



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

February 2011 – Happy Birthday, LWV!!

President's Letter

Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis will be the guest speaker at our February 14th League Anniversary Luncheon. His topic will be redistricting. As you all know, Chip Davis is always interesting and informative, and this is an important topic for our region and all of Arizona. I hope you will be able to attend.

On March 9th, we will host our post-election fundraiser "Wine O'Clock" at the MIC e-go Gallery in Clarkdale. It will be a chance for all of us to get together, enjoy some wine and cheese and other goodies, and discuss the topics of the day. There is a flyer towards the end of this Voter that you can share with friends who might like to join us. I hope to see you all there. Our April program on regionalism is in the development stages and we will keep you informed as we progress.

Voter Service – Forums for Cottonwood and Camp Verde

The Cottonwood forum went very well. Five of the seven Council candidates and the Mayor came and answered some very good questions from the audience. The forum was taped for broadcast on Yavapai Broadcasting, Verde Valley TV, Channel 2 and for viewing on demand on their website.

There will be a forum in Camp Verde for the candidates for Council and Mayor on Thursday evening, February 24 from 6:00 to 8:00pm in Room 206/207 in the Town Hall complex, 473 S. Main St., Camp Verde. This forum will be cosponsored by the Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce.

On the Way to 100
Celebrating 91



**The League of Women Voters
Sedona-Verde Valley**

**Birthday Luncheon
February 14, 2011**

**On the Way to 100
Celebrating 91**

Birthday Luncheon & Raffle
February 14, 2011, 11 am -1:30 pm
at
Agave of Sedona Event Center,
Adjacent to Best Western Inn of Sedona
Hwy. 89A and North Airport Road, Sedona

Guest Speaker
The Honorable Chip Davis, Supervisor
District 3
"REDISTRICTING"

Cost: \$30—payable at the door

Lunch: Rosalie's of Sedona
♦ Chicken Picata
♦ Pasta Primavera

Please select and inform Donna Pratt: 282-6428
or dpratt@esedona.net by February 7, 2011

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The LWVSVV Board of Directors met on January 20th, and continued planning for the rest of this year's activities. Discussion focused for the main part on finalizing arrangements for the Anniversary Luncheon and the March social, and moving forward with the major spring forum now dubbed "Doing Regionalism." It is tentatively planned to take place on Friday, April 29th, at the Clarkdale campus of Yavapai Community College. It will center on what works and what does not work when a regional approach is needed on such issues as municipal actions, state parks, land use, and economic development. We are seeking knowledgeable and articulate speakers to participate in morning and afternoon panels. Judy Miller welcomes volunteers to work on putting this program together and/or assisting at the event.

Our league has joined the "Sedona Wish List" website for nonprofit organizations. This is an opportunity to introduce ourselves to the community, publicize our events, and reach out to prospective new members. The site is at www.sedonawishlist.org; you can see our profile page there.

Additional matters that came up included a report from Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer on the State League (LWVAZ) convention that will take place May 21-22 in Surprise, AZ. Robyn is working with another member to put together a workshop on election forums for convention participants.

Also on May 19, there will be a "Community Conversation" - "The Verde River – An Economy for a Sustainable Future". The event is being coordinated by Greg Kornrumpf of the Salt River Project, as his project for Arizona Project CNTRL Leadership Program. Among the participants in the Community Conversation are the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization, the Nature Conservancy, Yavapai College, and the Verde Watershed Association. Our League has been asked to help provide facilitators and promote the event; the board agreed to do the request. This falls in line with our goal to do something on water issues each year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES

Rita Livingston, Mary Gassaway, and Fran Levengood are serving as our Nominating Committee this year and have been working to identify candidates for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee positions that will be filled by election at our annual meeting in May. If you are interested in serving in either capacity – or if there is another member whom you would like to recommend, please contact a Nominating Committee member and let them know as soon as possible.

CALL TO ACTION ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN FINANCING

In late January, The League of Women Voters of the United States issued a press release and a letter to Congress, urging members of the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose repeal of the public financing system for presidential elections. Unfortunately, the House did pass the bill. Pointing to the lack of hearings or other committee action on the legislation, League President Elisabeth MacNamara said, "The rush to the floor, without following the normal procedures of the

House, is deeply disturbing. The American people deserve better than this.” The hope is that the Senate will NOT approve the bill.

LWV President MacNamara also cited the fact that the cost of the public financing system is relatively small and its deletion would contribute little to debt or deficit reduction. The hasty action without hearings prevented opponents of repeal from getting out the positives of presidential campaign financing, such as reducing corruption and the appearance of corruption and, especially, giving the average citizen an important role to play in funding campaigns.

