

.Update on activities, events, and plans for the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley



The Voter

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President's Letter

Dear League Members,

Our goals this year include growing membership, enhancing the visibility of the League programs through partnerships and making civic engagement fun and interesting. On November 2, I hosted a gathering at my home for new, long-time and prospective members of our League. We plan to do this quarterly so we can increase our membership and continue to develop new and interesting programs. I hope you all get to attend one of the evenings in the coming months. In this issue you will find our calendar of regular meetings for 2016 -- on the third Monday of every month - and featuring a special speaker on a critical 2016 election issue. In fact we will hold the meeting twice on those



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[LWVGCV President](#)

Barbara Litrell

[Vice President](#)

Robyn Prudhomme-
Bauer

[Treasurer-Secretary](#)

Mary Gassaway

days -- from 9-10:30AM at Yavapai College Sedona Center, and Noon-1:30PM at Yavapai College in Clarkdale.

We have also established three teams - one working on programs for each month, a voter registration team planning registration events, and another team managing candidate forums when they begin later in 2016. If you are not yet associated with a team, please email me your preference to blitrell@aol.com.

Beyond the three teams, we also are working on fun civic engagement events including the **Sedona Civics Challenge on February 4 and 11**. See the separate article in this issue. On the horizon too is a **Voters Rights Film Festival** for June in concert with the American Assn for University Women chapter in Flagstaff. And there was interest expressed at our November 2 gathering for a political book club. If you have an interest in that as well, drop me an email.

2016 is soon to begin and the League of Women Voters Greater Verde Valley plans to be in the forefront of Voter Registration, Education, and Civic Engagement. Share with me any ideas you have!

Thanks. Barbara

A YouTube For You!

See the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGLTvxnw4Bs> to catch up with Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer's interview on Yavapai Broadcasting's Paul David show COUNTYWIDE.

It has good background on the history of the league in this area as well as info on voting rights and voter registration

New Members Orientation/Member Meeting

Directors

Kathy Davis

Janet Kissinger



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 12, 2015

"Constitutional Amendment Boot Camp"
Sedona Public Library
6:30-8:30 p.m.

November 19, 2015

League Board
Yavapai County
Offices, Cottonwood
2:00-4:00 p.m.

January 18, 2016

"Critical Election Issues 2016" Series Begins
Sedona Campus
Yavapai College
9:00-10:30 a.m.

February 4, 11

"Sedona Civics Challenge"
Sedona Campus YC

We had a great group of members and new members at the fall meeting on November 2nd; the new members' orientation meeting is a League tradition. This year's meeting took place at Barbara's home and we were first treated to a delicious spread of appetizers provided by the hostess -- thank you, thank you!

Barbara gave us a brief overview of the League of Women Voters; the League's mission; and a review of 2016 programs and OPPORTUNITIES for members to be involved in this important election year. We all enjoyed the typical "League-like" conversation about politics and the issues of the day.

LWVGWV has many activities planned and election year issues to discuss. Our voter registration efforts will continue and we also will continue our push to attract new members.

"Constitutional Amendment Boot Camp"

Over 70% of Americans want money out of politics, term limits for our elected officials, a balanced budget, equal rights for women and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions—and yet Congress seems unable to act on any of these issues! So, the only legal option outside of voting them all out of office - is to amend the U.S. Constitution.

Our League, in collaboration with Blair Henry of "The People's Convention" (see www.thepeoplesconvention.org), will be presenting a lively and entertaining exploration into proposals to strengthen our American democratic process through the enactment of new amendments to the constitution. We will also attempt to draft some! The event will be held on Thursday, November 12th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Sedona Public Library, 3250 White Bear Rd, Sedona.

This program is a followup to our September 16 program at which we discussed processes by which the Constitution may be amended, and criteria that could be

Evening

March 22

Presidential Preference Election

May

LWVGWV Annual Meeting, Elections

August 30

Primary Elections

November 8th

General Elections
National
State
County
Municipal
Ballot Issues



Voter Registration 2015

used to determine whether an amendment is needed.

This is a free event. To reserve a seat, or to request additional information, email us at lwvgvv@gmail.com

Voter Registration

Our Voter Registration Bonanza Week in September was a big success. We were particularly pleased with the cooperation provided by the Cottonwood, Sedona, and Camp Verde High Schools. We registered 175 voters - many of them were voters who will be 18 by November 2016!! We hope to keep the effort up to help bring out the vote in 2016. To make this happen, we need member volunteers. Voter Registration is fun and easy to do. There is no great time commitment. Contact LWVGVV President Barbara Litrell at 649-1035 or email her at blitrell@aol.com

Important Information on the Presidential Preference Election:

The Presidential Preference Election, to be held on March 22, 2016, is a preference election, whereby registered voters of participating, recognized political parties cast their vote for who they prefer the Arizona delegates cast their vote for at their party's national convention. Candidates who wish to appear on the ballot must submit to the Arizona Secretary of State's office a petition signed by at least 500 qualified voters.

