



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF GREATER TUCSON

Save the Date

LWVGT Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21
Lodge on the Desert

Volume 71 Number 7

April 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE!

This being my last column in our monthly newsletter since I took office as President two years ago, I take a moment to reflect on the experience and share my thoughts with you about the future of the League.

First on my mind is to say how proud I am of the work we all do. The depth of involvement by so many of you keeps us going, whether it be in our League office, on our Board of Directors, at our Environmental Issues Committee meetings, our Voter Service Registration Trainings, our presence at Tucson Meet Yourself and the Festival of Books, our Budget Committee, Issues and Eggs, our generosity in supporting our effort financially at our Holiday Brunch, our Unit discussion groups, our Speakers Bureau, our website and social media presence, our Book Group, Running and Winning and our five excellent Voter Education Programs the third Saturdays of the month from September to March. When you add it all up, this is an extraordinarily robust local League!

During the past two years, we have experienced membership growth from about 210 to 280 members as of this writing. Our League Endowment has increased to provide annual income now of well over \$5000 for voter education work through our Education Fund. As a result of the Issues and Eggs fundraiser breakfast forum, we have cleared \$12000 to support our mission in the coming year and beyond. This financial stability is the result of a lot of very hard work by people like **Carol West** and her Issues and Eggs Committee and **Phylis Carnahan**, Chair of our Holiday Breakfast. And, let me not forget to mention the contribution of our Treasurer, **David Horr**, who keeps track of our finances and is always patient and thorough in responding to our questions in understanding our League finances.

WHAT'S NEXT?

First up, do come to our Annual Meeting Saturday, April 21 at The Lodge on the Desert. That is when you get to vote on our program, budget, bylaws and leaders for the coming year. It is like an end of the year party to see old friends and meet new ones. It is also a time when you can weigh in on what you want the Board to address in the coming year.

Second, be aware of and let us know what you think about the National League's Transformation Roadmap. The idea is to broaden League membership to solidify our presence in the country with emphasis on voting, voting rights, empowering voters and defending democracy. We would have uniform dues throughout the country and strengthen our National and State Leagues.

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Freda Johnson

FINALLY!

I ask you to join me in welcoming our new President, **Judy Wood**. She brings prodigious energy, great ideas and a fresh look to all that we do. She puts a high priority on making sure that all of our new members are welcome and aware of the many opportunities for involvement we offer.

Thanks to Shirley Muney for many years as LWVGT's Forum Coordinator by Sue DeArmond

Shirley Muney arrived in Tucson in 1999 and joined the League of Women Voters the following year. Formerly she was a LWV member in her hometown in New Jersey. Her cousin lived in Tucson and after visiting her annually for many years, Shirley knew Tucson would be a great place to make her post-retirement home.

She assumed a coordinating role with Victor Bowleg and Sally Davenport in 2008 running workshops on how to be a moderator and how to plan a forum. The Pima County Library invited LWVGT to provide training on how to facilitate meetings. Since then, every two years, these workshops have become one of the many League's Voter Service offerings to the community. Shirley's League work has not been limited to these activities. She's one of the original committee members to develop "Running and Winning", and she has been part of the Speakers Bureau, providing ballot information for voters.

The League of Women Voters is not the only beneficiary of Shirley's volunteerism. She also serves on the Board of AAUW and the Board of Tucson Great Decisions Association. She is also a member of the Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission and volunteers for the Friends of the Library. Ninety-five percent of her time is devoted to supporting a variety of nonpartisan activities. Besides all the groups she is part of, she finds time to go to lectures, attend theater productions and play bridge weekly with friends.

Her favorite part of League work is what might be called nonpartisan "retail politics." She enjoys meeting people, helping them register to vote and talking with them about the important issues of the day. Her lifelong enjoyment of working with the public began when she was young and worked retail in her family's business in New Jersey.

Looking to the future, Shirley looks forward to slowing down – or at least trying to slow down. She has always liked doing a little bit of a lot of things.

Thank you, Shirley, for the many hours you have spent strengthening the LWVGT and making democracy work!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2018 LWVGT Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21

Registration - 9:30 am

Program - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

at the

Lodge on the Desert

306 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson AZ 85711

Please plan to attend this important meeting. Registration is required and lunch is included. The cost is \$40, and Friday, April 6, is the deadline for registrations. See the website, LWVGT.org, for registration details and payment options.

You will be receiving a Call to the Annual Meeting that will emphasize the details of the meeting. Please read the "Call" and bring it with you to the meeting on April 21.

If you have any questions, call or text **Freda Johnson** at 622-1933.

New Member Orientation

by **Pat Wiedhopf**

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson Board of Directors will be holding an orientation event for new members. Current members, prospective members and anyone who wants to know more about how the League works may attend. However, an RSVP is required.

