

THE VOTER



Volume 65

No. 7

April 2012

April

- 3 **Tuesday, 10 am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
7575 E Speedway
Topic: "What's Happening
in Education"
Phylis: 885.3271
prcarnahan@yahoo.com
- 10 **Tuesday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**
SaddleBrooke Unit
Catalina Room North
Clubhouse HOA#1
Informal planning meeting
Will meet 2nd Tues. of each
month through summer
Linda: 241.1043
- 13 **Friday, 11:30 am**
Green Valley Unit
Madera Room, La Posada
Bring sack lunch or order
Sandwich for \$5, call 625.1711
Sue: 648.7069
- 20 **Annual Meeting 10:00 am**
Mountain Oyster Club
6400 E. El Dorado Circle

May

- 5 **Saturday, 10 am-2 pm**
Combined Boards Retreat
Downtown Library
Please bring a sack lunch
- 6 **Sunday, 5:00-8:00 pm**
Member's Picnic
8002 N Sandero de Juana
Call Patsy: 575.7126
- 8 **Tuesday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**
SaddleBrooke Unit
Coyote Room North
Clubhouse, HOA #1
Topics: To be selected
Linda: 241.1043
- 11 **Friday, 11:30 am**
Green Valley Unit
Madera Rm, LaPosada
Topic: To be announced
Sue: 648.7969
- 19-20 **LWVAZ Council**
Phoenix

June

- 8-12 **LWVUS Convention**
Washington, DC

August

- 18 **Saturday, 10 am**
Summer Meeting
Columbus Library
4350 E. 22nd St.

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 20, 2012

The Mountain Oyster Club

6400 E. El Dorado Circle, Tucson, AZ

10:00 am Registration; 10:30 am Business Meeting

WANT TO KNOW THE LATEST ON THE CONTROVERSIAL INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION?

Grab your coat and get your hat, Leave your worries on the doorstep, Life can be so sweet, On the sunny side of the street. Skip down the sunny side of the street and off to the amazing Mountain Oyster Club, with all the beautiful paintings and sculptures, to have a fabulous day with your old and new friends and some delicious food.

The **CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING** has been mailed separately to all members along with a registration form. The **CALL** contains the Agenda, Board recommended Budgets, Program, Nominating Slate and Bylaws. Please bring the **CALL** to the Annual Meeting.

During this past year, you have read a lot about what has happened to get the new congressional and legislative maps drawn. You have read that the lawmakers have bills to abolish the commission, expand the duties, give it more money and don't give it any extra cash.

Our luncheon speaker, Colleen Coyle Mathis, the chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, will tell us more of the business of the Commission.

Colleen Coyle Mathis was unanimously chosen as Chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission by the four appointed Commissioners in March 2011. Colleen earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from Yale University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Illinois. She works in the practice plan division at University of Arizona Health Network. Colleen currently serves on both the State and Southern Chapter Boards of the Arizona Historical Society and is Director of the Alumni Schools Committee for the Tucson region for Yale University. Colleen is married to Chris, an estate planning and elder law attorney in Tucson.

As you know, the LWVAZ was instrumental in writing this original initiative and getting it passed. The League has had to monitor bills during the past ten years with legislators wanting to change the Act. This past year, the Commission went through a rough patch when the governor and state senators tried to fire Mathis. The LWVAZ filed an Amicus Brief in support of the Commission Chair. The court reinstated Mathis and the Commission continued work on the maps which have been sent to the Department of Justice.

Come with questions to learn more about this powerful Commission and enjoy a luncheon in a beautiful setting.



Colleen Mathis



Thanks to all of you for supporting our Centennial Celebration. It was truly a celebratory event, and we raised more than \$10,000 which enables us to provide sound but non-partisan voter information in the upcoming 2012 election season. We will help finance the

s t a t e -wide VOTER guide on the ballot measures as well as some local brochures with important information for the voters. There will no doubt be opportunities for us to sponsor candidate forums also.

Our sponsors and all of you helped to make these projects possible. Our thanks! Our business sponsors include Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tucson Electric Power, Cox Communications, Central Arizona Project, the Sundt Companies, Farmers Investment Company, Tucson Medical Center, Picor

Commercial Real Estate, Comcast, David and Sarah Brown Smallhouse, O'Rielly Motor Company, Beach-Fleischman CPAs, and Humberto Lopez. If you see any of these sponsors, be sure to express your thanks and appreciation.

