



The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

March 2011

President's Letter

Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis and County Administrator Julie Ayers honored our February 14th birthday luncheon with a comprehensive talk on redistricting. As this is a very important topic for our area, we hope to do another event after we receive the final census numbers. The luncheon itself was great as we have come to expect. Rosalie's did a splendid job.

The "Wine O'Clock" event held at Alcora & MIC e-go Gallery in Clarkdale on March 9th was equally uplifting. There, we had a chance to get together, share some wine, cheese and other goodies and discuss the recent elections in Cottonwood and Camp Verde, along with various other topics. In addition to our members, recently elected Camp Verde councilman, Alan Buchanan, and Cottonwood council candidate, Terry Pratt, were also in attendance. Their attendance at the event was greatly appreciated.

Our April program will be "Regionalism in Action", held at Yavapai College on Friday, April 29th, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. We will be serving a buffet luncheon and among the speakers will be Chip Davis. The other speakers will be announced at a later time. We hope to see you there.

Fran Levensgood

Voter Service – League Primary Forum Successes!

Our local primary election season ended on a very good note for the League. The two municipalities with council seats up for election, Cottonwood and Camp Verde, both asked the League for help putting on candidate forums.

In Cottonwood there were seven candidates running for three seats on the Council and the Mayor running unopposed for reelection. The forum was held in the new Cottonwood Recreation Center; the live audience was small but involved and interested and the event was videotaped for on-demand viewing on Cable One, the Cottonwood cable TV station.

There were four candidates running for three Council seats in Camp Verde along with the Mayor and one challenger for his seat. There was a standing room only crowd for the forum as well as a representative from local cable Channel 18 videotaping the event for broadcast a few days later.

Both forums were well received and the candidates in both cities were unusually polite, civil, friendly and responsive to the audience questions. It was refreshing and comfortable for our Voter Service crews. I want to thank my hard working, loyal Voter Service workers, Liz Danbury, Fran Levensgood, Ellie Bauer, and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer for their experience and help.

At this time it looks as if there will be runoff elections on May 17th in both Cottonwood and Camp Verde for two of the three Council seats in each city. I expect that the League will again be asked to put together candidate forums for live audiences as well as for taping and on-demand broadcasting.

Mary Gassaway, Voter Service Chair

[League of Women Voters Plans April Forum on Regionalism](#)

The League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley will hold a public forum, including a buffet luncheon, on Friday, April 29, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Yavapai College Verde Valley Campus, 601 Black Hills Drive, Building M, Room 137, in Clarkdale. Title of the forum is *"DOING Regionalism in the Verde Valley"*.

The League has a long-standing position in support of *"making connections by modeling leadership, working with others, bridging barriers and using regional approaches"* (April 1999). However, "talking" about regionalism is one thing and "doing" it is quite another. With that in mind, the League has decided to examine examples of regionalism in the Verde Valley in a public forum.

The idea is to review what's been done and not done; how it's worked and hasn't worked. Often well-meaning efforts to bring like interests together just don't work out. Sometimes government officials initiate actions without planning for neighbor reactions. Sometimes projects just click and become real success stories. Other times, opposition can come from close by or from far-away places. Often, groups don't even think of joining forces with others.

The forum will feature speakers who will talk about regionalism in general and bring broad perspectives. Panelists will then share experiences about local activities relating to history, land use, economy, the arts; education, government, land use, growth and environment. Attendees will be treated to an array of information and

glean ideas on how best to work cooperatively with others. The full agenda will soon be announced.

Cost of the forum, including lunch, will be \$30. A gift raffle will benefit the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Pre-registration is required no later than April 20, 2011. To register, send payment to the League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley, P.O. Box 966, Sedona, AZ 86336. For information, contact Ruth Kiessel.

HELP NEEDED FOR REGIONALISM FORUM:

The planning team for the "DOING Regionalism" Public Forum is itself truly regional! Team members are Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale; Linda Buchanan, Camp Verde; Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood; Barbara Litrell, Sedona; and Judy Miller, Cornville. League Treasurer Liz Danbury, Sedona, will handle financial and fundraiser aspects.

