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



# The Voter

League of Women Voters  
Greater Verde Valley  
[www.lwvverdevalley.com](http://www.lwvverdevalley.com)

P.O. Box 966  
Sedona, AZ 86339

MARCH 2014

## President's Message:

Once in a while, magical things happen. And so it did at our Anniversary Brunch. Christopher Fox Graham, Managing Editor of the Cottonwood Journal Extra, was in attendance. The following editorial appeared in the February 26th edition under the heading - League of Women Voters is voice of reason amid chaos. It is the President's message for this issue. Thank you, Christopher.

<http://www.journalaz.com/Opinion/league-of-women-voters-is-voice-of-reason-amid-chaos/Print.html>

Ellie Bauer, President  
League of Women Voters  
Greater Verde Valley

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League of Women Voters 94th  
Anniversary Celebration

## LWGVV Calendar

March 6  
Forum on Yavapai College 10-year  
Plan  
Cottonwood Rec Center 7:00 pm

March 11  
Sedona Special Election  
Adoption of Sedona Community Plan

March 20  
Forum on Yavapai College 10-year  
Plan  
Sedona Public Library 7:00 pm

March 29-30  
Camp Verde Spring Heritage Festival  
League Will Have a Booth!

April 12<sup>th</sup>  
Discussion of Agriculture Study

## League to Present Two Public Forums on Yavapai College Master Plan

The release of Yavapai College's Master Plan and Capital Improvements has prompted much discussion because of changes that are being contemplated. These changes will have an impact on education in the Verde Valley. Because of widespread community interest, the League has arranged to have Clint Ewell, VP of Finance and Administrative Services at the College, and YC Board of Governors spokesman Herald Harrington explain the plan and answer questions on it. The public is encouraged to come out and be informed. The first forum will take place at the Cottonwood Recreation Center on March 6th at 7:00 p.m.; the second will be on March 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sedona Public Library.

For those who are unable to attend, questions may be e-mailed to [lwsvv@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsvv@yahoo.com). The forums will be videotaped by Verde Valley TV and available for viewing on YouTube

## Local Women in Politics Help Celebrate League's 94th Anniversary

As we do every year, our League joined in the celebration of the founding of the League of Women Voters in 1920. This year we enjoyed a delicious brunch at the Olde Sedona Bar and Grill, followed by a conversation about Women in Politics in the Verde Valley. Three of those women kindly agreed to share with us their experiences in politics. All are current elected officials: Mayor Diane Joens of Cottonwood, and Councilors Barbara Litrell of Sedona and Robin Whatley of Camp Verde.

The three women shared their stories about why they ran for office and the obstacles they have encountered in running, winning, and serving. As one would expect, they all had wonderful stories to

Mystic Hills Clubhouse, 10:00 am

Early May  
Annual Membership Meeting and  
Elections

May 17-18  
LWVAZ Council  
Phoenix



League President Ellie Bauer

## **LWVGVV Board of Directors, 2013-2014**

*Ellie Bauer*  
*Liz Danbury*  
*Donna Pratt*  
*Marian Sjostrom*  
*Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer*  
*Ruth Kiessel*  
*Kathy Davis*

**A Quick Reminder: If you have not paid your dues for 2013-2014, PLEASE send your dues in today! THANK YOU!!**

tell and different insights about their experiences.

Mayor Joens emphasized her desire to serve the people, the need for civility, and her efforts not to micromanage. While women in office tend to encounter more “roadblocks,” she has come to expect them and knows how to handle them.

Councilor Litrell became interested in local politics when she found out that “Arizona has problems, too!” She remarked that she thinks the work is harder for women because they often want to please everyone and that is not possible. She emphasized the need for more women and young people to become involved in local governance. Although they may encounter more obstacles, Barbara pointed out that knowledge is power and those who know more are able to garner more support. A sense of humor also helps.

Councilor Whatley always had an interest in local issues, but as a busy working woman was reluctant to make the commitment. After attending council meetings and getting to know the mayor and council members, she became comfortable with the idea. She credits the support of her family, her employer, and other council members for making her schedule workable. She noted that “obstacles are my middle name,” but credits persistence and willingness to learn as keys to success in holding public office.

