



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF GREATER TUCSON

Save The Date

Issues & Eggs
March 2, 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUTLAW DIRTY MONEY! ESTABLISH YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW!

The League of Women Voters of Arizona has endorsed the Outlaw Dirty Money petition drive to amend the Arizona State Constitution. All League members are encouraged to circulate petitions in this all-volunteer effort. The petition calls for disclosing who is donating money and how much they are spending to help or hurt candidates for public office.

If you agree to collect signatures from your friends and neighbors, here are some simple things to remember. You may not sign your own petition. You must have your own signature on the back of the petition notarized before turning back the petition to me. Do not sign it until you are in the presence of a notary public. You will fill out the top of the petition to indicate that you and people signing it are residents of Pima County. If you wish to circulate a petition in another County, you will need another petition specifically for that County.

The Outlaw Dirty Money petition drive has been organized by former Arizona Attorney General **Terry Goddard**. Provisions specify that contributors will no longer be able to hide by transferring money through intermediaries. Anyone spending more than \$10,000 to oppose or support candidates or ballot measures must disclose everyone who contributed \$2,500 or more promptly, publicly and under penalty of perjury. The money must be tracked back to its original source. Rules to implement this Amendment will be written and endorsed by a nonpartisan commission. The Constitutional Amendment requires public disclosure of all contributors who give more than \$2,500 to influence elections in a two-year election cycle, regardless of legal form and whether their contributions passed through any intermediaries.

Because the League of Women Voters endorses this initiative measure, we are free to circulate these petitions at any and all League meetings. We ask people circulating other initiative petitions or nominating petitions for candidates to not pass them around at League meetings.

League members throughout Arizona are joining others who wish to make government more transparent. We need to collect over 275,000 signatures from Arizona registered voters by July 5, 2018. We have our work cut out for us!

Questions? Let me know.

Freda Johnson
president@lwvgvt.org





Trish (Patricia) O'Flaherty passed away on December 6, 2017. The COPD she suffered with most of her life finally overcame her spirit.

She was the face of the League for many people who visited the office in Tucson. She skillfully managed the office, making certain someone was there on days when the office was open to greet visitors and answer questions.

Her memory will live on by the many notes we find around the office. Her explicit instructions regarding office procedures simplified various tasks for many volunteers.

She will be remembered for her kindness, sense of humor and her civic mindedness. She enjoyed gardening, cooking traditional holiday meals and staying in contact with friends.

Having lived half her life in Michigan, she grew to love the desert wildlife of Tucson. She loved to travel, whether it was just taking a Sunday drive and snapping a few photos, or taking cruises to exotic places. She always had many stories about the cruise she had just taken and the interesting places she had explored.

Her kind ways and beautiful smile will be missed.

By **Judy Bowser**



Long time League member **JoAnn Bierman** died at home on January 3, 2018, from Alzheimer's.

In the 1970's, the League office manager, **Pat Anderson**, asked JoAnn to join LWVGT. JoAnn became an active member volunteering to serve on many committees and projects.

In 1990, JoAnn and her husband, **Ken**, moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma. After a few years JoAnn became Co-President of the Stillwater League of Woman Voters.

After retirement JoAnn and Ken returned to Tucson, and they both joined the League. They took charge of assembling and mailing the Voter and were active in the Northwest Unit.

JoAnn had a masters degree in library science from the University of Oklahoma. She worked in a variety of libraries in Oklahoma, Virginia, Nevada and Arizona. She established the Education Library for Oklahoma State University.

JoAnn is survived by her husband of 47 years, **Kenneth Bierman**, two sons, Cody and James and their families. JoAnn told Ken that she wanted friends and family to have a party to celebrate her life.

Information regarding such a gathering will be announced when available.

By **Phylis Carnahan**

A bitter-sweet Holiday Brunch December 9, 2017

Many good memories were shared.



Trish's daughter, Melissa, took the time to visit with us and tell us what the League meant to her mother.



What a wonderful spread we can provide!

Cassandra Moran provided beautiful music!





Essential help is never far away!

