

The Voter



Volume 70 Number 7

April 2017

Save the Date:

LWVGT
Annual Meeting
Lodge on the Desert
9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday, April 22,
2017

Inside This Issue

Pitch for Convention Delegates	1
Issues & Eggs Recap	2
Monthly Calendar	3
Annual Meeting Notes	5
Index to Proposed Bylaws Changes	5
Help Wanted Case for Pres.-elect	7
Observer Corps	7
Kino Border Initiative Info	7
President's Message	8

Our Arizona State Convention. Why we need you! Yes, you! **Joan Kaltsas, Secretary, State League Board Secretary**

This crass commercial article is meant especially for anyone who's never been to an Arizona State LWV Convention or who hasn't considered going, even though you've been a member of League since a month ago or 45 (or more) years ago. **The GT League needs delegates!**

You could be one of them! On the evening of Friday, April 28th until the afternoon of Sunday, April 30th, the State League is holding its biennial Convention. Here's some background info: The State has 5 Leagues. They're centered in Central Yavapai County (CYC – Prescott plus); Greater Tucson (GT -- that's us); Greater Verde Valley (GVV – Sedona plus); Metro Phoenix (MP -- Phoenix & lots of suburbs); and Northwest Maricopa County (NWMC - - Sun Cities, Surprise plus). This year, the Convention's being hosted by NWMC in Surprise. It unofficially opens with a dinner somewhere near Lake Pleasant, then an evening cruise on some kind of boat, then to the motel, then up Saturday morning to immerse ourselves in a day and a half of really exciting League 'stuff'. They'll be League members from around the State that are just as interesting and nice as you are. There will be an Archivist, an Arizona Republic reporter, a Planned Parenthood VP, the Director of the AZ Center for Economic Progress, and Support Schools Now. You will also have an opportunity to meet an AZ investigative reporter, a member of the ACC, the National League President, plus a few more surprises. (We are *in* Surprise after all.)

In addition, we have break-out workshops, decisions to be made, votes to be taken, questions to be asked, challenges to be pondered and ideas to be wrestled with. We'll have time to interact with each other AND – from Saturday morning through lunch on Sunday, there will be good food served, a wine bar in the evening, and no dishes to wash! You'll leave on Sunday afternoon knowing you've spent your time well and invigorated by what your League is, in a more global kind of way. Knowing about our Greater Tucson League is fine; understanding our other four sister Leagues in the State and beyond, is amazing. Ok, there's another side of coming to Convention. It does cost something, although your GT League will offset \$65 of the \$110 registration fee (which includes the meals, etc.) In addition, unless you're driving up on Saturday morning (which is doable, and the Convention itself doesn't really start until 9:00), you'll need a hotel room at the Hampton Inn & Suites (\$89+tax for 2 Queens; need to use Code LWV. 623-537-9122) which has a special rate for us. You could room with another delegate which would lower your cost. There are usually enough people driving up, to form carpools. If you'd want to cruise Lake Pleasant Friday night (I didn't even know there was a lake that big near Phoenix), it's \$21, and dinner's on our own. So, that's the pitch: getting to experience League in a more expansive way, with great League members from around State, is a wonderful way to know this grass-roots organization to which we belong. We're all standing on the shoulders of women, whose countless years of meetings and marches and sufferings and successes allow the League members in this State to continue to build on that legacy, as we appreciate our time together.

Our President, **Freda Johnson**, is the gatherer of our delegates, so please contact her at 520-622-1933 or president@lwvgt.com.

Issues and Eggs Recap *Impact of Poverty on K-12 Academic Achievement*



Mary Jondrow
Chris Gutierrez
David Baker
Bonnie Bazata

The Annual Issues and Eggs fundraiser proved again to be a very successful event for a large cross-section of the Tucson community. All who attended were impressed with the panel assembled by **Janet Marcotte** and her committee.

The topic was ably addressed by the panel, which included: **Dr. David Baker**, Superintendent of Tucson’s Flowing Wells School District; **Bonnie Bazata**, Program Manager of Ending Poverty Now; **Chris Gutierrez**, Principal of Holaway Elementary School in the Amphitheater School District; and **Mary Jondrow, PhD**, Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus. The discussion was moderated by **Bruce Dusenberry**.

