



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
GREATER VERDE VALLEY

The VoteR

League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

March 2013



Long-Time Members Honored at 93rd Anniversary Brunch

The February 14th Valentine's Day League Anniversary gathering was in honor of our 28 current local league members who have been with us for 10, 15, 20, and 25 Years! Thirteen of them were able to be present and are pictured above: Donna

Pratt (20 years); Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer (15 years); Ruth Kiessel (10 years); Richard Kiessel (10 years); Ellie Bauer (10 years); Jan Oswald, (15 years); Mary Flaisig (15 years); Doris West (**25 years!!!**); Marian Sjostrom (15 years); Evie Rowland (15 years); Chip Davis (15 years); Judy Miller (15 years); and Barbara Littrell (10 years). They are accompanied in the photo by League of Women Voters of Arizona President Barbara Klein, who attended the event and gave a short presentation.

Honorees unable to be present were Amelia Jaskulski (20 years); Barbara Saul (20 years); Lelia and Harry Schoenberger (20 years); Harriette Burkhalter (15 years); Dick and Jo Ellis (15 years); Louis Getoff (15 years); Rita Livingston (15 years); Henri Prud'homme (15 years); Bill Rowland (15 years); Betty Troupe (15 years); Harvey and Julie Grady (10 years); and Charlotte Kling (10 years.) We appreciate all of these League members whose support has passed the test of time!

The other highlight of the morning was our guest speaker, Laura Vandergrift, who told us all about the history of winemaking in Arizona, and especially about the great treasure that it has become to our own Verde Valley. As owner-operator of Sedona Wine Tours, Laura has acquired vast knowledge of this new local industry and how it has become a magnet for tourism and provided a boost to our economy. She shared all of that and more – and also brought along a bottle of wine to raffle off – the winner was Kathy Davis!

LWVAZ President Barbara Klein left us with a favorite quote from Carrie Chapman Catt, who was a leader in the women's suffrage movement and the founder of the League of Women Voters:

"To the WRONGS that need resistance,
To the RIGHTS that need assistance,
To the FUTURE in the distance,
GIVE YOURSELVES."

It was a morning well spent.

Some Thoughts on February Candidate Forums

The forums went well in general, with fairly good turnouts and good audience participation.

At the Cottonwood forum, three of the five candidates were in attendance: Karen Pfeifer, Randall Garrison and Darold Smith. There were some good questions and pretty good answers from the candidates. There were about 20-25 people in attendance -- only 5 or 6 League members. Not bad at all for a cold, snowy day.

The Camp Verde event was actually two forums in one. The first, for the two mayoral candidates, went well and had a decent turnout (probably 25 voters, but some were almost certainly campaign workers). It showed a real difference in style between Bob Burnside (current mayor) and Charles German (challenger) even though the answers were very similar in content. The second was meant to introduce the new person to be on the council - there are only four candidates for

the four seats - but only two showed up. Robin Whatley (incumbent) and Bradford Gordon (new to both Camp Verde and the council) answered a few questions for less than 10 voters who stayed for this forum. Incumbent appointed council member Jessie Jones (in her first election) had a conflict and Jackie Baker never responded to her invitation.

Liz Danbury did a terrific job both nights and deserves credit for being friendly and helpful to the candidates and the audiences. Mary Chicoine and Kathy Davis helped with question sorting; Richard Kiessel timed at Camp Verde and Mary Gassaway timed at Cottonwood. League helpers included Ruth Kiessel, Janet Kissinger, and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer.

Both forums are available online at www.verdevalleytv.com/features.html and on demand at cable channel 2 on Suddenlink and Cable One systems. As usual Ryan Nichols of Yavapai Broadcasting's Verde Valley Television did a great job of covering our attempts to educate the voters.

Thanks to all League members who helped plan, publicize, and carry out these forums. We also appreciate the cooperation and the dedication of the candidates who did appear; without them, the League would not be able to offer these nonpartisan, unbiased settings where the public can see the candidates in person and question them about topics of interest.

