

# THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Sedona Verde Valley

[www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org)

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

January 2009

## Board Members 2008 -2009

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Mary Gassaway, Clarkdale

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Off-Board Representative  
to LWVAZ:

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

*Happy New Year to Everyone!*

*Value of Civil Discourse – January 27th*

*Anniversary Luncheon – February 19th*

*National Popular Vote Compact Consensus*

**January 27th** -- Civil discourse is essential to solving community problems, and the League of Women Voters is partnering with the Arizona Humanities Council and Arizona Town Hall to bring a presentation on Project Civil Discourse to the Verde Valley. Please attend. Tuesday evening, January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm. – Sedona Library.

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** -- 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. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse.

**February 19th** – League of Women Voters Anniversary Luncheon with Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis speaking on community involvement. The Montage Ballroom adjacent to the Best Western in West Sedona, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Public is invited.

**.Also in February** -- \_Candidate forums for municipal elections in Cottonwood and Camp Verde

**March :** Meet for consensus on National Popular Vote Compact.

*Thanks to all who attended and assisted with our Holiday Party in Clarkdale last month. It was a lovely setting and it was wonderful to see all of you.*

## **Public Forum on the Value of Civil Discourse in Public Affairs**

The League of Women Voters of Sedona-Verde Valley, in partnership with the Arizona Humanities Council and Arizona Town Hall, has arranged to bring to our community an important presentation on the value of civil discourse in the conduct of community and public affairs.

The program, open to the public, will take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sedona Public Library. It is an extension of the statewide "Project Civil Discourse" initiative that was launched by the Arizona Humanities Council last year. Tara Jackson, President of Arizona Town Hall; Alberto Olivas, Director of the Maricopa Community Colleges Center for Civic Participation; and Susan Bulfinch, President, Arizona Association for Conflict Resolution will introduce and explore the concepts and activities that make up the project. There will then be ample opportunity for audience members to interact with the experts and among themselves.

In these times of economic stress and political change, it is important to use all of the knowledge and skills available to improve communications among government officials, constituents, community organizations, the media, and all stakeholders so that we can resolve disputes and get things done. The Project Civil Discourse mission is based on the recognition that "democracy is dependent upon a responsible citizenry that can, and will, wrestle with tough issues without partisanship, while maintaining respect for the need to hear, understand and take into account different viewpoints."

Broad participation by concerned citizens in the Sedona-Verde Valley area is needed for Project Civil Discourse to be successful in our communities. ***We would like a strong League presence!***

## **Voter Service**

There are elections coming up for Town Council members in Cottonwood and Camp Verde on March 10, 2009. Both elections will be mail-in ballots only. The last day to register to vote in these elections is February 9, 2009 and ballots will be mailed out during the week of February 16, 2009. Early voting begins February 5, 2009 and mail-in ballots must be received by the elections department no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2009 to be counted.

Check the LWVSVV website, [www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org), for the date and time of League sponsored candidate forums in Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

Mary Gassaway  
Voter Service Chair  
928-634-9888 or [mballgassaway@yahoo.com](mailto:mballgassaway@yahoo.com)

## League Anniversary Luncheon

### The League of Women Voters Sedona—Verde Valley

*Cordially invites you to a luncheon  
Celebrating the League of Women Voters  
And Arizona's Birthday!  
Thursday, February 19, 2008  
11:30 am to 1:30 pm*

Chip Davis, Supervisor  
Yavapai County District 3  
"Being a Part of Our Communities"

The Agave Room at the Montage Ballroom  
Adjacent to  
Best Western Inn of Sedona  
1200 West Highway 89A, Sedona, AZ

*Cost: \$30.00*

*RSVP By February 12<sup>th</sup> to  
Donna Pratt at 282-6248 OR [dlpratt@esedona.net](mailto:dlpratt@esedona.net)*

*Net proceeds to benefit the League of Women Voters Sedona-Verde Valley  
This is a fundraiser, invite your friends!  
Early RSVP's from members would be greatly appreciated.*

## Member Information

### Welcome New Member:

Kathy Davis  
P.O. Box 1671  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322  
E-mail: [condors@commspeed.net](mailto:condors@commspeed.net)

**Handbook Changes:** Barbara Litrell's new address is: 75 Lolomi Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336.  
Carrol McDonald's new e-mail address is [carrol@npgcable.com](mailto:carrol@npgcable.com)

