

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Sedona Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

September 2008

Board Members 2008 -2009

Kathryn Heidepriem, Sedona

Mary Gassaway, Clarkdale

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Liz Danbury, Sedona

Pat George, Camp Verde

Donna Pratt, Sedona

Mike Ward, Sedona

Carol Wirkus, Sedona

Off-Board Representative
to LWVAZ:
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

NEW!!! Membership Meeting Sept. 28th

***Sign up for the Basha's
Fundraising Program***

Candidate and Issue Forums

September 1st -- First day to sign up to link your Basha's Thank You card to our local League for fundraising from September through next March. Please do this to help us meet our essential expenses.

September 12th -- Regular meeting of the LWVSVV Board of Directors from 10:00 a.m. to Noon (all members welcome to attend). There is an open forum for members at the beginning of each meeting. Please join us from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Sedona Shadows Clubhouse.

September 20th -- Sedona Community Fair at Sedona Airport. The League will participate by providing information on the League, voter registration, and the upcoming General Election.

September 28th - **(Sunday) 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Fall meeting of the membership. Former mayor of Sedona Anita MacFarlane will discuss the importance of being involved in public affairs and your community. We'll preview the upcoming year's activities and enjoy some tasty refreshments. Plan to join us and bring your friends and prospective members. RSVP Donna Pratt, dlpratt@esedona.net.

Fall Membership Meeting

ANITA MACFARLANE TO SPEAK AT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FALL MEETING

Former Sedona Mayor Anita MacFarlane will give a talk on the importance of community involvement at a fall orientation meeting of the League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley on Sunday, September 28th. The event will take place at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This informal meeting is open to all who would like to learn more about the League as a nonpartisan political organization that emphasizes public service in the field of government. Board members and committee chairs will be available to answer questions, and there will be an overview of activities planned for the upcoming year. Most exciting is a public forum to be presented during Water Awareness Month next April. This is a chance to learn what must be done to ensure a sustainable supply of water in the Verde Valley for today and future generations.

A dessert buffet, fresh fruit, and beverages will be provided. For further information and to sign up for this opportunity to become a more informed citizen and promote involvement in your community, please contact Donna Pratt at dpratt@esedona.net. Let Donna know if you can help with the event as well.

We would like as many members as possible to attend this meeting; resolve to be involved.

Voter Services

Candidate Forums and Ballot Propositions:

We had a short but busy Voter Service season for the Primary Election, September 2: Candidate Forums for all contested Yavapai County races: Assessor, Sheriff, and Local District 1 (State Senate); and Forums for the candidates for Congressional District 1, one for the Democrat and independent candidates and one for the Republicans.

For the General Election on November 4, we will hold at least one Forum for the surviving candidates for Congressional District 1. There will also be eight state ballot measures on the November ballot to be decided and of course the race for President. The Secretary of State has scheduled several town hall meetings around the state to discuss the Arizona ballot measures. The closest at this time are in Sedona at 4:30pm on Thursday, October 9 and Prescott at 2pm on Tuesday, October 3. More locations may be added as the election nears. The League of Women Voters of Arizona has also prepared a Pros and Cons publication on the state ballot measures which will be distributed in late September.

Also on the November ballot will be a Yavapai County measure to increase the sales tax to support new jail facilities in Prescott and Camp Verde. A public forum on this measure, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley, will be scheduled in the near future – watch our website, www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org, for up to date information on the time and place.

Be sure to register to vote by October 6, if you have not already, then become an informed voter and attend one of the town hall meetings and forums – and don't forget to vote on November 4.

Other Important Voter Service Activities:

- Political Directory – Update and publish Political Directory for Sedona-Verde Valley
- Voter Education – Obtain accurate information about registration and voting: election procedures and changes, dates and deadlines. Disseminate information at meetings and through the media
- Voter Registration – Provide voter registration information and register voters working in partnership with other organizations whenever possible
- Voters Guide – Distribute LWV voter guides on State ballot issues

If any of these areas interest you, and even if you have only a little time to share, please consider joining the Committee. Contact Voter Service Chair Mary Gassaway at mballgassaway@yahoo.com.

FOR QUICK INFORMATION ON THE 2008 ELECTIONS, CHECK OUT THE NEW LWVUS WEB PAGE AT www.lwv.org/Election2008/index.html.

Sedona Community Fair

Evie Rowland and Donna Pratt have teamed up to arrange for the League to have a booth at the Sedona Community Fair (Sedona Airport, Saturday, September 20th). Be sure to stop by and meet up with them and their volunteers; send your friends and family over to say “hi!” too.

Fundraising Opportunity

Easy “Shop & Give” Fundraiser

We now have a hassle-free fundraiser for our local League. Turn your shopping dollars into a donation! Just link your Bashas’ Thank You Card to the group I.D. number our League has been given, and then Bashas’ will donate 1% of your purchases to our group. It’s easy—once your card is linked there is nothing more you have to do. Be sure to visit any Basha’s store on or soon after September 1st so that we can make the most of this opportunity for our League.

The specifics: At the check-out register, hand the clerk your Thank You Card and tell them to link your card to the LWV of Sedona-Verde Valley I.D. # 24910 for the “Shop & Give” program. Then, between September 1 and March 31, Bashas’ will credit 1% of all your purchases to the League. They will write us a check for the total amount, as long as we have earned a minimum donation of \$25.

