

THE VOTER



Volume 65

No. 5

February 2012

February

- 7 Tuesday, 10 am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
7575 E Speedway
"City Campaign Finance"
Speaker: Suzanne Mesich,
Asst. City Clerk
Phylis: prcarnahan@yahoo.com
- 10 Friday, 11:30 am**
Green Valley Unit
Madera Room, La Posada
Topic not yet determined
Bring sack lunch or order sandwich
for \$5: call 625.1711
Call Sue: 648.7069
- 14 Tuesday, 10:30 am**
SaddleBrooke Unit
Coyote Room North
SaddleBrooke Clubhouse
"Medicare & Affordable Health
Care Act"
Speaker: Dr. Neil West
Call Linda: 241.1043
- 17 Friday, 11:30 am**
Reid Park Doubletree Hotel
Centennial Celebration Luncheon
Call: Office 327.7652
- 18 General Meeting, 10 am**
Downtown Library
"Elections 2012"

March

- 6 Tuesday, 10 am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
7575 E Speedway
"Privatization of Government
Services"
- 9 Friday, 11:30 am**
Green Valley Unit
Madera Room, La Posada
"Presentation about growing/
harvesting pecans" Speaker
From Green Valley Pecan Co.
Bring sack lunch or order sandwich
for \$5 call 625.1711
Call Sue: 648.7069
- 13 Tuesday, 10:30 am**
SaddleBrooke Unit
Coyote Room North
SaddleBrooke Clubhouse
Topic: "Civil Discourse"

**GENERAL MEETING
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012
9:30 am Meet & Greet
10 am-noon Program Meeting**
Joel Valdez Main Library
101 Stone Ave., Tucson

(Free parking in the Library Underground Garage with entrance off Alameda)

"CHALLENGES TO THE VOTE: ELECTIONS 2012 AND ELECTION LAW"

In 2012, voters will once again face the reality of national and local elections being held with processes that have increasingly come under challenge. Though it has been twelve years since the Florida debacle, the fact remains that election services to poor and minority neighborhoods are less adequate than those that serve wealthy districts. Voting machines are being used in current elections that produced questionable results in the 2004 and 2008 elections. Laws are being introduced and passed that may restrict the ability of US citizens to register and to insure that their cast ballots will be counted. These problems will face voters at the same time that corporate contributions will be at an all-time high, with the sources of that money screened from full scrutiny.

A panel of local election specialists will examine the issues facing voters and facing organizations that will be doing their best to "get out the vote". Can we solve them all? No, but knowing what those problems are will surely better equip us to deal with them as they are encountered. Learn what the current situation is and what propositions related to voting might be on the November 2012 ballot here in Arizona.

Come and bring your friends and neighbors for a discussion on what the LWV can and will do during this election year.

LEAGUER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year an award is given to a member that has done a lot for the League. This can be out in front or from behind the scenes. We all know hard-working members who do all sorts of things to keep LWVGT viable without asking for any thanks or recognition from any of us. Here is an opportunity to recognize these people.

The Board is asking for help this year to pick the member to receive the award. Here is the time that you can present the name of someone that you think works hard for the League, could be during this year or before this year. Send in your name and why you think the member qualifies for this special award.

Send email to Patsy Frannea, frannea@earthlink.net; Shirley Sandelands, shirsande@cox.net or Gini McGirr, GiniLwv@aol.com, or call the office at 327.7652. Deadline is February 29th.



As we enter a new year, it is exciting to think about the fact that the League of Women Voters will celebrate its 92nd birthday on February 14. On that same date Arizona became a state in 1912.

To commemorate these events, we will have our

Centennial Celebration luncheon at the Reid Park Doubletree, 445 S. Alvernon, on Friday, February 17 at 11:30 a.m. The invitations are in the mail. We hope that you will invite your friends to join you at this historic event.

The LWVGT will also have a table at the March 10-11 Festival of Books at the University of Arizona Mall. We will need workers to register voters, talk to people about the League and what its mission is; we want to be goodwill ambassadors. We hope that you will help us by volunteering to work for a couple of hours either Saturday or Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The year 2012 is an election year, so we ask you to participate as you can with our Voter Service Committee. Only 69% of Arizonans who are eligible are actually registered to vote! We need to work hard to register the rest! Then we must remind people to vote. Our democracy depends upon it!

We invite you to join the area unit meetings, participate in our committees, and attend our general meetings to learn more about the issues facing us today.

