



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

LWVCYC@gmail.com P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304-1538 August 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Vicky O'Hara
[708-0608]

1st Vice President

Program:

Juliana Goswick
[717-2083]

2nd Vice President

Membership:

Mary Mallory
[533-8896]

Secretary

Vivian Perry
[830-9165]

Treasurer

Open

Action Director:

Sandra Garramone
[443-7683]

Communications

Director:

Nancy Shugrue
[227-1374]

Nominating Committee:

Alice Harris
[778-6977]

Sandra Garramone
[443-7683]

Board Member
To be appointed



Spearheaded by our own Mary Mallory, Prescott Valley Town Councilperson, the town of Prescott Valley will host a Healing Field flag display September 8-15 with a massive display of U.S. flags at the Town Center in commemoration of the 3000+ lives lost on September 11, 2001,. The three by five foot American flags posted on eight foot white poles in ordered lines will be an awe-inspiring patriotic display.

Still being sought are donations for flags and volunteers, who will help in assembling, posting and taking down the flags. If you would like to volunteer, please email Mary at kmmallory@yahoo.com for more information.

LWVCYC Website: <http://goo.gl/5R9xU>



President's Message

I hope your summer is going well.

Although it might appear that the board has had a quiet summer, we in fact have been very busy. We have established our board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the early morning as we have two working women on our board. We were delighted to welcome Sandi Garramone, who has joined our board as Director of Action.

After meeting at the LWVAZ Council, I had a delightful trip to Alaska in late May/early June. There is a review of the state meeting further in this issue. I then prepared for a surgery that had me somewhat out of condition for a few weeks and now am just about 100%.

During the month of July four of our board members had vacations at various times. With all of the coming and going we still managed a short and long term plan for the year, and established our general meeting topics. On July 30th we held a forum at Chino Valley High School for the District 4 Supervisors. Sandra Goodwin did an excellent job of moderating and Alice Harris used her expertise for assembling the audience questions. With the help of two of our husbands, our board members, Terri Farneti and June Ruth, we had one of our best forums. There was a lot of positive feedback and a good article in the Chino Valley paper.

We also have been sorting out the many boxes of LWWCYC files, eliminating the duplicates, and scanning a good portion of the materials to disc, in order to condense our historical library to a manageable state that will be easy to access for reference and portability. This will be an ongoing project for this year. It has been a challenge, but I have now had the privilege of seeing how much work has been done over the years. We, the LWWCYC, are an exceptional group of people who have done so much worthy work for our community.

We will resume our general meetings on September 15th, so be sure to mark your calendars. Our location will remain the same, Las Fuentes Resort. With the elections so close, the board decided to do the Ballot Issues Pro/Con forum for our first meeting, so be sure to let your friends know. The state League has promised to have the publications of all the initiatives and proposals to us by the end of this month, so we can fully prepare.

We had a great response to our "early bird" membership renewal contest. Our winner has been picked from a basket of names, and will be presented with a lovely gift at our first meeting. That said, there are still some of you who have not yet renewed. Dues are always due on or before July 1st, so please don't wait for our next meeting. The bills have already come in from state and national for their share. Let's all keep this group going and growing strong. See you in September.

Vicky O'Hara, President

**2012-13 DUES are still just \$55 for a single member
or \$85 for two members in the same household.**

The time to pay is NOW!



Your New 2012-13 LWVCYC Board:

Vivian Perry, Secretary; **Juliana Goswick**, 1st Vice President (Program); **Vicky O'Hara**, President; **Mary Mallory**, 2nd Vice President (Membership); **Nancy Shugrue**, Director (Communications).
(Missing: **Sandra Garramone**, Director (Action).

Mark your calendar for these dates:

LWVCYC General Meeting Program List 2012/13

September 15:	Ballot Issues Pro/Con Forum
October 20:	Centennial Celebration - AZ Women's Right to Vote
November 17:	Juvenile Justice Update
December 5 (evening):	Meet & Greet - LWV, Non-profits, and governmental officials

Please note:

LWV General Meetings will now be on the THIRD Saturday of the month.

We will continue to meet in the Community Room, in the lower level of Las Fuentes.

