \$ 70.00
- Contributing Membership \$ 85.00
- Sustaining Membership \$ 100.00

Special Fund:

Dorothy Hores Memorial Fund/ LWVAZ Education Fund \$_____

(Membership categories above \$70 are tax-deductible if the check is made out to: LWVAZ Education Fund.)

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (day/eve) _____ Email: _____

Fill this page out, and mail it with your check to: **League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley, POB 966, Sedona, AZ 86339**

EMAIL: lwsvv@yahoo.com WEBSITE: www.lwvverdevalley.com

When you become a member of the local League, you also become a member of LWV Arizona and LWV of the United States. Membership is open to all women and men. **Join the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley NOW!**