



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

P. O. Box 25854, Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854

April 2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Nancy Shugrue
[227-1374]

1st Vice President

Program:

Jo Kelleher
[636-2081]

2nd Vice President

Membership:

Alice Harris
[778-6977]

Secretary

Vivian Perry
[830-9165]

**Treasurer and
Webmaster**

Terri Farneti
[443-0576]

Speakers Bureau

Voters Service:

Sandra Goodwin
[632-8490]

Nominating

Committee:

Chair

Vicky McLane
[445-8511]

Dottie Morris

[777-0737]

Alice Harris

[778-6977]

E-mail: LWVCYC@hotmail.com
Website: <http://centrallyavapai.az.lwvnet.org>

LWV Annual Meeting

Approval of Budget

Approval of Program

Election of Officers

Recent Developments in Election Law and Practice

Presentation by

Karen McCracken, County Registrar of Voters

Lynn Constable, County Election Director

Don't forget to bring your Annual Meeting Packet!

Members Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010

Social Time: 9:00 – 9:30 A. M.

Meeting: 9:30 – 11:30 A. M.

Location: Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott

RSVP: LWVCYC@hotmail.com

by Wednesday, April 7, 2010

The President's Message



Please join us at Annual Meeting on April 10! We must have a quorum to conduct our business concerning budget, program, and election of officers.

Here's our jolly Board a year ago at Annual Meeting. Sandra, Terri, Alice, Vivian and I will continue on the new Board, and we will add **Vicki McLane** as our new President. Vicki has a wealth of experience from other Leagues, and we look forward to her sharing new perspectives with us. We will really miss Jo Kelleher on Board this next year; she has arranged so many interesting programs, and always contributed to sound Board decisions with wit and optimism.

This is an important Election year, and we have a great need for a Voters Service Chair. For many people, their first introduction to League is by registering to vote at a League event, attendance at a League Candidates' Debate, or by using a League Voters' Guide to help in decision-making. The public appreciates and has confidence in our balanced, non-partisan approach. We really can't let them down. Please consider coming on Board and becoming our Voters' Service Chair. We also could use another Director, particularly in the Action area.

We thank State Senator Steve Pierce for his recent presentation at our Legislative Update meeting, which attracted a number of non-members from the Quad City communities. Senator Pierce was a good sport, talking about his experiences in the Legislature and taking numerous questions, thus filling the entire meeting when his colleagues from the House of Representatives failed to appear.

Some of the major budget cuts which he described as necessary to produce a state budget will now have to be undone, as it has become evident since our meeting that Arizona will run afoul of federal "maintenance-of-effort" requirements to qualify for Medicaid dollars under the new health plan. Arizona will have to re-establish Kids Care and retreat from plans to cut AHCCCS spending; otherwise, the state's entire \$7 billion Medicaid allotment could disappear.

Lawmakers must act before June 15, when the \$18 million Kids Care program is scheduled to end. A larger problem awaits in January, when Arizona had planned to reduce AHCCCS funding by \$385 million and remove 310,000 people from the program. That cut also represents a violation of the federal health-care legislation, and must be undone before January or risk losing all Medicaid dollars.

A number of those asking questions of Senator Pierce seemed to show agreement with the statement by Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1904: "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." The League has supported Kids Care and health care reform. However, when these items are restored in the state budget, we are concerned about possible further cuts to education and other Arizona programs, made in an effort to reduce the state deficit.

League members are encouraged to turn out in number at the 3 PM April 13 Prescott City Council meeting, to urge its participation in a Study Session concerning Public Transit. **The soon to-be-hired Transit Administrator will need the understanding and cooperation of each local government in order to succeed.**

It has been an honor to serve as your President this past year, and as Co-President the year preceding. Thank you for your confidence in me.

Nancy Shugrue

President-Elect Vicki McLane

Vicky and her partner Bob Viscount moved to Prescott in December 2008 from Fort Collins, CO, and soon joined LWVCYC. League has been a long term interest for Vicky, as she first joined over 40 years ago in Madison, WI, and since has been active in Leagues in Colorado Springs, CO; Boise, ID; Denver, CO, and Fort Collins. Her main focus has been transportation issues, and she co-chaired a transportation study in 1990 for the Colorado League of Women Voters.

