

# THE VOTER

League of Women Voters Sedona Verde Valley

[www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org](http://www.lwvsedona-verdevalley.org)

P. O. Box 966 Sedona, AZ 86339

**November 2008**

## Board Members 2008 -2009

Kathryn Heidepriem, Sedona

Mary Gassaway, Clarkdale

Rita Livingston, Sedona

Liz Danbury, Sedona

Pat George, Camp Verde

Donna Pratt, Sedona

Mike Ward, Sedona

Carol Wirkus, Sedona

Off-Board Representative  
to LWVAZ:

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

## ***Holiday Party at "Made in Clarkdale"***

### ***National Popular Vote Compact Consensus***

### ***The Importance of Civil Discourse***

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** -- League members will participate in a discussion on immigration, explaining the policy positions that we embraced following a lengthy process of consensus-taking. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Elks Lodge Sedona Airport, 1:00 p.m.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** -- Regular meeting of the LWVSVV Board of Directors from 10:00 a.m. to Noon (all members welcome to attend). There is an open forum for members at the beginning of each meeting. Please join us. Sedona Shadows Clubhouse.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** -- Holiday Social and Wine Tasting at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse during the "Made in Clarkdale" art exhibit. Early evening.

**January (tbd)** -- General meeting, open to the public: The importance of civil discourse at the local level.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** -- League of Women Voters Anniversary Luncheon with Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis speaking on community input and meeting new challenges. The Agave Ballroom in West Sedona, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Public is invited.

***.DON'T FORGET TO LINK YOUR BASHAS' THANK YOU CARD TO THE LEAGUE  
OUR NUMBER IS 24910***

## Fall Membership Meeting

League members, prospective members, and friends met at the Sedona Shadows Clubhouse for our first membership meeting of the year on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a presentation by Anita MacFarlane about how important it is for people to be informed about and involved in public affairs. This is essential for community improvement and it also helps government officials and community leaders better understand the real wants and needs of their constituents. Following the talk, we discussed this year's League calendar of events and issues of concern to all of us. A delicious buffet of snacks and desserts completed the afternoon's festivities. Thanks to all who attended and all who helped with arrangements.

## Save These Dates for our Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.:** League members have been invited to present the results of last year's study and consensus on Immigration as part of a discussion with others on immigration policy issues; at the meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sedona, at the Elks Lodge on Airport Road. Interested members of the public are invited to attend the Fellowship service and discussion.

**Holiday Party at "Made in Clarkdale":** Art and Wine at the Clark Memorial Clubhouse. Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, around 6:00 p.m.

**January General Membership Meeting:** General Meeting/Program on the importance of civil discourse at the local level. Date to be determined. Public to be invited.

**League Anniversary Luncheon:** Each year in February, Leagues around the country celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1920 – the same year that women achieved the right to vote nationwide. The League is a volunteer, nonpartisan organization (now comprised of both men and women), the purpose of which is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected issues. Don't miss out on this year's recognition of the League's birthday and all of the days and years of hard work that have followed.

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Agave Ballroom in Sedona. 11:30 a.m.**  
**Speaker is Yavapai County District 3 Supervisor Chip Davis**

## Voter Service

### VOTER SERVICE

The 2008 election season has come to an end at last! LWV Sedona-Verde Valley put on three Candidate Forums for before the September 2 Primary Election, one Candidate Forum for Congressional District 1 candidates and one State Ballot Measures presentation along with the proposed Yavapai County Jail District sales tax measure before the November 4 General Election. Unfortunately, only a few people attended the candidates' forums but those who did come were lively and participated in questioning the candidates who attended. There was more interest seen in the ballot measures and much discussion about the details of several of the measures.

I would like to thank all the League members who volunteered their time and energy to help with our efforts to inform the voters of the Verde Valley: moderators Liz Danbury, Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, and Harriett Burkhalter; timekeepers, question sorters and helpers Carol Johnson, Carol Wirkus, Mike Ward, Ellie Bauer, and Richard and Ruth Kiessel. I give special thanks to League trained, members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation who were invaluable in the Primary election forums, Deatrice Beauty (moderator) and Candice Romero (timekeeper) and to Pat George for her help with the Congressional District 1 Forum in Camp Verde.

I would also like to thank our co-sponsors for all these events, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Northern Arizona Interfaith Council, Keep Sedona Beautiful, and the Chambers of Commerce for Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome and Sedona, for their assistance and attendance.

Next on the Voter Service calendar is an update of the Political Directory. Judy Miller is in charge of this project and will be contacting League members to assist as needed. In the spring we will be back to candidate forums for the local council elections in Camp Verde and Cottonwood. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me after Thanksgiving.