The League does agree that system needs to be repaired in order to continue serving the interests of the American people and protecting against corruption. It “began to decline when campaign costs outstripped the public financing provided to participating candidates and frontloading changes in the presidential nominating process occurred. A modernized system would provide presidential candidates with a viable alternative to finance their campaigns focused on average citizens and small donors, as opposed to being dependent on big donors, bundlers, lobbyists, and corporate and other outside spenders.... The issues surrounding presidential campaign financing deserve careful consideration and should be the subject of hearings and thoughtful deliberation.”

Stay tuned for additional calls to action as this story develops.

[REPORT FROM STATE LEAGUE](#)

Update LWVAZ STUDY ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN ARIZONA

At our last LWVAZ convention in 2009, the delegates adopted a new study that was to be an update on reorganizing the executive branch of our state government. Our present LWVAZ position is in support of measures to strengthen the executive branch of the state government and to integrate administration by centralizing authority and responsibility in the governor. This position was adopted in 1963. Although opened for updates throughout the years, there appears to be no change to that position.

As the LWVAZ study committee began to focus the study, they determined that the purpose of the study was for the League to have a position on whether Arizona should have a Lieutenant Governor, and, if so, how that individual should be selected and what that individual’s duties should be. We also wanted the league to have a position on how the Secretary of State should be selected and whether that individual should be first in line to take over the governorship if the position became vacant.

The consensus questions for this study have been sent to the local Leagues throughout Arizona for discussion. The LWV Sedona-Verde Valley board will be discussing when we will be holding discussion meetings at our February board meeting. If you are interested in this issue or want to participate in this study, please feel free to contact Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer. This should be a timely and very interesting discussion.

More News from LWVAZ.....



The VOTER

Website: <http://www.lwvnet.org/az/state/>

February 2011

LWV/AZ
OFFICERS
2009 - 2012

PRESIDENT, 2009-2011

Bonnie Saunders

BonnieSaun@aol.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT, 2009-2011

(Program)

Barbara Klein

drbarbaraklein@120years.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT, 2010-2012

(Membership)

Shirley Sandelands

shirsande@cox.net

SECRETARY, 2009-2011

Gini McGirr

GiniLWV@aol.com

TREASURER, 2010-2012

Dorothy Boone

larry.dorothy@comcast.net

President's Perspective—VOTER SERVICE, Fall 2010

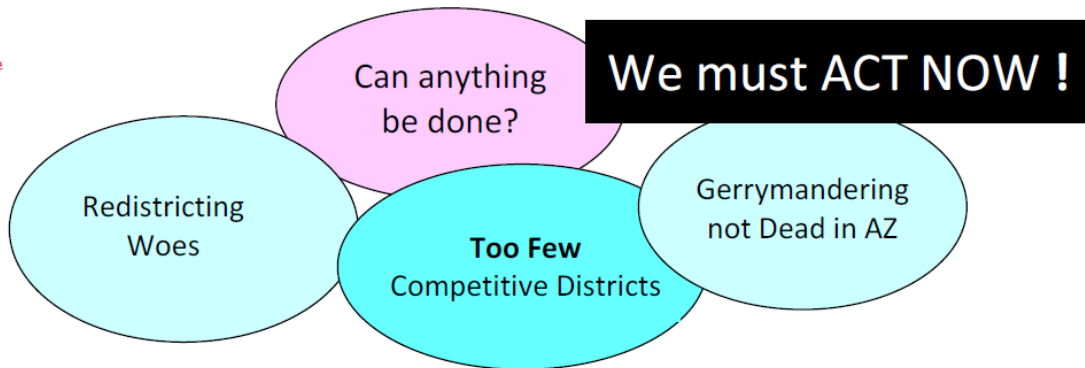
During the election season of 2010, the most important activities of the League of Women Voters of Arizona involved writing, editing, printing, and distribution of about 50,000 copies of the Voter Guide on the Ballot Propositions. I especially want to thank Gini McGirr for her extremely hard work putting that Voter Guide together, with help from members around the state.

During the fall, Sandy Kaszeta, a member of the LWV/Metro Phoenix, traveled to the U.K. to visit family and friends. She took a copy of the Voter Guide with her and sent a note to Gini about what happened when she showed it to her family and friends. Here is what Sandy Kaszeta said:

