

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 **Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
Call Judy: 790-8182
- 2 **Wednesday, 4:30pm**
LWVGT Board
League Office
- 3 **Thursday, 11:30am**
Northwest Unit
Michangelo's Ristorante
Call Barbara: 825-6537
- 11 **Friday, 11:30am**
Green Valley Unit
La Posada
Call Sue: 399-9763
- 16 **Wednesday, 4:30pm**
Natural Resources Cmte.
League Office
Call Dave: 885-4767

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 **Thursday, 10:30am-1:45pm**
LWVGT Annual Meeting
Reservations due April 25
INFORMATION IN THIS VOTER
Arizona Inn
- 6 **Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
Call Judy: 790-8182
- 8 **Thursday, 11:30am**
Northwest Unit
2nd Thurs this month only
Michangelo's Ristorante
Call Barbara: 825-6537
- 9 **Friday, 11:30am**
Green Valley Unit
La Posada
Call Sue: 399-9763

League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 1, 2008
Arizona Inn, Tucson Room
2200 East Elm Street
10:30 am - 1:45 pm

10:30am Registration - Foyer of Tucson Room
10:45am Business Meeting - Tucson Room
12:00 Noon - Lunch
12:30 pm - Speakers

Join us in celebrating another successful League year and hear about a new Kenya project!

You will find the **CALL to the Meeting inserted in this issue of the VOTER and a reservation form (due April 25) on page 7**. The CALL contains the Agenda, Board Recommended Budget, Nominations, and Board Recommended Program Changes. Copies of Meeting Rules, Bylaws, Treasurer's Report, 2007 Minutes and Program Positions will be available at the Annual Meeting.

After the business meeting **Carol West and Sally Davenport will give an update on the Kenyan Women Project and discuss an exciting new project that will extend LWVGT activities and contacts with women in Kenya.**

Special highlights will be **recognition of the LWVGT Leaguer of the Year and of our 50-Year Members.**

Send in your reservation form by Friday, April 25, 2008

REMEMBER TO REMOVE THE CALL TO THE MEETING INSERT AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.

ALSO BRING YOUR BLUE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY/PROGRAM POSITIONS, FALL 2007 FOR REFERENCE DURING THE BUSINESS MEETING.

~Shirley Sandelands and Noell Rodriquez,
LWVGT Co-President



Carol West & Sally Davenport

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

NEW MEMBER BRUNCH A SUCCESS

Ten new and prospective members attended a brunch on Saturday, March 1 at the lovely home of Betty Geehan. Several Board members provided information about the Greater Tucson League, talked about their individual League experiences, and responded to questions. New members were enthusiastic about the League and interested in becoming involved. Four people joined the LWVGT at the event.

Many thanks to Betty for opening her home and providing such delicious food!



Evelyn Miller, Diane Miller and Maddy Urken at New Members Brunch

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: The LWVUS priorities for the coming year are Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. Given the current political environment, it was determined that the priorities of the first session of the 110th Congress (2007) are relevant for the second session (2008).

Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act and Redistricting Reform were dropped and Global Climate Change, Health Care and Tax Policy were added for this Congressional session. The addition of Tax Policy is in recognition that income inequality has grown substantially over the last several years and a comprehensive look at tax policy is possible. These priorities will be regularly reviewed and adjustments could be made should new opportunities for effective action emerge.

The LWVUS lobbyists have done a lot this past year in lobbying on CFR, DC Voting Rights and Health Care. They could use help from the members who could sign up for the Grassroots lobbying listserv, get action alerts right away and be able to write your Senators and Representatives. Go into the national website, www.lwv.org and select For Members. On the Welcome page, go down to the bottom to Join Conversations and to Join New Lists and sign up for the Grassroots lobbying listserv. Remember that you are writing your Member of Congress as an individual only. Do not ever use the name of the League.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES: The LWVUS has a new tool for researching votes for the first session of the 110th Congress (2007) listing House and Senate votes on key good government issues.

Check it out: Go to www.lwv.org and click on "Take Action" on the blue bar at the top of the page.

STATE LEGISLATURE: The League opposes the following and lobbied committee members.