### [League Launches Study of Arizona Government Financing](#)

Verde Valley League members met with officials and staff from the Cottonwood and Sedona city governments on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We were there to learn about municipal budget processes and how revenue is generated and disbursed.

Our distinguished presenters were Mike Raber, Sedona’s senior planner; Sedona Assistant City



***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.***



Barbara Litrell Spoke at our meeting on local government finances.

Manager Karen Daines; Cottonwood accounting/budget manager Kirsten Lennon; Sedona Mayor Rob Adams; and Barbara Litrell, a league member and Sedona city councilor.

Mayor Adams spoke about the financial health of the city and what has been accomplished in recovering from the recent recession. Barbara gave us an overview of the Sedona Community Plan, which will be voted on on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Karen Daines and Kirsten Lennon each described the budget process in their cities and also provided handouts that will help us in our research. They pointed out the similarities and differences in their approaches.

Taxes and bonds and hearings and oversight, capital improvement, reserves, and general funds – oh my! There's a lot to learn. Please plan to join us for the next meeting on Financing Arizona.

### [LWVGW to Participate in Camp Verde Spring Festival](#)

Local League member Kathy Davis has arranged for the League to have a presence at this year's [Spring Heritage Pecan and Wine Festival](#) in downtown Camp Verde. The festival will take place over the weekend of March 29 - 30, and this time will include the Verde Valley Archaeology Fair, the Verde River Runoff Canoe and Kayak Race, and activities surrounding the Arizona State Parks Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month celebration. Admission is free to all, but there will be charges for wine tasting and the River Runoff Race. In addition, several historic buildings will be open and admission to Fort Verde State Park will be free on Saturday and Sunday. See [www.visitcampverde.com](http://www.visitcampverde.com) for more information.

Kathy will be calling for volunteers to tend our booth – 3-hour shifts between 10am-6pm on



See you at the Camp Verde Spring Festival!

Saturday and between 10am and 5pm on Sunday. So please respond and save time to enjoy the activities as well!

### Member Information

A consensus meeting on the proposed update to the LWWUS position on Agriculture will take place in Sedona on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The consensus questions that we will be discussing are in the areas of Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector (esp. government financial support), Animal Management, Agricultural Research and Development, Food Safety, and Food Labeling. These are the primary hot button issues concerning agriculture, as witnessed by the length of time it has taken for Congress to pass an updated Farm Bill. Background information is available on the Agriculture Update page at [www.lww.org](http://www.lww.org). All members are encouraged to participate in this discussion, to learn and to offer their views..

### League of Women Voters of Arizona

**THANK YOU!!** from your state president! For making your voices heard in urging Gov. Brewer to veto SB1062! Your individual and organization's voices were heard along with over 40,000 emails sent to the Governor and the voices of numerous elected officials and businesses – large and small! Your voices did make a difference!! For every League email sent – it represented 10 additional League voices in opposition to this divisive bill! **THANK YOU!!**

The League's strong stand on anti-discrimination; individual liberties and equal rights are embedded in League principles. League Principles are "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. They are a descendant of the Platform, which served from 1942 to 1956 as the national repository for "principles supported and

positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention.

Since then, League Principles have served two functions, according to the LWWUS Bylaws: 1) authorization for adoption of national, state and local program (Article XII), and 2) a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels. A further discussion on League principles can be found in the LWWUS bi-annual publication "Impact on Issues" - the guide to League's public policy positions. Here is the link to the publication that can be downloaded from the LWWUS website - <http://www.lww.org/files/Impact-on-Issues-2012-2014.pdf>

Making Your Voice Heard - Making Democracy Work!

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, LWVAZ President

## [League of Women Voters of the United States](#)

A bipartisan bill called the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (VRAA) was introduced in Congress in January. The purpose of the amendment is to repair the Voting Rights Act following last year's Supreme Court ruling that gutted a key provision of the Act. The new legislation takes measures to ensure fair and equal access to the vote, including:

**Blocking potentially discriminatory voting changes before they impact voters**

**Addressing discriminatory voter suppression measures wherever they may appear, and**

**Ensuring that voters have full access to the ballot box by keeping them educated and informed of changes to their local elections**

laws.

**[“The League asks Americans everywhere to urge Congress to act swiftly to protect voters and pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014.”](#)**

(Excerpted from a blog by LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara in the Huffington Post.)

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