Our annual meeting will be held on Friday April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We hope that you will plan to attend because this is when we elect LWVGT officers. If you would like to help organize the annual meeting, please call me at 298-2447.

Carol West, President

NEW LWVAZ POSITION ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH STUDY

All of the local Leagues did a study with consensus to update the Executive Branch position. The following is the new position that was adopted at the LWVAZ January Board meeting:

The LWVAZ believes that a clear line of succession in the Executive Branch of the State of Arizona should be more obvious to the public than it is in the current system where the Secretary of State assumes the role of Governor in times of absence, removal, resignation, death or other such changes. To avoid mid-term changes in party, continuity problems or policy reversals, the LWVAZ supports the creation of an Office of Lieutenant Governor with duties separate from that of the Secretary of State.

In addition, the LWVAZ believes that the governor and the elected office that is next in line of succession to the governor should run on the same party ticket. If that office continues to be held by the Secretary of State, the LWVAZ strongly believes that all partisan aspects of elections should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State and managed by an independent body/commission. (Adopted: January 2012) Read background information on the LWVAZ website: www.lwvaz.org

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).



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 through education and advocacy.

CENTENNIAL LUNCHEON TO HONOR DOÑAS

At the LWVGT February 17 luncheon, we will recognize some outstanding local women, las Doñas de los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson. These prominent citizens have made our community a better place in so many ways.

LWVGT member Dr. Anna Jolivet has had a distinguished career as a Tucson educator, principal, and assistant superintendent of schools. In 2001 she was honored by the UA College of Education with an outstanding achievement award. She also received lifetime achievement awards from the UA alumni as well as the YWCA.

Another League member, Dr. Nelba Chavez, was the first administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the first Hispanic/Latina to head a public health agency in the 200 year history of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration. She is an expert on mental health issues and headed local La Frontera for many years.

Laura Almquist, member of LWVGT, has served on the TUSD School Board, and is past Chair of the University Medical Center Board. She has actively served on numerous community boards and was 1980 Tucson Woman of the Year.

Teacher, businesswoman, and philanthropist Dorothy Finley taught school and served as a school principal before becoming President and CEO of Finley Distributing Company. The daycare center at Davis-Monthan is named in her honor. She has served on more than 50 non-profit boards in the community.

Estela Jacome came to our community as a girl from Argentina. During WW 2, she was one of a group of Tucson women who knitted sweaters and other things to support the English. She was a founder of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary and accompanied her husband Alex on several diplomatic tours to Latin America.

Dr. Sally Drachman has both a Masters and Doctorate from the U of A. An advocate for Tucson, she has served as a director of development for many non-profit organizations. She has worked to advance educational research and funding.

Selma Paul Marks was the only female law school graduate in 1956 at the U of A. She spent 20 years as a Deputy County Attorney. In 2004 she received the UA College of Law Lifetime Achievement Award. She established the Marks Memorial Lectures at the U of A.

Esther Don Tang has been a dynamic community leader and business woman. In 1999 she was chosen by the White House to introduce President Bill Clinton to Tucson. The Secret Service surprised the diminutive Esther with her own step stool so she could be "eye to eye" with the President.

Edith "Edie" Auslander most recently served as Vice President and Senior Associate to the UA President. She also had a long career in newspaper work, including teaching journalism at the UA. She has won many honors as a Hispanic journalist as well as being named Tucson's Woman of the Year in 1986. She holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from the UA.

Doña Joana Damos graduated from the UA College of Law in 1953. She was the first woman appointed United States Attorney in Arizona. She is a historic preservationist and helped found and open the Pima Mental Health Center and La Frontera Clinic.

Patricia "Patty" Arida was one of the first registered nurses in the U.S. Air Force. While living in Washington, D.C. Patty assisted new Embassy wives arriving in the Capitol. After moving to Tucson, Patty helped establish the second Casa de los Niños home for older children and is a founding board member of the UA Sarver Heart Center. She also served on the El Rio Health Center Board.

For most of her life Genevieve Whalen has been serving our community. When she was just six years old, she danced the Mexican Hat Dance at Armory Park to raise money for the Veterans Hospital. She has worked with the Boy Scouts and served as a housemother for troubled youth. She was a dental assistant at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic and recruited volunteers for the clinic's outpatient clinic. She has been a Spanish language interpreter at UMC.