HCR 2044: Voter Protection would allow Legislature to appropriate voter approved funds in times of budget deficit. 3-4 Appropriations Passed

HCR2069: any government agency or department where a new budget is not passed by the Legislature would automatically continue the previous year's budget regardless of any voter approved funding formulas. Appropriations Passed

HCR 2066; would allow Legislature to reduce voter approved funding to balance the budget was held in Appropriations committee.

HCR 2045: House Government passed a strike everything amendment which makes numerous changes to the initiative process, some of which apply to Clean Elections. Constitutional amendments would be referred back to the ballot for a revote after 8 years.

HCR2026: Changes redistricting commission to have commissioners elected. Government Committee passed this.

HCR2006: Merit Selection of judges: raised population figure to 600,000. Passed in Judicial Committee

SB1390: to opt out of Electoral College system. Held in Government Committee.

The Legislature is out to use the funding from initiatives that the voters passed in the last several elections so this would dry up a lot of services. Hopefully, these bills will be stopped before they get to the ballot.

~Gini McGirr, Legislative Chair



Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE MAILING CREW

Each month several loyal and hardworking LWVGT members gather to assemble the VOTER and ready it for mailing. It's due to their efforts that members receive their VOTERs each month and remain informed about LWVGT activities and achievements. We all owe thanks to Nina Carter, Lillian Stephenson, Pauline Hohmann, Laura Francis, Ethel Wedemeyer, Jeanne Scanlen, and Jo Coudray for their dedication and quiet contribution to the League. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!



Laura Francis, Lillian Stephenson, Pauline Hohmann (L-R, seated), Jo Coudray and Nina Carter (L-R, standing)

Running and Winning Update

The UA Political Science Department will join us as a Co-Sponsor of **Running and Winning** and provide women Political Science graduate students to be facilitators for the November 2008 workshop. Kara Eberly, President of the Grad Political Science Students (the first woman to be elected to that position), will be working with Co-Chair Shirley Sandelands for recruiting and training. Kara is enthusiastic and bringing many ideas to the **R and W** Steering Committee.

Anne Maiese, now New Jersey LWV President, spearheaded the development and writing of the interactive **Running and Winning** workshop for the LWV Camden County, New Jersey. LWVCC, with Anne accepting, won the "2008 Wynona M. Lipman Innovation Award" which was presented to her at a breakfast ceremony Tuesday, March 25th at the New Jersey Governor's mansion. Congratulations to Anne!

~Shirley Sandelands, *Running and Winning* Co-Chair

CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOTER

The LWVGT Board has determined that the trial distribution of the VOTER to members via the listserv has been successful. Therefore, **the Board has decided that, beginning in the fall with the first issue of the new fiscal year, the VOTER will be sent only in electronic form via the listserv to members with email who have not opted out.** *Members without e-mail will continue to receive the VOTER in hardcopy by regular mail.* The VOTER also will continue to appear on the LWVGT website where it may be read and printed.

Members with email who have not given their email addresses to the LWVGT are asked to consider doing so. Addresses may be sent to lwvgt@aol.com.

Members with email who wish to have a hardcopy are encouraged to print a copy from the listserv message or the website for their use thus saving the League the cost of paper and postage. Members may opt out of the electronic-only distribution by contacting the VOTER Editor, Betty Bengtson at bgbengtson@earthlink.net or 219-3507.

~ Betty Bengtson, VOTER Editor

LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

UNIT MEETINGS IN APRIL AND MAY

EASTSIDE UNIT Tuesday April 1 and May 6 at 9:30am

The Eastside Unit will meet on Tuesday, April 1st, 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Ward 2 Council Office, 7575 E. Speedway, in the large meeting room alcove. Our annual update of **public education** will include findings on area **charter schools** using Joyce Steiner's report. Marion Pickens will discuss the current status of the **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law** which is due for reauthorization by the US Congress this year.

Our May 6th gathering at the same time and place concludes the current program year and will look at issues slated for consideration and action at the **LWVUS National Convention, Reaching New Heights Together**, to meet in Portland, OR, June 13-17, 2008. As always, our meetings welcome all members and guests. Judy Fischer, 790-8182.

