

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 3 **Thursday, 11:30am**
Northwest Unit
Michangelo's Ristorante
Call Barbara: 825-6537
- 8 **Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
2d Tues. this month only
Call Judy: 790-8182
- 9 **Wednesday, 4:30pm**
LWVGT Board
League Office
- 11 **Friday, 11:30am**
Green Valley Unit
La Posada
Call Sue: 399-9763
- 26 **Saturday**
LWVAZ Board
Tempe
- 19 **Saturday, 9:30am-noon**
LWVGT General Meeting
League Program
- 16 **Wednesday, 4:30pm**
Natural Resources Cmte.
League Office
Call Dave: 885-4767

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 5 **Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am**
Eastside Unit
Ward 2 Council Office
- 6 **Wednesday, 4:30pm**
LWVGT Board
League Office
- 7 **Thursday, 11:30am**
Northwest Unit
Michangelo's Ristorante
- 8 **Friday, 11:30am**
Green Valley Unit
La Posada
Call Sue: 399-9763
- 16 **Saturday, 9:30am-noon**
LWVGT General Meeting
Behavioral Health

**GENERAL MEETING
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2008
9:30 am Refreshments
10 am-noon Meeting and Program**
Joel Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Ave., Tucson
(Free parking in the Library Underground Garage)

Local and National League Program Planning

**Come with your ideas, enthusiasm
and spirit of adventure and
help plan for our League program!**

In League of Women Voters parlance, "program" is a plan that sets out what issues the members want to study during the following year, including ballot measures, proposals, and problems. In keeping with our non-partisan stance, we look at all the aspects and both pros and cons. Members may attempt formal consensus on an issue in order to formally take a position on which to lobby. Political agendas that are in the arenas of existing League positions also may come under scrutiny.

WHAT ARE YOUR BURNING ISSUES?

January is the month in which we begin to plan our program for the coming year by examining local League positions. In 2008 we also will review national positions in preparation for the June 2008 LWV National Convention. Planning is a crucial aspect of a local League's activity. The most successful Leagues offer interesting, stimulating and relevant local programs. The League's visibility and influence in the community are the result of

local programs and action. Program planning is your chance to let the Board know what issues are important to you.

This is an opportunity to address concerns for our local community and our nation. Wouldn't you like to see LWVGT step up in support of an issue that is dear to your heart? Expressing your interests at this meeting will NOT commit you to chairing a committee. It is important to find out where members' interests lie in order to work from common concerns in the group. There will be no agonizing over how to fund activities or who will be responsible. Those questions will be dealt with eventually, but the goal of this meeting is simply to identify interests.

REVIEWING LEAGUE POSITIONS

Please read and fill out the forms inserted in this issue of *The Voter* and bring them to the January meeting. You will find all local (pp.39-40) and national (pp.43-46) positions in your blue Membership book so please bring this book to the General Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please mail the forms to the League office: LWVGT, 2424 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85719.

While you are studying the positions, ask yourself these questions: Are they current or out-of-date? Are they relevant? Do you have questions about them? Do any need changing or dropping? Do any need updating or restudying?

Continued on Page 2

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

GENERAL MEETING Cont'd

At this time, we also look at potential issues for NEW studies. Has any issue been raised in other community organizations or the press? Have public officials or business or community leaders raised an issue that we should study? Is it timely? Is it of member interest? Can it be solved by government action? Does it meet League principles? Can the League make a difference? Does it provide opportunities for League action? Will it raise our visibility and credibility? Are other groups interested? After you have identified an issue for a new local study, write it concisely on the form, being specific but flexible. Next, write a scope for the study. This describes the limits of the study and outlines the subject area.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE PROGRAM PLANNING FORMS

- * Mark **Retain** if you wish to keep the position unchanged.
- * Mark **Drop** if you wish to delete any portion or all of the position.
- * Mark **Update** if you wish more current information on this position.
- * Mark **Restudy** if you believe the position needs a new or different consensus.
- * Mark **Change** if you want to make an editorial word change or any other change. Please write in the portion You wish to change.

~Sue Girardeau and Percy Byrd, 2nd Co-Vice Presidents (**Program**)

President's Message

Welcome to 2008

Watch For...

The U.S. Supreme Court has set 10 am on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 to hear oral arguments on the constitutionality of the Indiana Voter ID law requiring voters to present "photo ID" at polling places. Many civil rights groups have filed briefs, including a joint *amicus* brief from the LWVUS and LWVs of Indiana and Indianapolis, arguing that the restrictive voter ID laws imposed by Indiana law disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of eligible voters and disproportionately affect minorities, students, elderly, women and the poor. In Indiana, "92-year-old Mary Wayne Montgomery Eble, a disabled daughter of a suffragist, was turned away from the polls because she could not acquire certified proof of her birth in order to obtain a photo ID" (12-04-07 LWVUS President's Message). A Supreme Court decision is expected by the end of June 2008.