It was shocking to learn that over 50% of Arizona Children qualify for free or reduced school lunch. For these children, the impact of poverty goes well beyond lack of regular nutritional meals; they may also lack access to the resources and attention their classmates enjoy. The impact of these deficiencies may result in deficits that can be impossible to overcome. By the end of 4th grade, these children typically score two years below grade level; by 12th grade, they may end up four years behind their peers in academic achievement. The concept of the high cost of poverty is important to acknowledge.

The information about available resources and techniques for change discussed by the panel, and the energy displayed by these dedicated people gives us hope that their continued work may at some point help alter the lives of these important young people.



Phylis Carnahan
Sen. Steve Farley
Betty Bengtson



LWVGT
“Not for women only!”



Dorothy Riley
Shirley
Sandelands
Pat Wiedhopf



Albert Elias
City of Tucson
Linda Arzoumanian
Freda Johnson

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

Check out these Unit Meetings for the Month of April!!

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

EASTSIDE UNIT MEETING

9:30 am

7575 East Speedway, City of Tucson Ward 2 Office

Guest Speaker: **Bryan Mayer, PhD**, Associate Professor
University of Arizona, School of Sociology

Topic: Poverty and Education in Tucson

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

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Noon (bring sack lunch), 12:30 Program

GREEN VALLEY UNIT MEETING

Madera Room, 3rd floor, La Vista Building, La Posada Campus

Guest Speaker: **Michelle Pitot**, Chief of Staff, Tucson YWCA

Topic: YWCA programs dedicated to helping women with economic opportunities

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

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

NORTHWEST UNIT MEETING

1:15 – 2:30 pm

Tour the Paulo Freire Freedom School, 47 E. Pennington

Contact: **Judy Moll**, 742-6525, re: carpool opportunities

The Northwest Unit will be visiting the Paulo Freire Freedom School on April 11. The 8th grade students studied mass incarceration, the war on drugs, mandatory-minimum sentencing, Jim Crow and other topics. The students will be presenting what they learned and their proposals for reforming the criminal justice system. These studies are part of the humanities course where the eighth graders studied historical and current issues surrounding civil rights. If you'd like to join us for lunch and the tour, please contact **Judy Moll**, 742-6525.

Thursday, April 20, 2017

MIDTOWN UNIT MEETING

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Martha Cooper Library, 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

Guest Speaker: **David Gibbs, PhD**, University of Arizona

Topic: Why the United States Needs a New Peace Movement

Contact: **Janice Murphy**, 838-0040

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Saturday, April 22, 2017

LWVGT ANNUAL MEETING

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Lodge on the Desert

Details will be mailed to members in the “Call to the Annual Meeting” the third week in March. Come prepared to discuss and participate in the recommendations of the Board.

Monday, April 24, 2017

MIDTOWN EVENING UNIT MEETING

5:30 – 7:00 pm

3202 E. 1st St., Ward 6, Conference Room

See Topics, Details and a Schedule on the website

Contact: **Ronnie Mullins**, 404-4551

Saturday, April 29, 2017 – Sunday, April 30, 2017
Surprise, Arizona

LWVAZ CONVENTION

The State Convention, held every two years, will take place in Surprise, AZ, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County. We are entitled to a total of twelve delegates, and you could be one of them. We conduct business, adopt a program, a budget, and a slate of officers. In addition, we have workshops and hear from guest speakers. This year, invited speakers will represent perspectives about the Arizona Corporate Commission, the Legislature, immigration issues, and how journalists cover a contentious election. The Convention will be held at The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ, and we will stay at the Hampton Inn, also in Surprise.

See the State website to get a registration form to mail with your check, or you can register online using PayPal or a credit card at <http://www.lwvaz.org>.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS APRIL 22

Think of it as your chance to influence what we do next year!

By the time you read this, you will have received your personal copy of the League's Call to the Annual Meeting. It's a bit hefty but don't be intimidated. It is your guide to what the League Board recommends about our budget, our bylaws, our 'program' and our nominations for leadership.

A word about 'program': Open your membership handbook to find summaries of positions the League has adopted on governmental issues on the local, state and national levels. Each year in Tucson we readopt our local positions that we call our 'program.' This year the Board recommends readopting all those positions reached through member consensus in prior years. But wait! This year the Board also proposes a study update on our Air Quality position originally studied in 1990. You can find our detailed local positions at lwwgt.org. On our home page, click on Projects, Positions and Documents and once there, go to Positions and Action Agendas.

Why should you care? Because you are part of a member driven organization and you get to cast your vote on all the issues I mentioned above. That is what our Annual Meeting is all about.