Martha Elias attended the UA and has served on many UA committees-including the UA Hispanic Alumni Awards Committee. She served on the City's Civil Service Commission. She has been a member of the Health Systems Rate Review Committee as well as the Pima County Judicial Performance Review Committee. She is a member of the TMC Foundation and past member of the Arizona State Health Coordinating Council.

The LWVGT Centennial Luncheon is February 17th at the Reid Park Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way. Martha Vasquez, KVOA Channel 4 anchor, will be the mistress of ceremonies. The cost is \$75. Call the LWVGT office at 327-7652 for reservations.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

An exciting opportunity is opening up for all members to register voters. In this issue you will find an article on the O'Connor House Centennial Voter Engagement Project. As part of that project, every LWVGT member is challenged/ requested/invited to register five voters by April 20, 2012.

You will need to be familiar with the Arizona Voter Registration Form. For those members who have not previously registered voters, read the instructions, and especially, note the "requirements" to register: for example, birth certificate, Arizona Driver's license, or other documents. Many League members will be happy to help you learn how to register voters. After all, we are the League of Women **VOTERS**. Judy Carran, LWV member from Oro Valley, recently said the reason she joined the League was to register voters. So pick up registration forms at the general meeting registration table and be ready to start registering voters.

Sue Girardeau of the Membership Committee is the liaison to (and from) Green Valley. She brings the refreshments to each meeting. Because the coffee takes time to brew, she is always early and available to tell you about the activities of the Green Valley Unit. Those members have invited the Tucson members to come to their meetings which are scheduled to have interesting speakers coming up this election year. It can be an enjoyable "field trip" to gather a group of friends and/or LWV members to hear the guest speaker and meet Sue and the Green Valley Unit members. Their meetings are at 11:30 on the 2nd Friday of the month and have a \$5 lunch available-or you can bring your own.

New members this month: Judy Moll, Eileen Wright, Tracy Curtin, Patricia Ballard, Joyce Armstrong and Dorothy Davis. Welcome to all of you.

Mary Gresham, 1st VP, Membership

LWVAZ INDEPENDENT VOTER PROJECT

The "Indy" Project, sponsored by the LWVAZ, took place this past fall. Committed League volunteers scanned voter manuals and voter registration forms to find out how rules related to party affiliation impacted on independent voters. On current registration forms, for example, there is a place to check your party preference as a Democrat or Republican. However, if you are a member of other qualified political parties - those that have fielded candidates on the ballot in previous elections - or if you are an independent voter, your only choice is to check "other." Candidates running as "independent" are not included in current rules that allow ballots to rotate the names of candidates to keep from giving preference to the same candidate in the first position. To not be included in the rotation assigns a permanent lesser position to an independent candidate.

The study also raised (and answered) a sincere question. When asked why the League should be concerned for those who don't want to be in the Republican or Democratic parties, since they place themselves outside of parties, indicating their preference for not improving them, the answer was (paraphrased) "If the League won't speak for the concerns of one-third of the State's voters, who will?"

The Indy Project promises to have significance in a number of future areas of study and concern. For example, as local Leagues across the state worked on the Governor Succession consensus question, the discussion often centered on the role of independent candidates for public office at all levels. Clearly, the League is, by working on the Indy Project, better positioned to help in the quest for better rules related to independent voters.

Sue Ward

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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

SPOTLIGHT ON LWVGT BOARD MEMBER

Mary Gresham is an outgoing, friendly individual who was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Tucson with her family when she was 17. She attended the University of Arizona where she earned her nursing degree. She worked as a nurse at Tucson Medical Center from 1973 to 1983. She moved to California in 1984 and continued nursing there. She also returned to school and earned a Masters in Anthropology at San Francisco State University. She taught Anthropology for 7 years before she returned to Tucson in 2009.



Mary Gresham

She has a big family in Arizona including a daughter in Phoenix, and in Tucson a daughter and son, 2 grandchildren, and soon a great grandchild. She enjoys cooking, reading, and politics. She has been a member of the LWV of Greater Tucson for a year and has been very active as First VP and the Chairperson for the membership committee. She finds the LWV interesting and with a mission, and has met many enjoyable people.

Mary was lucky enough to have spent a month in Paris last summer. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was impressed by how much, politically; we owe the French and how they have influenced America.

CAN YOU REGISTER A FEW VOTERS? ARIZONA NEEDS MORE "REGISTERED AND INFORMED" VOTERS!

Fact: 69% of eligible Arizonans are registered. 31% are not. In 2008, Arizona ranked 43rd in the US in turnout for the Presidential election.