[Verde Valley Agricultural Coalition, Regional Food Hub to be Subject of LWVGCV Spring Educational Program – April 4](#)

League Member Mary Chicoine is currently chairing the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO), and is putting together along with Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, a League program as part of an effort to educate the public about the Verde Valley Agricultural Coalition (VVAgC) and about the "Food Hub" Concept. The League has selected this topic as part of our educational program this year because the national league is in the process of updating its position on agriculture; we will be looking at some exciting local developments.

The Agricultural Coalition is a project of the VVREO. Its members represent landowners, growers, producers, and educators as well as public sector organizations and nonprofits concerned about retaining and enhancing the Verde's abilities to feed itself with safe, nutritious, locally grown food. (More information may be found at (www.vvreo.com)). A food hub is a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products, primarily from local and regional producers, to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail and institutional demand (from an article in the Verde Independent).

VV AgC and the Food Hub could become new economic drivers for the Verde Valley region, and are important concepts for us all to learn about. They tie together land use/development issues, sustainability, food safety and security, water management, education, and overall quality of life.

The program is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:00 pm of April 4 at the Sedona Public Library, 3250 White Bear Rd, Sedona. Bring a friend and join in this discussion of agriculture in the Verde Valley. For more information, contact Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer.

Member Information

LWVGCV Vice President Judy Miller submitted her resignation to the Board of Directors at its February 21st meeting. Because of her many other commitments and plans to travel for much of the upcoming year, Judy did not feel that she could fulfill her responsibilities on our Board. This is truly a loss for our League, since Judy's contributions have been numerous, significant, and of the highest quality during her current service on the board and on previous terms. Judy promises to keep working on League projects but her proactive approach and wise counsel will be missed. Happy travels, Judy, and come home to the League as soon as you can!

Next Board Meeting: The March meeting of the LWVGCV Board will take place on Thursday, March 21st, at 2:00 at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. The Sedona Shadows community is located at 6770 W. SR89A (next to Sedona Pines resort between Sedona and Page Springs). After you make the left turn into Sedona Shadows, follow the signs to the office and the meeting rooms are behind the swimming pool.

League of Women Voters of Arizona

LWVAZ State president, legislative chair, program vice president, and program directors are very busy following several bills currently moving through the Arizona Legislature. We are focusing on bills that deal with permanent early voters, clean elections, merit selection, initiative and referendums, campaign finances, and other election reforms measures. Local League members will be emailed ACTION ALERTS on specific bills that ask members to send their comments to their elected representatives. PLEASE respond when you receive an ACTION ALERT – they are easy to respond to!

At the March 4th board meeting, LWVAZ board members recommended the following program for 2013-2015 for adoption at the LWVAZ Convention in May.

1. Recommend retention of all current LWVAZ positions, recommend adoption of the LWVAZ Executive Branch position, and recommend adoption of the LWVAZ Charter School concurrence statement.
2. State and Local Finance – a study of state and local revenues sources and allocation of revenues.
3. Write a white paper on the use of striker bills by the Arizona Legislature and the alternatives, for concerted action by LWV Arizona

When the State and Local Finance study is adopted at the LWVAZ convention, LWV Greater Verde Valley will head up the 2-year study. If you are interested in where state and local revenues come from and how they are allocated – we urge you to get involved in this League study. For more information, please contact Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer.

League of Women Voters of the United States

Historic Voting Rights Protections At Risk

On February 27th, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, one of the nation's most important voting rights cases to date. At issue is the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), the landmark legislation that outlawed racial discrimination in state voting practices. The court is being asked to rule on VRA's Section 5, the critical enforcement mechanism of the law. Over the years, the VRA was reauthorized several times by Congress including in 2006 with broad bi-partisan support.

