



# THE VOTER



Volume 65

No. 6

March 2012

March

April

- 6 **Tuesday, 10 am**  
**Eastside Unit**  
Ward 2 Council Office  
7575 E Speedway  
Speaker: Sandra Walker, Warden  
"AZ Owned & Privately Owned  
Prisons in AZ"  
Phylis: 885.3271  
Prcarnahan@yahoo.com
- 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 \$5call 625.1711  
Call Sue: 648.7069
- 13 **Tuesday, 10:30 am**  
**SaddleBrooke Unit**  
Coyote Room North  
SaddleBrooke Clubhouse  
Topic: "Civil Discourse"  
Call: Linda: 241.1043
- 17 **General Meeting**  
Downtown Library  
"Privatization of  
Prisons"
- 3 **Tuesday, 10 am**  
**Eastside Unit**  
Ward 2 Council Office  
7575 E Speedway  
Topic: "What's Happening  
in Education"  
Questions: Phylis  
prcarnahan@yahoo.com
- 10 **Tuesday, 10:30 am**  
**SaddleBrooke Unit**  
Catalina Room North  
SaddleBrooke Clubhouse HOA#1  
Informal planning meeting  
Will meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each  
month through summer  
Linda: 241.1043
- 13 **Friday, 11:30 am**  
**Green Valley Unit**  
Madera Room, La Posada  
Topic: Representative from  
Sahuarita School District;  
"Progress & Problems in  
Sahuarita Schools"  
Bring sack lunch or order sandwich  
for \$5, call 625.1711  
Sue: 648.7069
- 20 **Annual Meeting 10:30 am**  
Mountain Oyster Club  
6400 E. El Dorado Circle

**GENERAL MEETING  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 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)

## PRIVATIZATION OF PRISONS: THE ARIZONA PICTURE

The speaker, Diane Wilson, will help members examine some of these areas in more depth and will tell us about an area of privatization that should be getting more attention in Arizona our prisons.

Ms. Wilson was director of the PHASE program to help low income women seeking employment for 25 years. She created programs for women entering construction and for women in prison. She presented Job and Life Skills workshops at the Southern AZ Correctional Release Center for five years. Her focus was to help women released from prison to reintegrate successfully into society.

Sue Ward will present a summary of the LWVUS national study on Privatization.

At the June 2010 League of Women Voters' National Convention in Atlanta, two topics were selected by the delegates for two-year studies. The first was "The Role of the Federal Government in K-12 education," and chapters around the country, including Tucson, submitted consensus results to the national office last fall.

The second issue has not fared so well. The advice of League members who have participated in past studies emphasized that it is not wise to attempt more than one study in any two-year period. Along with a majority who voted on the topic at National, I ignored that advice. My personal feeling was and continues to be that few topics are more important and

deserving of study than this one. However, I now understand the drawbacks a little better.

Since September of last 2011, I've participated in the LWV listserv on the privatization topic. Originally, source materials from national were going to be disseminated by mid-summer, which became mid-fall. By November, there was talk of rebellion some leagues were discussing not waiting for the materials from National. Instead, they discussed designing their own consensus issues, glossary, etc. About that time, the materials came out in great abundance.

However, at every point, the listserv indicated a high level of interest in the topic from Leagues large and small. As the glossary and study materials appeared, I was very sorry that no one in Tucson stepped forward to guide our efforts here in developing consensus on the issue.

Some of the areas discussed include the privatization of education including charter schools and on-line educational institutions; the privatization of library systems; privatization of water; privatization of toll roads; the privatization of prisons, etc. One interesting angle that received some attention was the privatization of tasks that were once done by the military. For example, instead of doing KP duty, kitchen tasks would go to contracted labor from developing countries who, when they sign up, do not have a clue they are



Soon you will receive your Call to the April 20 Annual Meeting in the mail. We hope that you will read it carefully and plan to attend this important event that will be held at the Mountain Oyster Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You will be voting for some new officers, the annual budget, and also some possible changes to our by-laws.

The public knows the League of Women Voters best for our efforts to register voters. We are going to be heavily involved in that project over the next several months. We ask you to register your neighbors and friends and send those completed forms to the LWVGT office so we can keep track of the numbers registering. These will then be forwarded to the County Recorder's office. Remember, any time a voter changes an address, political parties, or a name, re-registration is required.

Unfortunately in some parts of the country Leagues have had to suspend registering voters because of onerous state laws, making it almost impossible to register voters. Many states, including Arizona, now have laws requiring photo ID and proof of citizenship, even though there is very little documented voter fraud. Some people-particularly seniors-may no longer have a drivers' license and have to travel a great distance at great inconvenience to acquire this photo identification.