GREEN VALLEY UNIT Friday, April 11 and May 9 at 11:30am

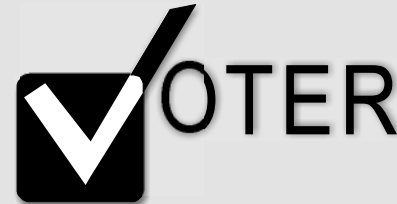
The Green Valley Unit will meet on Friday April 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Madera Room of the La Vista building at La Posada. **Judith Gans, professor at UA's Udall Center, will speak on "Immigration Policy: What's Wrong and Possible Solutions."** Those wishing a \$5 sandwich lunch should call Ermaline, 625-1711 before Wed. April 9.

The May 9th meeting will be at the same time and place, with the speaker to be announced. If you want a \$5 sandwich lunch call Ermaline, 625-1711 before Wed., May 7. Members and guests are welcome. For more information call Sue Girardeau, 399-9763.

NORTHWEST UNIT Thursday, April 3 and May 8 at 11:30am

The Northwest Unit will meet as usual on Thursday, April 3 at 11:30am at Michangelo's Ristorante, Oracle and Magee. **Discussion of NW water issues will continue.** All members and guests are welcome.

The Northwest Unit's May meeting will be on May 8, the *second Thursday in May*, at 11:30am at Michangelo's. The usual meeting day is changed due to the LWVGT Annual Meeting on May 1st. All members and guests are welcome. Call Barbara Felber at 825-6537 for more information.



LWVGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Shirley Sandelands | Co-President |
| Noell Rodriguez | Co-President |
| Maryann Cuddeback | 1st VP (Membership) |
| Sue Girardeau | 2nd Co-VP (Program) |
| Percy Byrd | 2nd Co-VP (Program) |
| Victor Bowleg | 3rd VP (Voter Service) |
| Judy Fischer | Secretary |
| Dorothy Boone | Treasurer |

ELECTED DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Betty Bengtson | Voter Editor |
| Patricia Frannea | Hospitality |
| Gini McGirr | At-Large (Legislative & Immigration) |
| Judy Ilg | At-Large (Action) |

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Joy Miller-Frilot | At-Large (Diversity) |
| Virginia Burkell | At-Large |

OFF BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Freda Johnson | Affordable Housing |
| Sally Davenport | County Book |
| Betsy Zukoski | Communications |
| Sue DeArmond | Citizen Directory |
| Carol Shearer | Co-Development |
| Freda Johnson | Co-Development |
| Shirley Muney | Forum Coordinator |
| Margaret Molla | Speakers Bureau |
| Carol Shearer | Running & Winning |
| Dave Seifert | Natural Resources |
| Janet Goodhue | ListServ Coordinator |
| Carol West | Nominating |
| Lu Kembel | Member Records |
| Jo Coudray | Mail Crew Coordinator |
| Marion Johnson | Office Volunteers |

LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

INFORMATION FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

National Public Radio and *National Geographic Magazine* are collaborating on an ongoing public education project about global climate change. The various programs they have presented so far can be found on the internet at www.npr.org/climateconnections. We strongly recommend starting with the five-part cartoon series, by Robert Krulwich, on carbon the element that creates and holds our planet together. Its information you'll want to know.

The Tucson City Manager's office has created a new organization called the Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development, which has a website address of www.tucsonaz.gov/ocsd. It covers most of the subject matter areas that our Natural Resources Committee deals with, plus a few more. A fuller picture can be seen by looking at the *Sustainability Report 2006-2007* and the *SustainLane 2007* survey responses (city data and profile in these areas) on the website.

RESEARCHERS NEEDED. Do you like to research things? Do you like short projects? Do you have access to the Internet? Do you like to work alone or at home? Can you write a report on the research you've done? If you do and can, the Natural Resources Committee is looking for you. For more information contact Dave Seifert at 885-4767 or daveseifert@att.net.

