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# The Voter

League of Women Voters  
Greater Verde Valley  
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**JANUARY 2017**

*The Year of Civic Engagement*



Grand Canyon: Just one Reason to Love Arizona  
Happy New Year!

## **President's Message**

Over the past few months I have received more phone calls and met more people who want to do more politically, be more involved, take more action. It seems the 2016 election

has motivated people to seek out more ways to have their voices heard. With that in mind, and consistent with the League of Women Voters mission to encourage political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, The League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley has declared 2017 as "The Year of Civic Engagement." The Board of Directors, with suggestions from members, have developed programs to invite people to learn about issues, talk politics, and take action. Check out the following and mark your calendars to make this YOUR YEAR of Civic Engagement.

- Barbara Litrell

## **New Members**

Thank you and welcome new members! Our league has grown in the past year or so, and we now have EIGHTY members ---- that means we can do more! Please join us for our meetings and events so that we can all know one another.

Katherine and Ken Bork, Sedona  
Babbie Cameron, Sedona  
Cleone Rue and Dale Woods, Sedona  
Saina Dunton, Sedona  
James Gibson, Sedona  
Joella Jean Mahoney, Sedona  
Karen McClelland, Sedona  
Joan Scott, Sedona  
Stephanie and Amy Stearns and Monica Dzipinka,  
Cottonwood  
Frances Julia Riemer, Sedona  
Christine Whitley and Peter Angerbauer, Sedona

## **New Member Gatherings - For Members and Those Interested in Knowing More**

An opportunity for new members to learn about the League and all upcoming programs and discuss the issues that matter most to them. **Our first gathering of 2017 will be Monday, January 9, 5:00-7:00 PM** at Barbara Litrell's, 75 Lolomi Dr, Sedona. Light supper. Please RSVP to 649-



**LWVGVV PRESIDENT**

**Barbara Litrell**

### **Vice President**

**Robyn Prud'homme-  
Bauer  
Clarkdale**

### **Secretary**

**Blair Henry  
Sedona**

### **Treasurer**

**Mary Gassaway  
Clarkdale**

### **Directors**

**Kathy Davis  
Camp Verde**

**Pat Corrington  
Sedona**

**Andrea Houchard  
Sedona**

**Nita Nettleton  
Cottonwood**

**Lynn Zonakis**

0135 or [blitrell@aol.com](mailto:blitrell@aol.com).

Sedona

## **2017 Voter Education Programs**

On the third Monday of every month, 12:30-2:00 PM, we will have a Voter Education Program focused on an issue we all need to and want to learn more about. Our first meeting is on Monday January 16. Save the date, more info coming about topic and location.

## **OLLI Class - "Healing the Heart of Democracy"**

Based on the book of the same name, written by Parker Palmer, we will explore the questions of what does citizenship mean, what does democracy entail, what is the state of our union after a bruising election, what do we mean by "habits of the heart", what kind of community and society do we want to be and what will it take to achieve it, and more... This course is offered as part of the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley commitment to voter education and civic engagement.

The class will meet on Tuesdays, January 24-February 28, 10:45-12:15. Sedona Campus. To register, call OLLI at [928-649-4275](tel:928-649-4275) for the Sedona Campus or [928-649-5550](tel:928-649-5550) for the Verde Campus. OLLI fees apply.

## **New This Year! Regular Monthly "Member Meetings"**

These meetings will provide an opportunity for members to come together and talk politics, community issues, and hear about what's going on with the League of Women Voters nationally, statewide, and locally. Round table discussions on the fourth Thursday each month from 12:30-2:00 PM alternating between Sedona and Cottonwood -- save the date for the first one -- Thursday, January 26th, 8:30-10AM, Sedona. Place to be announced.



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**League Board**

**Third Thursday  
Yavapai County  
Offices, Cottonwood  
2:00-4:00pm**

**January 7th**

**LWVAZ Voters'  
Rights Summit:  
Glendale  
9:00am-4:00pm**

## **Political Book Club**

Our book club meets monthly to discuss a book of interest determined by the group. The next meeting is January 28, 1:00-3:00 PM, at a member's home. The book to be discussed is "Strangers in Their Own Land" by Arlie Russell Hochschild - exploring why people vote against their own best interests. The book is based on the author's 5 years of research in southern Louisiana. Call 649-0135 if you want to read the book and attend.

