



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The VoteR

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

November 2010

The People Have Spoken

President's Letter

My letter this month will be very brief as I am off to Spain and Portugal for two weeks. I want you to know that your Board is working very hard to have programs that are both educational and informative. We are planning on having a post-election wine and tea party and hope that all of you will be able to attend. The details are listed in the flyer contained in this newsletter. Do call Donna Pratt (282-6428) if you have any questions about the event. She needs an RSVP by Friday, November 5th, if possible.

- ***Fran Levengood***

Board of Directors

The Leadership Team held its monthly meeting on October 21 at Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse. Highlights included a report by Voter Service Chair Mary Gassaway. Two members have sent in membership renewals this past month. Good news! If you haven't renewed your membership this year, please do!

The board went over plans for the "Post Election W(h)ine and Tea Party", an informal event intended to get members together to socialize and talk politics in the aftermath of an incredible election season. One of the benefits of League membership is to have opportunities to visit together about government and public issues that affect us all. Prospective members and friends of the League are welcome, too. There will be wine, beer, tea and coffee and appetizer snacks. The board decided to make it a fundraiser event, so there will be a prize raffle, too! Please come ... and invite others!

Among ideas for fundraising, it was agreed that a silent auction will again be a part of the February anniversary event. Auction items can be regifts, problem items from around the house, craft items, gift certificates, white elephants, etc. Members will be invited to contribute items for the auction, so be thinking about it! It was also

stressed that every League event should have a fundraising goal (e.g. adding to costs of events and offering prizes).

The Board reviewed this year's adopted program issues relating to the Red Rock National Scenic Area, State lands, and regional issues such as annexations, state parks, land use and the League's goal to advocate for public participation. Active discussion ensued about how to structure a forum that would highlight concerns about the broader regional effects that can result from local decisions. Land use decisions benefiting one community (e.g. NSA/Sedona or annexation/ Cottonwood) can set precedents and impact neighboring communities and get in the way of regional commitments, goals and cooperative planning. Spill-over/cumulative effects and the opinions of neighbors can be ignored in favor of particular personal or community agendas. Residents from across the whole Verde Valley have ideas and concerns about individual community actions (e.g. future use of State Trust Land Block) that are disregarded. Federal (e.g. current Forest planning) and State (e.g. closure of state parks) further impact everyone. A key question is how to encourage public participation in the midst of all the confusion! The Board will work on a discussion draft of a forum plan over the next couple of months, with an eye toward hosting a forum at Yavapai College in April. A weekday workshop, including lunch, or an evening meeting are possibilities. Share your ideas with any Board member; and stay tuned for more information.

The next board meeting will be held at the Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2010. Please call Judy Miller for directions and the gate code if you would like to attend. Members and prospective members are always welcome to attend the board meetings.

Voter Service

For the fall general elections, two candidate forums were hosted by the League. The Sedona Fire District forum, held at the Jewish Community Center in Sedona on September 27, attracted a full house of over 50 people to hear the eight candidates. The Legislative District 1 Forum, held at Yavapai College in Clarkdale, attracted only a handful to hear two candidates. On the bright side, the forum resulted in an in-depth article by John Hutchinson in the Verde Independent. It was also televised by Yavapai Broadcasting for Cottonwood's cable TV channel; and was accessible online through www.myradioplace.com. With low turnouts, perhaps television is the way to the future!

Court Action on Arizona Voter Registration Law

One of the League's priorities for many years has been to fight for the removal of barriers to voting; the League was an important partner in passage of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("Motor Voter"). The purpose of that act was to encourage and facilitate greater voter registration and, by extension, a better voter turnout. It established a standard federal form that can be used for voter registration and requires an affirmation of citizenship but not documentary proof. When Arizona voters approved Proposition 200 in 2004, they were approving a measure that requires people to show proof of citizenship when registering to vote. The LWVAZ and many other groups supported a legal challenge to this provision as an improper barrier, since it placed undue burden on people to complete the voter registration process and was in violation of the Federal Act. On October 26th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled against the Arizona requirement, stating that NVRA does supersede the state law. The story is not over, however, since further appeals can be expected.

Redistricting Time

With the completion of the 2010 census and of the Fall elections, it is time for states throughout the nation to begin the redistricting process that takes place every ten years. Redistricting is the redrawing of legislative and congressional district lines following the decennial U.S. Census; the realigning of districts is done in order to reflect the new demographics discovered through the census. Arizona is expected to receive an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives owing to its population growth in recent years. Since the Verde Valley has experienced similar growth, its population may be recognized with some form of additional representation in the State legislature.

Both the U.S. Constitution and the Arizona constitution require that district lines be redrawn so that districts are of very nearly equal population. In many states, the redrawing of district lines is the responsibility of the State Legislature and then must be approved by the Governor. Redistricting in our state, however, is accomplished by the five-member "Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission." A new Commission is formed every 10 years and each member is expected to serve the entire 10 years.

This commission was mandated by the voters in 2000, through the passage of Proposition 106, an amendment to the State constitution. Its purpose was to remedy a redistricting process conducted by the State Legislature that was thought to be too political. The Redistricting Commission is independent of the legislature. Its mission is "to administer the fair and balanced redistricting of the U.S. Congressional and State Legislative districts." The resulting district maps will be in effect for the 2012 elections. This year, 79 people have applied to serve on the commission; this number will be winnowed down to 25 and State legislative leaders will pick four of them. Those four will then select the fifth member (from the applicant list). No more than two members of the Commission can be from the same political party.

In anticipation of this year's nationwide redistricting process, the League of Women Voters of the United States and other concerned groups convened a major conference on redistricting to explore ways that the public can best participate. They came up with a number of principles that should be followed to ensure that adjustments to district lines are done in a way that promotes representative government for all. A major problem in past years has been a lack of transparency which impedes public awareness and opportunity to participate. More information on the conference and its report can be found at www.lwv.org; follow the Projects tab to "Developing an Action Agenda for Redistricting in 2011."

You are Cordially Invited to a
**Post-Election
"W(h)INE & TEA PARTY"**
Fundraiser



Sponsored by the
League of Women Voters
of Sedona-Verde Valley



For League Members & Friends
to meet informally in the election aftermath,
share viewpoints & consider the results.

4 to 6 pm, Wednesday,
November 10, 2010
Patio Room at Mulligan's Grill
690 Bell Rock Road,
Village of Oak Creek, Sedona, AZ



Appetizers, Coupon for Wine or Beer, Coffee, Tea
\$15.00 per person (at the door)



PLEASE RSVP!

to Donna Pratt at 282-6428 or
dlpratt@esedona.net

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 Board Members 2010-2011](#)

Francine Levensgood, VOC	Judy Miller, Cornville
Liz Danbury, Sedona	Donna Pratt, Sedona
Robyn Prud'homme Bauer, Clarkdale	Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona
Pat George, Camp Verde	Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale
Voter Service Chair (off board) Mary Gassaway	Voter Registration (off board) Evie Rowland

LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar 2010-2011

Date	Event
November 10 th , Wednesday – 4:00-6:00 p.m.	Post-Election Wine and Tea Party Patio Room at Mulligan's, VOCA Clubhouse
November 18 th , Thursday -- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
January 2011	Board Meeting January 20 th Candidate Forums, Camp Verde/Cottonwood
February 2011	Anniversary Luncheon Membership Meeting on State League Study Board Meeting, February 17 th