

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Sedona Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

July 2009

From Our New Leadership Team:

I'm Francine Levengood and I have just been elected to the Board and have taken on the position of Chairperson. While I have been aware of the League for many years, this is my first time being actively involved.

My goals are to increase the League's involvement with the community, improve fundraising efforts and enlarge our membership. To achieve these goals, I will need your help. The League is an important voice in the political arena. We want that voice to be heard loud and clear.

Calendar for 2009-2010:

Board of Directors Meeting: The next meeting of the LWVSVV Board of Directors will take place at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse on Friday, July 10th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. All members – and especially those new to the League – are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the Board. There is a brief open forum period at the beginning of each meeting for members to speak on any matter that they think may be of interest to the League. If you plan to attend, please contact any board member ahead of time to make sure the schedule has not changed. The meeting place is the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse, 6770 West S.R. 89A. Enter the Sedona Pines/Sedona Shadows complex (north side of 89A a few miles west of Sedona) and go straight, then to the left up the hill -- follow the signs to the office. The clubhouse is behind the pool

Activities: Board members will be working over the summer on a calendar of events for the year; contact us if you have any special requests or if you would like to become involved. We will be working on our program items of Health Care and Civil Discourse -- in addition to the Fall member meeting and orientation, possibly a holiday party, the League's 90th anniversary luncheon in February, candidate forums for municipal elections, and the annual meeting in May. It's likely that we will be calling upon members to help with some type of fundraiser as well. Please do.

Report on Annual Business Meeting: On May 16th, we met at the Manzanita Inn for a delicious breakfast and a talk by long-time League member Barbara Litrell and new member Linda Yee. Their talk was entitled “The Golden Years – the Challenges of Growing Old in the Verde Valley.” Barbara is currently the Executive Director of the Verde Valley Caregivers’ Coalition, while Linda is in the process of establishing the Sedona Sunrise Center for Adults (an adult day care facility). You may have seen Joan Forest’s excellent article on the talk in the June 4th issue of The Sedona Times. The League thanks Barbara and Linda for their dynamic presentation about health and other issues that the aging population faces, and about the availability of local resources to address those issues.

Liz Danbury led the business meeting, with presentations by various Board members who provided an overview of the past year’s activities; recognized members for their contributions to those activities; described happenings at the State and National levels of League, presented a financial report; and facilitated membership adoption of a new budget, a new local program, some bylaw revisions and, finally, election of new board members. The primary bylaw revision was the addition of a provision for the board to be allowed to “meet” electronically when a decision (such as an expenditure of funds) needs to be made before an in-person meeting is scheduled or can be held.

Program: The membership accepted the Board-recommended program for 2009-2010 to include: 1) Participation in the League of Women Voters of Arizona’s Health Care Initiative with an emphasis on elder health care; and 2) Continuation of a program of public meetings and discussions on Civil Discourse in the Verde Valley.

Election: New board member Fran Levengood was elected to a 2-year term; incumbent board members Liz Danbury, Pat George, and Donna Pratt were elected to new 2-year terms. That left one vacancy on the board. At the subsequent organizational meeting of the new board, Barbara Litrell and Beverly Luce accepted one-year appointments to the board.

A complete list of the leadership team for 2009-2010 can be found at the end of this newsletter; thank you to all who stepped forward to have fun and be involved in what should be a very productive League year.

Voter Service to Present Candidate Forums, Civil Discourse Programs

Voter Service activities this year will involve participating in the promotion of Civil Discourse meetings and discussions in the cities and towns of the Verde Valley as well as our usual candidate forums. Election season is limited to Clarkdale, Jerome and Sedona in the spring, so we will be working to promote better communication between elected officials and their staff and the citizens for whom they work and represent this fall and winter. If you are interested in helping in this important work, please contact Mary Gassaway, mballgassaway@yahoo.com ..

Health Care Committee

Health Care is a critical issue that is currently being discussed in Congress. Our goal with the health care committee is to bring the discussion of the issue home to our community – the Verde Valley. Members of the committee include Barbara Litrell, Linda Yee, Rita Livingston, Ruth Kiessel, Pat George and Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer. Our first meeting of the committee is Wednesday, July 8 at 4 pm at the Verde Valley Caregivers office at the intersection of Cornville Road and Pages Springs Road. If you are interested in being on this committee – PLEASE feel free to come to the meeting or contact Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer at rcpbauer@gmail.com.

Report on Water Awareness Program

“***Our Verde Water, Past, Present, and Future***” was the title of the League’s public forum presented in late April as a part of Water Awareness Month. Yavapai Community College co-sponsored the event. Congratulations on a job well done are due to our hard working Water Committee, led by Mike Ward and Carol Johnson. And we are so grateful to our moderator, Tom O’Halloran and panelists Paul Handverger, John Rasmussen, Paul Miller and Dick Ellis. All of them spoke from their hearts and with in-depth knowledge of the history, the science, the legal issues, and especially the challenges our region faces in trying to protect Verde Valley water resources for future generations. Many in the audience added their knowledge and experience to the discussion and posed questions that stimulated some lively debates.