That is why the national League is "monitoring elections to ensure that election laws are fairly and equally enforced throughout our country." The League's VOTE411.org guides people through the registration process and gives information on voting. It is a useful guide for all of us. You can also contact the Pima County Elections office at 740-4330 or for Pinal County, 520-509-3555.

*Carol West, President*

*Continued from Page 1*

going to be sent to a war zone. It was clear that the issue of privatization has local, national and international aspects. And it became clear that the question of **oversight** of operations turned over to private companies is paramount. Examples of lack of oversight were numerous. To be fair, there have been some instances where privatization made radical improvements in areas previously handled by governmental jurisdictions.

Interested in reading more? Check out the following: <http://lww.org/member-resources/privatization>.

*Sue Ward*

FIRST CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2012 - MOUNTAIN OYSTER CLUB  
MARK THE DATE NOW ON YOUR CALENDAR



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.**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January and February have been "get back to work" months after the holiday break. It is exciting to see that there are many activities in which members can participate. The Voter lists those on page 1 and LWVGT's media relations Director, Maxine Goodman, has gained listings for our events in Tucson publications. Especially recommended is the March 6th Eastside meeting in which a former prison warden will address privatizing prisons. The April 20th Annual Meeting is a good opportunity to meet members you may not encounter during the year and to become aware of accomplishments of members who work behind the scenes. It is also a great chance to learn some of the intricacies of 2011's Arizona Redistricting Commission from its chair, Colleen Mathis, who will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting.

An important set of activities that any member can do--at home, at work, and in locations of your choice--is the registering of voters. When asked why they joined the League, some members answer, "because I want to get people registered to vote." New member, Brenda McBride said, "This is a political year and I want to be involved and informed." The Voter Services committee will have several registration events this year. Those events are a great way to meet people in the community. To sign up to help register voters, contact Victor Bowleg, the current Voter Services Chair; his email address is in the grey Membership Directory. Soon to come is a workshop on actually registering voters. It will cover information that is helpful or necessary to know to do this important work of our democracy.

We have five new members in the League. Welcome to Tracy Curtin, Patricia Ballard, Joyce Armstrong, Brenda McBride, and Kathleen George.

*Mary Gresham, Membership Chair*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING:** The Commission approved the Congressional and Legislative maps and these are being sent to the Department of Justice for preclearance. Two bills, HCR2052 and HCR2053 are Rep. Tobin's own maps for the districts. SCR1035 would repeal the Independent Redistricting Commission law. Tobin wants a special election on May 15<sup>th</sup> which would cost the taxpayers \$8 million. These have not yet been sent to a committee.

**CLEAN ELECTIONS:** SCR1021 Public Funds, Political Candidates, Ban. This would be on the ballot and would kill Clean Elections. This would prohibit public funds from being used to provide campaign support for candidates. The bill was heard on February 6<sup>th</sup> in the Judiciary committee and was passed. The LWVAZ lobbyists sent emails to the committee members and did a Request to Speak to ask them to vote against the bill. We will ask all members to write their legislators when it comes to a floor vote.

**HCR2005 Initiatives, Referendum Measures; periodic reauthorization.** This would be on the ballot to make I&R measures that create a fund for public monies or dedicate public fund revenues or expenditures valid for only the remaining portion of the current fiscal year and the six following years. Then a reauthorization measure must be referred to a vote at a general election. This applies retroactively to all ballot measures after November 3, 1998. You would be voting again on a bill that had originally passed. This comes up on February 9 in the Judicial Committee. We will oppose it.

**BILLS:** On Feb. 6, the deadline for bills. There were 1,300 bills introduced. There are over 20 election reform bills to be put on the November ballot if they pass. This is legislation by the voters, not the legislators that were sent to do this. There are probably a hundred tech bills to be used later as the infamous "striker" bills. There are already 80 proposed strikers.

**SCR1034** will have the judges all be elected for terms. Repeals Article VI, sec. 40, relating to option of certain counties in selecting judges. Repeals Article VI, sec. 41, relating to commission on trial court appointments. Article VI, sec. 42, relating to retention evaluation of justices and judges is repealed.

**TO BLOW YOUR MIND:** There are 112 bills introduced that have something to do with Education.

With 1300 bills in the hopper, you know that many of them will be heard and passed on in a single day. Will keep you posted.

*Gini McGirr, Legislative Chair*

## DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE ON CANDIDATE USE OF THE LWV NAME

**The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.**

Elections and voting are core concerns for the League of Women Voters. Year in and year out, Leagues are committed to providing fact-based information about issues and the positions candidates take on those issues to help our members and voters in general make their own decisions.

This disclaimer came out from the LWVUS office for all members to know and use if you are questioned on any advertising.

