

The Voter



Save the Date:

[75th Anniversary](#)

[Brunch](#)

Colonia Verde
Club House
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday,
December 10, 2016

[Issues and Eggs Brunch](#)

Doubletree Hotel
7:30 a.m.
Friday,
March 3, 2017

Inside This Issue

January Voter Education Program	1
February Voter Education Field Trip	1
December Unit Meetings	2
Action for Unit Meetings in January	2
President's Message	3
Observation of a Public Meeting at Utterback Magnet School	4
Voters' Rights Summit	5

Volume 70, Number 4

December 2016 / January 2017

January Voter Education Program and February Voter Education Field Trip

Program Descriptions Provided by Sue De Armond

Saturday, January 21, 2017:

Arizona's State Budget: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

9:30 a.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room, Joel Valdez Main Library

Karen McLaughlin, Director of Budget and Research for the Children's Action Alliance, an independent voice for Arizona children working to improve children's health, education and security. Karen will give us the governor's budget proposal which will reflect his vision for the state. She will also talk about the Arizona Center for Economic Progress which is part of Children's Action Alliance that will be launched on January 5th.

Saturday, February 11, 2017:

CAP Voter Education Field Trip

9:00 a.m. meet at 310 W. Alameda (Tucson Water), returning at noon

Contact Carol West to RSVP. Please wear closed toe shoes, hats, etc. In preparation for the February 18 Voter Education Program on CAP Reliability, a field trip has been arranged. Tucson Water staff will give us a tour of the Central Avra Valley Storage and Recovery Program (CAVSARP) which stores CAP water supply and recharge basins for Tucson Water customers. Some of you might have seen this facility which is visible from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum.



The League **Calendar** is available here: <http://lwvgt.org/calendar.html>

December Unit Meetings:

Program Descriptions Provided by the Unit Chairs

Eastside Unit Meeting. Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 11:30 a.m.

The Eastside Unit will have lunch Tuesday, December 6th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Macaroni Grill 5100 E. Broadway. Contact: Phylis Carnahan, 885-3271.

Green Valley Unit Meeting. Friday, December 9, 2016, 12 Noon.

Meet in the Private Dining Room on the third floor of the La Vista building on the La Posada campus. Bring a sack lunch. Paula Wilk, LWVGT member, will present on dark money's influence on decision making in government. Contact: Sue Girardeau, 648-7969.

Northwest Unit Meeting. Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 1:15 p.m.

Meet for lunch then a field trip to Paulo Freire Freedom School. The students did a study of the criminal justice system and mandatory-minimum sentencing for drug offenses. They will share their findings with us. School web site is: <http://www.paulofreireschool.org/> Contact: Judy Moll, 742-6525.

Midtown Unit Meeting. Thursday, December 15, 2016, 11:30 a.m.

Meet at Rosemary and Wendell Niemann's home. Program: Carol West speaking on the 75 year history of the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. Contact: Janice Murphy 838-0040.

Action for Unit Meetings in January:

Program Description Provided by Sue De Armond

January is our consensus deciding month. We will be considering whether we keep or review the two positions listed below. Use your Membership Handbook and Directory 2016-2017 as a guide. Also at this time Units can suggest new studies. Positions to be reviewed:

1. Social Policy which includes Human Needs, and Victimization of Children and Interfamilial Abuse.
2. Natural Resources which includes Land Use and Water.

Government and Education position reviews are handled separately in November 2016 and March 2017.

Members will also discuss Local Program Positions, pages 13 and 14 in your LWVGT Membership Handbook and Directory 2016-2017. For amplifications of the local program positions, please go to our website lwvgt.org and click on Projects, Positions and Documents and go to Positions and Action Agendas.

President's Message:

CIVIL DISCOURSE IN TUCSON: Why Not Try to Heal the Rifts?



When we all have strong opinions, sometimes civil discourse becomes a challenge. What does civil discourse mean? For starters, I think it means listening to people we disagree with. Now that the general election is behind us, the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson supports ways to heal the rifts.

All League members are invited to attend a special workshop hosted by Tucson City Council Member Steve Kozachik and the Center for Community Dialogue, a program of Our Family Services in Tucson. The workshop will take place from 6 to 8 pm on Monday, December 5, at Temple Emanu-El, 225 N. Country Club, Tucson.

If you come, you and other people in the community will listen to a brief presentation from recently elected local officials, talk to and listen to each other about issues you think need to be addressed to heal the rift and come up with ideas about how to address these issues. You will meet in small groups led by trained facilitators from the Center for Community Dialogue. Why is this important? Everyone will be in a safe place where no one will judge what you or others say.

The Center for Community Dialogue has a proven track record of successfully addressing issues that are painful or problematic in our community. They have run these kinds of workshops and forums on topics such as human trafficking and homeless children in our schools. While they do bring in speakers to frame the issue, the forums are really organized to benefit the participants who talk about what needs to happen. Past participants have included human trafficking victims and their families and young people who are homeless in Tucson.

What do you think should happen to bring people together on the TUSD Governing Board? What about the Pima County Board of Supervisors? If you want to encourage civil discourse in these and other governing bodies, attend the workshop to learn what ideas we all have to make this work.

You may RSVP to the League office (327-7652) if you can come. I hope you do!

Questions? Contact me at president@lwvgt.org.