Join us for an enjoyable morning to meet our board and other League members on:

Saturday, April 7, 2018
10:00-11:30pm
At the home of Sue DeArmond

Address will be provided when you RSVP.
Please carpool if you can.

You will learn about the purpose and mission of the League, the basics of how the League works to create positive, lasting change in our community, and how you can get involved. There will be Q & A opportunities. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Pat Wiedhopf at 520-850-6755. Additionally, please call Pat if you are unable to attend this orientation and are interested in another opportunity.

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting

Program: “Restoring Tucson’s Rivers: From Your Back Yard to Mine”

Date: Monday, April 9, 2018

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Place: Martha Cooper Public Library,
1377 N. Catalina Ave., Tucson**

Speaker: Lisa Shipek, Exec. Director, Watershed Management Group

Lisa Shipek is a founding member of Watershed Management Group (WMG) and has served as the Executive Director since 2006. Lisa directs fundraising, strategic development, financial planning, and outreach activities for WMG. She manages several of WMG’s programs including the Living Lab & Learning Center and the 50 Year Program to restore flow to Tucson’s rivers. Her specialized skills include developing experiential education programs; building community coalitions; teaching natural resource management for desert cities; and creating new financial models for community conservation. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Lisa gives back to the community through serving as Treasurer of the Community Water Coalition, sitting on Tucson’s Transit Task Force, and directing Tucson’s adult Ultimate Frisbee league.

Questions? Contact the League Office at 520-327-7652

Unit Meeting Calendar for April 2018

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

EASTSIDE UNIT MEETING

9:30 Social Time, 10 am to NOON - program

Ward 2 Office, Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway

Guest Speaker: **Ethan Cox**, Planned Parenthood representative

Topic: Mission of Planned Parenthood and Issues Facing
The Organization

Contact: **Phylis Carnahan**, 520-885-3271

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

NORTHWEST UNIT MEETING

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Golder Ranch Fire Station, 1175 W. Magee Rd.

Guest Speaker: To be named

Topic: A representative of the US Customs and Border Patrol
will give us their side of the Immigration and
detention issue.

Contact: **Judy Moll**, 742-6525

Friday, April 13, 2018

GREEN VALLEY UNIT MEETING

NOON (bring a sack lunch), 12:30 program

Private Dining Room, 3rd floor of the La Vista Bldg. on the La Posada campus

(Take elevator to 3rd; turn right to reach the Dining Room which is on your left.)

350 E. Morningside Rd., Green Valley

Guest Speaker: **Anakarina Rodriguez**, Tucson Coordinator of Mi Familia Vota

Topic: She will introduce members to the organization, Mi Familia Vota,
and talk about their work in registering Hispanic citizens
to vote and educating them about the issues.

Contact: **Sue Girardeau**, 648-7969

Thursday, April 19, 2018

MIDTOWN UNIT MEETING

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

1510 E. Grant Rd., Council Office for Ward 3

Guest Speaker: **Catherine Tornbom**, Manager, Center for Community Dialogue

Topic: Productive conversations with people who disagree with you

Contact: **Kathy Dubbs**, 279-0284, or **Janice Murphy**, 838-0040

Catherine Tornbom is a mediator and organization consultant with over 30 years of experience. She is currently the Manager for the Center for Community Dialogue, a program of Our Family Services in Tucson. The Center's purpose is to help Southern Arizonans talk about challenging issues in a skilled, civil and respectful way. She oversees a range of dialogue, restorative and alternative dispute resolution services. Among the services are Public Forums, Mediation and Eldercare Mediation, Restorative Practices, Circles Process facilitation, Group Conflict Facilitation, and strategic planning facilitation.

Difficulty can arise when having a conversation on a topic for which passions run high and when the parties discussing it don't agree. This can result in cessation of dialogue with those with whom they disagree about those topics. How does one start, encourage real dialogue, and walk away with better understanding? The goal of this meeting is to begin to build confidence to engage in productive dialogue with people who disagree on important topics.

Re-Cap of Midtown's March Meeting

by **Janice Murphy**

Francisco Cantu's talk was very well received by the Midtown Unit's fifteen members and guests. We felt privileged to have this sensitive young man dialogue with us—especially considering how he has become quite a worldwide sensation!

Having grown up in a border town, having spent time in Mexico as a child and speaking fluent Spanish, he found himself as a border patrolman interpreting for migrants that were apprehended. Hearing their stories with the resultant understanding helped lead to his decision to resign from the Border Patrol after four years of service. He explained that the training in the Border Patrol is like preparation for war, and migrants are viewed as the enemy. The reality is that this is hot, dirty, boring work, interspersed with excitement. Cantu selected readings from his book, *The Line Becomes a River*, to share with the audience. His last experience as a member of the Border Patrol was about a Hispanic friend whose mother was dying in Mexico. Going to her bedside, the friend was unable to return because he was undocumented (a situation that was unknown by Cantu until that time). This young friend had lived and worked in the United States for many years, had three young sons and was dedicated to being reunited with them whatever the cost.