The Annual Meeting is open to all members in good standing. That means you have paid your dues. Recently you received an email or letter reminding you that dues are due by April at the latest. Renew your membership and count yourself among those of us who will be voting April 22.

Freda Johnson, President

Index to Proposed Bylaws Changes

Annual Meeting – April 22, 2017

LWVUS- mandated Membership Requirements

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article III, Section 2

Reason: To conform with LWVUS membership requirements adopted at the 2016 LWVUS Convention

Comment: The 2016 LWVUS Convention amended the conditions for League membership. Local Leagues are required to use the membership provisions of LWVUS. Unless this change is made, LWVGT risks losing its status as a local chapter of the National LWV.

Leadership Succession (President-Elect)

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article IV, Sections 1-5, except for Section 2; and Article VI, Section 1

Reason: To make top leadership positions less burdensome by creating a President-Elect and eliminating the title of Vice-President

Comment: In recent years, it has been difficult to identify members to serve as President or Vice-President. The proposed changes attempt to make these positions more attractive by having a mentoring year for an individual to prepare for the presidency and by reducing the President's term of office to 1 year. The title of Vice-President is eliminated. In the event a President cannot complete the term, the President-Elect may complete the term, or, if the President-Elect is not available, the Board must select an elected director to complete the term.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

Special Board Meeting Transparency

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article V, Section 6

Reason: To increase transparency of special board meetings

Comment: The proposed changes expressly require the secretary to keep a written record of topics discussed and votes taken during a special meeting and limits use of special meetings to circumstances requiring Board action before the next scheduled meeting.

Dues Discount for Multi-Member Households

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article VII, Section 2, Subsection B

Reason: To extend the reduction in dues available for households with two members to households with more than two members and state explicitly the amount of the reduction.

Comment: LWVUS bylaws allow a deduction in the per member payment when two or more members reside at the same address in a common household. LWVGT's current bylaws only mentions two member households. This change would extend the dues reduction to households with more than 2 LWVGT members.

Procedures for Program Selection

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article X, Sections 3, Subsections A, last sentence, and B

Reason: To adopt the LWVUS voting requirement to pass non-recommended proposals; and to establish concurrence, a means of adopting a position of another League used by local Leagues throughout the country.

Comment: The changes increase the vote to pass program proposals not recommended by the Board from a majority to 2/3 of members present, qualified and voting at the Annual Meeting. A new provision allows for adoption by concurrence of a position taken by another League; background information supporting the position with which concurrence is sought shall be provided and there must be a 2/3 vote following discussion at an Annual Meeting or a membership meeting.

Midyear Amendment of Bylaws by Board

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article XII, Section 3, Subsection A

Reason: To provide flexibility to change the bylaws midyear if necessary to comply with law or National or State League action

Comment: LWVGT bylaws allow amendment only at the Annual Meeting. The change would allow the Board to amend the bylaws by majority vote if there is an inconsistency with current law or National or State League action and directs the President to give members reasonable notice of any amendment. All Board- approved changes, except those required by LWVUS to conform to National bylaws, are subject to membership consideration and vote at the next Annual Meeting.

Minor, Non-substantive Changes

Location(s) of Proposed Change(s): Article IV, Sections 2 and 7; Article V, Sections 2 and 4; Article VII, Sections 1, 2, Subsection A, and 4; Article X, Section 2, Subsection A, and Section 3, Sub-section A, 3rd sentence; and renumbering throughout as needed

Reason: To enhance readability, add minor clarification, correct typos, spacing and grammatical errors and integrate changes to the bylaws made at the Annual Meeting

Comment: These changes are not intended to make any significant substantive change.

Help Wanted

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: LWVGT President-Elect

Do you care about democracy? Do you believe that non-partisan collaboration in challenging political times can make a difference? Are you concerned about the conduct of elections and major issues ranging from public education to climate change? Of course you are. Otherwise you wouldn't be reading this. Your League--and your country--needs you. We are looking for a League member who wants to join our leadership team in 2017-2019. It's a two-year commitment, one year to learn how our League and Board function, and a second year as LWVGT president.

What can you bring to the table? Past LWVGT presidents suggest that communication and organizing skills, patience, and the ability to get along with others and to delegate are critical. Good computer skills help, as does a sense of humor and a willingness not to take oneself too seriously. How can you find out more about this golden chance to make a difference? Feel free to contact me or any of the officers listed in your Membership Handbook and Directory.