Each year, we can re-link our card, with up to 3 participating organizations allowed. If you link to 2 or 3 organizations, your 1% is split equally among the organizations you choose.

Please encourage family, friends, and neighbors to link up. You can cut out the number below and bring it with you to the Bashas' store. Because it is more difficult for the League to raise money than it is for most not-for-profits, now that the League is participating, I am only going to link to the League!

Bashas locations in the Verde Valley: Bashas' Supermarket, 160 Coffee Pot Dr., Sedona and Bashas' Supermarket, 650 Finnie Flat Road, Camp Verde

- Carol Wirkus

I.D. # 24910

Water Committee Forming for Spring Program – Please Join Us!

In 2001, the Sedona-Verde Valley LWV took the lead on a series of water forums and developed a position on water. Water Awareness Month was developed by a subsequent organization that was initiated by the local League.

It has almost been 8 years now since this effort was undertaken and the members of the League indicated water is still a top priority and asked for this to be a program of the League in 2008-09. I would like to organize a steering committee to begin this effort. We are looking to have this forum in April as part of Water Awareness Month and will need to coordinate with other organizations.

If you would like to be involved, please let me know as soon as you can and then the next daunting effort will be to find a day and time when we can all meet to develop an action plan. Please feel free to share this opportunity with other League members who may want to participate. And if there are new League members reading this, please consider becoming involved in this program. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about water in the Verde Valley, what we can all do to ensure there is a sustainable supply for today and future generations, to meet other people both within the League and throughout the community, and, most important to have fun being part of this.

Carol Johnson, Water Program Coordinator
League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley
cjinsedona@aol.com

Member Information

Welcome! Two newcomers to the Verde Valley have joined the League:

Fran and Bill Levengood

Nationally-recruited member:

Thomas Hager

We hope to meet you all soon at one of our upcoming events. (Members please add their names to your handbooks.)

Water Conservation Tip

Here's a tip that helps conserve water and also protects our waterways from pollution via the stormwater drainage system. Instead of using a hose to clean your sidewalk, patio, and driveway, use a sturdy broom (don't sweep the debris and dirt into your swales or storm drains). The extra exercise probably isn't a bad idea either.

State and National League

LWV ARIZONA

The LWVAZ Voter Guide to the 8 state ballot propositions will be available towards the end September. This guide takes the complicated language of a ballot proposition and puts in clear and concise language with a brief description of the measure, its fiscal impact and pro and con statements. Look for more information on where you can get these Voter Guides.

LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study

The League of Women Voters of the United States has supported direct election of the President by popular vote since 1970, in the belief that this is essential to representative government. Adoption of this method of electing the President would entail abolition of the Electoral College. In the absence of progress on this front, it was decided at this year's LWVUS convention that a nationwide, fast-track study be undertaken to consider the advisability of using the National Popular Vote Compact among the states as a method for electing the President.

The League is proceeding with this study and has appointed a committee to conduct the study. One member is LWVAZ Vice President Dr. Barbara Klein; the committee is chaired by Carolie Mullan (TX), LWVUS Board member, who also managed the national study on Immigration during the past two years. Like the Immigration Study, this study will be by e-mail and free conference calls and will produce study materials, including pros and cons, for posting on the LWVUS Web site. Local Leagues will be asked to submit consensus forms by May 2009. We are hoping that there will be enough interest in this controversial issue among our members that we can participate in this study.

Background: The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement among U.S. states that would effectively end the electoral college system of presidential elections and replace it with a direct, nationwide vote of the people. As of July 2008, this interstate compact has been joined by Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey; their 50 electoral votes total amount to almost 19% of the 270 needed for the compact to take effect.

The compact is based on Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives each state legislature the right to decide how to allocate its own electoral votes. States have chosen various methods of allocation over the years, with regular changes in the nation's early decades, although today almost every state awards its electoral votes to the candidate with the most popular votes statewide.

States joining the compact will continue to award their electoral votes in their current manner until the compact has been joined by enough states to represent a controlling majority of the Electoral College (currently 270 electoral votes). After that point, all of the electoral votes of the member states would be cast for the winner of the national popular vote in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. With

the national popular vote winner sure to have a decisive majority in the Electoral College, he or she would automatically win the Electoral College and therefore the presidency.

Editor's Note

Presidential election years are the best time to let your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances know about the work of the League and invite them to join. Be sure you are up to speed on current voter registration options, the election calendar, where to get information on the candidates and issues, how to get and submit a mail-in ballot if needed, and what i.d. is acceptable at the polls. Two good sources are www.lwv.org/Election2008/index.html and www.azsos.gov. Candidate names are there and you can google them to find their websites.

LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar

Date	Event
September 12 th , Friday	League Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – noon Sedona Shadows Clubhouse 6770 W. Hwy 89A
September 20 th , Saturday	Sedona Community Fair, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sedona Airport
September 28 th Sunday	Fall membership Meeting, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse
November 4 th , Tuesday	State and Federal General Elections <i><u>Please be sure to Vote!!</u></i>
December, date tbd	Holiday evening at “Made in Clarkdale”
January, date tbd	Membership Meeting, State Water Position

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.