A bit of recent history. . .

The final Voter Education Program of the 2017-2018 Year was attended by about 60 members and guests. We owe special thanks to **Carol Shearer** and the Environmental Issues Committee for planning this informative program that took place on Saturday, March 17, 2018.

Arizona's Challenges: Water and Sun

by **Sue DeArmond**

Speakers for this meeting were **Sharon B. Megdal**, Director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, and **Kevin Koch**, CEO of Technicians for Sustainability.

WATER

Sharon stated that "Everyone of us is a water stake holder." As such, we need to be informed about water issues, show up for forums on water and express our concerns and ideas with elected officials from the local to state level.

Ways we can be informed:

- Check out wrrc.arizona.edu and subscribe to their newsletter <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/subscribe>
- View the water documentary *Groundwater* by Kathleen Ferris who served as Executive Director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association and is currently a Senior Fellow at ASU's Morrison Institute of Public Policy. This documentary tells the story of the landmark 1980 Arizona Groundwater Management Act, a law that changed the course of history in Arizona, setting the stage for decades of wise water use. The documentary stars **Bruce Babbitt**, **Jon Kyl**, and **Kathleen Ferris**.
- Stream Arizona 360 AZPM, Episode 110, March 9, 2018. In that podcast **Lorraine Rivera** interviews **Sharon Megdal** about water conservation in Arizona.
- View the conversation free on You Tube: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/cody%2B/1618bffd755512cf> **Beyond the Mirage**, <http://beyondthemirage.org/>
- Some of Sharon's research is available on a 4.5 minute video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGPLwT6IABk>

There are numerous facts for us to take away:

Breweries are starting to use reclaimed water for beer.

Bottled water is expensive and isn't necessarily the best quality.

No new water is created; we have only what we have.

Tucson is using less water per capita now than 20 years ago.

Water Rights Law isn't a given worldwide. In the U.S., citizens are protected by the law.

Competition for water resources and water in general is great.

Tucson has been in a drought for 17 years.

Lake Mead provides water for California, Nevada, and Arizona.

SUN

‘Water and sun are inter-related’ Kevin explained. Kevin describes a combination of different energy resources as the “Energy Mix,” and the Mix is rapidly changing. In the past most of our electricity was generated by burning coal. Today, coal burning is slowly being replaced by natural gas to generate electricity. He predicts that by 2032 the “Energy Mix” will rely equally on solar, natural gas and coal.

The cost of installing solar panels is dropping and the financing is becoming more customer friendly. Resident solar systems have increased every year, and in 2017 Technicians for Sustainability installed over 3000 solar systems.

Most people who have solar generating systems are tied to the grid. If more solar energy is generated than the customer uses, it goes back into the grid (TEP), which might end up at their neighbor’s house that doesn’t have a solar generating system. Besides not polluting the earth, solar is renewable and, perhaps best of all, has the potential of reducing your electricity bill by up to 60%. It is possible to have a solar power-generating system and be off the grid, however that requires having a battery to store the energy produced. This means that if the power goes out, people with batteries would continue to enjoy electrical service.

The term, “Net-Metering” is heard frequently. Kevin explains that net-metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners who generate electricity surplus to their needs for power they add back to the grid.

The Arizona Corporation Commission is a regulatory commission that controls rates in Arizona. Currently there is a great deal of debate in the courts regarding the best balance for customers and utilities. This issue has not been resolved, but hopefully by May 2018 a fair decision will be made so electricity-generators, both solar and utilities, can go forward with certainty.



Carol Shearer, Kevin Koch, and Sharon Megdal

Carol West took us over the top with the April 2 Issues & Eggs!

by Brenda Goldsmith

On April 2nd, two hundred thirty League members and guests attended the Annual Issues & Eggs fundraiser, *“The Health of Our Children in Poverty: Why We Must Care.”* Panelists **Mimi Coomler**, VP & Chief Nursing Officer at TMC; **Dr. Tatyana Farietta Murray, MD**, Children’s Medical Director, Cenpatico Integrated Care; **Dr. Francisco Garcia**, Pima County Chief Medical Officer, and **Dr. Nancy Johnson**, El Rio Health CEO, shared valuable information on innovative children’s programs, important pending state legislation, concerns and gaps that we must continue to address. Childhood poverty is the single most important pre-determinant factor of longevity/morbidity. We cannot afford to have one child living in poverty, because in five generations that one child becomes two hundred children.