Vicky has a master's degree in Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin, and has worked in various aspects of regional planning for a number of years, including affordable housing, air quality, and transportation. She currently works part time for Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) on transit issues, after spending twelve years with a similar organization in Fort Collins.



Vicky and Bob have two dogs, Skye and Thomas, who occupy much of their humans' free time with several long walks and lots of pets each day. Warm weather means time to work in the vegetable gardens and catch up with the neighbors in their semi-rural subdivision on the west side of Prescott. They also love to travel to interesting places in this country and abroad.



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 7

**LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.,
1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.,

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level

GENERAL MEETING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.,

Sunday, May 2

Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level

New Board Retreat

Saturday, May 22

Sandra and Earl Goodwin's home

LWVAZ State Council meeting

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Surprise, AZ.

The Battle of CYC

(Sing to the tune of The Battle of New Orleans by Johnny Horton)

In two thousand nine your Board took a little trip
Weighted down with work but very well equipped
We took a few crackers and loaded up with cheese
We were all pretty sure this year would be a breeze.

(Chorus)

We did our best but the work just kept a'comin'.
But there wasn't nigh as much as there was a while ago.
We worked even harder but it just kept on growin'
As it piled even higher, we kept on yellin' "WHOA!"

We looked down the road and we see'd elections come
And all them candidates were beating their own drums
They stepped so high and spoke promises and claims
That we couldn't figure out just where their guns were aimed.

But following League format we took 'em by surprise
Didn't give them any questions till we looked 'em in the eyes
We held our fire 'til we see'd them all in chairs
Then we opened up with intros and opinions did get aired!

(Chorus)

We did our best but the work just kept a'comin'.
But there wasn't nigh as much as there was a while ago.
We worked even harder but it just kept on growin'
As it piled even higher, we kept on yellin' "WHOA!"

Yeah, your board was plenty busy but thanks from all of us
For you helped us with successes and didn't throw a fuss
We'll keep trying to please you with a new crew on board
And when we start a drownin', we'll ask help from the Lord!

"Respectfully" submitted by Sandra Goodwin

(We have some Board jobs open, please let Vicky McLane know what you can do to help us this next year.)

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2009 – 2010 LWVCYC Program

By Jo Kelleher, 1st Vice-President, Programs

The 2009-2010 year featured great programs on a variety of issues important to League members and to the Central Yavapai County community. In September, Nadine Basha, Founder and Director of First Things First Arizona, and Marcia Jacobson, Regional Coordinator for FTF in Yavapai County, spoke on “The State of Early Childhood Welfare in Arizona and Yavapai County--the First Things First Program”. It was an outstanding program highlighting the history of FTF and the positive impact that the program is having on child welfare in Arizona. Ironically, the program is targeted for removal by the Arizona Legislature!

October’s program, “Land, Wind, and Sun: The Future of Energy in Arizona”, featured speakers Teri Rami, Bureau of Land Management, Jen Bradford, Iberdrola Renewables, and Antonia (Toni) Bouchard, Arizona Public Service, discussing the latest innovations in sustainable energy for Arizona. Just last week it was announced that Iberdrola Renewables, builder of the Dry Lake Wind Farm in northern Arizona, will double their windmill array in the next several years!

In November, LWVCYC Vice-President Jo Kelleher and Terri Farneti, LWVCYC Treasurer and member of the LWV National Health Care Study Group, presented “Health Care Reform: An American Challenge.” The history of the health care movement in America, the status of Congressional action at the time, and the special problems faced by Arizonans in the health care crisis were discussed. Health Care Reform is now a reality, albeit in its first steps, and is being both lauded and descried as the greatest event in American social welfare since the passage of Medicare.

December found us enjoying our fourth annual “Meet and Greet”, with over 80 participants from the Non-profit Community and state, county, and municipal leadership sharing ideas, issues, problems, and commitments to help each other.

In January, we held our annual Program Planning session for the upcoming year, during which we reaffirmed our commitment to positions on Water, Juvenile Justice and Social Issues, Meeting Basic Senior Needs, Workforce Housing, and Public Transit. All of these issues are still critical in the Central Yavapai County area, and need our continued commitment and advocacy. In addition, we joined many other local leagues throughout the county in recommending a National Study on The Role of Public Education in America.

