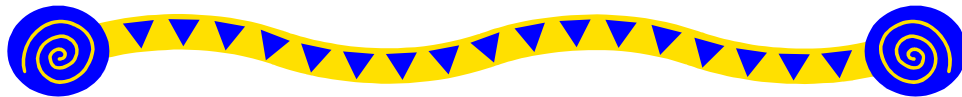


C & C



Calendar & Comments

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix



DATE: APRIL 2010

ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010
10:30 A.M.

Manzanita/Mesquite rooms
North Tempe Multi-Generational Center
1555 N. Bridlewreath, Tempe

Brunch will be served at 10:30. Please bring something to share that is appropriate for a brunch such as fruit, muffins, sweet rolls, egg or breakfast casserole, cheese plate, etc. Coffee, juice and paper products will be provided.

The business meeting will immediately follow brunch.

Bridlewreath is reached from McKellips between Scottsdale and Hayden Roads. Turn south. There is plenty of parking.

In addition to the usual reports and the election of Administrative Team members, there are many issues to discuss and plans to be made for the coming year. It is hoped that all members will come and be part of the decision making process.

Budget

The budget committee is still at work and their report will be emailed to you as soon as it is finished.

Bylaws Committee

There are no recommended changes to the bylaws at this time.

Nominating Committee

Several Administrative Team member positions are open this year. The Nominating Committee is working diligently to fill them:

Voters Services-	Still open
Finance-	Lucy Kahlstrom
Public Spokesperson-	Barbara Robertson
Communication-	Still open
Development-	Still open

In addition, two members of next year's nominating committee need to be elected. If you wish to suggest a name for any of these positions, please contact Lucy Kahlstrom or Kathy .

Local Program

At our January program planning meeting, it was voted to continue the Maricopa County Government Research Project. There will be time for input on the direction that should take.

Coffee Summit

Last month our members were invited to a 'coffee summit' - a time when we could discuss the future of our League and ALL the related topics, problems and interests we have. Many of the admin team members took part as well as several members at-large. It was a surprisingly helpful day. We took on the easy ideas and the hard challenges. Whenever you do such thing, changes present themselves. And changes presented themselves to all of us. They are not written in stone of course, so at the **LWVMP annual meeting on April 24th** we will share with everyone the ideas we have to change LWVMP to work within the means and (wo)manpower we now have. We pride ourselves in being a grassroots organization, and we think our ideas came from the grassroots, but for all the members who were NOT at the coffee summit here is another chance to express your views. To paraphrase "come to the annual meeting and speak then or forever" Oh well, Leaguers will never 'hold their peace,' but the annual meeting is the time to air your thoughts anyway. Make sure you join us.

A Piece of Historical Information

Did you know that Teddy Roosevelt tried to pass a health care bill during his administration?

Tidbit shared by Eleanor Coup from the Scottsdale Community Team

COMMUNITY TEAMS

Topic: Education

Scottsdale Team – April 13, 2010

10:00 a.m. in the Gold Room at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library.

Topic: The new health care legislation and how it all came about after almost a 100 years of trying. Will also touch on changes in education in Arizona

Everyone attending is invited to go out to lunch following the meeting.

Contacts: Eleanor Coup and Suzanne Lennon

Phoenix Team – April 14, 2010

9:30 a.m. at the Terraces, 7550 N. 16th Street, Phoenix

Turn west on Morton for the entrance and parking.

Speaker: Andrew F. Morrill, AEA Vice President

Topic: An Update on Obama's Education Policies and the role of the federal vs. state government in public education.

Contact: Jeanine Starrett

ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

East Valley Team- Thursday, April 29, 2010

11:30 a.m. at the Connection Café, Tempe Library

Speaker: Karen Arrendondo, School Board member, Tempe Elementary District

Topic: Local Education update

No outside food is allowed, however you can buy a modestly priced lunch at the café.

Contacts: Karen Michael and Sandy Kaszeta

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



New Office

We have a new office. It is located on 24th Street just south of Campbell. Here's the new address:

4423 N.24th Street

Suite 500

Phoenix, AZ 85016

The phone number will remain the same: 480-966-9031

The email address still is lwwmp@lwwaz.org

Watch for more information about a May open house when you can all come and visit and see our new home.

Scottsdale Team Annual “End of the Year” Luncheon

The Annual Sue Gordon Memorial Luncheon is in the planning stages. It will be held in the Artichoke Grill/Desert Oasis Dining Room, Scottsdale Community College on Thursday, May 6th, 12:00 noon. The menu will be a choice of:

Ragout of Mussels
Stuffed Leg of Lamb
Chicken Torta Sandwich
Vegetarian entrée, if needed

There will be the proper entrée accompaniments plus salad, rolls and beverage. The choice of dessert will be Tiramisu or yellow layer cake.

The total price is \$18.50 – which includes tax and gratuity. (Send checks to Eleanor Coup)

Reservation Deadline is April 26.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy delicious food, terrific conversation and a great time before we go off for the summer.

LWVMP HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION PROJECT

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The LWVMP has been chosen to participate in a national effort to register high school students in minority schools. We are calling on League members to form teams to visit to visit a classroom or attend an assembly (see below) to discuss the struggle to get voting rights and the importance of exercising those rights. The six schools we have been assigned are listed below. Alison Brevard and Kathy Schwarz will send letters to the schools, confirm dates and make up the supply packets for the volunteers. There will be a training session at the new League office during the first week of April.

The following high schools were selected by the agency funding the project: Coronado, Maryvale, Metro Tech, North, South Mountain and Suns Diamondback Academy. **For more information, call Kathy Schwarz.**

Sign up now- find a teammate and select a school (one school is already taken). For each school we visit, the grant will pay for almost a month's rent on our office!

