

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Sedona-Verde Valley

www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

FEBRUARY 2008

Board Members 2007 -2008

Kathryn Heidepriem, Sedona

Carol Johnson, Clarkdale

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Liz Danbury, Sedona

Pat George, Camp Verde

Donna Pratt, Sedona

Off-Board Representative
to LWVAZ:

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

It's Election Time...

Time for the League to Get Together

and

Celebrate Democracy!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the following League events; we'll update you as other opportunities are developed.

February 8th – Monthly meeting of LWVSVV Board. All members welcome to attend. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse at 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

February 13th (Wednesday) – Jerome Town Council Forum, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Spook Hall (Hull and Jerome)

February 15th (Friday) – League's 88th Anniversary Luncheon – Arizona Corporation Commissioner Kris Mayes will speak on "Meeting the Renewable Energy Challenge - RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

March 7th (Friday evening) – LWV Arizona statewide fundraiser gala at the Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American and Native American Art in Chandler – Gallery Tour, Silent Auction, Great Food. The Dangerous Woman Award will be given to Diane E. Brown, Executive Director, Arizona Public Interest Group.

April 4th (Friday) – Documentary Film, "Water," presented by our League as a part of Water Month; Creative Life Center at 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

May 10th (Saturday) – Annual Membership Meeting and Breakfast at the Ridge (Sedona Golf Resort) in the Village of Oak Creek at 9:00 a.m. – noon.

May 18th – 19th (Friday evening and Saturday) – LWV Arizona Council meeting in Surprise, AZ.

June 13th – 17th -- LWV United States 48th Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Membership News

We sincerely welcome all of our new and recently joined or renewed members, especially for the upcoming busy election year. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events. If you see something you would like to participate in, or you have any questions, feel free to call any Board member. We operate as a team. Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all members; the next one will be on Friday, February 8th, at Sedona Shadows.

In Memoriam: Longtime League member Imogene “Imy” Gould, formerly of Sedona, died on December 27th in Flagstaff. She will be missed by those who knew and worked with her in League. Memorial donations may be sent to Northland Hospice, P.O. Box 997, Flagstaff 86002, or to the First Congregational Church in Flagstaff.

Information and Requests

NEW LEAGUE HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY – HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOURS?

Our League’s new Member Handbook has been mailed out to all members. Check it out for information on what the League is all about and how we operate – as well as a directory listing all of our members and their contact information. Please be respectful of the privacy of our members and use this information only for League business. (Check your information to make sure that it is correct – and be sure to let us know if your directory did not make it through the mail.)

OUR WEBSITE IS UP -- LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

As promised in our December newsletter, the website is now online at www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org. We are grateful to the League of Women Voters of California for developing an easy resource that enables local leagues to have a web presence at a low cost. Although the format is limited, we welcome your comments and suggestions about what you would like to see posted on our site and ways we might try to improve. There are links on the site for contacting us, or you can call or e-mail Kathy Heidepriem or Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer if you’d like to chat about it. The e-mail address for our league is lwvsyv@yahoo.com.

HELP WANTED! We need a list of people who would be willing to be called upon to assist with refreshments at meetings, programs, and candidate forums. Call Donna Pratt if you are willing to be on the list. We need people to assist with administrative tasks and member recruitment. Finally, we need people to become involved by serving on our Board of Directors. Ellie Bauer, our Nominating Committee Chair, would like to hear from you if you are interested.

Voter Services

The Voter Services Committee has started the year off by co-sponsoring the City of Sedona Mayoral/Candidate forum with Vision Sedona on January 31st at the Sedona Public Library. A special thanks to Doris West and Donna Pratt for providing the refreshments, to Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer for moderating the event, to Richard and Ruth Kiessel and Ellie Bauer for sorting the cards, to Mike Ward and Carol Wirkus for doing a super job as timekeepers, and to all of the League members who helped make this a successful forum.