It was most appropriate to our theme that the forum took place at the Clarkdale campus of Yavapai College, where we could feast on sweeping views of the dramatic landscapes of the Verde Valley – to better understand the need to ask, “how much water is there....where does it come from....where does it go?”

Presentations on Affordable Housing in Sedona

Last month, the League was approached by Sedona Housing Commission member Jessica Williamson, a planner for the City of Sedona, about hosting a presentation on a proposed ordinance to allow the long-term rental of accessory dwelling units (ADU’s) such as guest houses and mother-in-law flats. Both our League and the National League have policy positions on housing, and we began an effort to follow developments in Sedona and the Verde Valley last year. Several League members have been following this issue, and there may be others who would be interested in such a presentation. However, since this proposal is specific to Sedona, it seems more reasonable for League members to attend one of the many public events that are being made available. To access the schedule of public outreach events regarding the proposed ADU ordinance, go to the City's website at www.SedonaAz.gov/housing under Housing Strategies -- or call Jessica directly at 928-203-5045.

If you would like us to host a special presentation for League members, and/or you would like to help follow regional housing developments for the League, please contact Kathy Heidepriem.

Welcome New Members

We have two new members who signed up at the annual meeting; be sure to add them to your handbook and say hello at our next event!

Linda F. Yee
320 Canyon Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336
LindaFYee@hotmail.com

Barbara Mayer
205 Sunset Drive
Sedona, AZ 86336
mayer@esedona.net

Member Information

DUES ARE DUE!

REMINDER- Unless you joined the League after January 1st, your membership is up for renewal – If you have not sent in your dues, please do so today – if you have – Thank You for continuing your membership in the League! Dues for an individual have been raised to \$45.00 per year. We have not raised our dues in a number of years, and our financial structure was no longer sustainable owing to several increases in the dues we must pay to the National League. The dues for two members in the same household are now \$65.00. You can help the League more by signing up for an individual Supporting Membership at \$50.00, \$75.00 for a Contributing Membership, or \$100.00 for a Sustaining Membership.

Membership categories ABOVE \$65.00 are tax-deductible if you make your check payable to the LWVAZ Education Fund. (The LWVAZ Education Fund is a 501(c) (3) organization that holds the monies to be used for Voter Service and Education activities). We also have a Special Fund in honor of the late Dorothy Hores, a league leader who worked tirelessly on Sedona-Verde Valley water issues. Donations to this fund are tax-deductible and should be made out to Dorothy Hores Memorial Fund/LWVAZ Education Fund.

If you are choosing a regular membership, make your check out to LWV Sedona-Verde Valley.

League Mailing Address: LWV Sedona -Verde Valley, POB 966, Sedona, AZ 86339

Political Directory Now Available: Our “2009-2010 Political Directory for Sedona-Verde Valley voters in Coconino and Yavapai Counties” is now available to members and for distribution to other organizations and individuals. Contact Mary Gassaway or Kathy Heidepriem if you would like one for yourself or a number of them for your group or community. We hope to have the directory posted online soon.

Handbook Corrections: Fran Levengood’s first name should be Francine, not Frances. Fran’s new e-mail address is flevengood@gmail.com.

Please check your handbook for errors in your contact information; call or e-mail Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer if you find any errors. Since we have revised our by-laws, we will be updating the electronic handbook to include the new bylaws and any necessary corrections.

Signing up for National League Communications: As most of you know, the League of Women Voters of the United States has suspended publication of its quarterly printed National Voter magazine, for financial reasons. Although we miss this old friend, the league’s website at www.lwv.org always contains the latest in news about the league and its current efforts in education and advocacy. You can also sign up for various up-to-date electronic publications and discussion lists that they will e-mail directly to your inbox. If, on the other hand, you receive too many e-mailings from the national League, you can login to your personal profile and check the box that says you prefer not to receive such mailings.

To try this out, do the following: On the www.lwv.org home page, click in the area on the top right where it says “Stay Informed.” Follow the instructions about logging in or registering, and you will then be able to sign up for the League-Voice Newsletter and/or join the Grassroots Lobby Corps to receive action alerts on timely legislative issues. To read the highly informative weekly Leaders’ Update, go to the Members page and select “recent news and updates.”

Newsletter: If you have problems reading this Sedona-Verde Valley Voter e-newsletter and would like to receive it as an attachment or by regular mail, please contact Kathy Heidepriem. A PDF version can be read and downloaded at www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org; however, most telephone numbers and e-mails have been removed from the online version.

HELP WANTED! We maintain a list of people who would be willing to be called upon to assist with refreshments and other logistics at meetings, programs, and candidate forums. Contact Donna Pratt at dlpratt@esedona.com if you are willing to be on the list. The more people on the list, the easier it will be coordinate events.