(Note: This will probably be "the case" as the Arizona lawsuit related to Photo ID (Prop 200) that LWVAZ is participating in was remanded from the Supreme Court back to the 9th Circuit for hearings. At this time, we do not know of any date set for hearings.)

David Brancaccio's PBS show NOW on December 2, 2007 was devoted entirely to the various attempts to keep the poor and minorities from voting. According to David Becker, attorney for NOW and former Justice Department Civil Rights attorney, one in eight—1 in 8—voting American citizens do not have photo ID. **2008—The Year of Voter Eligibility and Voter Machines?? Definitely a year to Watch and Work.**

Thanks For...

LWVGT thanks **Gabrielle Strandquist** for her tireless work, enthusiasm and contributions to our LWVGT Board of Directors, the Kenya Project, Meet and Greet session, forums, and meetings. Gabrielle will be moving back to Maryland in February and we will miss her. We wish her the best in the move and her work in the East (where she will be closer to several of her children.) Thanks, Gabrielle!

Noell Rodriguez and Shirley J. Sandelands, LWVGT Co-Presidents

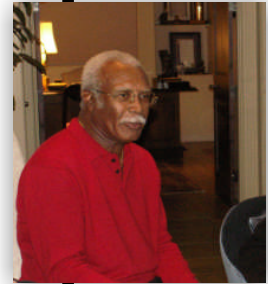


LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

LWVGT BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Percy Byrd, 2nd Co-Vice President (Program)

Percy Byrd was born and raised in Georgia and attended Savannah State College. After serving in the Army, Percy worked in information technology systems and retired from Maxima Corporation as Chief Operating Officer in 1993. He traveled all over the world and lived in Washington, DC area, Ohio, Texas and California. Percy and his wife, Irene, met in San Antonio and they have three children and eight grandchildren. He began a political career in 1993 on the Indian Wells, California City Council and retired as Mayor in 2005. At that time they moved to Tucson. Percy loves traveling (which he continues to do extensively), playing golf and bike riding. He serves on the Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center Board as well as the LWVGT Board.



Sue Girardeau, 2nd Co-Vice President (Program)

Sue Girardeau was raised in Cleveland Heights, Ohio and went to college at Mt. Holyoke in S. Hadley, Mass. In her senior year, she met her husband, Mark, who attended Case Western Reserve. The Girardeaus lived in Eugene, Oregon 37 years where they had three children. They now have three grandchildren with another on the way. In Eugene Sue taught elementary school for four years and was very active in the League of Women Voters of Lane County (Eugene), Oregon where she had "lots of jobs". One was being President for two years. In 2000 they moved to Green Valley and, in addition to the League, Sue volunteers as a reading tutor at Sahuarita Intermediate School. Sue also plays the recorder and cello, enjoys hiking and reading.



UNIT MEETINGS IN JANUARY

EASTSIDE UNIT Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30am

The Eastside Unit will meet on Tuesday, January 8th at the Ward 2 Council Office, 7575 E. Speedway, at 9:30 am. **Percy Byrd has arranged speaker Ted Downing to share his concerns and solutions to several election issues.** Guests and members are always welcome. Call Judy at 790-8182.

GREEN VALLEY UNIT Friday, January 11 at 11:30am

The Green Valley Unit will meet at 11:30am on Friday, January 11 in the Madera Room of the La Vista building on the La Posada campus. **Sally Davenport will speak about her trip to Kenya on behalf of the LWVUS and LWVGT.** Sandwich lunches are available for \$5 by calling Ermaline Hannum at 625-1711 by January 9. Call Sue Girardeau at 399-9763 if you have questions.

NORTHWEST UNIT Thursday, January 3 at 11:30am

The Northwest Unit will meet on Thursday, January 3 at 11:30am at Michangelo's Ristorante, Oracle and Magee for **lunch and discussion.** All members and guests are welcome. Call Barbara at 825-6537 for more information.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

HOLIDAY PARTY..... HOLIDAY PARTY.....

About 40 members and guests attended the League's Holiday Party at the lovely home of Percy and Irene Byrd. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and stimulating conversation. Many thanks to the Byrds for being such gracious hosts.