### **Elections: Voter Suppression Assault Continues into this Year's State Legislative Sessions**

The relentless assault on voting rights continues to sweep across the country. Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Virginia, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire and North Carolina are among the states seeing the introduction and/or reintroduction of new bills that, if passed, could disenfranchise millions of voters across the country. An example of this unrelenting attack is playing out in South Carolina where two new laws - one that will place harsh restrictions on independent voter registration drives and another that will require proof of citizenship as a pre-requisite to voting have been introduced. This is in addition to their voter photo ID law that was passed in 2011, but was denied pre-clearance by the US DOJ, and is now making its way through the courts. Virginia's new photo ID law passed its House this week.

### **Elections: Florida League Goes Mobile**

As presidential candidates pounded the campaign trail, the Florida League debuted an innovative ["Be Ready to Vote" mobile campaign](#), designed to help inform Florida voters about their current registration status and increase voter turnout at the polls. Through the efforts, mobile phone users are prompted to enter their name and date of birth to check their voter status, update their voter information or have their questions answered by an elections official.

*Gini McGirr, Legislative Chair*

## NEW UNIT NEEDED IN THE NORTH AREA OF TUCSON

A Unit is a discussion and study group of League issues. There has been some talk by members that the League should have a daytime Unit started in the northwest or northeast area. This would include the north part of Tucson, the Foothills area, part of Oro Valley and Marana area. Meetings could be held in a member's home until the group gets large enough for a public area. The League now has a Unit in SaddleBrooke, Green Valley and the East side of Tucson. They meet once a month and have speakers on local issues or studies. If you are interested in the startup of a new unit, contact Phylis Carnahan at 885.3271 or [pcarnahan@yahoo.com](mailto:pcarnahan@yahoo.com)

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL:

### **LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2012**

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2012: Voter Protection, Campaign Finance Reform, Environmental Defense and Health Care Defense. In addition, these items were included on the LWVUS Watch List for 2012: Fair Taxation, CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), UN Support and Immigration. Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, it does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

The Board considered many issues and the responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program

decisions made by members at the last Convention, member interest and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if necessary.

### **THE 2012-2014 CLASS OF RUTH S. SHUR FELLOWS**

The LWVUS Selection Team has announced that seven of the original national coaches are returning for another two year session and eight new ones will start this month. The nine new states that will have coaches are: Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington.

The returning and new coaches will meet for a training session in Maryland on February 23-26. President McNamara has advised that Gini McGirr, Arizona, has been selected to remain as a national coach for the next two years.

## VOTER SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

In January Voter Services volunteers successfully conducted voter registration at Pima Community College West Campus, at the NAWBO *Legislative Action & Training Workshop*, and at Broadway Proper Senior Housing.

Currently Voter Services is seeking volunteers to assist with upcoming voter registration projects that include this year's Tucson Rodeo 2012. Voter registration will be conducted on both Saturday and Sunday at the Rodeo grounds. In addition throughout the spring voter registration will be conducted weekly at the *Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona* by Voter Services volunteers.

In addition every March Voter Services schedules a team of volunteers to assist the residents of Tucson House with their annual officers and floor representatives' election. This year the election is scheduled to take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 7am until 7pm.

Voter Services is always looking for LWV volunteers to help with our activities so please contact Victor Bowleg if you would like more info.

**Victor Bowleg, Voter Services Chair**

## VOTER REGISTRATION HELP

The LWV could use some help with registering people to vote in this very active election year. There has been a project to provide voter information at libraries, and the areas around five library branches have been targeted as having low voter turnout: Columbus, Woods, Valencia, Mission and Quincey Douglas. We provide people to assist with registration and other voter information during peak days and hours. If you would like to participate, please contact Betty Bengtson at 219-3705 or [bettybengtson@gmail.com](mailto:bettybengtson@gmail.com)



## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### Who can register to vote?

Those who meet the following requirements:

- 1) You are a U.S. citizen;
- 2) You are at least 18 years old;
- 3) You are a resident of Arizona;
- 4) You have had your civil rights restored after a felony;
- 5) You are not under mental guardianship.

### Where can you register to vote?

- 1) At the League of Women Voters office;
- 2) Online [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com)
- 3) Ask your county recorder.

### What identification is needed?

- 1) Valid AZ Driver's license (issued after 10/1996);
- 2) State non-vehicle operating ID (issued after 10/1996);
- 3) US Passport (photocopy to attach to form);
- 4) Birth Certificate (photocopy to attach to form);
- 5) Alien Registration Number from Certificate of Naturalization;
- 6) BIA tribal enrollment, or tribal treaty card number.

### When do you need to update/re-register?

- 1) When you change your address;
- 2) When you change your name;
- 3) When you change your party.

## THE LINK BETWEEN POLICY AND HEALTH

To keep up with current community issues, League members frequently attend various meetings of public agencies. One of these is Pima County's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC).

