



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

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

November 2009

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The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

Presents

Health Care Reform: An American Challenge

**Presenters: Jo Kelleher
and Terri Farneti**

Open to the Public

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2009

Social Time: 9:00 – 9:30 A. M.

Meeting: 9:30 – 11:30 A. M.

**Location: Las Fuentes Resort Village,
1035 Scott Drive, Prescott, lower level**

**RSVP: LWVCYC@hotmail.com
by Wednesday, November 11, 2009**

The President's Message



What do you want from Leagueand why do I ask?

A member recently noted that we didn't seem to have the time anymore to simply enjoy being with each other – that we just stuck to business, had our programs, and went home. There was a time, before I joined the League here, when this League combined rather elaborate breakfasts with the community programs offered. These were fun social events, but posed additional planning problems, difficulty finding suitable places to meet and members to do setup and cleanup, problems finding adequate time for both programs and a meal, and extra expense to members. Some thought that it drew attention away from the League's basic purpose of conveying information about public policy and government.

We then switched to programs at 9:30 AM, making it easier for the increasing number of members driving in from towns outside Prescott, and ending at 11:30, allowing members to plan for lunch or other activities afterwards as they chose. We have kept costs low by finding sponsors at Las Fuentes who can get the lovely room for us at no cost. We have referred to our organization principles and positions and followed member suggestions regarding programs. We have tried to be responsive to what you say you want to hear about.

What has happened? Attendance at fall meetings has been embarrassingly low. When speakers from outside the community spend hours driving to our community and sometimes have to spend the night, with no compensation from our organization, and then find only a few tables of LWV members and perhaps a few people from the community at our meeting, what do they think? At this point, we are reluctant to call upon anyone from outside the general area to be our speakers. At the upcoming general meeting, we are lucky to have two well-informed Leaguers – Jo and Terri – who will bring us up to date concerning Health Care Reform. This is a National LWV priority topic, on which there has been so much change and misinformation, and I think we all need some information we can depend on!

So, first thing, **WE HAVE GOT TO COMMIT TO TURNING OUT AT MEETINGS!** To add an element of sociability, we will now start at 9:00 AM with a half hour for coffee and unstructured conversations. You will be able to pick up your new Membership Handbook and Directory Insert. At 9:30, the program will begin. There will be time for questions, in case you are confused about just what is in the most recent form of health care reform legislation, or whether something you heard from your neighbor is true. I want to see you there!!

Secondly, **WE NEED TO WORK ON INCREASING MEMBERSHIP.** I would like to have enough members that we could have committees in specific program areas, which could keep track of current developments and assist with programs.

Coming up in early December is our MEET and GREET with Non-profit organizations. This is a wonderful get together in which we get to know people working in areas of need in Central Yavapai, learn their stories, and celebrate the holidays together. We will be calling on members to contribute appetizers and hors d'oeuvres. **DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED – CALL UP AND VOLUNTEER!**

It's your organization, it's up to you!

Nancy Shugrue, President

I DON'T WANT TO GO TODAY – DO I HAVE TO? (or why I go to League meetings)

It was Saturday morning and I would have rather taken a ride on my horse, watched Tiger Woods disseminate the field or been home for the opening kickoff of the Notre Dame-Michigan game. But NO....I was going to a League meeting to hear speakers talk about something that hardly was part of my grandma life – early childhood education!!!! Nevertheless, I dragged myself into the shower, packed up the car with our logo tablecloths, etc. etc. and went on my way to Las Fuentes. A true Leaguer would do no less I kept telling myself as my car tried repeatedly to turn around and return home. What does a 72 year old grammie need to know about early childhood education I asked myself? Hadn't my time caring about this subject passed?

As I arrived in our room at Las Fuentes it was a frightening beginning. All the Board was there (except our poor president Nancy Shugrue who had suffered an emergency dental procedure the night before) but NO ONE else was showing up. The room was empty and Betsy Barnes, Vivian and Norm Perry and I decided we should remove some of the tables and chairs so it did not look so terribly empty. That done, we waited....and waited.

First, Marcia Jacobson from the County, arrived and she must have also wondered, like me, why she came. The room was still empty. But then, suddenly people started pouring out of the elevator along with Nadine Bashas, the founder of **First Things First (FTF)**, completing our guest speakers. All the chairs were now filled and that was the beginning of a morning that reaffirmed and solidified **why I go to League meetings.**

Five minutes into Nadine Basha's presentation about the creation of FTF, its organization, its purposes, its goals, its fiscal and program measurement systems and how very much they have accomplished in such a short period of time, this grammie was mesmerized and the detailed information that showed where and how FTF serves our communities was remarkable. Marcia Jacobson followed talking about the FTF strategies that were developed for our region - Yavapai County and Sedona – and we learned that rather than create new programs and providers, FTF uses existing local programs and providers. Referring to her handout, she spoke about the exact programs participating, how much they had received and their progress toward meeting the county's strategies. I have long been concerned that we require a license to drive but anyone can have a child and can as easily destroy a little mind or life as an untrained driver can. Parent counseling is a big part of FTF. I asked about a parent counseling program for our library and a young woman in the audience who had benefited from FTF spoke up and said she would be glad to come and present a program.

