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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  
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P.O. Box 966  
Sedona, AZ 86339

[April 2015](#)

The State League Convention is coming to Clarkdale in May! Join us and meet fellow League members from around the State!

[Support the League by ARIZONA GIVES DAY – APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>](#)


Support our Education Fund by participating in Arizona Gives Day. Just go to <https://azgives.givebig.org> and enter League of Women Voters as the group you want to donate to. The Ed Fund is our 501c3 organization, so the donations are tax deductible. You get to choose how much to donate! Tell your friends about it too.

[President's Message:](#)

Thanks to all for making our Anniversary Bash in Sedona a smashing success. Spread my gratitude to those who

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attended and had the pleasure of visiting, brunching and simply enjoying intelligent discussion amongst intelligent and thoughtful women and men. Special thanks to Barbara Litrell, who organized the raffle; the items were outstanding and your presence was SO good! We have had good feedback from those in attendance and picked up two new members.

Time marches on. As do we - in body or in spirit. Eleanor Roosevelt noted: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

The future is ours - to shape, to give form and substance. The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley is a splendid organization. We are undertaking hosting the 2015 LWVAZ Convention - May 16 and 17 at Yavapai College Clarkdale Campus. The Central Yavapai County League has arranged some wonderful meals for us prepared by Lynn's Casual Kitchen. The agenda is strong and exciting with many opportunities to learn, to share and to think about life, the League, and the world as it is today. There will be a pre-convention evening event on Friday, May 15, at the Copper Arts Museum in Clarkdale, with a special meal and activities. The weekend will be packed with important speakers and workshops, and a banquet on Saturday night. This sketch is just to entice you. ALL OF US will be needed to help, so plan on being there. Information on how to sign up will be out soon.

Our own league will hold its annual meeting (with brunch and speaker) on Saturday, May 30, probably at Jerona Café in Cottonwood. There we will take care of league matters such as electing new officers and program planning. See you there.

The next event is coming up soon, on April 15<sup>th</sup> -- a lunchtime talk and discussion about Federal Lands in the Verde Valley. We're co-sponsoring with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Yavapai College/Sedona Center. Free and open to the public. Come and enjoy.

See you soon.

Springtime,  
Verde Valley

**VOTE411.ORG**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



Ellie Votes!  
Be Like Ellie!



Ellie Bauer, President  
League of Women Voters  
Greater Verde Valley

[Join us for Lunch and a Discussion of  
Federal Lands in the Verde Valley](#)

On Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley is partnering with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Lunch 'n' Learn program to find out more about the federal lands in our region. We will have Forest Service officials describe how those lands are managed, how they affect adjacent properties and communities, how they are affected by economic development, issues involving the forest/urban and forest/agricultural interface, and whatever else those in attendance are interested in discussing.

The meeting will take place in Room 34 of Yavapai College's Sedona Center, located on Cultural Park Place – across SR 89A from Sedona Red Rock High School. Plan to arrive around 12:30 pm and bring lunch if you like; drinks and light snacks will be available. The talks and conversation will take place between 1:00 and 2:00.

This is a casual opportunity to learn more about an important topic for all residents of our area. Please join us. Everyone is invited!

[Call to Convention](#)

**LWV Arizona invites local League Delegates,  
League members and Guests  
to attend the**

**LWVAZ CONVENTION MAY 16-17, 2015**

**YAVAPAI COLLEGE, VERDE VALLEY CAMPUS**

In addition to conducting the business of the organization, we have some exciting workshops:

**LWVGWV  
CALENDAR  
2015**

**April 15**

Lunch 'n' Learn About  
Federal Lands in the  
Verde Valley  
Sedona Campus of  
Yavapai College  
12:30-2:00pm

**May 11-15**

Mental Health Awareness  
Week  
Speakers, Films, Workshops  
Sponsored by Verde Valley  
Mental Health Coalition

**May 16-17**

League of Women Voters  
State League Convention  
Verde Campus, Yavapai  
College

**May 30**

LWVGWV Annual Meeting  
Brunch, Speaker, Elections  
10:00 am - Noon

**Red Rock Ranger  
District  
Coconino National  
Forest**



- \* Membership Outreach
- \* Voter Outreach
- \* Restoring the American Dream  
(Campaign Finance Reform)
- \* League program and League Programs

And some exciting speakers - Arizona Supreme Court Justice Pelander, Yavapai College President Penny Wills, Clarkdale Mayor Doug VonGausig, LWVUS Board member Chris Carson, and Jana Bommersbach, one of Arizona's most acclaimed and respected journalist - **WILD,WILD,WILD ARIZONA** at the Saturday night Banquet.

Convention is also an opportunity for delegates and guests to get to know each other and learn about the great programs and activities happening in our Leagues in Arizona. For those coming to Clarkdale a day early (May 15) - we will be having a special pre-convention event in Clarkdale.

So MARK Your Calendar and TELL your local League board that you are interested in attending LWV Arizona Convention. Motel and Convention Registration will be sent out in early April.