The following Tuesday (Super Tuesday), the League sponsored a candidate's forum for the Town of Clarkdale's Mayoral and Council Candidates. Thank you Loretta Engelhardt for moderating the event and to Mike Ward for timekeeping.

And on February 13th, the Voter Services committee will be back at it, co-sponsoring the Town of Jerome's candidate forum with the Jerome Chamber of Commerce.

But wait, this is only the beginning for the Voter Services committee. Coming up next will be primaries and general elections for the County, State, and U.S. Representative Congressional District 1, ballot initiatives and referendum forums, and who knows what else might come up in this unprecedented election year.

It is not too late to get involved and be part of this exciting election year. If you are interested in the election process and voter education, please join the Voter Services Committee.

For more information, contact Co-chairs: Carol Johnson or Ellie Bauer.

AND DON'T FORGET TO GET OUT AND VOTE!!! YOUR VOTE CAN AND DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Program Activities

PROGRAM PLANNING

Each year, our League decides, at the annual membership meeting in May, what governmental issues we will address in the upcoming year. While these programs may be modified or added to later, we do try to focus our attention and resources on those issues of most interest to the membership. Now is the time to suggest to the Board what you would like those issues to be for the league business year that begins in July. This year we have been working on immigration, election reform, peace, and (still in planning) air quality. With national elections coming up in the fall, a good deal of our efforts will by necessity involve voter service activities. We may want to revisit such subjects as regionalism and judicial independence next year. Housing has also been mentioned. Your thoughts are needed. Please share them.

IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS RESULTS

On November 10, 2007, our local league held a general membership consensus meeting on the LWVUS Immigration Study. We discussed and came to consensus on 6 questions and added comments to several of the answers. Because this is a National LWV study and has been considered by local leagues all over the nation, the consensus reached at our meeting is only a small portion of the final position which will be submitted to delegates at the National Convention later this spring. The National Board has asked that local leagues not publicize their individual response, since there may be a different result when all the local results are tabulated and submitted to the convention for approval. Our local board discussed this request from National and decided that even though we would not publicize our answers, it was important to let our own members who participated in the meeting, and those members who studied the background material but were unable to attend the meeting, know what our local results are. We ask that our individual members honor the LWVUS Board request and not discuss or publicize these answers outside our local league community.

A Note about League Consensus, Positions, and Action: “Consensus” is reached when there is general agreement among the group meeting and discussing the issue. No vote is taken and, as you can see in these questions and answers above, it is possible to not have agreement and therefore not reach consensus on a question or portion of a question. Differing opinions may be noted when the results of a consensus effort are sent forward for approval. This immigration study is part of a national effort to develop a national League position on proposed Federal law. If the League is able to agree on such a position at the upcoming national convention, it may be used for action at all league levels. (State positions may be used for state and/or local action, and local positions may only be used for action at the local level).

Report Submitted by Mary Gassaway, Kathy Heidepriem, and Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer.

FOREST PLANNING – A LANDSCAPE VISION FOR THE VERDE VALLEY

We have completed a report on the November 8, 2007 Landscape Vision workshop held in Cottonwood. The report contains a draft vision that was put together from the small group discussions. Below is the draft vision and we are asking League members to give their comments on this vision. As you review the draft vision ask yourself the following questions:

- Does it clearly state the ideas and goals that are most important to the citizens of the Verde Valley. Or in another way, a landscape vision statement is a “word picture” of what we want the Verde Valley to look and feel like in 20-50 years.
- Also is it positive and helpful when it is stated in the present tense, as though it is a reality.
- And is it descriptive and use words effectively.

Draft: A Landscape Vision for the Verde Valley

The Verde Valley landscape, west of the Verde River, includes the City of Cottonwood and the Towns of Jerome, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, each with their own identity and community character. Intermingled are unincorporated residential neighborhoods, farms and ranches. All are buffered by Prescott National Forest lands, which provide natural open spaces and big mountain views. The Black Mountain Range, featuring Mingus Mountain to the north and Squaw Peak toward the south, forms a scenic backdrop for the entire Valley. These wide open spaces and urban interface areas are highly regarded by communities for their natural resource values, as well as social and economic benefits. They are free of litter and illegal uses; and they are protected from wildfire.