The LWVGT Board is asking that each League member register five voters this winter/spring as our participation with the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor House Centennial Voter Engagement Project to increase voters in Arizona. In December 2011, the LWVGT Board voted to support this effort.

The O'Connor Project is asking Arizona non-profits to join this effort of registering voters. At your book club, church, exercise class, synagogue, homeowner's meeting, etc., you can take Registration forms and register voters.

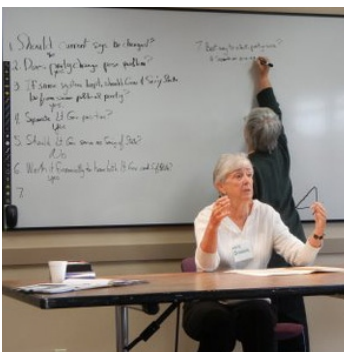
Re-registration is needed if a person (1) moves, (2) changes his/her name or (3) changes Political Party.

LWVGT will have Registration Forms for each member to pick up at the monthly program meetings at the downtown Library, at Unit meetings and from Voter Service workers. Forms are in the League office and may be picked up from there. Some of the Board members plan to make periodic checks with specific Retirement communities.

All can join in this effort. Forms need to be back to the League office so we can keep a tally and turn them in to the Recorder's office. Any questions, call the office 327.7652. LWVGT needs to have a tally for February, March and April for our Annual Meeting. We will include an Explanation Sheet at meetings and in the March **Voter**. We can do this!

Victor Bowleg, Voter Service, & Shirley Sandelands, Liaison to O'Connor Project

ARIZONA'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONSENSUS MEETING



**Lois Brechner, LWVAZ Chair
and**

Thanks to all the League members that drove up to the Oro Valley Public Library for the November meeting.

The consensus meeting was led by Lois Brechner, LWVAZ Chair of this state study, who drove down from Surprise, AZ, to give the background on the study. Sue Ward and Gini McGirr assisted with the consensus questions.

The material was formulated and adopted at the Greater Tucson December board meeting and sent to Lois Brechner whose state committee came up with the position which was adopted at the January meeting of the LWVAZ Board.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The second session of the 50th AZ Legislature opened January 9th with 159 bills already in the hopper and more to come. The House has 40 Republicans and 20 Democrats. The Senate has 21 Republicans and 9 Democrats.

Bills on Education include providing state aid to private and parochial schools; eliminating requirements for teacher certification; encouraging smaller districts to consolidate, altering requirements for helping students learn English.

Sen. Melvin wants public support for transportation, storage and reprocessing of nuclear waste with the money paid by the government to go to the public schools. Health and safety would be an issue here.

Guns: To allow students and professors to carry guns onto college campuses; easing rules for guns in public buildings.

Government Issues: Revamping the Independent Redistricting Commission; ask voters to ban public funding of campaigns (Clean Elections); limiting gifts and trips that lawmakers can take; making it harder for voters to put initiatives on the ballot; removing the restriction on legislators immediately becoming lobbyists. Rep. Seel plans to bring back the "birther" bill. Sen. Gallardo is thinking of bill to repeal SB1070.

Other Issues: Registration: members of AZ Libertarian and Green parties are asking a federal judge to stop the state from using a new voter-registration form. The new form provides three choices: Republican, Democrat and small box for other. They feel this is unconstitutional as these parties have met the same legal requirements for state recognition.

American Elect: The political wild card for the Internet age is Americans Elect which has qualified for the ballot in 13 states and collected signatures in the 17 others that allow signature-gathering the year before the election. Any registered voter who signs up online will be a delegate and will choose a presidential ticket through successive rounds of Internet voting culminating in the choice of a candidate in June. The vice presidential nominee on this unity ticket must come from a DIFFERENT political party. They do not routinely disclose donors.

Open Primary aka Top Two: Group gathering signatures for ballot initiative which will change and reform the election process by implementing an open primary system where the top two vote getters, regardless of political party, will advance to a run-off election. The LWVAZ Board discussed this at the January board meeting and a representative of the group will be asked to speak at the March board meeting. Check their website at www.AzOpenGov.org

Fruit Basket Upset: Sen. Steve Pierce replaces Sen. Russell Pearce as Senate President. Pearce lost the election to Jerry Lewis for his senate seat. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema and Rep. Kirk Adams have resigned to run for Congress. David Lujan appointed to replace Sinema. Possibility of Rep. Andy Tobin and Sen. Ron Gould also running. Sen. Scott Bundgaard resigned during an Ethics committee inquiry into his conduct. Rep. Jack Harper is quitting at the end of session and thinking of running for SOS. He has bill for increases in salary for state officials governor up to \$160,000.