Linda Pace, Carol Shearer, Betsy Zukoski and Noell Rodriguez enjoy the party.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Ruth S. Afifi, Marilyn Cregg, Leonard Dryan, Carol Duggan, Nancy A. Ingle, Susanne Lane, Helle Mathiasen, Virginia Posner-Walker, and Yahya Sadowski

Committee Seeks Nominees for LWVGT Board of Directors

The time is here for you to consider a different role for yourself in support of the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. The Nominating Committee is looking for people to help lead our organization by serving on the Board of Directors. We want to hear from you if you are interested, curious and willing to take on an assignment in support of the League's mission. Board meetings are monthly and assignments will be matched to your interests and skills. We want to hear from you! Questions? Call Carol West, Nominating Committee Chair (and recently retired Tucson City Council member from Ward 2) at 298-2447.

LWVGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Shirley Sandelands	Co-President
Noell Rodriguez	Co-President
Maryann Cuddeback	1st VP (Membership)
Sue Girardeau	2nd Co-VP (Program)
Percy Byrd	2nd Co-VP
Victor Bowleg	3rd VP (Voter Service)
Judy Fischer	Secretary
Dorothy Boone	Treasurer

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Betty Bengtson	Voter Editor
Patricia Frannea	Hospitality
Gini McGirr	At-Large (Legislative & Immigration)
Judy Ilg	At-Large (Action)

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Joy Miller-Frilot	At-Large (Diversity)
Virginia Burkel	At-Large

OFF BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Freda Johnson	Affordable Housing
Sally Davenport	County Book
Betsy Zukoski	Communications
Sue DeArmond	Citizen Directory
Carol Shearer	Co-Development
Freda Johnson	Co-Development
Shirley Muney	Forum Coordinator
Margaret Molla	Speakers Bureau
Carol Shearer	Running & Winning
Dave Seifert	Natural Resources
Janet Goodhue	ListServ Coordinator
	Nominating
Lu Kembel	Member Records
Jo Coudray	Mail Crew Coordinator
Marion Johnson	Office Volunteers

SUCCESSFUL FORUM HELD IN NOGALES ON NOVEMBER 9

Twenty-six League members traveled to Nogales, AZ on Nov. 9, 2007 to learn more about border issues. We were welcomed warmly by City of Nogales staff members to City Hall where we were treated to coffee and pastries. We then heard informative presentations from representatives of Nogales, AZ and Sonora and from the fresh produce industry, the Santa Cruz County Port Authority, and the Border Patrol.

Mayor Ignacio Barraza was unable to be present at the beginning of the forum so we were pleased he appeared to speak to us at the end of the meeting. His remarks were impressive and encouraging. He mentioned the need for reform in Mexico, including ending corruption and working to promote job opportunities for Mexican citizens. *(Note: Only 10 days later Mayor Barraza died. We are shocked and saddened that his life was cut short so early and that he couldn't fulfill his plans for Nogales as Mayor.)*

Jan Smith-Florez, Attorney and City Manager for Nogales, spoke of many problems for the city caused by illegal immigration. The lack of control is a drain on city resources; for example the ambulance system, Holy Cross hospital and the schools. The many tunnels under the city create shaky infrastructure such as sinking streets. A secure border is needed. She welcomes legal immigration.

Ms. Felix, from the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, spoke about that industry. Cross-border produce traffic was first made possible by the railroad in 1882. Today 4 billion pounds of fruits and vegetables come from Nogales annually in 100,000 trucks. 25% of all produce that Americans eat in winter comes from Mexico. Quality and safety is assured through the FDA inspection system, certification of Mexican farms and audit of procedures used on the farms. Mexican trucks bring the produce only as far as Rio Rico where it is checked for quality and transferred to warehouses for American trucks. The industry employs 7000 for \$7 billion profit in Mexico. In Santa Cruz County 11,000 jobs are tied to the produce industry. Apples, beef, chicken, and electronics go to Mexico from the U.S.

The Mayor's Representative from Nogales, Sonora told us of new initiatives for city improvements. A new inspection station between Hermosillo and Nogales will soon be established to lessen waiting time for trucks from the usual 2 hour wait at the border. The landfill needs to be improved and more streets are being paved to reduce dust pollution. The health department now has 200 inspectors to check food vendors. Improvements also are being made to the water distribution system and the sewer system. The population officially is 200,000 but there are actually about 400,000 in the city. People from the south come to work in maquiladoras and many of the illegal immigrants who are sent back stay in Nogales. They can't find jobs or housing and crime goes up. Illegal drug use is also rising. 40% of housing is sub-standard. The city is promoting a plan to purchase land for housing, offering lots with a concrete foundation already in place. Water, sewer and electricity would be provided, all for a \$500 down payment.