This is my last time to write to you as LWVGT President. It has been a privilege to work with all of you. You have been wonderful about volunteering for committees and other tasks. Your many talents have been helpful to the LWVGT. Thank you for making LWVGT a strong and vital organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the April 20 annual meeting as well as the May 6 potluck picnic. And of course we will be together at all LWVGT meetings throughout the year.

Carol West, President

PICNIC FOR ALL MEMBERS TIME FOR FUN AND CELEBRATION

There will be a potluck picnic on May 6th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, at the home of Patsy and Joe Frannea, to celebrate our accomplishments of the past year and to welcome our new members. (We will eat at 5:30 pm)

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Drinks and tableware will be provided by LWVGT. Guests and spouses are welcome. Carpool if at all possible.

Please RSVP to Patsy at frannea@earthlink.net or call 575.7126 and tell her what you will bring.

Directions to the Frannea home: 8002 N. Sendero de Juana. From the intersection of Ina Road and First Avenue, go north toward Pima Canyon Trailhead on Christie Drive. (First Avenue changes to Christie Drive at Ina.) Go up Christie less than a mile to the first intersection which is Sendero de Juana. Turn left around the traffic circle at Sendero and drive to the intersection of Magee Road and Sendero. Cross over Magee and the Franneas are the first driveway on your right.

You can also get to Frannea's from the intersection of Oracle Road and Magee Road-go east on Magee towards Pima Canyon Trailhead about a mile. You will pass Immaculate Heart School and a short block after that you will come to Sendero de Juana. Turn left around the traffic circle at Sendero and Franneas are the first driveway on your right.



OFFICE CLOSED June 4 August 3 THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks go to the wonderful volunteers who keep our LWVGT office open throughout the year: Lu Kembel, Nina Carter, Silke Hoffmann, Phyllis Wassenberg and Trish O'Flaherty.

To give these women a well-deserved break, the League office will be closed from June 4 to August 3. Be assured that any meetings that committees wish to hold at the office can still be held. If you need a key, please call Phyllis Carnahan at 885.3272 or Phyllis Wassenberg at 577.1479.



Mission Statement

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

POWER TO VOTE!

Our national president, Elisabeth MacNamara, has written to remind us that 2012 is an important election year. She says, "There is a great deal of work to be done to help register, educate, and mobilize voters. That is why the League has launched an important campaign, "Power the Vote."

We must register new voters through community and high school voter registration efforts of local LWV members. (We have already asked each of you to register 5 voters.) We can educate voters through local and state candidate debates and at VOTE411.org, the League's premier online voter and election information resource for 2012. (We can also access the Secretary of State's website and Pima and Pinal County Elections websites.)

It is urgent that we protect voters by fighting against

suppressive election laws, the big money in campaigns, and the rise of Super PACS. We can do this by writing personal letters to our legislators and newspapers as well as strengthening the Federal Election Commission. Just recently the national League was instrumental in sending 25,000 petition signatures to President Obama to urge him to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission, many of whom have expired terms. Other seats have not been filled!

LWVGT is in partnership with the O'Connor House project in registering voters and giving voters election information. Our Voter Service Committee has more specifics elsewhere in this VOTER.

Carol West

THANKS TO MEMBERS WORKING AT THE MARCH FESTIVAL OF BOOKS



Book Fair



Carol, West, Nancy Pfaffin, Judy Moll

Many thanks and appreciation to the following for working at the LWVGT/AZ Town Hall booth at the Festival of Books: Sue Ward, Shirley Sandelands, Mary Gresham, Phylis Carnahan, Catherine Rodriguez, Sue Girardeau, Shirley Muney, Judy Moll, Nancy Pfaffin, Judy Carran, Mary Britton, Bev Kloehn, Marion Pickens, Marty Cortez, Trish O'Flaherty, Betsy Zukoski, Phyllis Farenga, Freda Johnson, and Carol West. The members registered 23 voters, including a young woman from Afghanistan who just became an American citizen. Many registered voters stopped to thank the LWVGT for all that that we do and said that they appreciate us.

Carol West

SPECIAL THANKS TO TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

Special thanks to Sharon Foltz and Tucson Electric Power for printing the election date cards for distribution because of the redistricting map refinements and the fact that there are several local, state, and federal elections this year. The League wants to be accurate in the information given to people. TEP has again agreed to print the Directory in 2013. LWVGT appreciates their strong support.

