



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



*Wishing you all a warm and wonderful, peaceful and prosperous
Holiday Season and New Year!*

President's Letter

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Since December, with the holidays fast approaching, is one of the busiest months of the year, the Board will take a break. However, we will be back on track in January.

Our first "W(h)ine and Tea Party on November 10 was a moderate success. While not well attended, those that did attend had a great time. They all enjoyed the informal setting where everyone had a chance to chat. We would like to do this twice in 2011, one in the spring and another in early fall. We are hoping that attendance at these events will grow over time.

Judy Miller registered LWV-SVV with the "Sedona Wish List" website. This site will help match community service organizations with needs and volunteers.

We will be working on the logistics of our anniversary lunch in February and will provide the information as soon as we have it.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

- **Fran Levengood**

Board of Directors

The last board meeting of the calendar year was held on November 18 at Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse in Cornville. Here are some highlights.

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer reported on the **LWVAZ Board** meeting held November 6. The timeline for the Arizona League's State Executive Branch Study has been adjusted. The study may include a survey to gather public opinion about elected positions (e.g. Treasurer, Mining, Instruction), in addition to Lieutenant Governor. Since the deadline for consensus is mid-October 2011, we may be scheduling a membership meeting in early fall to discuss it. In other news, LWVAZ is creating a "member-at-large" category with \$35 dues; and working toward an "online League". Cochise County League has disbanded; but a new league is growing in Casa Grande.

The **LWVAZ Convention** is set for May 21-22 in Surprise, where Robyn and Carol West will lead a workshop on election forum process and issues encountered during the recent election cycle (e.g. relating to lack of candidate cooperation, civil discourse, formats, media coverage, disruptions, lack of audience, accommodating ALL candidates; advance parameters, write-ins, use of cable TV). We plan to discuss forums and state league programs and positions at our league's next board meeting, January 20th. All members are welcome to attend.

Donna Pratt reported that twelve people attended the **Post-Election W(h)ine & Tea Party**, and Liz Danbury reported a net profit of \$84 from the event. Two gifts were raffled; and one was donated back for future use! An informal discussion covered election results, LWVAZ plans for an executive branch study, spring educational forum and other items. It was agreed that, even with few attendees, the event was worthwhile and more such gatherings should be considered. After discussion the Board agreed to hold another informal **"Wine O' Clock Party"** on March 9, 2011, at Alcora & MIC e-go Gallery, 921 Main Street in Clarkdale. Members will provide refreshments for the event; and a fundraiser raffle will be held. If successful, such parties may become regular events!

Lattie Coor is not available to speak at our **February Anniversary Luncheon**, so we will contact the O'Connor Project in Phoenix to invite Justice Sandra Day O'Connor or her representative to be our speaker. Other possibilities are District 1 Rep. Paul Gosar or Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett. Members "stay tuned" for developing plans!

Candidate Forums for Cottonwood & Camp Verde Mayor/City Councils will be scheduled as needed in January or February, ahead of the March 8 election date.

The Board discussed ideas for a theme, objectives and topics for an **Spring Educational Forum** based on 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*. **"Regionalism at Work"** may be a good title, with the main premise being that it's one thing to "talk" about regionalism; but it is another to truly "act" regionally. In the Verde Valley, there are examples of successes and struggles. We might examine successes (e.g. *economic development, wine consortium, saving State Parks*); struggles (e.g. *water groups*); inadequacies (e.g. *unilateral municipal actions*); or missed opportunities (e.g. *plan implementation*). An objective might be to expose what works and what doesn't. Public participation and media techniques might be included, to provide tools for success. The target audience could include any/all entities wishing to coordinate, forge

partnerships and "act regionally", (e.g. *economic, social, land use, arts, history, governmental*). Speakers might come from the Verde Valley or beyond. As envisioned, the forum would be 10 am to 2 pm, including lunch, on a weekday, at Yavapai College, sometime in April 2011. Judy Miller will distill ideas and email a discussion draft in December to review before January 20. **Anyone interested in serving on the forum planning committee can contact any board member. We need your interest, ideas and help!**

League Action Items

With the legislative gridlock that has existed throughout 2010, the end-of-the-year flurry of bills that are both necessary and hotly contested is greater than usual. The League of Women Voters has taken strong positions on many of these bills both now and in recent months. The League is somewhat unique in that it takes these positions only on matters which have previously undergone intensive study by the membership; this study must have resulted, through consensus, in an official statement of the League's position, upon which any attempt to influence legislation or public policy must be based. Below are a few of the current legislative issues upon which the League has issued an action alert to the membership, a press release, or correspondence with government entities. To learn more about the "Action" part of the League of Women Voters' agenda, go to the website of the League of Women Voters of the United States – www.lwv.org – and select the Take Action page. There you will find the current issues of emphasis, an opportunity to sign up to receive action alerts or to join the Grassroots Lobby Corps, and information on program development for 2011.

Some examples of recent LWV actions on public policy issues:

1. Ask your senators to support **the DREAM Act** (regularize the immigration status of young undocumented immigrants who pursue higher education and/or serve in the military).
2. Support ratification of **the new START Treaty** (Update of the U.S./Russian agreement on arms control, the first update in a decade, and necessary to resume inspection protocols and other vital aspects of nuclear non-proliferation).
3. Support the continuation (and strengthening) of the **Office of Congressional Ethics**.
4. Support **the DISCLOSE Act** (enhanced disclosure of campaign contributions and spending)
5. Testimony in support of **the CEDAW Treaty** (the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

To make your voice heard on these issues and others, you can contact our two senators and our congresswoman at:

Sen. John McCain

RSOB- Russell Senate Office Building, Room 241
Constitution and Delaware Avenues, NE
Washington DC 20510-0303
Phone: **(202) 224-2235**
e-mail on the web at www.mccain.senate.gov

Sen. Jon Kyl

H SOB- Hart Senate Office Building, Room 730
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street, NE
Washington DC 20510-0304
Phone: **(202) 224-4521**
e-mail on the web at www.kyl.senate.gov

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick

District: **FH-AZ01**
LHOB- Longworth House Office Building, Room 1123
Independence and New Jersey Avenues, SE
Washington DC 20515-0301
Phone: **(202) 225-2315**
e-mail on the web at www.kirkpatrick.house.gov



WHAT TURNS YOU ON???

Share your ideas for topics, for programs and events and for study! Your thoughts make our League a lively and interesting place to

PARTICIPATE



No idea is too small, too big, too unimportant to not be shared.

SHARE



Just drop us a note. There's much happening in our world. Sometimes more than we can handle as individuals. As a group we can do much better. Send your ideas to: Ellie Bauer at 634-9450 or elliebauer152@gmail.com.

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
President

Judy Miller, Cornville
Secretary

Liz Danbury, Sedona
Treasurer

Donna Pratt, Sedona
Membership

Robyn Prud'homme Bauer, Clarkdale

Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona

Pat George, Camp Verde

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale

Voter Service Chair
Mary Gassaway

Voter Registration
Evie Rowland

LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar 2010-2011

Date	Event
January 20 th , Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse Call Judy Miller for directions
January-February, dates to be determined	Candidate Forums, Camp Verde/Cottonwood
February, date to be determined	Annual League Anniversary Luncheon
February 17 th , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
March 9 th , Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-dinner “whine o’clock” Alcora Showroom and MIC e-go Gallery 921 Main Street, Clarkdale
March 17 th , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting, all members welcome Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
April, date to be determined	Spring Educational Forum on Regionalism Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May, date to be determined May 21-22, Saturday-Sunday	LWVSVV Annual Meeting and Elections LWVAZ Convention