"We had a terrific trip to England. I have a story to share with you that involves our Voter Guides. One of the weekends, we spent in the Cotswolds visiting our daughter-in-law's parents. The first night, there was another guest. We were told that [a person named] Shirley was speaking about her book the next day at the Cheltenham Book Festival. It turns out that she was the featured speaker and a most fascinating woman. Shirley Williams has a 50- year history with the British government. She is an expert on nuclear non-proliferation treaties, she's been in the British cabinet several times, was one of the founders of the Liberal Democratic party and currently is an adviser to the coalition government in conflict management. Later in the trip when I told people that Shirley Williams had also been a house guest at the Tyler's, the reaction always was "The Shirley Williams". The conversation for the evening was most interesting. First there was British government gossip, then later she turned and asked me "Do you think this Tea Party phenomenon will last?" and my what she knew! Then it got closer to home with a question about the Arizona immigration mess--she knew about that, too. At that time I remembered that I had put a couple of the Voter Guides on the props in my suitcase to give to Sophie's father. Paul's area of expertise is government reform. The two of them just devoured the booklets and asked so many questions. They also wanted to hear how it was produced. They were so surprised to hear volunteers wrote it. So the word from Sir Paul Tyler (who is sharing it with his colleagues) and from the Baroness Shirley Williams (who wants me to email her the results of the election) is that this is an excellent publication and the League should be so proud of the terrific service we provide for the Arizona voters. So, I guess we can pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. And you deserve so much of the credit. Wish you could have been there. You'd have loved the conversation."

Imagine a "Sir" and "Baroness" knowing about AZ politics and our proposition information!!

On the Redistricting issue



YOU can help NOW – but the window of opportunity is S-H-O-R-T.

The League of Women Voters of Arizona is a member of the non-partisan Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition, formed to 'educate the public in Arizona about the importance of competitive congressional and legislative districts to the democratic process. To give interested individuals, groups and partners the tools needed to communicate to the Redistricting Commission about the need for competitive districts. "

How do we do this?

- Make Mapping Easier
- Get the public more involved
- Provide Independent Redistricting Commission with results of

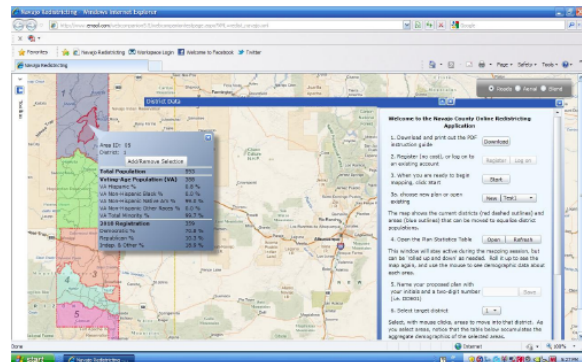
A PUBLIC CONTEST

**A competitive contest for creating competitive districts –
meeting all 6 of the redistricting criteria**

A web-based mapping tool called **Redistrict America** is being developed specifically for Arizona. This is an **EXTREMELY USER-FRIENDLY** tool and will allow motivated activists or tech-savvy computer users to compete in preparing maps that do the best job of meeting all 6 of the redistricting criteria (not forsaking competition).

Demonstrations of the preliminary software have been met with much enthusiasm. The effort must be financed and is estimated at approximately \$40,000 to design, code and deploy. The award for this competitive contest for competitive districts will be Recognition, Gratitude and a chance to Make a Difference.

**This project cannot happen
without our Support.**



Let's prove to the Independent Redistricting Commission that it is possible to have triple the number of competitive legislative districts.

Please donate whatever you can.

To make a difference, donations must be received before April 1, 2011.

Make checks payable to the LWV of Arizona (**with 'redistricting' on memo line**). Mail to the League office: LWVAZ 4423 n. 24TH ST. Ste 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016. Questions: 480.966.9031 visit: www.lwvaz.org

Please Print and Share this with Friends & Family - or Email this form to them



You are Cordially Invited to a
**Post-Election
WINE O'CLOCK
Fundraiser Party**

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

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

4 to 6 pm, Wednesday,
March 9, 2011
Alcora & MIC e-go Gallery
921 Main Street
in Clarkdale, Arizona



Appetizers & Wine
\$10.00 donation per person

PLEASE RSVP!

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

LWVSVV CALENDAR	2010-2011
Date	Event
Monday, February 14 th , 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Annual League Anniversary Luncheon Agave Room, Best Western Inn of Sedona 1200 West SR89A
February 17 th , Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LWVSVV Board Meeting Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
February 24 th , Thursday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Camp Verde Candidate Forum Room 206/207 Camp Verde Town Hall Complex, 473 S. Main Street
March 8 th , Tuesday	Municipal Elections Cottonwood and Camp Verde
March 9 th , Wednesday, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE!	Post-Election "Wine 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 Oak Creek Valley Clubhouse
April 29 th , Friday, morning/afternoon	Spring Educational Forum on Regionalism Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May 14 th , Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (approx.)	LWVSVV Annual Meeting and Elections Breakfast/Brunch – Location TBD
May 19 th , Thursday	Community Conversation on the Economy of the Verde River Verde Campus of Yavapai College, Clarkdale
May 21-22, Saturday-Sunday	LWVAZ Convention Windmill Suites, Surprise, AZ

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
Representative to LWVAZ

Kathy Heidepriem, Sedona
Newsletter and Website

Ellie Bauer, Clarkdale

Off-Board Voter Service
Mary Gassaway

Off-Board Voter Registration
Evie Rowland