VOTE411.org: Serving Voters in 2008! A message from LWWUS President, Mary Wilson

February's Super Tuesday has passed, but the election year has just begun. Thanks to Vote411.org, more than 150,000 visitors have accessed up-to-date election information for their state so far this year. Our media outreach gained us exposure on CNN that Tuesday morning. We have stepped up our efforts to get out the word about all the resources available on VOTE411.org and in our new "Elections 101" area at www.lww.org. Now we need your help. Please urge friends to sign up at Vote411.org to receive election alerts and to make sure their friends and families are registered to vote. For more information, log into <http://www.vote411.org/bytopic.php?topicID=20>.

WELCOME TO NEW NATIONAL MEMBERS!

Monica Eiserling, Mary E. Hallesy, Rosemary Hayden,
Barbara McCarthy

MARCH WAS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of Women's History Month, the LWW notes the achievements of women in the past and highlights successes of today's women, making a difference from coast to coast. From suffragists who founded our organization 88 years ago to the strong women who volunteer their time to improve their communities, women of the League are making a profound civic impact. LWWUS presented several education forums in 2007-08: "The Changing Faces of Power; Women in Politics," a three part series on the journey of women through the political system: Women as Candidates, Women as Office Holders, and Women as Voters and Activists.

~Gini McGirr, Director At-Large (Legislative and Immigration)

AMAZING WHO YOU CAN FIND ON THE INTERNET!

If you go into the LWWUS website (www.lww.org) and click on the Women's History Month page and then, on the bottom right hand side, click on Global Impact - Kenyans Working Together for Good Governance..., you will come upon a picture of our own Sally Davenport with her Kenya friends.

League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson
2424 E. Broadway, Suite 110

Tucson, AZ 85719

Tel: 520-327-7652 Fax: 520-326-6655

Email: lwwgt@aol.com

Office hours: 9am-3pm Monday through Friday

Websites: LWVAZ: www.lwvaz.org LWWUS:

www.lww.org

LWVGT: www.lwvgt.org

This is the last issue of the Voter for this fiscal year. Look for its return in the late summer or early fall.

Errata: Please note that the March Voter was erroneously labeled as No. 7, instead of No. 8.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

WASTEWATER FACILITY AND RESTORATION PROJECT TOURS ON FEB. 29TH

A few hardy souls were still available to visit to the Wastewater Facility in Green Valley and the Ed Pastor Kino Environmental Restoration Project in Tucson on Feb. 29th trip, originally scheduled for Feb. 8th. Our guide in Green Valley was director, Michael Gritzuk. The Green Valley facility was constructed in 1981 as a simple series of ponds to handle 2.1 million gallons per day with the effluent directed to percolation ponds. Now the facility covers 30 acres since a major expansion in 2003. A separate system was added, an "oxidation ditch" with a biological nutrient process to remove total nitrogen from the effluent. This new treatment process added a capacity of 2.1 million gallons per day. Microorganisms are introduced into the water to digest the nitrogen until the effluent it is completely clear. The manager showed the group two glasses of water, 'before' and 'after'. The 'after' glass looked clear enough to drink. We toured the entire area, first viewing the filters which remove large pieces from the effluent before it goes into the "oxidation ditch", then looking at the various basins that purify the effluent. Finally we saw a huge pile of dry sludge which had been removed and dried completely. This residue is used by the local mine to keep dirt and dust from blowing towards the community as well as for reclamation. The facility has a 10 year agreement with the Quail Creek development which puts the final product from the oxidation ditch into its own recharge basins. The remainder is sent to the Santa Cruz River though at present Quail Creek is able to use the entire product. We learned that currently Sahuarita is handling its own waste stream and its waste sludge goes to Tucson.