State and National

Report from LWVAZ Convention

Fran Levensgood and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer represented the Sedona-Verde Valley League at the LWVAZ state convention held in Tucson on May 29-31. In addition to adopting a budget and program, we had many wonderful speakers – Rep. Raul Grijalva, who gave us an update on health care bills being discussed in Congress; Diane Humetewa, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, who spoke on “The U.S. Attorney’s Office - Civic Action and Community Partnership.”; Tom Oliphant, former political columnist, The Boston Globe, who talked about the state of the Democratic and Republican party; David (Fitz) Fitzsimmons, Editorial Cartoonist, *The Arizona Daily Star*, who entertained us “*Fun in the Sunbelt - AZ*”. Fitz was also the recipient of the **Carrie Chapman Catt Award**. This award was established in 1995 to be given to a non league member or organization that has most exemplified the passion and strength in support of an issue of concern to the League. The award was presented to “Fitz” for his cartoons for the 2006 and 2008 Voter Guides and the 2006 Greater Tucson Pima County book; and for his presentations at the state conventions of 1995, 2001 and 2009.

Another guest to the state convention was, Elaine Wigant, LWVUS Treasurer. In addition to visiting with us about the state of our national League, Elaine conducted a workshop on Leadership for Calendaring and Planning!

The delegate also adopted a study to update the position of Reorganization of the Arizona Executive Branch. This is a very timely update that will include a discussion of having a lieutenant governor.

Fran and I had a great drive to and from Tucson and enjoyed getting to our fellow Leaguers throughout the state.

Report on LWVUS Council - First National Virtual Meeting

On Saturday, June 13th the League of Women Voters of the United States held its FIRST ever ‘virtual’ Council meeting. This was most exciting because of the technological advances for the League. Much preparation, planning and training went into it for all participating Leagues. AND more Leagues than ever participated. There were 82 “viewing” delegates from 44 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Additionally there were observers from 26 different locales also participating. This was a major cost saving advantage for National and all state Leagues.

LWV Arizona had two delegates, Bonnie Saunders, President (NWMP) and Gini McGirr, Secretary (GT). LWVMetro Phoenix members Barbara Robertson and Barbara Klein took part as ‘observers’ and Karen Michael stopped in to enjoy the novel historic moment at the state Tempe office.

Observers in Tucson were Noell Rodriguez, Greater Tucson President and Shirley Sandelands. LWVAZ Treasurer.

There were videos, and Power Point as well as pre-taped messages with an interview with Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC), although the budget also had to be dealt with. Arizona's Gini McGirr presented the PowerPoint on the proposed new Resolution rules for national convention.

Before the Council started and during the Break, pictures of members attending were shown. There was several taken at the Arizona state convention showing David "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, AZ Daily Star Editorial cartoonist, with Elaine Wiant, LWVUS Secretary/Treasurer, and with Gini McGirr presenting him with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Make sure you ask someone who attended how it worked and about the ease of participating. We felt that despite a few little 'hiccups' that it went much smoother than any of us anticipated. Good work.

League of Women Voters is 2010 Census National Partner

The League of Women Voters has announced that it is a national partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. The decennial count is less than a year away. Local and state league members are encouraged to participate by joining Complete Count Committees, where available in their areas. This program consists of community and government leaders building awareness of the 2010 census. A 2010 Census webpage at www.lwv.org is coming soon.

In her announcement, LWV President Mary G. Wilson stated, "We join with the U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations in emphasizing the importance of every single resident being counted in the community in which they live. Many Americans may not be aware of how important Census data is to almost every aspect of their lives. This data is used as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and to state legislatures. Since Leagues around the country are well-known and trusted sources of civic information, they can play an important role in educating the public that the 2010 Census is important, easy, and fair ,,,"Our approach to the Census is similar to that of voting - We want everyone to count!"

For additional information on the 2010 Census click go to www.2010.census.gov/2010census.

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.



League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley Board Members 2009-2010

Francine Levengood, VOC (Chairperson)
flevengood@gmail.com

Liz Danbury, Sedona
ldanbury@esedona.net

Barbara Litrell, Sedona
blitrell@aol.com

Rita Livingston, Sedona
Awareness1@webtv.net

Mike Ward, Sedona
19ward48@msn.com

League Website:
www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

Pat George, Camp Verde
apatge@msn.com

Mary Gassaway, Clarkdale
mballgassaway@yahoo.com

Donna Pratt, Sedona
dlpratt@esedona.net

Beverly Luce, Cottonwood
rbluce@q.com

Representative to LWVAZ
Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Clarkdale
rcpbauer@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Heidepriem
Kathryn.heidepriem@gmail.com

Mailing Address: LWV Sedona-Verde Valley, POB 966, Sedona, AZ 86339