Section 5 is vital in protecting eligible citizens from barriers to voting and ensuring that their votes count. The immense progress made in recent decades to protect and expand the right to vote has largely been due to Section 5 of the VRA. With the onslaught of anti-voter legislation that has recently swept the country, we still need Section 5 to keep our elections free, fair and accessible. Section 5 has helped defeat approximately 2,400 discriminatory voting changes over the years, and helped protect voting rights just last year in a number of states.

The League's support for voting rights and the VRA is longstanding, and we have submitted amicus briefs in *Shelby v. Holder*. If the court overturns the VRA, it will not only threaten voting rights – it will threaten the very foundation of our great democracy.

League members can help support the Voting Rights Act by signing a pledge that can be accessed on the home page of LWVUS (www.lwv.org)

LWVUS priorities for 2013:

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2013:

#1. Money in Politics and the many facets of Election Reform.

In addition, *Climate Change, Gun Safety, and Immigration* have been designated as a second tier of focus for 2013.

These decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the 113th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last Convention, member interest, and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if necessary. Other issues may be acted on if they do not interfere with action on a priority issue. (LWVUS Leaders' Update, 2/7/2013)

Election Administration Reform

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara blogs on "The Path to Free, Fair and Accessible Elections for Every American"

Following last fall's elections, there has been much interest in the need for election reform at both the national and state levels. Elisabeth MacNamara addressed this need in her Huffington Post article (12/13/2012), noting that "in addition to national-level reforms, the League is looking to concrete reform opportunities that may be possible as state legislatures begin convening in early 2013."

As it turns out, legislation IS being proposed at the State level nationwide, and some of it is good and some is not. The League has identified four proactive priorities for our elections administration reform work:

1. Secure Online Voter Registration
2. Permanent and Portable Statewide Voter Registration
3. Expanded Early Voting
4. Improved Polling Place Management

You can read the full blog at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elisabeth-macnamara/path-free-fair-accessible_b_2278842.htm



President's Message

It's All About Media.....PBS (Channel 8) is doing a batch of programs of interest about women.

These are:

California Women WIN The Vote:

Sunday, March 10 @ 11AM and Tuesday, March 19 @ 8PM

No Job for a Woman:

Wednesday, March 20 @ 8PM and Sunday, March 24 @ 7PM

No Going Back – Women and the War:

Sunday, March 10 @ 11:30PM

Unleash the Power of the Female Brain:

Saturday, March 16 @ 6PM and Sunday, March 17 @ 8:30PM

Across the 24/7 television world, women are on the screen and in the sound. It's interesting to catch a 1940's, '50's movie on tv when it's a film that portrays women in other than a 'stay at home mom' role. Catch some of these and view them as if you are a film critic writing for the New York Times or San Francisco Chronicle. Take notes in your new role. Maybe we could share what we noted.

Fondly,
Ellie Bauer

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	2012-2013
Date	Event
March 12 th , Tuesday	Municipal Elections, Camp Verde and Cottonwood
March 21 st , Thursday, 2:00 p.m.	Meeting of LWVGVV Board of Directors Sedona Shadows Clubhouse - 6770 W. State Route 89A
April 4 th , Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Public Program on Verde Valley Agricultural Coalition and the Food Hub Concept Sedona Public Library, 3250 White Bear Rd, Sedona
May 11 th , Saturday (a.m.)	Business meeting, elections, brunch. Sandra Goodwin of Central Yavapai League will speak on judicial review/independent judiciary. Olde Sedona Restaurant, 1405 W Hwy 89 A, Sedona
May 18 th and 19 th , Saturday and Sunday	LWVAZ Convention Tucson

Board Members 2012-2013

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
President

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Robyn Prud'homme- Bauer, Clarkdale
LWVAZ Vice President

Ruth Kiessel, Cottonwood

Off-Board
Kathy Heidepriem
Newsletter/Website

Marian Sjostrom, Sedona
Secretary

Donna Pratt
Membership

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Off-Board
Evie Rowland
Voter Registration