Terry Shannon, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Port Authority, told us the Authority has existed for three years and is focused on economic development. A major initiative is improvement in the Mariposa Port of Entry which is designed to handle 400-450 trucks a day, but 1600 trucks is the current traffic. By 2011-12 3000 trucks will be crossing into the U.S each day. Federal funding has been requested for Mariposa improvements and ways of avoiding bottlenecks are being studied. Nogales is part of the designated CANAMEX corridor from Canada to Mexico.

Agent Miguel Jimenez of the Border Patrol told us that the Tucson sector covers 1100 sq.mi. and has 262 linear border miles. 48% of all the drugs seized this year and 44% of all border apprehensions (377,766 aliens) were made in the Tucson sector. In the past, many agents left for better paying jobs after a short time with the Border Patrol. Higher pay is now being offered to encourage longer tenures. 6000 new border agents are being trained. The Secure Border Initiative, authorized by Homeland Security, will improve technology and air power, making computerized data available in every agent's vehicle. Roads will be improved to allow travel in all kinds of weather. In Mr. Jimenez' tenure, 28 terrorism suspects have been apprehended. The border patrol agents call the FBI to handle these.

The attendees enjoyed a pleasant lunch at Mr. C's in Nogales before returning to Green Valley and Tucson.

~Sue Girardeau, 2nd Co-Vice President, Programs

Report on Kenya Project 2007

I wanted to let the membership know about my trip to Kenya and how important I thought the League's Kenya project, "Working Together for Good Governance", has been. I think we not only made contacts in a distant land, but spread our message and support for those working to develop both good leaders and good citizens among women. Last year Carol West traveled to the coastal Swahili area. This year I went to northeast Kenya, which is 99% Muslim and mostly Somali ethnic population because it is close to the Somali border. This is a very isolated area, more traditional in terms of the role of women, more marginalized, and not paid much attention to by the national government.

Unfortunately politics in Kenya is tribal and dominated by the larger tribes, mostly the Kikuyu who live around the southern central highlands area where the rich soils produce export crops of coffee and tea. Somalis and Muslims in northern Kenya are a tiny minority, live in a desert, are nomads, and are in extreme poverty.

Driving upcountry from Nairobi to Garissa is a little unnerving because we read about turmoil spilling over from Somalia including the presence of Islamist terrorists, road bandits, inter-clan disputes that break out periodically in violence, and targeting of tourists especially Americans. But in fact the trip was uneventful and the road to Garissa was paved.

Because of poor roads and security concerns, we were barred from traveling to Mandera, Wajir or Ijara, the homes of our women visitors. So the women from these three areas came to Garissa, the capital of the region, where we stayed and gave two day long workshops. We visited some of the women's projects, Fatuma's grocery store, and the local district commissioner. The women were excited to see the four of us: **Delia Garcia from the Wichita LWV, Zaida Arguedas from the national LWVUS, Isabella Karanja from the National Council of Women of Kenya, and me.** They took great pride in showing us around town.

The workshops (really discussions and shared advice) were planned with the Kenyan women who visited the U.S. and we all took part in leading discussions. We talked about everything from voter registration in Kenya only 3 months every 5 years before the election to government corruption. One woman was very articulate on how clan-ridden elections were and said our men won't vote for anyone who is not in a clan even if he is unprepared or has no integrity. Another said women have so many

points against them in running for office because parties are clan based and in Somali culture women are not thought of as leaders so would never get to run as a party candidate for an office. Neither do women have access to resources. Somali culture prevents women from owning land or other property. They inherit only half of what their brothers inherit and those inheritances go to their husbands. The women also told us of their efforts to run for local offices despite the odds and their determination to put their daughters in school and to fight HIV/AIDS.

I was incredulous at the openness and vibrancy of the discussion. And probably most impressive for me as a Leaguer is that women associated lagging development with a flawed political process which treats both the population of the north and women as second class citizens. These women were not blaming one party or another, but the corruption throughout the process. These women have enough sophistication to recognize that getting their "piece of the national cake", as they call self-interested politics, will not clean up Kenya in one fell swoop. They are realistic about how long this will take. They are working so their daughters will be better off. At the end of the sessions, all the women rose and sang, in both English and Somali, "It can be done!"



Kenyan women at Garissa workshop

In many private conversations, they told us of difficulties they have in fighting female circumcision which threatens their health, about Sharia law which allows violence against women if they do not obey their husbands, and the difficulty in getting their husbands to send their daughters to school rather than marrying them off sometimes at age 13 so they can get a dowry. But there also is pride in their pastoral

way of life. Patriarchal traditions have no doubt sustained a pastoralist/nomad people who have survived in a bleak and harsh environment. **One feature that is very clear is the closeness among women in the community.** They get joy out of meeting and especially dancing together. We had the opportunity to go to a Somali wedding which is celebrated not in mixed company but the women in one celebration and men in another. The women danced for hours with each other, no men, joyful expression of their closeness and maybe of their common struggle as well.