UNIT MEETING CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Friday, February 9, 2018

GREEN VALLEY UNIT MEETING

NOON (bring a sack lunch), 12:30 program

Private Dining Room, 3rd floor of the La Vista Bldg. on the La Posada campus

(Take elevator to 3rd; turn right to reach the Dining Room which is on your left.)

350 E. Morningside Rd., Green Valley

Guest Speaker: **Todd Miller**, author

Topic: He will discuss his new book “Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration and Homeland Security” that discloses his current findings.

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

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

EASTSIDE UNIT MEETING -- NOTE CHANGE OF TIME and LOCATION

10 am to NOON

7301 E. Speedway – Resource Recovery Center

Tour the Center where junk is recycled instead of going into the landfill.

Contact: **Phylis Carnahan**, 520-885-3271

Please sign up with Phylis if you plan to attend

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

NORTHWEST UNIT MEETING

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Meet at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1220 W. Magee. Please drive to back of the Church and enter at the back door.

Guest Speaker: **Amelia Cramer**, Pima County Attorneys Office

Topic: Justice Coordinating Council

Contact: **Judy Moll**, 742-6525

Pima County Justice Coordinating Council
by **Judy Moll**

Pima County has created a 32-member community collaborative to help guide its implementation strategies and provide additional education and outreach opportunities to fulfill the \$1.5 million Safety and Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and

Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The county is trying to safely reduce the jail population through risk screening for all misdemeanor defendants in order to increase post-booking releases from jail; diverting nonviolent individuals with substance abuse or mental health issues to post-booking treatment instead of jail; an enhanced automated call, text and email court-date reminder system that is expected to reduce failure to appear rates; and detention alternatives made possible through electronic monitoring technology.

More than 80% of Pima County's jail inmates are in pre-trial status, which include warrants for failure to appear (93% of which are for misdemeanors), misdemeanor charges like shoplifting and DUIs, and lower level felony cases such as possession of drug paraphernalia. About 60% of the jail population suffers from mental illness and substance abuse issues.

An article in the Arizona Daily Star on April 25, 2017 described the county's plan to screen arrestees for behavioral issues. In a May 25 KOLD story, 23 people were connected with services so they wouldn't have to wait in jail until their court date. A June 20 article in the Daily Star described how driver's license laws criminalize poverty. Keep an eye on articles in the paper about these innovative and money saving strategies.

Please join the NW unit on Tuesday, February 13 to learn more about the Justice Coordinating Council. **Amelia Cramer**, chief deputy Pima County Attorney, will be our speaker.

Thursday, February 15, 2018

MIDTOWN UNIT MEETING

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

1510 E. Grant Rd., Council Office for Ward 3

Guest Speaker: **John-Peter Wilhite**, Director of Donor Relations
YWCA, Southern Arizona

Topic: The Many and Varied Programs of our Vibrant Local YWCA

Contact: **Kathy Dubbs**, 279-0284

Monday, February 26, 2018

MIDTOWN EVENING UNIT MEETING

5:30 – 7:00 pm

3202 E. 1st Street, Council Office for Ward 6, East Room

Guest Speaker: **Patrick Burns**, Special Assistant to the Mayor of Tucson

Topic: Chapter 6: Energy, in *What you should know about politics. . .*
by Jessamyn Conrad

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

Brenda Goldsmith led League members through the El Rio Community Health Center Congress Campus on a January 4 field trip.





New Member **Leah Jaffe**, LLD, presented information regarding Legal Rights of Arizona Workers at the January 9 Eastside Unit Meeting.



Dorothy Riley moderated the discussion.

2018 VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

February 17, 2018

Topic: *When Immigration Hits a Wall: Life in the Borderlands*

Speakers: **Mo Goldman**, Immigration Attorney
Lorena Verdugo, Ventanilla de Salud and El Rio Community Health Coordinator
Alejandro Ursua, U of A graduate and DACA/Dreamer

Location: Joel D. Valdez Pima County Public Library
101 N. Stone, Lower Level 1 Meeting Room

Time: 9:30 am refreshments, 10 am – 12 pm program

To borrow loosely from the late **Tip O'Neill**, immigration, like politics, is local. Its impact is felt nowhere more so than in the Borderlands. Join us to hear these diverse and informative speakers.