Independent Redistricting Commission: The maps are being sent to the Dept. of Justice for their pre-clearance. The new maps have moved some incumbents who had been political allies into the same district. Some candidates are moving to different districts and some will be running against their own party candidate in the primary. There is a bill to let candidates get signatures from their old districts also which will probably be the first one on the governor's desk.

ALIS: Now that the Legislature is in session, I will be monitoring bills that the LWV has a position in support or in opposition. These will be up on the LWVAZ page on the AZ Legislature website as fast as I can get a synopsis of the bills. Go to the website: www.azleg.gov, in the middle of the page, click on ALIS Tracking; Click on Track; User ID is LWVAZ; password is Lila. Click on Personal Progress on the top middle of the page; page comes up with the five lists of bills that we are tracking: Education, Clean Elections/Judicial; Election Reform, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Click on any one of the bills; click on Print Progress Report to read them. This does not print them, just shows the overview of them.

Gini McGirr, Legislative Chair

NEWS FROM STATE AND NATIONAL

December 10, 1869, Wyoming was the first territory to give women the right to vote.

Election Year 2012 Resolutions/Hopes: 1. Ensure all eligible voters are registered to vote and can exercise their right to vote without having to overcome unnecessary and restrictive hurdles. 2. Educate the electorate on the candidates and issues on their ballots and help them find their polling place. 3. Encourage informative and productive debates between candidates so voters can learn about their elected representatives through more than just sound bites. 4. Fight to make sure voters decide the outcome of elections, not special interest money. 5. Promise for clean air for children and their families, and change the discussion to the important issues facing Americans in 2012.

League Endorses H.R. 2572, Clean up Government Act of 2011: The League and coalition partners sent a letter to House Judiciary Chair Lamar Smith endorsing this Act which restores tools for federal prosecutors fighting public corruption.

Save Presidential Public Financing & the Election Assistance Commission: The LWV and other organizations oppose H.R.3463, that would repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission.

Elections: LWV Fights Voter Suppression Laws: As voter suppression laws sweep the nation, the League is fighting back. The LWV of Kansas is working in coalition to help educate and register voters before new, stricter laws go into effect. The LWV of South Carolina steps up the pressure urging the US Dept. of Justice to deny pre-clearance of the state's voter ID law. THEY WON. The LWV of Ohio succeeded in getting a measure on the ballot to overturn a newly enacted law that would decrease the number of early voting hours. The LWV of Florida has taken its message to national TV. LWVFL President McNabb rebuffed a state legislator, who supported the state's new restrictions on citizen registration drives.

"Patriocracy": Just Released Movie about the US Political Divide and Some Possible Solutions: A new documentary offers a non-partisan examination of the Washington dysfunction and hyper partisanship undermining America's ability to tackle its most serious problems. Since the movie offers a backdrop to the election year ahead, the LWVUS partnered with the Leagues of New Hampshire and South Carolina to show the film just prior to the presidential primaries in their states. President MacNamara led panel discussions following each screening. All Leagues are encouraged to sponsor their own public showing of this film, which will serve both educational and visibility objectives. Contact Brian Malone, the producer, directly at brian@malonetv.com or 303.888.9649.

LWVAZ: The Board adopted a new state position on the Executive Branch of Government. See page 2.

The Board adopted a priority statement for the LWVUS 2012 priorities: The LWVAZ urges the LWVUS to make the fight against the Citizens United ruling one of the 2012 priorities.

The LWVAZ filed an amicus brief on the lawsuit on the Independent Redistricting Commission in November.

LWVAZ is planning on sponsoring a High School Seniors Essay Contest and will raise funds for \$500 first prize. This should reach out to new voters as HS seniors and their parents and teachers.

The Board discussed the "Open Government" initiative and will ask a representative to speak at the March board meeting to find out more about this plan. There is background material from other state Leagues.

The Board sponsored the "Indy" Project when members scanned the voter manuals and voter registration forms to find out how rules related to party affiliation impacted independent voters. (See article elsewhere in this Voter)

The Board voted to join with the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor House Centennial Voter Engagement Project to increase voters in Arizona. All local Leagues will be asked to work on this project.

Gini McGirr

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E-mail _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

_____ \$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