In summary, one thing for sure. I won't be asking myself why should I go to League today?" I know. Without the League I would not be informed, I would not have been educated on such an important subject, I would not be aware of what is going on in my community, I would not have met or talked with such intelligent, dedicated, involved people. No, I won't again ask my self "Why do I go to League meetings?" I know. Without a doubt, I know.

Sandra Goodwin, Director
Voter Services

P.S. And we all swelled with pride as Nadine Bashas in her opening remarks thanked the League for its many years of support and reminded us that it was the League of Women Voters who 27 years ago studied, took a national position on, and has since consistently advocated for, early childhood education. Without a doubt it sure feels great to belong to such an important organization!



LWVUS ACTION ALERT: Public Option is Vital for Health Care Reform

Very soon, the House of Representatives will vote on historic health care reform legislation. Your Representative needs to hear from you right now! The public option, which will ensure consumer choice and control rising costs, hangs in the balance.

Please contact your Representative and ask her to support the public option as part of strong health care reform legislation.

Also, please ask your friends and neighbors to contact their Representative as well. Forward this email alert to them and let them know how important health care reform really is. The steps we take in the next few weeks will determine whether quality, affordable health care will be available to all Americans!

The League of Women Voters believes that Congress must pass strong health care reform legislation that guarantees quality, safe and affordable health care to all U.S. residents, including the choice of a public insurance plan. Everyone deserves the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans. Our health care is too important to be left only to private insurance companies.

Opponents of reform are concentrating on the public insurance option because they know it is the key to controlling costs and ensuring consumer choice.

Without these essential elements, health care reform can't succeed over the long term, so we must remind our representatives that the public option will make it possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through traditional employer-sponsored plans to find health insurance at a reasonable price.

The House will be considering The Affordable Health Care for America Act which is a strong and comprehensive bill supported by the leadership. But additional support from rank and file members of the House of Representatives is still needed.

Members of Congress need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward by passing comprehensive health care reform, including the public option.

Take action to encourage your Representative to support The Affordable Health Care for America Act!

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Contact your Representative and tell her to support The Affordable Health Care for America Act with the public option. Emphasize that the public insurance option will guarantee consumer choice in health care while controlling costs.

Health care reform is a complex issue on which the League has worked for many years. Control click on this link [Click here](#) to see the wide variety of the League's work on this critical issue.

Health positions

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Fiscal Policy: • **Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

HUMAN NEEDS

- *Consensus 1971; Revised 1985; Reviewed 1995, Amended 2007*

The League of Women of Arizona supports a state system that provides for a positive program to assist the economically disadvantaged in obtaining a greater measure of financial, physical and personal well-being, with emphasis on meeting basic human needs rather than on maintaining minimum expenditures. In order to assist persons in need, to assure the basic essentials of health and adequate standards of living, reduce dependency, and break the welfare cycle, the state of Arizona should:

Assure supportive programs and services integrated with those for the general public on an available-to-pay basis, including legal services, comprehensive health care, child care, transportation, family planning, home management, family counseling, vocational training, and educational enrichment.

LWVAZ – News from State League

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – LWV/AZ OCT. BOARD MEETING

BUDGET: Nothing new on this. The governor wants a special session to deal with agency funding needed right away but no date set. Seems legislators want to wait until Jan. session. Seems to be a feeling that they won't go for the increase on sales tax unless the \$250 million corporate tax cuts are put back. Then why would anyone vote for the sales tax as that would just be filling in for the tax cuts. Now \$2 billion in the hole.

IMMIGRATION: Sen. Pierce had press conference stating that the top priority is illegal immigrants (not the budget??) and plans to strengthen the laws. If the reforms are not adopted, he will have a citizen initiative on the ballot. J.D. Hayworth, Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and Maricopa County attorney Andrew Thomas were there to back him up. One reform is to get rid of "sanctuary cities."

VOTER ID LAWSUIT: The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals met in Tucson Oct. 20th with former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the panel of three judges. They heard oral arguments on the challenge to Arizona's law requiring documentary proof-of-citizenship in order to register to vote, and documentary proof-of-identity at the polls. Also that it is a poll tax for citizens to have to purchase this type of proof.

Plaintiffs are Arizona Advocacy Network (AzAN), LWV of Arizona, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, Hopi Tribe, and the League of United Latin American Citizens of Arizona.

The ruling has not yet been published.

CLEAN ELECTIONS: Sen. Jon Paton, Tucson Republican, quote: "I want a stake through its heart. I'm going to spend all my waking moments trying to get that thing on the ballot." We can expect bills on this in the next session.

Gini McGirr

Reprinted from the Ventura County Star:

Herdt: Duplicity and the League of (Whatever) Voters

By Timm Herdt *chief of The Star State Bureau* Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Anyone who's ever dealt with the League of Women Voters can tell you that they are a maddeningly careful bunch.