Our February program featured Chino Valley Mayor Jim Bunker, Prescott Mayor Marlin Kuykendall, Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey Skoog and Dewey-Humboldt Vice-Mayor Nancy Wright in the topic of “The State of the Quads.” The presenters did an excellent job discussing their visions of the future for our four Central Yavapai County municipalities, and responding to questions from the audience.

March brought us our annual visit from our District One Legislators. Senator Steve Pierce was the only one who could make the meeting, and he did a great job explaining the ins and outs of a tumultuous budget-setting process in the 2010 Legislature and answering questions from concerned Leaguers.

We will hold our Annual Meeting in April, and then in May we will wind up the year with a presentation by Sandra Goodwin, LWVCYC Voter Services Director, on the Impartial Judiciary movement in Arizona. Please see the description of this upcoming meeting elsewhere in this VOTER.

As you can see, the LWVCYC remains on the cutting edge of education and advocacy for the critical issues of today. I have thoroughly enjoyed putting together this year’s program with the invaluable help of my colleagues on the LWVCYC Board. Thank you to them and to all Leaguers who attended and supported our programs!

Membership in 2009-2010

by Alice Harris, 2nd VP (Membership)

The Membership Committee, consisting of Betsy Barnes, B.J. Wojcik and myself, has been busy calling present and past members, preparing and conducting a member orientation and managing the member and guest sign-in at meetings.

An orientation was held before the January general membership meeting. The purpose of the orientation was to give new participants general information about the league, its history, mission, positions, action and voter service. Five new participants attended. Information was provided by league board members and the membership committee.

We have kept in contact with guests for three months following the guest's first attendance at a meeting by informing them of upcoming meetings and e-mailing the Voter.

Webmaster Report

By Terri Farneti

Every month, I update the website with the current Voter, with a synopsis of the next meeting on the opening web page. The "visitors" to our website have increased – and there was a particularly high interest in January – before our "Meeting of the Quads"! As soon as we have the Elected Official Guide completed, I will upload it onto the website. The link to our website is: <http://centrallyavapai.az.lwvnet.org/index.html>. You can find it by Googling LWVCYC – and there it is! Please mark it as a favorite and share the link with friends for upcoming meetings.

State Board Liaison

by Terri Farneti

It has been an interesting year to attend the quarterly State Board meetings. There are amazing women in this organization that are dedicated to particular issues, League Presidents, and the State Board members who come together and give updates on Education, Legislative Updates, Women's Issues, Election Reform, Health Care, and other Program items. There is an upcoming State Council meeting on May 22nd from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. being held in Surprise, AZ. The President of each League is encouraged to attend, and other members or board members (up to 3, total) can attend. Details will be finalized this weekend at the State Board meeting, so there should be more information forthcoming.

Note: Terri also served as our Treasurer, and Vivian Perry served as Secretary. They handled duties of their offices in an admirable way, as well as volunteering to help with many other things that came up. Monika Bishop handled Public Relations for the first half of the year, before having to step down due to family and job demands. We couldn't have managed without them!

Nancy Shugrue, President

Voter Service in 2009-2010

By Sandra Goodwin

Our League facilitated the Chino Valley Town Council Run-off Forum in April of 09 among four candidates. It attracted a crowd of between 50 and 60 and was very interesting, as the candidates answered questions ranging from a dark sky ordinance extending to include residential property, to the pros and cons of the town buying the eight existing private water companies. Great evening. Many Leaguers showed up to help and the town was most appreciative of the League's sponsorship.

While this League-calendar year has been rather election quiet, we had an absolutely great turn out for the Prescott City Council election forum in July 2009. There were eleven candidates and ALL were present. The newspaper carried a story that estimated between 500 and 600 people packed into the Yavapai College Performance Hall for the forum. Hundreds of attendees produced about 100 total written questions, including the hot-button issues of the big Chino Water Ranch, the ailing economy and public transit. This forum had the largest turnout of all forums that were conducted by other organizations. Our co-sponsors (YC and Access 13) along with League volunteers were great and your League was really proud. We really have this down to a well oiled machine.

In February we joined with Yavapai College in celebrating the 90th anniversary of suffrage for women and of course LWV's birthday. We presented *LWV – the Mighty Non-Partisan Political Experiment*, and while it did not appear at the outset that we would have many students, the audience ballooned to about 40 before the end. And we registered a few voters while there.