## National Popular Vote Study

Background material for the LWVUS study on the National Popular Vote Compact is now available to League members on the national League website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). The League has an existing position supporting the abolishment of the Electoral College and the election of the President by popular vote throughout the country. While not abolishing the Electoral College, the National Popular Vote Compact does present an alternative method of counting the nationwide vote and method of assigning the vote count to the members of the College based on the national popular vote count. It is an intriguing proposition and the League members at the 2008 LWV National Convention adopted it as a short, one-year study. If you are interested in participating in this study, please read the material on the LWVUS website or call me for more information and printed copies of the material - or with any questions about the study - and attend the consensus meet to be held in March. The date, time and place will be announced in the February VOTER and on the LWVSVV website, [www.lwvseadonaverdvalley.org](http://www.lwvseadonaverdvalley.org).

Mary Gassaway  
National Popular Vote Study Chair  
928-634-9888 or [mballgassaway@yahoo.com](mailto:mballgassaway@yahoo.com)

### **Abridged Background for the National Popular Vote Compact Study**

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

**To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.**

## **Water Awareness Program**

The League of Women Voters Water Steering Committee, led by Mike Ward, is continuing to plan a public forum to take place on Saturday, April 18th, as a part of Arizona's Water Awareness Month. They are putting together two panels of experts who will address Arizona's water laws and the origins, users, and uses of water resources in the Verde Valley. In addition to the public education value of this endeavor, it will be a great opportunity for League members and other participants to learn more about water in the Verde Valley -- and what we can all do to ensure there is a sustainable supply for today and future generations.

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the planning and also for the day of the event. Please call Mike Ward if you would like to be involved.

## **Program Planning for 2009-2010**

All members of LWV Sedona-Verde Valley will be receiving a questionnaire in the next few days asking for your thoughts on local program planning for the 2009-2010 League year. The Board is asking for your help in deciding whether to make any changes to, or to continue, our existing positions on local issues and what, if any, local issues should be studied in the next year. We would also like to know how much interest there is among the membership in participating in a new local study, or in reviewing our existing positions. Based on the responses received, the Board will determine what program will be recommended to the members for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

Program Planning and League positions, while not as visible to the public as our Voter Service activities, is a very important part of the League of Women Voters. In fact, it is the original notion that formed the League in the 1920's - active and informed discussion among groups of intelligent and interested women, leading to positions under which the women as a group could actively advance their cause. Today, program items are developed at all levels, local, state and national by League members, proposed by the leadership, adopted, studied and discussed by members at the appropriate level, and positions statements developed under which action may be undertaken. This action ranges from discussions with other citizens and elected officials, to lobbying elected officials to "do something about" the issue, to writing proposed new legislation and working for its passage at the local, state, or national level.

So, if there is a subject you are passionate about, let us know. Get your friends and fellow League members interested and involved, fill out the questionnaire, return it by mail to LWV Sedona Verde Valley, c/o 661 Brindle Dr., Clarkdale, AZ 86324, or bring it to the Anniversary Luncheon on February 19, 2009 at the Agave Ballroom adjacent to the Best Western Inn of Sedona, 1200 West Highway 89A. The Board will compile the answers and present the results at the Annual Meeting. You might just be responsible for solving one of the many knotty problems of the Verde Valley!

## **State League Launches Health Care Project**

The League of Women Voters of Arizona and our League are interested in ideas on health care policy. We are seeking new members to evaluate information regarding "The Stepping Stones and Stumbling Blocks to Health Care for all Arizonans." We will be looking at: 1) Access to Health Care; 2) Cost of Health Care; 3) Private and free-market approaches to health care. We need ideas from our own members and from other civic minded people who might be interested in joining this effort. We are expecting that there will be opportunities to have a voice and make a difference as health care reform surfaces as a major issue in the near future. Let us know if you know if you are interested or know anyone who might have ideas or information and be willing to serve as a contact/resource for this project. You can contact any of our board members or the Arizona League Office at 480-966-9031.

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.

## LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar

Date	Event
January 27 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday	Public Forum on Project Civil Discourse  6:30-8:30 p.m. Sedona Public Library
February 13, Friday	League Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – noon  Sedona Shadows Clubhouse 6770 W. S.R. 89A
February 19 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday	League Anniversary Luncheon  11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Montage Ballroom Adjacent to Best Western Inn of Sedona Speaker Chip Davis
April 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009, Saturday	League of Women Voters Water Forum  10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
May 9 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday	Annual Business Meeting and Elections  Speaker and Time tbd

