

The Voter



Volume 70 Number 6

March 2017

Save the Date:

[Issues and Eggs Brunch](#)

Doubletree Hotel
7:30 a.m.
Friday,
March 3, 2017

Voter Education
Program
Saturday
March 18, 2017

LWVGT
Annual Meeting
Lodge on the Desert
9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday, April 22, 2017

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EDUCATION FINANCE IN ARIZONA: THE RHETORIC AND THE REALITY Plan to attend our monthly voter education program!

Our topic for the March voter education program is of continuing interest to members of League chapters throughout Arizona. We have been working to update our State position on Education Finance which will be proposed for adoption at our State Convention April 28-30 in Surprise, Arizona. This meeting is intended to give you a report on how things are in funding our public schools in Arizona.

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2017
Time: 9:30 am social hour followed by program at 10 am
Location: Lower Level Conference Room, Joel P. Valdez Main Library, 101 North Stone Avenue. Free parking is in the library's underground garage or on nearby streets. The public is welcome to attend this meeting!

Speaker: **DAVID LUJAN**, DIRECTOR, ARIZONA CENTER FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Panel: Representatives of the Arizona Education Association, the Arizona Schools Boards Association, and other members of the Arizona Schools Now Coalition

Here is information from **Jen Darland**, LWV Arizona Chair of the Education Finance Study Update Committee:

“Public education consistently ranks among the top priorities for Arizona voters, yet we rank at and/or near dead last nationally in state's share of per pupil funding. But that ranking is often called into question depending upon who you talk to. So just how are our schools funded? What percentage of funding comes from the state? What percentage comes from other sources? How much funding have we either cut and/or delayed forwarding to our public schools? And how is that impacting the decisions made by school administrators and school board members? Our teachers? Our parents?”

Plan to come and bring any questions you may have about this important topic!

Copies of the proposed update to our State League Education Finance Position will be available at the meeting.

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

YOUR CHECKLIST FOR LEAGUE UNIT DISCUSSION MEETINGS IN MARCH!

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

EASTSIDE UNIT MEETING

9:30 am

7575 East Speedway, City of Tucson Ward 2 Office

Guest Speaker: **Paula Wilk**

Topic: "Is Dark Money Always Bad?"

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

Friday, March 10, 2017

GREEN VALLEY UNIT MEETING

12 noon (bring sack lunch), 12:30 pm program

Madera Room, 3rd floor, La Vista Building, La Posada Campus

Guest Speaker: **Jerry Haas**

Topic: Principles and Agenda of the Border Action Alliance

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

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

NORTHWEST UNIT MEETING

2:00 pm

Mountain Vista Fire Station, 1175 West Magee

Guest Speaker: **Joanna Williams**, Kino Border Initiative

Topic: Immigration Detention in Private Prisons

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

Thursday, March 16, 2017

MIDTOWN UNIT MEETING

11:30 am

Martha Cooper Library, 1377 North Catalina

Guest Speaker: **Beverly Heasley**

Topic: Aging Friendly Communities

Contact: **Janice Murphy**, 838-0040

Monday, March 27, 2017

MIDTOWN EVENING UNIT MEETING

5:30 pm

3202 East 1st Street, City of Tucson Ward 6 Office

Topic: Chapter 2, "The Economy" from **Jessamyn Conrad's** book

"What You Should Know about Politics ...But Probably Don't"

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

SO, WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE PRESIDENT? NOT SO BAD AS IT TURNS OUT!

Yes, being President is challenging. But it is also rewarding. Some days are tough with lots of demands on my time. Other days I am full of gratitude working with League members who meet me more than halfway to get things done. I can think of so many members in our Tucson League who go out of their way to take on a job and see it through, people who step up cheerfully to work on some aspect of our work in the League.

I resisted taking on this job because I thought it would be too much to handle and I had other things to do in my life. But, once I accepted the position, I have moved on and set my mind to deal with what has come my way. I have learned that I have the energy to keep up with you all! And I have learned that I really don't have to give up other aspects of my life that are important to me.

This is the time of year when our Nominating Committee reaches out to many of you to ask if you will consider taking on a leadership position in the League. I congratulate and thank those of you who have agreed to be nominated to our Board of Directors at our April 22 Annual Meeting. And, for those of you being asked to take on an assignment in our League chapter, I hope you will seriously consider it. I invite you to work with me and to be a League leader in the coming year!

Freda Johnson

WHY DO WE NEED A PRESIDENT ELECT?

Joan Kaltsas and Paula Wilk, Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs

Every other year at the Annual Meeting, the LWVGT membership elects a President to serve for a two-year term. Recently, however, members have been reluctant to assume this leadership position. To foster wider leadership participation, the Bylaws Committee proposes that our bylaws be changed to provide for a President-Elect.

How would this work? Each year the membership would select a President-Elect. The President-Elect would serve one year as a board member, during which she or he could observe board operations and learn the responsibilities of leading the LWVGT board. After that initial year, the President-Elect would automatically become President and serve a one-year term.

Why make this change? Having a President-Elect provides potential leaders a chance to learn before serving as President. Members who may be relatively new to the League will have a year to observe and prepare for assuming the duties of LWVGT President. The total length of commitment to leadership duties is still two years, but there would be one year to prepare, followed by a year of service as President.