9:00	Social time
9:30	Program

Topics of interest from the April LWVAZ State Council Meeting:

Some highlights of the Council included three ballot initiatives/propositions:

- **Merit Selection re: Impartial Courts**

The LWVAZ Council agreed to remain impartial on the pros/cons of the proposition as it was written, after our own member and state chair on Impartial Courts, Sandra Goodwin, gave a clear and extensive presentation on selection versus election of judges.

However, on June 27, 2012, by Sandra's urging, a conference call was made and Sandra moved to take a strong opposition against measure 115. Her motion was seconded and after much discussion, passed. The state league members then included ideas for opposition language and strategy to defeat the proposition. I missed the vote for medical reasons. I believe I would have agreed.

- **The Top 2 Initiative**

This was a difficult initiative to turn down, but after a great deal of discussion and soul searching, the majority felt that the initiative was so written that unintended consequences would occur. The league fully agreed with the premise of the initiative that a better balanced way of electing our state government officials was sorely needed and it would give independent voters a stronger voice in the election process. However, this initiative appeared too complex, and although we agreed with it in theory we could not accept it as written.

Since the council meeting in April, the LWVAZ found itself in what many would feel was a surprising position when they were asked to be a plaintiff alongside a Libertarian and a Republican who brought suit against this initiative. Our state president, Barbara Klein, appeared in court with the other plaintiffs. The court ruled against the initiative, stating the single subject rule. It is now under appeal.

- **The Quality Education and Jobs Initiative**

You may know that this 1% sales tax initiative was presented to replace the temporary 1% sales tax when it expires next June. The premise of this initiative was to ensure continued income flow for education, etc. The state league agreed to support this initiative, but it is also currently under appeals in the courts.

Lastly for now, when I was asked to join a panel and give possible suggestions for improving membership numbers, I requested that our state delegates, who would be soon going to the national convention, put in a plea for a national membership discount rate for college students. I have not received any response as yet, although I will probably get a summary report of the national convention in our late August state board meeting in Phoenix. Hopefully there will be some reaction, but if not, I see no reason why our own local boards can't take up the suggestion.

Vicky O'Hara



from LWVUS Pres. Elisabeth MacNamara

August 9, 2012 (ctrl + Click to follow links)

Dear League Leader:

Two years ago, in the midst of my election season travels, I had the opportunity to attend the kick-off of a two year project by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina examining the impact of diversity on judicial independence. Tuesday night, I attended the concluding event of the project. In both instances, the League presented diverse panels of lawyers, legislators and judges who offered their points of view on South Carolina's system of selecting judges that combines rigorous screening for merit with election by the legislature. The League's very public examination of this system reveals a high quality bench that does not reflect the diversity of the state. From an outsider's point of view, it was interesting to listen to stakeholders at the beginning and at the end of the project. No one disputes that diversity is a desirable goal, but with legislators controlling not just the election of judges but also the funding of the judiciary and the organized bar, those in the best position to do so continue to be reluctant to criticize a process controlled predominantly by white men.



But the League has emerged from this project with a view of judicial selection that is well-informed and realistic and now, ready to offer a positive solution to a very real issue. That solution does not involve changing the system, but rather suggests making small but meaningful changes by expanding the number and diversifying the selection process for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission that screens judicial candidates. This is League at its best: employing a transparent, fact-based process to bring into focus what works in government as well as what can be better. It was a real privilege to get this birds-eye view of a project that I would otherwise only get to read about in reports.

The League is and has always been the premier provider of balanced adult political education. The South Carolina project is merely one example of countless fine examples that are going on right now in communities around the country with the League leading the way.

In League together making democracy safe.

Elisabeth

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- POWER THE VOTE: This Week's Challenge Activity (NEW)

MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP

- Important: Update Your League's Facebook Account (NEW)
- What has the MLD Program been up to lately? (NEW)
- Women's Equality Day: Plan an Event to Celebrate in August!

EDUCATION FUND (Education Study; Elections; Voter Protection)

- Elections/Power the Vote: Voter Registration Training Webinar on 8/22 at 4pm EDT (NEW)
- VOTE411.org is now on Social Media! (NEW)
- The Assault on Voting Continues – This Time in Michigan (NEW)

ADVOCACY

- League-led Redistricting Reform Qualifies for November Ballot (NEW)
- League Submits Comments on Hydraulic Fracking (NEW)
- League, Coalition partners Sends Letter to EPA on Air Toxics Standards (NEW)

OTHER

- First Ever UN International Day of the Girl -- October 11, 2012 & How YOU can get involved (NEW)
- Leaving a Legacy

Voting Rights Act: Remember, Celebrate and Protect

August 06, 2012 | by Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President

Tags: [VRA](#), [elections](#), [voter protection](#), [voter photo id](#), [voter registration](#), [VOTE411](#)

Editorial Note: This piece was first published on [my Huffington Post Blog](#) earlier today.