More recently, a sister League, the Sedona Verde Valley League, asked for our assistance in moderating what they thought might be a volatile forum on the issue of changing their way of electing their mayor. It was also very well attended, produced many touchy questions, and went off without a hitch or problem.

We look forward to a much busier season in 2010-2011, as there will a pro and con meeting and other municipal elections coming up.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you this past year.

As of this press deadline, we do not have a Voter Service Chair for the 2010-2011 Board. That is VERY unfortunate. Please, anyone interested in doing even a small part of this big portfolio let your new board know at annual meeting.

Earth Day '10

Courthouse Square Saturday, April 24, 10 AM – 4 PM

Celebrate our environmental interests! Information booths: solar energy, water wise tips, green building, clean air, recycling, landscaping projects, organic foods

UPCOMNG MAY 8 PROGRAM

IMPARTIAL COURTS UNDER ATTACK.....

...is the topic of Sandra Goodwin's presentation for our May - and final - general meeting of this year.

Sen Jack Harper (Dist 1, Dewey-Humboldt south and including Anthem) has introduced a bill to replace Arizona's judicial merit selection and retention system with a system that would politicize our judicial selection. Arizona has served as a model for other states throughout the United States; two-thirds of the states as well as DC use some sort of Arizona's form of merit selection, but apparently Mr. Harper thinks they are all wrong. As of this writing (3/23), this bill is still under consideration and you all received a call to action from our state president, Bonnie Saunders. Senator Harper responded to my letter with "*It's my SCR. Why would you email me to vote against it?*" to which I responded, "*I was hoping you would reconsider!*" Obviously a waste of time (for me and Vivian Perry who live in District 1) but maybe Pierce, Tobin and Mason, who represent most of LWVCYC members, listened.

Currently, the Governor must appoint Judges from a list of three finalists recommended by a screening panel; they later go before the voters for a retention vote. This bill would REPEAL THE SCREENING PANEL and would permit the Governor to NAME ANYONE HE/SHE WANTS to the AZ Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Superior Courts in Pima and Maricopa counties. The governor's choice would then be subject to Senate confirmation. If Yavapai County reaches the required 250,000 population in this year's census, we would also become eligible to participate in the current non-partisan merit selection system.

Don't miss this meeting, which includes showing of the HORIZON program sponsored by the League which was a culmination of Sandra's work with the courts as the state League's chair of Impartial Courts. (Sandra also served on the three member commission that evaluated the performance of then Chief Justice Ruth McGregor and Judge Hurwitz a few years ago. Member Norm Perry has also participated in another aspect of the system and will share his experiences.)

FYI:What is an "Amicus Brief"

You often read that the League has joined a lawsuit filed by another organization by filing an Amicus Brief. But what is that?

...Amicus curiae or amicus curiæ (plural amici curiae) is a legal Latin phrase, literally translated as "friend of the court".

...It is a document filed in a legal proceeding by an interested party who is not directly part of the case.

...An "amicus curiae" brief is a "friend of the court" brief. The parties in cases file their own briefs, discussing the facts and the law.

After the Census comes Redistricting... How Does That Work?

Sometime in the fourth quarter of this year, the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments (CACA) will publish a call for candidates for the next Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). It's an affirmative application process, which means that anyone who thinks they are qualified can submit an application. The CACA will try to determine if the applications meet the criteria set forth in the law, e.g. length registered in the party of choice, no lobbyists, no candidates, etc.

The CACA will hold at least one hearing on the applications and then will create a list of 25 recommended candidates, 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats and 5 who are neither R nor D (could be Libertarian, Independent, Green, etc.).

That list will be circulated toward the end of the year to the legislative leadership and each will make one selection in turn, going from Speaker of the House, to Minority Leader of the House, to President of the Senate, to Minority Leader of the Senate. That will give us 2 R's and 2 D's in all likelihood. Those four will convene a meeting of the IRC for the purpose of choosing a chair. The 5 other candidates from the list will be interviewed by the IRC members and one will be elected chair by a majority vote.

Then the IRC will begin its work to select staff, find office space, develop plans for the process and so on.