All proposed changes to the bylaws are posted on our website and will be presented in your Call to the Annual Meeting to be mailed to all members in March. Our Annual Meeting is April 22, 2017.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Janice Murphy, Membership Co-Chair

We are growing! Welcome our twenty-five new members who have joined the LWVGT since December 1. They have come from all directions across the city and county and are eager to participate in the work of the League.

An orientation for new members, as well as those members who have not had an opportunity to attend before, is scheduled on Saturday, March 25 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the home of Janet Marcus, 4949 E. Glenn. At the orientation new members will learn about the various committees in the League as well as activities in which they themselves may want to become involved. This setting also provides a time to bring forward questions those attending may have about the business of the League. Please RSVP to **Pat Wiedhopf** 850-6755 if you plan to attend.

A warm welcome is extended to new members who have joined the LWVGT since December 1:

John Roberts Brakey; Beth M. Cochran; Arlene Douglas; Linda and Mark Ekstrum; Eileen Feldgus; Lynn Flance; Chuck Irvin; Dortha Jane Jones; Betty King; Dana Kormash; Karla Van Drunen Littooy; Shelby MacDonald; Karen McFadden; Barbara Norrander; Suzanne M. Pear; Anne Pyron; Noell Rodriguez; A Saiquan and James Todsén; Maria Elena Sandoval; Susan Swain; Jane Swicegood; Barbara J. Solomon; and Gail G. Underwood.

New Member Profile

Ronnie Mullins, Midtown Evening Unit Chair, is originally from New York, but has lived in Tucson for thirty years. Her four kids keep her busy as they run cross country, compete in Jui Jitsu, and play club volleyball. Her oldest son studies physics, math, and astronomy at Arizona State University. Ronnie spends her free time with her husband and kids hiking, biking, rock climbing, swimming, and more.



As an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Nutritional Sciences Department at the University of Arizona, Ronnie is developing and teaching classes on sports nutrition and creating opportunities for students to work with NCAA and Club Sport athletes on campus. Ronnie teaches an undergraduate general education class in sustainability and food systems and plans to expand her work in this area.

Her approach to hosting the Monday Evening Unit Discussion Meetings stems from her experience at the University working with a diverse group of faculty. She wants to create a focused learning community made up of individuals from different backgrounds who are dedicated to educating themselves about civil liberties and then are open to taking that knowledge and moving forward into action in their own way. Participants read a book chapter to discuss every month and each meeting contains a practical application piece.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
GREATER TUCSON

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TUCSON ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 22

Our Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Lodge on the Desert. This is the meeting when all League members get to set the agenda, program, bylaws and budget for next year. Our Board proposes recommendations for you to consider. You can agree with these recommendations or propose alternatives which we will all vote on. Details will be mailed to you in a special document entitled "Call to the Annual Meeting" the third week of March. Look for it, read it and come prepared to participate in our annual convention. Questions? Contact **Freda Johnson** at president@lwvgt.com.

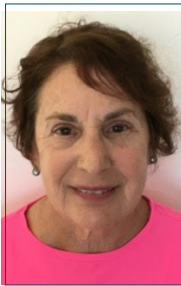
STATE CONVENTION APRIL 28-30.

State Convention, held every two years in Arizona, will take place April 28-30 in Surprise, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa. We are entitled to a total of twelve delegates and you could be one of them. We conduct business (adopt a program, a budget, and a slate of officers) have workshops and hear from guest speakers. This year, invited speakers will represent perspectives about the Arizona Corporation Commission, the Legislature, immigration issues and how journalists cover a contentious election. The Convention will be held at The Colonnade in Surprise AZ and we will stay at the Hampton Inn, also in Surprise. Questions about the Convention? Contact our State League President, **Shirley Sandelands** at 465-1785. Questions about being a Tucson delegate? Contact **Freda Johnson** at president@lwvgt.com.

LWVGT OBSERVER CORPS needs volunteers

Need for League members with inquisitive minds to follow events relating to League positions and to monitor transparency in government. Openings exist to observe Pima County Board of Supervisors, the City of Tucson, the towns of Marana, Sahuarita, and TUSD and Sunnyside School Districts. Much of the work can be done at home as most boards make meeting videos available to view at your convenience on your computer. Participants produce short reports via email to the Observer Corps Chair. Training and support provided.

Contact **Myra Hopper** at ObserverCorps@lwvgt.org for more information.



Myra spent her formative and working years in the New York City suburbs and in Manhattan. She has a BA in mathematics from Hunter College of CUNY and went on to work in software development for investment banks, consulting companies and IBM. She always had interests in politics and was active in the League of Women Voters in Westchester County, NY. She served that LWV Chapter as Voter Service Chair, VP and then President.

Many thanks to **Mary Hudson** and **Kim Khoury** who updated our Citizen's Guide to Elected Officials. Tucson Electric Power provided funds to the League for printing. Pick up your copy at our office or any library branch.



New Members! We have mentors ready to help you understand the League and what's going on. If you would like one, call Vivian Harte at 883-8880.