We want to thank all our panelists, **Bruce Dusenberry**, our moderator and **Carol West**, event chair, and the committee for putting on a wonderful event. We want to acknowledge our major sponsors: Tucson Electric Power, Tucson Medical Center, Southwest Gas Corporation, El Rio Health, and the Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation. They, along with other table sponsors, guests and donors helped raise \$12,323 for the League’s Education Fund. Many thanks also to our numerous members and friends who came out to support the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson.



A very informative panel



Francisco Garcia, Nancy Johnson and Mimi Coomier



Tatyana Farietta Murray



A large, appreciative audience!



Herschella Horton
with a call to action!



Kudos to **Carol West** for
an outstanding program

Voter Registration News April 2018 by Sue Webb-Lukomski

The Festival of Books on March 10-11 was a busy, fun and successful event. The Voter Registration Team served about 140 people, registering 37 voters and giving out another 29 forms to be submitted later. Over 30 people inquired about League activities and membership. Outlaw Dirty Money petitions were also signed at our booth. Thanks to our volunteers:

Betty King, Kathy Dubbs, Janice Murphy, Paula Toffolo, Gretchen Wagenseller, Karen Randolph, Leslie Hunten, Marty Cortez, Barbara Becker, Deborah Green, Betsy Bolding, Shirley Muney, Sara Shifrin, Carol West, Suzanne Pear, Kathy Aros and Sue Webb-Lukomski.

The Voter Registration Team has been busy planning activities to reach young voters, and participating in events that have sprung up from the recent nationwide student activism for school safety.

Francesca Pardes, Ann Davis, and Sue Webb-Lukomski registered students at Edge (charter) High School during their “National Walkout Day” activities on March 14.

Paula Toffolo, Ann Davis, and Kathy Aros registered voters at the “March for Our Lives” event on March 24, downtown.

The League is participating in a collaborative group of nonpartisan organizations that provide voter registration and civic engagement education in area high schools. **F. Ann Rodriguez** and **Pam Franklin** of the Pima County Recorder’s Office joined the group at the March meeting. A resource list of services that each organization can offer to schools is now going out to all School Superintendents in Pima County. The League is offering voter registration events, guidance for schools that want to plan their own voter registration activity, a new social media site for young voters, and classroom lesson plans. We are also reaching out to identify one school district to serve as a pilot.

The Team is also planning other new sites to reach young adults, including several charter and vocational schools, Pima Community College East Campus, and a regular site on 4th Avenue.

New members **Marie NaVeaux** and **Marlene Farmer** from Ajo have been registering voters in the Ajo Town Plaza on Saturdays, setting up a library display, and getting ready to start door-to-door voter registration.

There will be another training session on how to register new voters on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 to 10:30 am at the new League Office, 800 N. Swan, #126. Call Suzanne Pear at 520-400-8109 if you have any questions



Voter Registration on the Plaza in Ajo

OUR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL MEETS IN TUCSON APRIL 27-29, 2018. . .

AND YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

When you join the Tucson League, you also become a member of our State League. This year, Tucson hosts the LWVAZ State Council at the Lodge on the Desert. Each local League is entitled to three delegates plus those of us who are on the State Board. The event this year will be focused on the proposed changes to the LWV nationwide. Changes include uniform dues throughout the country to be gathered by the National organization. It is proposed that State Leagues will assume more administrative responsibilities in support of local Leagues. The mission will be Making Democracy Work with emphasis at every level on voting rights and election laws. The purpose of this transformation is to stem the loss of League chapters and membership and appeal to a younger and more diverse population to be members of the League.

You will be getting notice of the State Council soon, and even though you might not be a delegate, you are encouraged to come and participate in all discussions. There will be a brief business meeting for delegates.

QUESTIONS? Call or text Freda Johnson at 622-1933.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF GREATER
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Tucson, AZ 85711

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LWVGT.ORG

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Brenda Goldsmith
Carol West
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Shirley Sandelands - photos
David Horr - photos
Judy Bowser - Editor
**Jean Discorfano -
Formatter**

Just another reminder.....

We will have a new "home"

LWVGT
800 N. Swan, Suite 126
Tucson, AZ 85711

New Member Orientation

Saturday, April 7, 2018
10:00-11:30 a.m.

LWVGT Annual Meeting

April 21, 2018
Lodge on the Desert
9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LWVAZ State Council

April 27 through April 29
Lodge on the Desert
Details to follow

COMING IN MAY. . .

On Friday, May 11, at 3:00 pm, **Michelle Dorsey**, LWV Phoenix President and LWVUS representative to the Bonn Climate Change talks (COP23) will be meeting with interested League members in Tucson.

Please join us at the new League office, 800 N. Swan, Suite 126, to hear her comments about the meeting on Climate Change.