The LWVGT Voter is published monthly August through April, with a combined December/January issue. Maria Moreno, Nuvo Print, is the designer. For information, contact any member of the VOTER Editorial Board: Gini McGirr (GiniLwv@aol.com or 579.2138), Grace Evans (evansg3@earthlink.net or 904.5380), Trish O'Flaherty (toflaherty2002@yahoo.com or 299.2174).

ARIZONA AT 100

On February 17, 2012, 230 people helped the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson celebrate Arizona's Centennial at a festive luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel. A highlight of the event was the presence of a number of the gran dames of Tucson, Las Donas de los Decendientes del Presidio de Tucson. This group of business, public, and philanthropic women reflect several decades of Tucson's past and recent history. It was a great honor to share their presence and that of a traditional Spanish Colonial color guard of Los Descendientes. Helping review Arizona's past 100 years was writer Lisa Schnebly-Heidinger, great-granddaughter of Sedona Schnebly, who gave her name to that Arizona town. Lisa is the author of a definitive book on Tucson's Centennial, Arizona: 100 Years Grand.

Helping mark the celebration were LWV Arizona President, Dr. Barbara Klein, and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. Betsy Bolding was a very able Master of Ceremonies. Many thanks to the sponsors of this event, who helped make it possible, to Tucson League President Carol West who provided the leadership and enthusiasm and the hardworking Development Committee who put it all together.



Members and Guests



Gini McGirr, LWVAZ President
Barbara Klein, Virginia Burkel

Grace Evans

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The big event for February was the Arizona Centennial Celebration Luncheon. Many long-term members and many new members attended. It was a really festive event and one in which the planners took care to have those attending feel welcome. One way they did that was: everyone had a nametag so others at the table could know with whom they were sharing a table and each ticket had the table number. This was a gracious touch for which the many members of the hospitality committee are to be thanked.

The League of Women Voters has a great mission: it "Encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy." In this important election year, there are many opportunities for our members to work toward accomplishing these needed goals. Helping arrange LWV events and attending them are two such ways. Another method is when members go out into the community to register voters. This month voters were registered at the Tucson Rodeo, the Tucson Festival of Books at the U of A, and at the Tucson Food Bank.

Welcome to new members: Patti Arida, Danielle Thu, and Barbara Warren, Charlotte Simons, Helaine Levy, Joanne Mauger, Barbara Hynes, and Kenneth Bierman

Mary Gresham, 1st VP, Membership

SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD MEMBER GRACE EVANS



Grace Evans was born and started school in California, before her family moved to the East Coast. She earned her BA in Political Science at a small Quaker college in Richmond, Indiana, Earlham College. She continued her studies in Urban Planning at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Although she has lived in other places, she has made Tucson her home for over 30 years. Grace likes to travel and has traveled to South America, Latin America, England, Ireland, France, Italy, Egypt and China.

Now retired, Grace worked as an Adjunct Professor at the U of A in urban planning. She now fills her hours with community service, serving in several local community based programs and she participates in pulling bufflegrass. She has been a member of the LWVGT for about 5 years, serving as secretary for the past 2 years. She has also taken on the task of Editor of the Voter for the coming year.

Elections: Voter Registration Fight Continues

Recently the US Justice Department objected to new provisions of Florida's election law that place strict regulations on independent voter registration groups and shorten the early voting period. The objection was filed in a pretrial submission in the preclearance lawsuit that LWVFL is involved in. South Carolina's voter registration bill was sent back to committee. The bill would create massive liabilities associated with voter registration drives administered by third-party organizations like the LWV. By sending the bill back to the Judiciary committee, the House made it less likely that the bill will pass in its current form. The bill is "sleeping" but not yet "dead."

Elections: Voter Photo ID Updates

Good news: Enforcement of Wisconsin voter photo ID has been halted. A judge barred the enforcement of the state photo ID law at polling places during the general election on April 3, calling it an "extremely broad and largely needless" impairment of the right to vote. LWVWI also has a lawsuit to stop implementation of the law arguing that the law violates a provision of the Wisconsin State Constitution. Also an Oklahoma bill which would have deleted the election board issued voter ID card as identification as a polling place ID is dead for this session. Now the bad news: The Pennsylvania Senate passed a voter photo ID bill. The bill returns to the House for concurrence. It will likely pass and the Governor is expected to sign it.