Freda Johnson
LWVGT President

Observed in Public School District Site-Based Governance:
Utterback Magnet School's 11/8/2016 Site Council Meeting,
or, a Meeting Held to Decide How to Select Parent Representatives for a Site Council

Article Provided by Elizabeth Whitthorne, LWVGT Observer Corps Chair

Note: Observer Corps reports are reports on citizen observations of public governance meetings. They express and imply no opinion on whether or not what is observed is in compliance with the law. The purpose of LWVGT citizen observation is to answer the question, "How easy is it for constituents to obtain basic information about the governing bodies under observation and the decisions they are making that affect constituents?"

Arizona law (ARS 15-351) requires that each public district school have a governing body called a "School Council" or "Site Council." The law specifies the election processes to be used to select parent and faculty representatives for the Council, which together must constitute a majority of the Council, and notes that the purpose of a Site Council is to "ensure that individuals who are affected by the outcome of a decision at the school site share in the decision making process."

In the LWVGT Observer Corps' first report, posted on the LWVGT website on October 1, 2016, we reported that the Corps' informal survey of Site Councils in four local school districts revealed inconsistency in both the existence of Site Councils on every school site and inconsistency in the easy web accessibility of postings of Site Council meeting dates and Site Council docs (including minutes and agendas). The report mentioned that among Site Councils informally surveyed in TUSD, Utterback Magnet School was one where our phone survey indicated a Site Council did not exist. The full report on the informal Site Council survey conducted by the Observer Corps can be found here:

http://www.lwvgt.org/files/ObsCorpsLWVGT_Observer_Corps_Site_Council_Informal_Report.pdf

On November 7, 2016, I received a message from a League member that indicated that Utterback administration would be holding a meeting they called a "Site Council" meeting on the evening of election day, November 8, 2016. There was concern that the process specified in ARS 15-351 for election of parent representatives to the Council had not been followed. After asking a couple of League observers involved in monitoring TUSD governance meetings if they were available to observe and finding that (unsurprisingly) they had conflicting plans on the evening of election day, I made arrangements to attend the meeting myself to provide League observation.

I could not find information about the meeting time and place anywhere on the school's website, so on the afternoon of Monday, November 7, I phoned the school's office to request that information, noting that I was with the League of Women Voters. At some point between that phone call and the next morning, information about the time and place of the meeting was added to the scrolling calendar on the home page of the school's web site.

By the time that the meeting occurred on Tuesday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. it seemed that what the meeting was to be had changed at least twice. The earliest correspondence I reviewed which referred to the meeting mentioned a Site Council meeting which would include existing parent Site Council members. By the time a hard copy agenda was posted at the school, there were apparently no longer parent Site Council representatives, because an item on the hard copy agenda was "Nomination and Election of Parents to Serve on council equal to number of Teacher Staff." When the meeting actually occurred, it had changed to a meeting with existing faculty site council members in which it would be determined how a parent organizational meeting would be held so parents could elect representatives to their Site Council in a separate meeting, using the process specified in ARS 15-351.

This Voter article contains an excerpt from the beginning of the report on the 11/18/2016 meeting held at TUSD's Utterback Magnet Middle School. The full report will be available soon on the LWVGT Observer Corps web page:

<http://www.lwvgt.org/ObserverCorps.html>

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
GREATER TUCSON**

**2424 E. Broadway
Suite 110
Tucson, AZ 85719**

Phone: 520-327-7652
E-mail: league@lwvgt.org

LWVGT.ORG

Board

President

Freda Johnson

1st VPs (Membership)

Janice Murphy

Pat Wiedhopf

2nd VP (Program)

Sue De Armond

Secretary

Vivian Harte

Treasurer

David Horr

Office Manager

Trish O'Flaherty

Voter Service Team

Betsy Bolding

Sue De Armond

Freda Johnson

Judy Moll

Education Finance

Committee Chair

Jen Darland

Communications

Committee Chair

Bev Kloehn

Observer Corps Chair

Elizabeth Whitthorne

Voter Editor

Elizabeth Whitthorne

Member at Large

Linda Arzoumanian

Contributors to this issue:

Vivian Harte

Sue De Armond

Freda Johnson

Elizabeth Whitthorne

Jean Discorfano (Formatter)

VOTERS' RIGHTS SUMMIT ON JANUARY 7, 2017

Article Provided by Vivian Harte

Do you want to know more about removing the barriers to voting? Do you want to be part of making changes in our state? The League of Women Voters of Arizona is holding a Voters' Rights Summit on January 7, 2017 at ASU New College-West UCB Building, 4701 West Thunderbird Road in Glendale from 9:00am to 4:00 pm. We will brainstorm strategies to remove barriers to registration and voting, to encourage informed voting, and to increase voter turnout. Diverse community organizations, state and local election administrators, political parties, academics, and election law experts will facilitate dialogue on election reform. Together with knowledgeable speakers, participants will explore many of the problems and issues related to protecting voters' rights. We will exchange ideas and identify useful steps that will protect, promote and expand positive voting experiences.

Our end goal is to establish an ongoing working group and generate an action plan to implement achievable next steps toward election reform. If you feel it's time to get more involved, we want your input and participation! This is a statewide event, and we hope you'll put the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

The cost is \$20 per person, and this includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Please make your check payable to LWV-AZ EF and mail it to **Judy Moor**, 17480 West Meadow Lane, Surprise, AZ 85388 or sign up online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2716839>.

Questions? Contact Carol Mattoon, [623-815-1019](tel:623-815-1019) or suncityarizona@yahoo.com.