Forest and range vegetation is healthy, providing food and cover for grazing animals and wildlife. The Verde River flows year round through a lush riparian greenway, providing water for agriculture, habitat for animals, and recreational opportunities for people. Anglers, birders, hunters, hikers, bikers, equestrians, hang gliders and shooters are attracted to the Verde Valley.

A system of trails connects communities, allows access to public lands and encourages people to explore the outdoors for health and vitality. Roads and special areas are managed for responsible use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), including 4-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and motor bikes.

Federal, State and County agencies work effectively with neighboring municipalities, groups and individuals to protect public lands and enforce the rules that govern them.

Please email your comments to: Judy Miller or Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer at lwvsyv@yahoo.com by February 29.

A complete copy of the report can be found at our website – www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org.

From the State League

The Art of Political Conversation

Dangerous Women Silent Auction

**A Gala Event to Benefit the
League of Women Voters of Arizona Education Fund**

**Cocktails & Heavy Hors' d'oeuvres
Friday, March 7, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.**

At the

**Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery
22402 S. Basha Road, Chandler Arizona 85248**

Honored Guest

***Diane E. Brown, Founder & Executive Director
Arizona Public Interest Research Group***

\$35.00 per person

**Business attire requested
RSVP by February 25, 2008**

lwvaz@lwvaz.org

Underwritten and hosted by Bashas' and AJ's Fine Foods. 100% tax deductible and all proceeds will benefit League of Women Voters Arizona Education Fund, an IRS tax-deductible 501(c)3 organization

TRACKING ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATION: Did you know that the League of Women Voters of Arizona (LWVAZ) has a page on the Arizona Legislature website (www.azleg.gov) called "ALIS", the Arizona Legislative Information Service? It shows the status of bills that the Arizona State League is tracking in the current legislative session. You can log in to that page and see how legislation of interest to the League is doing. **If the information is not posted yet, wait a week or two.**

1. Go to www.azleg.gov.
2. Click on ALIS Tracking, then Track.
3. The league user id is LWVAZ, password Lila. That will take you to the LWVAZ page, which may have Alerts about bills that are on the move in some way. On that page you can then click on PERSONAL PROGRESS and you will see the 5 lists of bills the State League is tracking -- any or all of them may be of interest to you. The five lists are: Clean Elections, Election Reform, Education, Judicial Issues, and Natural Resources.

4. Click on the list name of interest to you and the relevant bills will show up. Click on Print Progress Report to view the progress of the bill (don't worry, it will just display on your monitor, not print them).

Note: On the legislature's home page (www.azleg.gov) - If you know the number of the bill that you want to read, you can enter it in the Search box of the azleg.gov site and hit enter. You can also find committee members, agendas, calendars, and the names and contact information of all House and Senate members.

On the Secretary of State home page (www.azsos.gov), you can find the initiatives that have been filed for the 2008 ballot, find who supports the initiatives with money, and find important dates for the year, such as filing deadlines, reports, etc.

LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar

Date	Event
February 8 th , Friday	Meeting of the Board of Directors, 12:00 p.m. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse
February 13 th , Wednesday	Candidate Forum for Jerome Town Council 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Spook Hall (corner of Hull and Jerome)
February 15 th , Friday	League Anniversary Luncheon with Kris Mayes, Arizona Corporation Commissioner, Speaking on "Meeting the Renewable Energy Challenge." 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Montage Ballroom, Best Western Inn of Sedona
March 7 th , Friday	Gala Fundraiser for LWVAZ, 6:00 p.m. Basha Corporate Art Gallery in Chandler
April 4 th , Friday	Documentary Film, "Water", 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Sedona Creative Life Center
May 10 th , Saturday	Annual Membership Meeting, Program Planning and Elections, Breakfast Meeting 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Ridge at Sedona Golf Resort, VOC

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