Redistricting information: The Florida Supreme Court gave real meaning to the new redistricting standards as approved by the voters and invalidated the Senate district plan passed by the Legislature. The court supported the citizens who gathered signatures and voted for the Fair Districts Amendments in Nov. 2010.

RUTH S. SHUR FELLOWS IN TRAINING SESSION

The LWVUS Ruth Shur Fellows who act as national coaches to state teams to grow and reinvigorate the League to support democracy got together near Baltimore February 22-26 to learn together and move forward to the League's 100th anniversary.

Attending the session was Gini McGirr, who is going on her third year as a national coach. McGirr received an award for her past coaching work with the states of Idaho, South Carolina, California and Tennessee.



The Ruth Shur Fellows national coaches 2012

DID YOU KNOW?

(Editor's note: Since this is the year of the 92nd Birthday of the LWV, this continuing column will be on excerpts of the "LWV Through the Decades," written by former LWVUS president Kay Maxwell - #6)

The 1970s: In 1970 the national bylaws requirement for adopting a not-recommended item was changed from three-fifths to a simple majority. "CA" and "CRs" were dropped from the bylaws, and the national program appeared as one list of issues discussed, amended and adopted at national conventions every two years.

In 1972, Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) created in many parts of the country to deal with regional issues, were added to the formal structure of the League. The 1974 convention also amended the bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.

Issues: In the early 1970s, the League addressed the issue of income assistance and also began its efforts to achieve a national Equal Rights Amendment, an effort which ultimately failed. The League also adopted a position on direct popular election of the President, on Congress, on the UN and on Campaign Finance. And in 1976, the League sponsored the first televised presidential debates since 1960, resulting in receiving an Emmy award.

The League's deep interest in the environment was dramatically evident in the 1970s and it has since built a sequence of broad national positions on water, as well as air, waste management, land use and energy.

Gini McGirr

UNIT NEWS

Plans are continuing for a new **Northside Unit**. Program, location, and leadership will be determined as interest grows. Phyllis Carnahan at 885-3271 or prcarnahan@yahoo.com anticipates hearing from you about your interest in a new Unit.

The **Eastside Unit** will reconvene on Tuesday, Sept. 4th at its annual potluck luncheon, place and program to be announced. The Unit will then resume its first Tuesday morning meetings at the Ward 2 Council Office beginning in October.

The **SaddleBrooke Unit** will continue over the summer to meet on the 2nd Tuesday exploring interests and topics emerging from the participants.

The **Green Valley Unit** will notify members individually if activities warrant further meetings and involvement. We all look forward to an update in the fall!

2012 ELECTION DATES

SPECIAL ELECTION CD 8 ONLY

Tuesday, April 17th Primary Election CD8

(those registered without party designation can vote in the party primary of their choice)

Monday March 19: Last day to register to vote

Thursday March 22: Early ballots mailed out

Friday April 13: Last day to mail early ballot

Tuesday June 12 General Election CD8

Monday May 14: Last day to register to vote

Thursday May 17: Early ballots mailed out

June 8: Last day to mail early ballot

NATIONAL, STATE AND COUNTY ELECTIONS

Tuesday August 28 Primary Election

(those registered without party designation can vote in the party primary of their choice)

Monday July 30: Last day to register to vote

Thursday August 2: Early ballots mailed out

August 24: Last Day to mail early ballot

Election Tuesday November 6 General

Monday October 8: Last day to register to vote

Thursday October 11: Early ballots mailed out

Thursday November 1: Last day to mail early ballot

The 2012 Call to Annual Meeting was mailed out on March 15th. Thanks go to Carol West, Gini McGirr and Lu Kembel for the booklet preparation. And many thanks to Lu Kembel, Silke Hoffman, Gordon and Gini McGirr for mailing out the Call.

LWVGT ENDOWMENT FUND

All LWVGT Members will be receiving a letter with information regarding the LWVGT ENDOWMENT FUND (formerly the Lance Endowment) in April, 2012. We urge you to read and consider enhancing this fund now/and in the future. Distribution from this fund will continue to provide League Education activities in the future.

For immediate information, please contact Lia Pierse (520-577-0388) at the Jewish Community Foundation where the fund is held.