Planning is well underway for the public forum that will be held April 29 at Yavapai College Verde Valley Campus; but more helpers will be needed! Please contact forum coordinator Judy Miller, if you would like to help prepare registration packets; staff the registration desk; bring morning refreshments or manage audio-visual needs. Contact Liz Danbury to offer item(s) for the gift raffle. By working together, our forum will be a success!

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 14TH – FOR LWVSVV ANNUAL MEETING

The League's **Annual Meeting** will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14th, at the Olde Sedona Bar and Grill in Sedona. It will include a buffet breakfast. Honored guest speakers will be **State Senator Steve Pierce** and **State Representative Karen Fann**, who will discuss the State Legislative session. The Board has agreed to propose to the membership a three-part program of work for the coming year: The program will emphasize (1) County and Congressional Redistricting; (2) Voter Services for Election Year 2012; and (3) Continued Support for Regionalism and Citizen Involvement. In addition to program approval, the membership will be electing new officers and approving next year's budget. The formal Call to Meeting will be issued in April and we urge all members to attend.

League Members Asked to Respond to Yavapai County Redistricting Survey

The presentation on redistricting that we enjoyed at our anniversary luncheon was a part of an ongoing outreach by county officials that began in February and continues through the end of March. They are asking Yavapai County residents to complete a survey about their preferences as to how the new district lines should be drawn. The survey can be accessed and downloaded from the County website at www.co.yavapai.az.gov. The document includes a map of the current alignment of districts. The survey may be completed and submitted online or printed out and mailed to 1015 Fair Street, # 310, Prescott, AZ 86305 (ATTN. Redistricting). DO IT NOW as the comment period ends on March 30th. During April and May, County

Staff will develop three to five alternate redistricting plans, which will be presented to the public at Open Houses in June and July.

Note: For those members who live in Coconino County, we already have five districts so do not need to deal with this. But U.S. Congressional Districts in Arizona will also be redrawn during the next year and that will affect us all. Stay tuned.



LWVSVV State Representative Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer and Supervisor Davis Explain Redistricting Issues in Arizona

[A "Gem of Wisdom" from League Founder, Carrie Chapman Catt](#)

The Sedona-Verde Valley League of Women Voters participated in the Sedona celebration of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day on March 8th. International Women's Day honors women's accomplishments and recognizes the struggles they have endured to achieve them. Individuals and groups were invited to share "gems of wisdom" to be placed on a Centennial Collection Board which will be displayed for the remainder of Women's History Month. We chose a quote from League Founder Carrie Chapman Catt:

"Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

As a result of the struggles of Carrie Chapman Catt and her colleagues, women in the United States won the right to vote through the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920. NOT coincidentally, the League of Women Voters was founded the same year.

[Membership Information](#)

We are happy to welcome back Cottonwood Mayor Diane Joens as a member of the League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley. She took the time out of her busy schedule to attend the birthday luncheon in February and to sign up as a member. We hope to see her at many future League events.

The State League has a new website: www.lwvnet.org/az/state.

U.S Congressional District 1 Representative Paul Gosar has established an office in Flagstaff: 1515 East Cedar Avenue, #6, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. By telephone, it's 928-214-6055; fax him at 928-214-6124; e-mail him via his website at www.gosar.house.gov.

CALL TO ACTION: FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

League Urges House to Oppose Legislation to Strip EPA Authority:

The House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation that would permanently block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating harmful carbon pollution. We are being asked to contact Representative Paul Gosar and ask him to protect our clean air by opposing H.R. 910 and any other legislation that would undermine EPA's responsibility under the Clean Air Act to clean up the air and limit health-threatening pollution.

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 CALENDAR	2010-2011
Date	Event
April 21 st , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
April 29 th , Friday, morning/afternoon	Spring Educational Forum on Regionalism Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May 14 th , Saturday, 9:00-11:30 p.m. State Legislators Karen Fann and Steve Pierce will be our speakers	LWVSVV Annual Meeting and Elections Buffet Breakfast Olde Sedona Bar and Grill, 1405 W. 89A Sedona, AZ \$15.00 per person, meeting and meal
May 17 th , Tuesday	General Elections, Camp Verde and Cottonwood, if necessary
May 19 th , Thursday	Community Conversation on the Economy of the Verde River Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May 21-22, Saturday-Sunday	LWVAZ Convention Windmill Suites, Surprise, AZ

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