**ATTENTION GREATER VERDE VALLEY MEMBERS:**  
**AS A CO-HOST OF THIS CONVENTION, WE NEED**  
**VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND AND TO HELP OUT.**  
**PLEASE CONTACT ROBYN PRUD'HOMME BAUER**  
**OR E-MAIL [LWVGWV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LWVGWV@GMAIL.COM) TO VOLUNTEER.**

Convention Fundraiser: At the convention, we will be raffling off a 1-week vacation at an attractive getaway home in Show Low. Tickets will be \$20.00 each and only 100 will be sold! Property photos can be viewed online at [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com) (property # 458194). (Date of occupancy to be determined between the winner and property owner (**excluding July, August, September 2015**). Drawing will be held on Sunday, May 17, during the LWVAZ 2015 Convention in Clarkdale. Winner need not be present to win. A refundable \$200

## LWVGWV Board Members

### 2014-2015

Ellie Bauer  
 Ruth Kiessel  
 Robyn Prud'homme-  
 Bauer  
 Barbara Litrell



**The League of  
 Women Voters,  
 a nonpartisan  
 political  
 organization,  
 encourages  
 informed and  
 active  
 participation  
 in government,  
 works to  
 increase  
 understanding  
 of major public**

damage deposit will be required prior to occupancy.)

Proceeds to benefit the League of Women Voters of Arizona Education Fund (a 501(c)3 non-profit).

### Member Information

1. We are happy to welcome three new members to our League: Jennifer Marton of Sedona and John and Isabel Erickson of Clarkdale. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and events!

2. If you have trouble reading, downloading, or printing this online Voter, a pdf copy is available on our website at [www.lwvverdevalley.com](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com). If you need to have a pdf version mailed or e-mailed to you as an attachment, please contact Kathy Heidepriem.

### League Celebrates 95 Years of Making Democracy Work

Yavapai County Supervisors Chip Davis and Tom Thurman, and Coconino County Supervisor Matt Ryan, were the featured speakers at our anniversary brunch on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Leagues throughout the country observe this event (the League of Women Voters came into being on February 14<sup>th</sup>, shortly after women gained the right to vote).

Our speakers were asked to talk about current issues in our counties and prospects for the future. Tom Thurman emphasized safety concerns, especially in the areas of roads and highways; economic development; the need for expanded broadband communications; and, overall, a desire for steady growth rather than the “boom and bust” phenomenon we recently experienced.

Chip Davis spoke about the importance of elections and of educated voters; “we need to elect leaders who will take us down the right path.” He talked about last year’s “jail tax” bill that failed – Yavapai County still will need to pay for a new jail somehow. There was an extended

**policy issues,  
and influences  
public policy  
through education  
and advocacy.**



**Supervisor Matt  
Ryan, Robyn  
Prud'homme-Bauer,**

discussion of including mental health needs along with the need to incarcerate.

Matt Ryan had prepared a detailed presentation on the Future of Coconino County, and he also emphasized the limited resources available for funding critical needs. He enumerated those needs as keeping the forests around us healthy; improving roads, infrastructure, and transit; planning for sustainable communities; maintaining parks and open spaces; and promoting a strong economy with jobs and affordable housing. Significant problems include the fire threat, continuing drought, funding of health services, and loss of local control to deal with these problems.

The anniversary luncheon traditionally is the League fundraiser, and we had a successful silent auction, organized by Barbara Litrell. Part of the proceeds were used sponsor local representatives' attendance at a statewide conference on Civic Education in our Schools.

### "Human Trafficking: Taking Action in Arizona"

League member Barbara Litrell organized an excellent forum on the increasingly recognized problem of the sex exploitation of children in Arizona. Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer moderated the event. Speakers were Charles Fitzgerald of the Governor's Human Trafficking Council and State Rep. Victoria Steele, who has a bill (H 2553) moving through the legislature that attempts to help the victims of human trafficking. Both speakers provided extensive information on what is being done and what needs to be done to shine light on this problem and to combat it.

What we can do: View the short movies "Chosen," "Demanding Justice" and "Tricked" when the opportunity occurs in your community. Go to the Council's website [www.endsextrafficking.az.gov](http://www.endsextrafficking.az.gov) for factual information, training materials, and event schedules. Pay attention to the media and call them out when they refer to child victims of trafficking as prostitutes or criminals Support

**Supervisor Tom Thurman, and Supervisor Chip Davis at 2015 League Birthday Brunch.**



**Arizona State House Rep. Victoria Steele Speaks at**

## Human Trafficking Action Forum

legislation such as Rep. Steele's, which is directed toward clearing victims' records so that they will be able to find jobs. Support additional services for these victims, such as shelters, drug rehab, counseling, and job training.

**Note: At its 2014 National Convention, The League of Women Voters of the United States adopted the following policy position on Human Trafficking:**

"The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools."

### A Voters Guide to Understanding District and Charter School Budgets

Joye and John Kohl of the League of Women Voters Northwest Maricopa County have prepared for the LWVAZ a white paper on K-12 education in Arizona. It was published by LWV/NWMC in February of this year and can be viewed and downloaded from [www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org). As the Kohl's explain, "why is understanding school finance so hard? The answer is because school finance is very complicated! The purpose of this publication is to try to simplify school funding, to provide a set of common descriptions as a base for our public understanding and to provide pertinent background information."

Although the report is not a position piece for the LWVAZ, its purpose is to help educate League members

and others who may be interested in the topic.

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