

The Voter



Volume 70 Number 5

February 2017

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON VOTER EDUCATION MEETING

Reliability of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Water

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Lower Level

Conference Room, 101 North Stone

(Free parking in library's underground garage, entrance off Alameda.)

9:30 am Social Hour 10 am Program

Our guest speaker is **Mitch Basefsky**, formerly Public Information Officer for Tucson Water, who is currently in charge of CAP Communications in Pima and Pinal Counties.

Colorado River water is imported through the Central Arizona Project to Tucson. The water that comes to our homes in the Tucson Water Service area combines CAP and groundwater. It is also used for agriculture and some of it is recharged in special underground facilities located in Avra Valley west of the Tucson Mountains. (See reminder below about a special League field trip February 11 to the Avra Valley Recharge Ponds operated by Tucson Water.)

“The Colorado River is a major source of water supply, power generation, recreation and environmental habitat in the western United States. It is a significant part of Arizona’s water supply portfolio providing more than one-third of all water used in the State. More than half of Arizona’s annual water supply is delivered to central Arizona, including Tucson, via the CAP canal.” (Source, Water Resource Assessment, City and County Cooperative Planning Study, May 2009)

Reminder! The Tucson League, in cooperation with Tucson Water, is sponsoring a special field trip to the Avra Valley CAP Recharge Ponds on Saturday, February 11 from 9:00 am to noon. Reservations for this may be made by contacting **Carol West** at 298-2447.

Save the Date:

[Issues and Eggs Brunch](#)

Doubletree Hotel

7:30 a.m.

Friday,

March 3, 2017

Voter Education

Program

Education Finance in

Arizona

Saturday

March 18, 2017

LWVGT Annual Meeting

Lodge on the Desert

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 22,

2017

Inside This Issue

LWVGT Voter Education
Program Meeting 1

Unit Discussion Group
Meetings 2

2017 League Member of
the Year 3

Note From President
Freda Johnson 3

Mark Your Calendar 4

Why the Newsletter
looks different 5

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

UNIT DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

These small groups of League members and guests are held in different parts of town each month from September through May. You are welcome to attend any unit discussion group!

EASTSIDE UNIT

Members will participate in the field trip to Avra Valley February 11. For more information, contact Carol West at 298-2447

NORTHWEST UNIT

Tuesday, February 14, Pima County Recorder's Office tour, 240 North Stone, 2:00 pm. Contact: **Judy Moll** 742-6525, if you plan to go, so she can arrange for car pooling. This tour is open to any League member or guest.

MIDTOWN UNIT

Thursday, February 16, our guest speaker is Winifred Williams, co-author (with Myron Smith) of the LWVGT White Paper on Energy. Home of **Rosemary and Wendell Niemann**, 1820 North Norton, at 11:30 am. Contact: **Janice Murphy** 730-6511

MIDTOWN EVENING UNIT

Monday, February 27. Discussion of chapter one (Elections) of "What You Should Know about Politics...But Don't" by **Jessamyn Conrad**. Meet at 5:30 pm at City Council Ward 6 Office, 3202 East First Street. Contact: **Ronnie Mullins** 404-4551

GREEN VALLEY

Friday, February 10 at noon, members gather in the Madera Room which is on the 3rd floor of La Vista Building at La Posada. Bring a sack lunch. The program is TBA. Contact: **Sue Girardeau** 648-7969.

*As a follow up to the November meeting on Mental Health Issues at the Pima County Jail, **Sean Steward**, Interim Corrections Chief, will be conducting a tour of the jail for the League. This tour is open to anyone. We will meet at the Jail, 1270 W. Silverlake Road, at 9:45 a.m. on February 22, and the tour starts at 10 am. Leave everything in your car, but your keys, which will be left in Chief Steward's office. Please call (742-6525) or email **Judy Moll** if you are interested in this tour.

WHO WILL BE OUR 2017 LEAGUE MEMBER OF THE YEAR? LAST YEAR'S WINNER, PAULA WILK, INVITES NOMINATIONS.

How should LWVGT's 2017 Leaguer of the Year be selected? Who should it be? Why? Please help by submitting your nominee, together with reasons for your choice and any thoughts you may have about what criteria should be used. Nominations should be sent to award@lwgvt.com by February 25, 2017.