## **Three Special Luncheons in 2017!**

- *February 15 to celebrate the League's 97th Birthday;*
- *June 3 for our Annual Meeting;*
- *and November 16 for a look at the year just ending and a look ahead at 2018.*

*So be sure to Save These Dates, 11:30AM-1:00 PM.  
Locations to be announced.*

## **Philosophy & Politics**

**Beginning in February**, League members Andrea Houchard, Blair Henry and Angela LeFevre will lead 6 discussions this year about philosophy and politics on subjects including Free Speech, Capitalism and Socialism, Wealth & Inequality, Privacy, Governmental Authority, and the British/US Political Systems.

## **Campaign Boot Camp**

**In May**, League member Kathy Kincaid and her team will lead a campaign boot camp introducing interested community members to the process of running for office.

## **From the League of Women Voters of**

### **January 9th**

**New Member Meeting  
5:00-7:00pm  
Sedona  
Light supper and discussion  
RSVP Barbara  
649-1035**

**January 16th  
(third Monday)  
Voter Education Program  
12:30-2:00pm  
Info to follow**

**January 24th  
6-week OLLI course begins**

**January 26th  
Fourth Thursday  
8:30-10:00am  
Monthly Member Meeting  
Sedona (Location TBD)  
Meetings will rotate between Sedona and Cottonwood**

**January 28th  
1:00-3:00pm  
Political Book Club  
Call Barbara  
649-1035 if you are interested**

## **the United States**

The following was published by Sarah Courtney on November 30th as a League Blog. Most of the headlines are links to "how to's" from the LWVUS website. Try them -- surely at least one of them is something you can do.

### ***10 Ways You Can Help Defend Our Democracy (Follow the Links to Find Out More)***

#### **1. Sign the League of Women Voters' Petition**

"I stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible. I will work with the League to stop voter suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote."

#### **2. Become an e-Activist**

Receive updates from the League and hold your elected officials accountable by taking action on the League's key voting rights and other priorities.

#### **3. Volunteer Your Time**

We are working to make a difference and actively engaging people in more than 700 communities. Sign up to volunteer!

#### **4. Donate to our Defend Democracy Fund**

Your support makes it possible for LWV to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

#### **5. Spread the Word**

Stay engaged every day, and leverage your social media followers to get involved too! Follow the League on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to find out how to make an impact.

#### **6. Attend a Community Meeting**

Learn about local issues and hear from elected officials. You can connect and organize with people already active in your community. Check your local government's website or [contact your local League.](#)

#### **7. Register to Vote, and help others Register**

### **February**

**"Philosophy and Politics"  
Discussion series  
Begins**

### **February 15th**

**League Anniversary  
Luncheon**

### **May**

**"Campaign Boot  
Camp" - Running  
for Office  
Led by Kathy  
Kincaid  
Info to Follow**

### **June 3rd**

**LWGVV Annual  
Meeting, Elections  
Details to Follow**

### **November 16th**

**11:30am-1:00pm  
Review of 2017  
Looking ahead to  
2018**

Make sure your family and neighbors are up to date on their registration. The League works year-round at schools and community events to prepare eligible voters. Check out [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for more information.

**8. Contact your Representatives**

Elected officials work for the people and need to hear from concerned citizens like you.

**9. Run for Office!!**

You can directly contribute to the direction of local politics in your own back yard. From school board to the state house, there are many opportunities to run for office and make a difference.

**10. Write a Letter to the Editor**

Newspapers print concerns from readers and love to hear about local concerns. Tailor the issue for your community and support local newspapers when possible.

***More to come on all of the above --but we're looking forward to an interesting and engaging year.***

Note: If you have problems reading this newsletter, or if your email version is incomplete, you may access it via our website, [www.lwvverdevalley.com](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com). If you need to have a copy mailed to you, please contact Kathy Heidepriem at [wm@lwvverdevalley.com](mailto:wm@lwvverdevalley.com).

***Mission Statement:***

***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.***



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