Forty-seven years ago this week, [President Lyndon B. Johnson](#) signed the historic [Voting Rights Act](#) (VRA) into law to prevent voter discrimination. But as we have seen, the law is not just history; it remains vital TODAY to ensuring that every American can cast a ballot and have it counted.

Even as we celebrate VRA's 47th Anniversary, unnecessary and costly new state voting laws remind us that voter suppression and intimidation tactics continue to plague our nation.

The League celebrates the VRA today because our roots are in the suffrage movement that achieved voting rights for women; because voting rights for all Americans are an inherent right and the foundation of our democracy; and because, in spite of the law, [continued assaults in varied disguises jeopardize voting rights of all Americans](#), especially the most vulnerable.

But you and I know better than to let these hurdles hold us back. The upcoming election may be one of the most important of our lifetime, and the League is committed to getting voters to the polls. Because when Americans vote in November, the election isn't just about the day-to-day battles between candidates. ***It's about voters like you and me.*** This election will impact us and our communities – it's about our jobs, our health, our future. It's our chance to stand up for what we believe in – and make sure our family and friends do, too. We need to make sure that all of us will have our voices heard and recorded!

[Leagues](#) across the country are hard at work to make sure this happens by protecting and extending voting rights. Day in and day out, our members dedicate themselves to protecting the VRA and working to ensure that everyone who wants to vote can cast a ballot.

*No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.....*Section 2, Voting Rights Act

Because of states' efforts to legislate new, unnecessary and costly voting laws, the League has been fighting in the legislatures and courts. We've helped defeat voter photo identification laws; where ID laws have passed, [we've gone to court to block them](#); and we've fought to keep [registering voters](#) despite new laws designed to curb organizations like ours from reaching potential new voters.

Just last month, we were in federal court challenging the [Texas](#) voter photo identification law. Because of the state's history of discrimination and intimidating certain types of voters, the VRA requires a review of changes to their voting law to ensure they are not discriminatory. Instead of trying to prove the new law isn't discriminatory, ***the state of Texas is challenging the constitutionality of the entire Voting Rights Act and seeking to overturn it!***

This only underscores how monumental this [47th Anniversary of the VRA](#) is and the need for continued vigilance to protect it.

This election is important. Perhaps the most important ever. Join with your neighbors in voting on Election Day, and be sure to visit [www.Vote411.org](#) for all the election information you need. And, share it with family and friends so that they have the information they need to vote in November.

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE
REFERENCES**

LWVUS Website
www.lwv.org

LWVAZ Website
www.lwvaz.org

LWVCYC Website
<http://centralavapai.az.lwvnet.org/>
OR: <http://goo.gl/HxKph>

We recommend that you check these out monthly, or more often. Lots of good information! Bookmark them to save on typing, or go to lwvaz.org, where there are links to click on. Or Google LWVCYC!

Our website includes current and past VOTERS, and other great material.

Reminder – Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings - third Tuesday of the month, at 8:00 am at the home of Mary Mallory in Prescott Valley. 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.

LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
2012-2013

Dues cover membership through June 30, 2012. Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2012-2013 cover payment for local (\$13.30), state (\$12), and national (\$29.70) memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Note type of membership, and make check to "LWVCYC":

_____ \$55/Yr Individual Membership

_____ \$82.50/Yr Household Membership

Plus suggested donation:

\$_____ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)

\$_____ *Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)

*Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

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

New: _____ Renewal: _____

OR

Be a "Friend" of LWVCYC:

_____ \$50/Yr Individual or _____ \$75/Yr Household
(open to businesses and individuals)

Please mail this form and all checks to:

LWVCYC
PO Box 11538 Prescott, AZ 86304-1538



**League of Women Voters
of Central Yavapai County
P.O. Box 11538
Prescott, AZ 86304-1538**

A nonpartisan membership organization, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates, but encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.