In an August 2008 Voter article, **Judith Fischer** explained that the award was first given in 1987. Besides Judy Fischer and her 2007 co-winner **Shirley Muney**, current League members who previously received Leaguer of the Year or a Lifetime Achievement award include **Nina Carter, Sally Davenport, Sue DeArmond, Patsy Frannea, Betty Geehan, Mary Gresham, Roxanne Housley, Freda Johnson, Gini McGirr, Shirley Sandelands, Carol Shearer, Joyce Steiner, Phyllis Wassenberg, Carol West, Paula Wilk** and **Betty Zukoski**.

During 2016-17, many members stepped up to new responsibilities or took on heavy workloads. Some assumed leadership positions. The selection committee-- **Sue DeArmond, Roxanne Housley, Joan Kaltsas** and **Paula Wilk** – appreciates your input about how and to whom the award should be made.

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT FREDA JOHNSON

This year's Festival of Books at the University of Arizona will be held March 11-12. We are sponsoring a booth for the League of Women Voters! You are invited to help greet the public and tell people about the work we do in the League. Contact me if you will help by serving in a two-hour shift Saturday or Sunday.

I extend a special welcome to new members who have joined in the past few weeks. We will be scheduling another orientation probably in March. Stay tuned! In the meantime, if you have any questions about how the League works or just want to visit about opportunities to be involved, let me know. I can be reached at president@lwgvt.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ISSUES AND EGGS MARCH 3, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson will host its 4th Annual Issues & Eggs Breakfast on Friday, March 3rd, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel on S. Alvernon. This year's topic, "The Impact of Poverty on Academic Achievement K-12" is complex because many factors contribute to the academic achievement of students in our community.

Throughout our history, education has been seen as a child's ticket out of poverty. However, with the rate of poverty increasing, evidence suggests too many children from low-income families are falling significantly behind their peers academically before they complete the 4th grade.

This is of particular concern to all who live in Arizona and count on a well educated population to fuel a thriving economy. In 2014, when the poverty rate for the United States was 14.8%, the rate of poverty in Arizona was 21.2%. Tucson was rated the 5th poorest city of its size in the country in 2015. The Federal Poverty Rate for a family of four in 2016 was \$25,300.

Bruce Dusenberry will moderate a panel of local experts who will:

- ◆ Identify the facts and consequences of poverty on academic achievement.
- ◆ Introduce highly effective local program models in our schools and others designed for the parents of poor children
- ◆ Discuss the ways in which state education policies impact poor children.
- ◆ Describe local efforts to end poverty.
- ◆ Learn how we can all become involved.

Panelists:

Chris Gutierrez, Principal, Holaway Elementary School

Dr. Mary Jondrow, Advanced Program Manager, PCC Desert View Campus

Dr. David Baker, Superintendent, Flowing Wells School District

Bonnie Bazata, Program Manager, Pima County End Poverty Now Initiative

Tickets for the event are \$50 per person and tables of 10 are \$475 or \$500 after Feb 20th. Reservations can be made using a credit card, via PayPal at LWVGT.org or by sending a check to LWVGT, 2424 E. Broadway, Suite 110, Tucson, AZ 85719-6011 before February 27th.

Please join this important League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson community event.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
GREATER TUCSON**

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Why Does My Newsletter Look Different

I have stepped in to edit this issue of your Voter due to the sudden resignation of Libby Whitthorne January 15. Time does not permit securing photos to brighten the stories you see in this issue. Are you willing and able to step in as Editor for the remaining issues of March, April and May? I am glad to show you the ropes. Contact me at president@lwvgt.com or leave a message for me at our League office (327-7652.)

Freda Johnson, President

A Note from the League of Women Voters of Arizona

These are our 2017 priorities:

First Tier:

- Voting Rights: Voter Registration, Election Process, Redistricting, Initiative and Referendum
- Campaign Finance: Money in Politics, Clean Elections
- Education Funding and Education Standards

Second Tier:

- Women's Issues: Reproductive Choice, Pay Equity
- Independent Judiciary
- Health Care
- Human Trafficking
- Environment