Mo plans to give a general overview; how we got into the current situation; the failure to pass meaningful legislation since 1996; what he currently experiences in the courts; changes in law enforcement and what to expect going forward.

Lorena will speak to the experiences of immigrants, documented and undocumented, as they struggle to find health care, mental health care and other services in a new and unsettling world called Tucson.

Alex will tell his personal story about how his life has changed from working in a car wash to being a University of Arizona graduate and Merrill Lynch Registered Client Associate, all accomplishments now under the cloud of uncertainty.

Voter Education Programs are open to the public and you are encouraged to bring guests.

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Field Trip: Mexican Consulate

10 am – 12:00 noon

3915 E. Broadway

Plan on spending an hour touring and learning much about the Consulate's work and the importance of this particular Consulate from the mundane to the life-saving assistance. It will be an eye-opening experience to view immigration through another lens and how the Consulate provides services. Their services are not just limited to Mexican citizens. The Mexican Consulate cooperates in agreement with other Consulates to assist the citizens of other Latin American

countries.

The building is a new facility and the tour will involve some walking and may cover three floors.

RSVP by February 13 to **Mary Elizabeth Pollard** at 520-907-1449.

March 2, 2018

ISSUES & EGGS

“The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson (LWVGT) works to increase understanding of major public policy issues through education and advocacy.” While we offer many programs on local issues for the public, one of our major endeavors is our annual Issues and Eggs program which first began in 2013.

The Fifth Annual Issues and Eggs Breakfast Forum feature

“Health of our Children in Poverty: Why We Must Care.”

Friday, March 2, 2018- 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson

Our children are our future! A panel of health policy and program experts will provide information on how the lack of health care coverage affects our children; they will highlight successful programs and tell us what we can do as a concerned community to turn things around.

Issues and Eggs is also a fundraiser for LWVGT. Funds raised are used to provide voter service projects and for sharing information with the public on many pertinent and timely topics.

We are fortunate to receive sponsorships from many local businesses and community groups which enable us to spend more time serving the public in the community.

None of this would be accomplished without the active participation of our members. There are a number of ways that Leaguers can be engaged in Issues and Eggs:

- ◆ Topics Committee: Research and select topics and plan the program for the event.
- ◆ Sponsorship Committee: Ask community organizations for sponsorships. Follow-up.
- ◆ Invitation and program design
- ◆ Hand address invitations and mail them
- ◆ Invite your friends and neighbors to join you at this event.
- ◆ Greet guests and provide registration check-in at the event
- ◆ Help with distribution of and gather question cards from the audience for the event moderator.

For more information contact Issues and Eggs Coordinator, **Carol West**, at 520-298-2447; or call the League Office at 520-327-7652.

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Please join other members and friends at this fifth Annual Issues and Eggs Breakfast forum. The cost is \$50 per person; a table for ten costs \$500. Please pay via credit card on our LWVGT.org website (on the home page under save the date,) or pay via check made out to LWVGT with Issues and Eggs in the memo line.

Don't miss this event! Sign up today! Buy a table with a friend!

March 17, 2018

Topic: ***Updates on Arizona's Challenges: Water and Sun***

Speakers: **Sharon B. Megdal**, Director, U of A Water Resources Research Center and Secretary, Central Arizona Water Conservation District
Speaker to be determined to present information about solar energy
(See the March Issue of the *Voter* for specific information.)

Location: Joel D. Valdez Pima County Public Library
101 N. Stone, Lower Level 1 Mtg. Room

Time: 9:30 am refreshments, 10 am – 12 pm program

The Environmental Issues Committee is honored to present the March Voter Education Program. We are inviting two speakers to give us updates on Arizona's challenges: Water and Sun.

Sharon B. Megdal, Director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University and Secretary of the Central Arizona Water Conservation Project has agreed to be one of our panelists. Having been elected by voters to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District in 2014, she is considered one of the most knowledgeable persons about water in Arizona. The geographic scope of Dr. Megdal's work ranges from local to international.

The other topic will be solar energy. We are in the process of inviting a speaker to talk about this topic. Complete details about the meeting will be in the March *Voter*.

The audience will be invited to ask questions after each presentation.