There is no guarantee that the new commission will do what we did previously with public input. It wasn't required to have the 26+ public hearings on front end of the process. All that is required is that they take public testimony somehow and publish maps for a minimum of 30 days before adoption.

No changes to the IRC law are currently under consideration, and when this current legislative session is completed, it will be too late to change anything for this next ten years.

All current districts must be thrown out and 30 new legislative districts and either 9 or 10 new congressional districts will be created after the IRC creates a grid-like map using only equal population to form the new districts. It's expected that we'll get one or two new Members of Congress, depending on the census numbers. The IRC then adjusts that grid to conform with the five other criteria in the law and publishes a final draft map for 30 days of comment. Final adjustments are made based on input, and the map is adopted. It is then submitted to the US Department of Justice for "pre-clearance," and if pre-cleared, will go to the Arizona Secretary of State for implementation.

Steven W. Lynn , Chair, IRC

Action Alert re Clean Elections:

From BONNIE SAUNDERS, President, LWV/AZ

Clean Elections is under massive assault. A new bill would destroy the Clean Elections system if it passes the state legislature and if the voters vote for it in November.

SCR 1043 was originally written to repeal Clean Elections entirely. Now it is a strike-everything bill, which requires the state treasurer immediately to remove all of the money from the Citizens Clean Elections Fund and transfer it to the Classroom Site Fund, which provides money to school districts and charter schools. Some of the transferred money could also fund reasonable expenses associated with voter education. The bill passed in the Senate on Monday, March 22nd, and was sent to the House. It must be killed in the House so please write your Representatives today and ask them to vote NO on this bill. Click the LWV/AZ Action Website below to make your voice heard by your Senators and Representatives in opposition to SCR 1043: <http://www.action-lwvaz.org/action/>



House Finally Passes Comprehensive Health Care Reform

"Monumental, Historic and Transforming," Says League

March 21, 2010 Washington, D.C. – Statement from Mary G. Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

"Today's votes by the U.S. House of Representatives mark an historic milestone in American political history. The path that began with Social Security and continued with Medicare is reaching fruition with this health care legislation. Comprehensive health care reform will begin to undo decades of neglect and inaction that has left millions of Americans uninsured and at risk.

"This legislation is a monumental step in the fight for social justice.

"Too many citizens lack adequate health insurance coverage and rising costs threaten everyone. Passage of comprehensive health care legislation greatly expands coverage to include millions more Americans; protects the coverage that currently delivers care to most; reduces costs over the long term; and accomplishes these goals at a reasonable cost.

"It would be difficult to overstate the importance of today's actions, and we commend our elected representatives for standing up for Americans and having the courage to do what needs to be done to confront the health care crisis in our country. The League congratulates the House leadership on a closely-fought victory.

"We can expect transformational reform from these bills. Access to health care will be extended to all Americans. Mechanisms to control rising costs will be put in place. And the marketplace will be expanded and safeguards put in place to protect consumers.

"Truly, this legislation is monumental, historic and transforming.

"Today we took the critical step in dealing with the current health care crisis. Tomorrow, many Americans will wake up to a new week and a new future that looks a great deal more promising."

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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE
REFERENCES**

**League of Women Voters
WEBSITES**

LWVUS Website
www.lwv.org

LWVAZ Website
www.lwvaz.org

LWVCYC Website
<http://centrallyavapai.az.lwvnet.org/>

Reminder – Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings. Regular meeting times will be on the calendar.

To request placement of an item on the Board agenda and/or to receive the Board agenda packet, contact the LWVCYC President a week in advance.

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LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
2010-2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please check type of membership:

_____ \$55/Yr Individual Membership

_____ \$82.50/Yr Household Membership

\$_____ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

\$_____ Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

Please make donations to LWVAZ Education Fund by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Dues cover membership through June 30, 2011.

Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check. Thank you!

New: _____ Renewal: _____

Membership in the LWV is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. These dues cover payment for local (\$16.80), state (\$9), and national (\$29.20) memberships.

OR

Be a "Friend" of LWVCYC:

_____ \$50/Yr Individual or _____ \$75/Yr Household

Please mail this form and all checks to:

**LWVCYC
PO Box 25854 Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854**



**League of Women Voters
of Central Yavapai County
P.O. Box 25854
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-5854**