Shirley Sandelands, Chair

League of Women Voters of Greater
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Email: lwwgt@aol.com
Office hours: 10am-1pm Monday through
Friday
Websites: LWVAZ: www.lwvaz.org
LWVUS: www.lwv.org
LWVGT: www.lwvgt.org

GIVING TO LWVGT ENDOWMENT FUND (Formerly the Lance Endowment Fund)

Checks can be written to JCF (The Jewish Foundation of Southern Arizona) with
Memo Line: LWVGT ENDOWMENT. (Options: "In Honor of" "In Memory of")

Income from the Endowment benefits the LWVGT portion of the LWVAZ Education Fund.

If interested in a Legacy Gift, please contact JCF of Southern AZ, Director of Donor
Services, Lia Pierse (520.577.0388)



Shirley Sandelands, Chr. Endowment

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislators are going through the bills like a knife going through butter. Many bills have gone through one house and sent to the other and then became a completely different bill by the odd means of a Strike Everything amendment. This changes the bill from what it started out to be into a different one that has nothing to do with the original bill.

We are watching the Clean Election bills and the Independent Redistricting bills along with election reform, natural resources and the contraception/abortion bills that are growing like weeds. It would be nice if the legislators worked on the budget and went home. Hopefully, they will adjourn on the 100 day deadline.

One of the most important bills is SCR1021 Public Funds; political candidates, ban. This would kill Clean Elections. It has gone through the Senate and passed in the House Judiciary committee. There was an Action Alert sent out on this and thank you if you did write the committee members and ask them to vote against this bill. We still need help so please write or call your own legislators and tell them that you oppose this bill. This would go on the ballot if it passes a floor vote. HB2841 makes some changes in the CE Act and we do support this.

SCR1035 Repeal Independent Redistricting Commission. This has gone through the Senate and is in the House waiting to be heard in the House Judiciary committee. We are lobbying against this and ask that you write your legislators to vote against this bill. This would also go on the ballot.

Another bad bill is HCR2005 Initiatives, Referendum Measures; periodic reauthorization. This would undo what the voters have been doing down the years. The propositions that were passed that had any funding in them would have to be put on the ballot again every six years so the voters could keep or drop them. This would cost a fortune to educate the public on what the prop had done and that it should be kept. This would make the general election ballots very long with these old ones coming up along with all the new ones that the legislators keep piling on. Too many propositions, and the voters get turned off. Remember the Voter Guide of 2006 when we had 19 props, 8 in 2008 and 10 in 2010. It is hard to educate the voters on these when there are so many to get down to ordinary speech.

There are a lot more bills that the LWVAZ lobbyists are speaking out on and will continue to do this. We write the members of the committees and do a "Request to Speak" where we write something about the bill and it is read during the committee meeting that the LWVAZ or the lobbyists in their own name, have asked that the members oppose/support a bill. But we ask that if you receive an Action Alert on your computer, please do act on this at once as we need all of your help on these bills.

You have been reading about the Redistricting panel asking for funds to keep it going and the legislators has two bills on the supplemental funding. One had a blank amount and the other had \$1.00 funding. The Commission was going to file suit to get the needed funding but has held off as there is possibility the funding bills will be passed with the needed amount. Be sure to come to the April 20th Annual Meeting and hear the Chair of the Commission, Colleen Mathis, talk about the work of the Commission.

This will be the last *Voter* until the September issue. So please keep reading about the bills in the newspapers as they keep going through the committees. And do take time on the Action Alerts when you receive them. All of your emails and calls are appreciated.

Gini McGirr, Legislative Chair

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER TUCSON**
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON

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_____ \$75.00 Year Individual Membership _____ \$110.00 Year Household Membership

_____ \$45.00 Year Student Membership

Individual dues include local (\$35.00), state (\$10.00), and national (\$30.00) memberships.

Household dues include local (\$50.00), state (\$15.00), and national (\$45.00) memberships.

Student dues include local (\$25.00), state (\$5.00), and national (\$15.00) memberships.

\$_____ Contribution (not tax-deductible) \$_____ LWVAZ Education Fund (Tax deductible)

(Note: Education Fund donations must be made by separate check.)

To use your credit card, go to the website of www.lwvgt.org and use PayPal

For Dues and non tax-deductible contribution payments, please make checks payable to LWVGT.

For Education Fund donations, please make separate checks payable to LWVAZ Education Fund.

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

If you need further information, call (520) 327.7652