Included in the broad subject of Voter Service is voter registration. LWVSVV has not made voter registration a priority lately, mainly because voter registration is available and convenient from many other sources – on line from the county Registrar's website, when a citizen gets a new driver's license, etc. – and the requirement of verifying the proof of citizenship. However, Evie Rowland and several League volunteers staffed a booth at the Sedona Community Fair in September and provided voter registration information and forms along with information on the services and activities of the League of Women Voters. Voter registration has been a significant activity in terms of member's participation and public relations in the past for many local Leagues, but due to the ease and availability of registering in other ways and the lack of member participation in recent voter registration drives, it no longer is considered a high priority by many Leagues in Arizona. A discussion of whether LWVSVV should return voter registration to a more prominent role and whether or not there are enough members interested in participating in this activity will be included in the agenda for the November 14<sup>th</sup> LWVSVV Board meeting. If you are unable to attend and want to add your voice to the discussion, please let the Board members know how you feel.

Mary Gassaway, Voter Service Chair

## **Member Information**

**Welcome New Member:** Juanita Peterson

## League Consensus on National Popular Vote Compact

### National Popular Vote Study

At the 2008 National LWV Convention, delegates voted to study the advisability of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the U.S. President.

LWVUS currently has a position calling for the abolishment of the Electoral College and calling for the election of the President and Vice-President through the direct-popular-vote method as “essential to representative government”. The NPV Compact would not abolish the Electoral College, but would change the method by which the votes of the presidential electors in individual states would be decided. This is an important discussion of an issue of increased importance during the Presidential elections of the last 9 years.

LWVUS has decided to have a quick study on the NPV Compact with a single consensus question to be discussed by local leagues, answered and submitted to National by May 2009. The material will be available on the LWVUS web site (LWV.org) after November 1, along with the full text of the National Popular Vote Compact. If you are interested in joining the LWVSVV study group and preparing the presentation to the membership for our March meeting, please contact Mary Gassaway (anytime) or Pat George (after November 15). This should be an interesting adventure into the intricacies of national election procedures – a chance to learn more than you ever thought you wanted to know about electing the President!

Mary Gassaway  
Pat George  
NPV Study Co-chairs

## State and National League

### Climate Change -- A Priority Issue for National League

The League of Women Voters of the United States has endorsed the “Citizens’ Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles.” They are recommending that all local leagues attempt to do something on this issue during the current League business year.

According to the policy, “Global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. The most recent scientific studies prove that global warming is here now and is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts.” The policy calls for immediate and decisive federal action to help stop the worst effects of global warming, and to trigger solutions on a national scale. The two main areas of action are: 1) to take measures that guarantee global warming pollution reductions with enforceable deadlines; and 2) to promote clean and efficient sources of energy. The most important point is that action start now in order to significantly reduce our emissions within ten years.

There are various opportunities to participate in this issue on behalf of our local league: One is a conference to be hosted by the University of Arizona in Tucson on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The conference is entitled “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Desert Southwest: Impacts and

Opportunities.” Scientists, scholars, policymakers, and regional and national community leaders will address the question, “What will climate change mean for the Southwest and what can we do now, in view of predicted impacts, to maximize the potential for a sustainable southwestern natural and human habitat?” For more information, go to <http://www.law.arizona.edu/adaptationconference/> for information on the conference and registration.

Also ongoing in our region is the Western Climate Initiative, a plan endorsed by seven Western states and four Canadian provinces, which mixes government regulation with free-market forces to limit and eventually reduce man-made greenhouse gases. Implementation of the plan in Arizona will depend on action by the legislature and the Corporation Commission and is likely to become a contentious issue in the 2009 legislative session.

If you have an interest in this issue and would like to follow it for our league, please call Kathy Heidepriem by phone or e-mail. All of our board members have a full plate at this time, but would very much like to have someone to gather and disseminate the information to our membership. There are also background papers at [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org). The information gathered could be presented in the form of newsletter articles or perhaps a future membership meeting or public program.

## **Bashas’ “Shop and Give” Program**

Our League does not normally do much in the way of fundraising, but that is going to have to change at some point. Right now we have an easy way to earn a little money, and we need your help if you ever shop at Bashas’. All you need is a Bashas’ courtesy Thank You Card; sign up for one at any Bashas’ store.

At the check-out register, hand the clerk your Thank You Card and ask them to link your card to the LWV of Sedona-Verde Valley I.D. # 24910 for the “Shop & Give” program. Then, between September 1 and March 31, Bashas’ will credit 1% of all your purchases to the League. They will write us a check for the total amount, as long as we have earned a minimum donation of \$25.

**I.D. # 24910**

## LWV Sedona Verde Valley Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
November 14 <sup>th</sup> , Friday	League Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – noon Sedona Shadows Clubhouse 6770 W. Hwy 89A
December 11 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday	Holiday Party, “Made in Clarkdale”  Clark Memorial Clubhouse, Clarkdale
January 9 <sup>th</sup> , Friday	League Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – noon  Sedona Shadows Clubhouse
January TBD	General Meeting, open to the public  General Meeting and Program on the Importance of Civil Discourse at the Local Level
February 19 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday	League Anniversary Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. The Agave Ballroom at the Best Western in West Sedona  Speaker Chip Davis
April TBD	League of Women Voters Water Forum

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.