Notes from the January Voter Education Program

How Are You and Your Loved Ones Impacted By Changing Healthcare? By Sue DeArmond

Three health experts, **Nancy Johnson**, RN, PhD, and CEO of El Rio Community Health Center, **Julia Strange**, V.P. for Community Benefit for Tucson Medical Center (TMC) and **Mark Clark**, President and CEO of Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) discussed how changing healthcare is impacting you and your loved ones.

Tucson is the 3rd most aged metro area in the country. PCOA focuses on service, support and advocacy for the increasing number of Pima County residents over the age of 60.

Julie Strange noted that TMC was founded over 70 years ago by community leaders. Their goal was to develop a healthy community not just a hospital. Because of this focus, today, the health community is still working together for the greater good of Tucson.

The concept of El Rio Health Center sprang from the grassroots of neighborhood advocates in the '60's during Urban Renewal projects that built the Tucson Convention Center at the same time demolishing barrios. Community members with the help of the U of A and the Lyndon Johnson Administration started El Rio Health Center on the west side of Tucson for residents. Today, El Rio has many centers around town and is providing care for all Tucson residents.

Answers to the question about legislative action priorities for health care were as follows: policies aimed at keeping health care costs down and policies that support prevention measures, e.g. using seat belts and limiting tobacco. Support of programs such as Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for parents who make too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to buy health insurance were also indicated as a priority. At the state level, expansion of the Medicaid Program is critical. For an acute hospital setting such as TMC, Federal legislation advocating full reimbursements for uninsured patients' services and care is a priority. Currently, TMC and other health providers are lowering medical costs by increasing outpatient care to reduce hospital costs. Mark Clark said that Community Health Center funding is not in the budget. This will impact El Rio, Marana and small rural clinics such as the one in Ajo that depend on Federal funding. Fact: nationally 30 million people get their care from community health centers. Another advocacy opportunity is to support the National Health Service's program that forgives or reduces medical school student debt in exchange for working in underserved areas in the country. Another priority is support for "*teaching healthcare funds*" that support medical residents' positions in hospitals.

Advance Care Planning grew out of the Elder Alliance that was originally sponsored by United Way. Now there is training and funding for health professions to provide *end of life* discussions. For more information, the book [Extreme Measures: Finding a Better Path to the End of Life](#) by Jessica Nutik Zitter is an excellent resource. Other resources include the website azendoflife.org, and the PCOA website pcoa.org.

Discussion followed about Care Coordinator Teams that support patients who are discharged in making a smooth transition into their homes. It was mentioned that your zip code might be more important than your genetic code when it comes to healthy living. The number one concern of older people is falling. Senior citizens also worry about dental care costs.

Better understanding of the opioid crisis was discussed. Providing care to patients with addictions increases stress on both the medical staff and the support staff. El Rio is part of a consortium and National Pain Management Coalition that supports best practices involving inter-disciplinary treatment of opioid use.

The speakers were asked what changes each would want in health care – at the local, state and national levels. The panel agreed adopting policies mandating cost transparency would be a good step in the right direction. This would help consumers interpret their own bills and better understand what medical care really costs.



Freda Johnson, Julia Strange, Brenda Goldsmith, Nancy Johnson, and Mark Clark



There were many questions for the panelists.

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Voter Service News

Mary Hudson and Sue Webb-Lukomski

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson is excited to announce that the new *Guide to Voting in Pima County* is now available! The brochure is in both English and Spanish and will replace the old “rack cards” that are currently in all libraries. Please toss out any old “rack cards” that you might have since some contain inaccurate information. Also, stay tuned for the *2018 Citizen’s Directory of Elected Officials* which is currently being updated.

DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

“Let’s All Vote!” is a new song to encourage everyone to vote. We’re going to be performing this song in upcoming League events, and we’re looking for beautiful voices to join us. If you’re interested, please contact Vivian Harte, 520-883-8880.

MEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson is now offering a limited number of 1-year member scholarships to students and people with financial need. If you or someone you know is passionate about being in the League and needs a scholarship to pay membership dues, please contact Vivian Harte, Membership Committee Chair, at 520-883-8880 for the membership form.