Things are beginning to change. Now they have television in Garissa and some women, including our visitors are educated (some are now attending the University in Nairobi). They see other parts of the world and have greater choices for their lives.

Continued on Page 7

Report on Kenya Project 2007 Cont'd **LWVGT EDUCATION FUND**

It was remarkable that so many strong women spoke out freely in these meetings. (There were about 50 women in each session.) I was amazed. My sense is that they take strength from their women's groups. But they still need the confidence and the will to run for office. It seems to be a critical transition time from women growing in leadership in women's NGOs and civil society to struggling for leadership in local and national government. They now recognize that without having a voice in political decision making, they cannot be effective in building a more enlightened and democratic nation.

As friends and cohorts taking an interest in and encouraging women to keep up the struggle, we visiting Leaguers were in a unique position. We weren't paid aid workers telling them what to do. Citizen exchange sounds benign, but our Kenyan women are now admired and

r e s p e c t e d because they visited the U.S. and northeast Kenyan women felt important b e c a u s e Americans had traveled a great distance to give them recognition



Women singing "It Can Be Done"

and moral support. These women know what must be done. They need encouragement and the self-confidence to keep at it. One of our visitors said she was tougher now that she has seen what could be done in the U.S. And toughness is just what they are going to need to build a new Kenya.

~Sally Davenport

Interested in learning more about women and Somali culture? Sally recommends the following recent books (all are set in Somalia itself):

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Infidel* (2007, non-fiction)
Waris Dirir, *Desert Dawn* (2004, non-fiction)
Nuruddin Farah, *Knots* (2007, fiction)

Our LWVGT education fund...what is it, why are funds kept separately for operations and for the education fund, what is tax deductible to you and why, how is it managed? Do you ever have any of these questions? In case you do, here are some answers.

LWVGT has 2 identities from the federal government's viewpoint.

LWVGT is a 501 (c)(4). That means it is a non-profit and is in the category of social welfare organization that works for the common good and general welfare of the community. It also means that we, as an organization, do not have to pay income taxes, but it does mean that you CANNOT take a tax deduction for your contributions to LWVGT. Funds under this category can be used for such expenses as office operation, membership expenses including the VOTER, general meetings, expenses for action we take on our positions. Your dues are included in the income for LWVGT.

The Education Fund is a 501 (c)(3), and ours specifically fits in the education category. We, as an organization, do not have to pay income taxes, and the good news is that you CAN take an income tax deduction if you make a contribution to the Ed Fund. Setting up a 501(c)(3) is not an easy process. The Leagues in Arizona together decided it was best to set up one 501(c)(3) and all work under that one Fed. ID number. Each League in the state has funds deposited in it and those funds are carefully accounted for by League. In other words, e.g., the Metro Phoenix League nor the state League can use funds belonging to LWVGT. Monies in the Education Fund can be used for non-partisan public education only activities that inform and educate the public on the issues. They cannot be used for activities that benefit members only. Examples of expenses covered in this fund are voter guides, Pima county book, forums, activities such as Running and Winning, but NEVER for any activity where we are taking action on a LWV position. Contributions made to LWVAZ-Education Fund are the primary source of income for this segment of our organization. The generous bequest by Harvey and Evelyn Lance was made to the Education Fund.

~Dot Boone, LWVGT Treasurer



Mission Statement

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



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER TUCSON**
2424 E Broadway #110
Tucson, AZ 85719

(DATED MATERIAL)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
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MEMBERSHIP FORM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Fax:** _____

_____ **\$60.00/Yr Individual Membership** _____ **\$90.00/Yr Household Membership**
_____ **\$30.00/Yr Student Membership**

**Individual dues include local (\$24.70), state(\$9.00), and national (\$26.30) memberships.
Household dues include local (\$37.45) , state (\$13.50), and national (\$39.05) memberships.
Student dues include local (\$12.35), state (\$4.50), and national (\$13.15) memberships.**

\$_____ Contribution (not tax-deductible) \$_____ Education Fund (tax deductible)
For Education Fund, please make separate check payable to: LWVAZ Education Fund

Membership, not Education Fund, is payable by ___ Visa or ___ Mastercard (Please check)
Account Number _____ **Expiration Date** _____ / _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

**Please make checks payable to LWVGT and mail to 2424 E. Broadway, Suite 110
Tucson, AZ 85719. If you need further information, call (520) 327-7652.**