Then we drove to Tucson just North of Tucson Electric Park for a picnic lunch at an attractive park, part of the Kino project. John Madril, Maintenance Supervisor at TEP, was our guide, along with Kathy Chavez, Wastewater Management Supervisor. In 1966 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a retention basin for flood control. It was expanded in 1999 to develop watercourses, marshes and riparian habitat, and completed in November 2001. The area now covers 125 acres, with a 50-foot deep lake covering 7 acres, 20 acres of watercourses and hills. Native plantings create marsh habitats, mesquite bosques, grasslands, and an open water environment that will support wildlife and birds. On our tour we saw the trees, grass and one huge jack rabbit, as well as special holes in the ground for burrowing owls. The visiting group toured by car on a 1½ mile paved walking trail around the project perimeter with several bridges over the streams and ponds, stopping to see various features. We saw the 'trash rack' which keeps junk from entering the basin. Pumps, valves and pipes circulate and mix reclaimed and storm water in the basin area and also keep the water moving among the ponds and the lake. Storm water is harvested for use on turf areas, medians and ballfields. Pellets are put in the water to control mosquito larvae and prevent West Nile Virus. The several storage ponds are lined so that storm water stays in place and doesn't seep into the aquifer. During the dry season Tucson Water (situated nearby) sells reclaimed water to the facility so that a minimum water level can be maintained and the plant habitats kept viable. Eight Green Valley folks went on the trip to the two facilities and returned home much the wiser.

~Sue Girardeau, 2d Co-VP (Program)



Join the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson

**As We Salute Tucson's Wonderful
Ethnic and Cultural Diversity With an
Exotic Musical Trip Around the
World!**

The Tucson Reveille Men's Chorus Presents

Dim Sum And Then Some, A Foreign Affair

With Various Local Ethnic Groups Representing 16
Countries

Friday, April 25, 2008 8 PM
Saturday, April 26, 2008 8PM
Sunday, April 27 3PM

Berger Performing Arts Center Speedway at Interstate 10
(on the Campus of the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind)

Prices are: \$20 General Admission at the door, \$15 seniors
\$10 Students
\$15 General Admission in advance, call (520) 304-1758

**Please Note: The League makes a minimum of \$5 on a full
price (\$15) ticket!**

**PLEASE USE LEAGUE PROMO CODE: LWV, WHEN
ORDERING TICKETS**

To order tickets, note the League Promo Code, then phone
(520) 304-1758

For questions about the concert, telephone LWV Member,
Joy Miller-Frilot (520) 744-5145



Reservation Form

**League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson
Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 1, 2008
Arizona Inn, Tucson Room
2200 E. Elm Street**

**10:30 - 1:45 pm
10:30 Registration - Foyer of Tucson Room
10:45 Business Meeting - Tucson Room
12:00 Noon Lunch**

***Parmesan and Herb Encrusted Chicken
with Basil Cream Sauce
Chef's selection of Vegetables, Potato, Pasta or Rice
Or***

***Grilled Portobello Mushroom
filled with Sautéed Vegetables and Tofu
with Sun-dried tomato and Basil Rice***



***Served with Rolls and Butter
Dessert: Pastry Chef's Selection of three Miniature Desserts
Coffees, Teas, or Milk
\$30***

**Reservation Deadline for mail received, or
calls to the Office:
Friday, April 25, 2008**

CIRCLE Food choice: Chicken Vegetarian-Mushroom

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for (number of people) _____ Amount \$ _____

Mail to LWVGT _____ 2424 E. Broadway, Suite 110, Tucson, AZ 85719

Office Telephone: 327-7652



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER TUCSON**
2424 E Broadway #110
Tucson, AZ 85719

(DATED MATERIAL)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit #257



MEMBERSHIP FORM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Fax:** _____

_____ \$60.00/Yr Individual Membership _____ \$90.00/Yr Household Membership
 _____ \$30.00/Yr Student Membership

**Individual dues include local (\$24.70), state(\$9.00), and national (\$26.30) memberships.
Household dues include local (\$37.45), state (\$13.50), and national (\$39.05) memberships.
Student dues include local (\$12.35), state (\$4.50), and national (\$13.15) memberships.**

**\$ _____ Contribution (not tax-deductible) \$ _____ Education Fund (tax deductible)
(Education Fund donations must be made by separate check.)**

**For dues and Non tax-deductible Contribution payments
please make checks payable to LWVGT.**

**For Education Fund donations please make separate checks payable to
LWVGT Education Fund.**

**Mail all checks to LWVGT, 2424 E. Bradway, Suite 110
Tucson, AZ 85719.**

If you need further information, call (520) 327-7652.