When various chapters sponsor candidate forums, as they inevitably do for just about every election large and small, they invite every candidate and scrupulously make certain that each one gets equal time.

The California organization's SmartVoter.org Web site is about as flashy as a dictionary — and, gratefully, similarly useful in providing easy-to-find, just-the-facts information about candidates and ballot propositions. And when the national organization or a state or local chapter decides to take a look at a particular issue, they study it to death.

A number of members of the League of Women Voters of Ventura County, for instance, held two get-togethers this summer to talk about water issues. After listening to presentations and reading various briefing materials, the group's current newsletter reports, they reached the controversial decision that "water was a topic important and timely enough to merit more than one general meeting."

Sometimes, eventually, they do reach a consensus on an issue of public concern, such as redistricting reform.

Over the years, they studied that issue to death, eventually deciding by consensus to support the idea of turning over authority to draw political district lines to a bipartisan, independent commission. As a consequence, the League of Women Voters of California last fall lent its endorsement to the successful ballot campaign to pass Proposition 11.

Just last week, at a forum discussion on political reform efforts in California, Adam Mendelsohn, the former communications director for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger who helped run the Proposition 11 campaign, said it was the support of trusted, independent organizations that made victory possible.

Another issue that's been around forever and the league has studied ad nauseam is healthcare policy. After three years of study in the 1990s, the national group adopted a position to support "policies that promote access to a basic level of quality care at an affordable cost for all U.S. residents and cost-control mechanisms to ensure the efficient and economical delivery of care."

That position led to support, ultimately, for a national single-payer, Medicare-for-all type system and, in the interim, for the reform goals laid out by President Barack Obama, including the establishment of a public option in which a government-run insurance plan would compete in the marketplace against those of private insurers.

To opponents of national healthcare reform, that evidently presented a problem. It just wouldn't do to have a trusted, independent organization advocate a position that's different from theirs.

Suddenly, a new organization with a distinctly similar name came onto the scene: the "League of American Voters," a group that shares an address in Washington, D.C., with Americans for Tax Reform, the anti-government group headed by the activist Grover Norquist.

After commercials bashing healthcare reform, sponsored by the "League of American Voters," began to show up on TV this summer, the League of Women Voters complained that the new group was "using a name clearly designed to be confused" with the name-brand group that's been around since 1920.

That led to retaliation. In recent weeks, says league President Mary Wilson, the national office has received so many threats and hateful phone calls that it has had to beef up its security.

A check of the Web site Sodahead.com — whose stated function is to allow people to anonymously spout opinions with all the force and reason of a punctured can of soda — reveals some of the sentiment:

"They should go burn some bras — maybe in a communist country," spouts Marti.

"They can go to hell," reasons Mark.

"They have been taken over by the anti-American far left, who's (cq) agenda is in line with the socialist, communist leader who lives in the White House," opines Peaches.

This is the state of American civic discourse in the 21st century:

An entity whose source of funding is unknown, but has enough money to afford network television ads, springs up overnight and gives itself an intentionally misleading name is able not only to create a false impression of legitimacy, but also to trigger an orchestrated backlash against a nearly century-old, grass-roots organization with dues-paying members in 900 state and local affiliates across America.

And those Americans who assign the same degree of credibility to an anonymous e-mail as to a peer-reviewed scientific study rally to its defense.

In an e-mail to supporters last week, Wilson asked members to redouble their support because "our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people."

How hopelessly out of fashion is that?

**IMPORTANT WEBSITE
REFERENCES**

**League of Women Voters
Websites**

LWVUS Website
www.lwv.org

LWVAZ Website
www.lwvaz.org

LWVCYC Website
<http://centralyavapai.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 President Nancy Shugrue a week in advance.

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Thank you to all members for renewing your dues. We are so glad you are a part of our Central Yavapai League. Please invite your friends or neighbors to a meeting to help us “grow” our League.

LWV MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
2009-2010

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, 2010.

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

New: _____ Renewal: _____

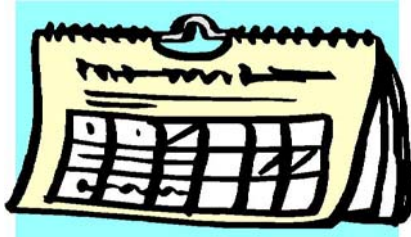
Membership in the LWV is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. These dues cover payment for local (\$16.80), state (\$9), and national (\$29.20) memberships.

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



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 3	Prescott General Election
Wednesday, November 4	LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1920 Meadowbrook Rd.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14	HEALTH CARE 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 2	LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3	NON-PROFIT MEET AND GREET 4:00 – 6:30 P.M. Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott
Wednesday, January 6	LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9	PROGRAM PLANNING 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott
Wednesday, February 3	LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13	QUAD CITY MAYORS 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott
Wednesday, March 3	LWVCYC Board, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M., 1146 Hobble Strap Street, Prescott Valley
SATURDAY, MARCH 13	LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 9:00 – 11:30 A.M., Las Fuentes Resort Village, Lower Level 1035 Scott Drive, Prescott



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