If you want to vote in the March 22 Presidential Preference Election, you need to be sure you are registered to vote in Arizona, check that your name and address are current, AND **you will need to register with a party preference by February 22, 2016**. You will receive only one ballot with only one party's candidates listed on it.

Independents are the largest group of registered voters in AZ, but if you are NOT registered as Democrat or Republican by February 22, you will not be able to vote in the Presidential Preference Election. So registered Independent voters may want to consider registering



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.

with a party preference by February 22 – and then go back and change it if you wish.

Welcome New Members

Peggy Chaikin - Sedona

Elizabeth and John Warren Oakes -
Village of Oak Creek

Jane Hausner - Sedona

Blair Henry - Village of Oak Creek

Patricia Kennedy - Sedona

Phyllis Martinec - Village of Oak Creek

Rosemary Papa and Ric Brown - Village of Oak Creek

In our next newsletter, our welcome new members section will begin to showcase our new members and reintroduce some of our long time members.

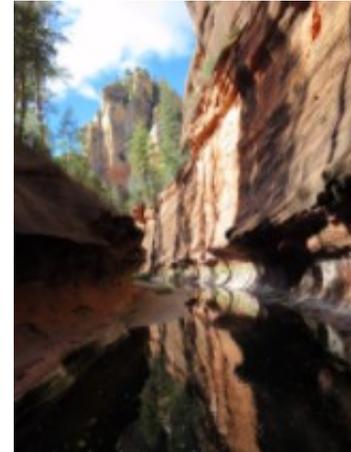
A Call to Action 2016: A Timely Discussion Series on Critical Election Issues

Also in the planning stage is an issue-based series of programs to be held at the Sedona Campus of Yavapai College beginning in January and continuing monthly until October 2016. Once again, we are working with OLLI. The issues to be addressed are ones that are seen as significant for next year's elections at all levels of government. The first three topics have been tentatively identified as Money in Politics/Campaign Finance Reform, Education Funding in Arizona, and Voter Rights and Education. We expect to bring in expert speakers, to allow for dialogue, and possibly have some small group discussions.

The programs are scheduled for the third Monday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. on the Sedona Campus of Yavapai College. Additional information will be provided via Facebook, Twitter, and our website.

Civic Engagement Quiz: "The Sedona Civics Challenge" -- Coming in February

We are working with Robin Weeks and Paul Friedman of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Andrea



Happy Fall!
West Fork Oak Creek
October 2015

Houchard of NAU on an exciting competitive event to take place on two nights in February. Eight teams of three people each from the community and/or local organizations will compete on February 4th and 11th..

Some teams are already lined up. The questions will test the competitors' knowledge about our local, state, and federal governments. The winning team will receive an award in recognition of their victory. Watch for more information on this fun event as the time gets closer.

State League News

Education, School Funding, Competing Ideas, Plans?

Arizona currently has a school funding crisis that has become one with competing political proposals.

The Legislature has not provided inflation funding. Proposals to have voter initiative law that provides "inflation funding" overturned have been floated by some Legislators.

The Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction propose other plans. Legislators need to fully fund the Arizona Supreme Court-ordered inflation money or \$336 million NOW. Many national reports show that Arizona ranks near the bottom of states in pay to teachers and in school spending.

What proposals will solve this school funding crisis?

The **League of Women Voters of Arizona** currently has a **State Study about Financing Education** in Arizona, chaired by **Jen Darland**, jen@darlandmail.com. Contact Jen if you want to participate or get information about this work.

National League News: "Obama Administration Violating Voting Rights Law"

(PRESS Release, Oct. 28, 2015)

Today, in a letter to President Obama, three of the nation's leading voting rights organizations—Demos, Project Vote, and the League of Women Voters—urged the Administration to come into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) by providing voter registration to eligible persons through the federally-facilitated health benefit exchanges set up

under the Affordable Care Act. ...The groups—who have previously won many NVRA-enforcement lawsuits—indicated that they are prepared to seek legal recourse if necessary.

"This is an important voting rights issue that can no longer be ignored," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

To view the entire release, visit :

<http://lwv.org/press-releases/obama-administration-violating-voting-rights-law>

Request for Help with Survey for Yavapai College Foundation

League President Terri Farneti, of the Central Yavapai County League (Prescott) has asked that we share with our members the link to a Yavapai College survey. This brief survey is collecting information for the update of the Strategic Plan for the Yavapai College Foundation, which is an excellent philanthropic resource for the county. Take a look at it and decide whether you would like to help out by completing it at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YCFoundation>.

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