Betsy Bolding, Nominating Committee Chair

Observer Corps

Since taking over the Observer Corps, efforts have been made to expand the work being done and to bring new focus into this group. We are recruiting League members to observe more governing bodies, with a goal to cover the cities of Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana, Sahuarita, and Pima County, as well as observing more school district boards. Much of the work can be done at home on your computer as many municipalities and school boards keep videos of their meetings and notes available on their websites. Or for those who wish to observe in person, they may attend the meetings wearing their League of Women Voters pin. Anyone interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact me at ObserverCorps@lwgvt.org.

Janice Murphy has been vigilant with the Amphi School district and many thanks for her diligent work. **Marilyn Smoller** has agreed to assist me with Oro Valley, observing the zoning and planning process while I will concentrate on the financials. **Judy Moll** is observing the Justice Coordinating Council. Newly joining this group is **Judy Wood**, who will be observing the Tucson Unified School District. She brings experience with the Observer Corps from Louisiana and had served in a locally elected position there.

Myra Hopper

Kino Border Initiative

Last spring members of the Northwest Unit visited the Kino Border Initiative's program for deported immigrants on the Mexican side of the Nogales port of entry. Our host was **Joanna Williams**, KBI's Education and Advocacy staffer. This spring Joanna joined us to share her extensive knowledge about immigration detention, including the legalities, extent, costs, detention conditions, and impacts on individuals, families and communities. She was also knowledgeable about the challenges of achieving positive outcomes. Her stories of detained individuals she has come to know were particularly moving and motivating. In response to a question, she said detained individuals treasure visits and letters, and offered to assist those who might choose to visit or write. She concluded with suggestions on ways to advocate against an expansion of detention, pointing specifically to imminent Congressional deliberations on funding for the balance of the current fiscal year, followed by consideration of Fiscal 2018 budget proposals.

If you would like further information, Joanna may be reached at jwilliams@kinoborderinitiative.org.

Nancy Pfafflin

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

Myra Hopper

Voter Editor

Judy Bowser

Member at Large

Linda Arzoumanian

Contributors to this issue:

Freda Johnson

Joan Kaltsas

Paula Wilk

Myra Hopper

Sue DeArmond

Betsy Bolding

Judy Moll

Nancy Pfafflin

Judy Bowser

Mary Gresham **Photos**

Roxanne Housley **Photos**

Jean Discorfanio (Formatter)

President's Message

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—Not for Members Only!

If we are going to continue as a relevant, vibrant organization, we need to find more ways to reach out and engage people in the community. One way to do that is to make sure folks understand that our meetings are not for members only. Another is to be out there where the people are. You can lead the way by bringing a friend or neighbor to one of our voter education programs or unit discussion groups. If you belong to a book club, professional association or just a group of friends, think about inviting them to our meetings or telling them about our League's Speaker Bureau. All you have to do is ask!

We know people are hungry for information and many of them turn to the League.

Bev Kloehn, our Communications Chair, maintains an ever growing list of non-members who want to know what we are doing. We send them monthly alerts about our activities by email. Some groups have expressed interest in learning how to be effective in lobbying our elected officials. **Anna Dolak**, our Speakers Bureau Chair, and her committee provide speakers who reveal what works and what doesn't when lobbying.

Our Voter Service Team runs workshops on how to organize a candidates forum and how to moderate such an event. One thing our League commits to each year is to have a presence at events such as Tucson Meet Yourself downtown in October and the Festival of Books in March. Many people stopped by our booth recently at the Book Fair to collect their own copy of our Citizen's Directory to Elected Officials and our popular 'Guide to Voting' pamphlet. One volunteer was surprised that several people said they couldn't vote and, when asked why, said that they were felons. We were able to direct them to the Pima County Recorder's office to start the process to restore their rights. Two teachers were glad to find us and enlist our help in presenting information to their students about running for office and upcoming local elections. A total of 15 people registered to vote on site, and many more took registration forms in order fill them out and send them in at their own convenience. Our popular new evening Midtown unit is off and running and most people who show up are not League members! They are exploring topics such as elections, education, and the environment in the book 'What You Should Know about Politics...But Don't'. That unit discussion group will meet through June and resume in September. As always, check our website lwvgt.org to find events of interest to you. And when you go to our meetings or on a League field trip, bring a friend!

Freda Johnson, President



president@lwvgt.com.



Joan Kaltsas and Mark Ekstrum working the LWVGT Book Festival booth.