A recent presentation to EPAC focused on a project developed with a 15.8 million dollar two-year grant awarded the County by the US Department of Health and Human Services in 2010. This grant was given as part of a national effort to promote better health in communities across the country. One of the main sponsors is the U of A College of Public Health.

Nationally, 44% of Americans had at least one chronic disease in 2005; 9.1% of all health care costs are attributed to obesity. Obesity results in diminished lung capacity, compounding other health impacts.

The focus of the Pima County program is preventing obesity. With 60% of adults in Pima County considered overweight or obese, and children following not far behind, this translates into a significant public health issue, one that will lead to debilitating diseases, shorter life spans, and significant economic impacts as these young people age.

There are a number of steps that the College of Health and its partners are recommending to help promote better lifestyles. Some of these are based on encouraging exercise by providing better access to parks, building more sidewalks and planting shade trees along streets, and making bike routes safer. Other recommendations address the lack of access to grocery stores and affordable food; recommendations include zoning to allow grocery stores in neighborhoods and promoting community gardens and farmers markets.

Information about the "Community Putting Prevention to Work" grant can be found on the U of A College of Public Health website.

## REPORT ON BOOK CLUB



The LWVGT Book Club has selected "Winning Their Place: Arizona Women in Politics, 1883-1950" by Heidi Osselear as the book it will discuss on March 21, 2012. If you are interested in learning more about the group, please contact the League office at 327.7652.

## CITIZEN'S DIRECTORY PRINTING TO BE DELAYED

The printing of the Citizen's Directory will be delayed until Fall due to the fact that the new Legislative and Congressional district maps are not finalized and there are several additional elections coming up this year. They will be printed after the November general election.

The League thanks TEP for their commitment to print the directories as they will again do it this year. The directory will be on the LWVGT website once the district lines are known.

League of Women Voters of Greater  
Tucson

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LWVUS: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWVGT: [www.lwvgt.org](http://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 Pierce (520.577.0388)



Shirley Sandelands, Chr. Endowment

## SPOTLIGHT ON PRESIDENT CAROL WEST

Four young children at home propelled young stay-at-home mom Carol West into joining the League of Women Voters in Corvallis, Oregon a number of years ago. The Corvallis group was small, somewhat partisan, and very active Carol recalls, and instrumental in helping get Oregon's vote by mail law passed.

When she and Neil came to Tucson, Carol became active with the Tucson League while working for water conservation organizations and then as an Aide to Council Member Janet Marcus. In 1999 Carol herself was elected to the Tucson City Council and served until 2007. Carol became President of the LWVGT in 2011. Her accomplishments include establishing a Development Committee that has found creative ways to combine community outreach with fundraising. The success of work is seen in last year's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with its focus on the Tucson League founders, and the upcoming Arizona Centennial Celebration that will recognize the contribution of Las Doñas and other women who are significant in the history of Tucson.

With respect to its influence on public policy in Arizona, Carol considers that the League is a significant player because of its hallmark non-partisanship stance on issues. This sets the League apart from other policy groups and earns it respect across the political spectrum and the business community. Carol points to the League's record in shaping State law including merit selection of judges, clean election financing, and independent redistricting as highlights of the Arizona League.

Carol credits her Dad with helping her understand the importance of treating people fairly and her Mom with encouraging her interest in politics. That background helped her as a teacher working with children and adults from many different backgrounds. Carol still teaches ESL through Literacy Volunteers. And in all that free time she and Neil have? Well, there are 12 grandchildren who are always ready to travel to faraway places!

## GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN: GRAND-FAMILIES

There are over 100,000 children in Arizona who are being raised by their grandparents. A conference was held for these grand-families in Casa Grande recently. LWVGT was invited to register voters at the event. Special thanks to our members Judy Fischer, Sharon Dely, and Judy Carran who traveled with Carol West to Casa Grande.

Speakers and panelists offered assistance and support to the grandparents. Many of the parents of the offspring are unfit to care for their children, are in prison, or have died. Grandparents cited their expectations of the Golden Years of Retirement; instead they are raising very young children.

Many of these children have no health coverage, and if the grandparents are still working, they are spending a lot of their income on child care. Also, those retired now have added expenses that they had not planned on. There is no state reimbursement even though Arizona is saving a lot of money because the grandparents are caring for the children instead of the state.

State Senator Leah Landrum Taylor is a strong advocate for these families. Her SB 1098 would offer a small monthly stipend to the low income families to help them with this added cost burden. Landrum Taylor has also secured funding for a Phoenix housing project specifically designed for grand-families.

The conference gave the grand-families a chance to meet one another and to share ways to cope with their situations. We can write-as individuals-to our legislators and urge them to support Senator Landrum Taylor's bills to support these families.

## LWVGT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF GREATER TUCSON**  
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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUCSON

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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