Pre-registration Program

LWVUS has directed us that advocacy for pre-registration program in High Schools is something they support and encourage. At our last meeting they had not gotten back to us on this. Project Vote and FairVote (CVD) have been supporting this and working on it for a while. Depending on what state you are in this allows either 16 and 17 year olds, or just 17 year olds to pre-register with their registration being activated automatically upon the 18th birthday. It does not seem to have progressed in the AZ legislature, but a Pre Registration bill was introduced approximately January 16th in the House by **Rep. Ableser**. Here is a link:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/bills/hb2269p.htm>

Department of Peace

Shall the LWVAZ support the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace at the LWVUS 2010 national convention?

This question is a subject that our local LWVMP has been addressing and was recently the subject of discussion at the March East Valley Team meeting. Because strong support is evident, it is proposed that this question be addressed at national convention. This question has come up often in the past among US presidents and in Congress and in League. Carrie Chapman Catt recommended it in 1925 shortly after League was founded.

At present the LWV Columbia-Boone County, MO proposes that the LWVUS 2010 National Convention adopt a study on the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.

There is currently a bill, H.R. 808 in Congress to establish a U.S. Department of Peace. The primary function of this Department is to research, facilitate and articulate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict and provides for a cabinet level "Secretary of Peace." The majority of funding would go toward programs in the U.S. to reduce societal violence. Interpersonal violence alone has been estimated to cost \$300 billion a year plus \$500 billion for victims. The Columbia-Boone County League is urging that the League study focus on the basic idea and not be regarded as evaluating and endorsing/rejecting any specific provisions in H.R. 808. This bill presently has over 230 sponsors but latest information is that some changes are being made in it. Printable copies of this legislation are available at www.peacealliance.org.

Below are some alternatives for delegate action at national convention:

1. Support establishing a study. (There are many studies being proposed for national convention and considered opinion is that with League limited resources this study would not be adopted.)
2. Propose to the Missouri League that this be presented to convention as a RESOLUTION instead of a study. A resolution is more short-term and would support a cabinet post until it was done.
3. We could support the resolution ourselves. (This would involve sending out over 800 notices and can be done electronically. It would be same procedure LWVAZ did for the National Popular Vote concurrence recommendation.)
4. If both study and resolution failed at convention, we could use the time of "Direction of the Board" to direct them to publicly make the statement that we support this office based on all our previous and relative positions. (See below)

Support for a Department of Peace is consistent with several LWVUS public policy positions:

- Violence Prevention programs (1994)
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk (1994),
- Support for the UN to promote international peace (1948-2002)

Under this position it states, "The League supports UN leadership in a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to promoting world peace and security that includes ongoing efforts to eliminate the underlying causes of conflict.

- Developing Countries risk of military conflict (1970-1986)
- Arms Control Measures (1983)

Under this position it states: "The League recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and therefore strongly favors multilateral negotiations.

- Military Policy and Defense Spending (1984-1986)

Under this position it states: The League believes that the U.S. government should seek to protect its interests at home and abroad through the use of no military measures, including diplomacy, mediation and multilateral cooperation. These measures reflect the importance that the League attaches to U.S. efforts to strengthen international organizations reduce tensions among nations and minimize the risk of conflict worldwide. The League believes that military force should be viewed as a tool of last resort.

- Gun Control (1990-1998)

(from Marge Thornton)

PAVP Update (Public Advocacy for Voter Protection)

March 25, 2010

The big news is that LWVAZ was just awarded another grant from LWVUS for continued work on PAVP projects in 2010. **The grant is for \$5,000.** A contract from LWVUS is to follow soon.

The 2010 grant will partially pay for Phase II and completely pay for Phase III projects that will continue through the next 6 months. The remaining funds from the 2009 PAVP grant, (\$1,500) will also fund Phase II. Phase I Report has been sent to LWVUS and they should be sending these remaining funds soon.

Phase I conducted with Project Vote, consisted of surveying selected Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) offices to gain information about the availability of voter registration offerings. Phone calls to both the Department of Justice (DOJ) and key personnel at DES were also involved. Survey findings demonstrated that although there was an attempt at compliance to the federal law, reporting and consistency were not very good. DES has so far conveyed an interest and willingness in making improvements.

Phase II will encompass Community Outreach and will be again conducted with the participation of Project Vote. The focus of this phase of the project is to reach community organizations in the general areas where DES offices were surveyed and ask those organizations to sign on to a letter with LWVAZ and Project Vote. The letter will be directed to DES and convey the importance of voter registration to their citizens and their communities. The DOJ will be copied on the letter. Local Leagues will be asked to help identify possible community organizations to contact.

Phase III will entail building a relationship with DES. The focus in this phase will be to revisit the DES offices, but this time talk to the office personnel and discuss how the current process of voter registration could be improved. Barbara Klein has drafted a design for a poster to place in DES offices – if/when we gain their support. The poster would be sponsored by both LWVAZ and DES and encourage DES clients to ask to register to vote and use their right to vote.

(From Kate Samsa)

Secret Code?

Another reminder of your dues – is hidden in the membership booklet. Whenever you look up someone's name or telephone number (or email) you will see a date under their name. Guess what that is? It is the anniversary date for that person AND when dues are due. Yours too!! Please help us by paying in a timely fashion. \$\$ keeps us going.

(And sometimes the editor wonders if members actually read the whole issue so there will be a prize of a package of Fair Trade Coffee for the first LWVMP member who gets this issue via email and emails me back and the first LWVMP member who gets this via snail mail and calls me. The prizes will be awarded at the annual meeting. Sandy Kaszeta, editor.)

Where we stand as a League

Leagues around the nation are working on preparation for the national convention and in support of issues. This is done so that decisions to be made will allow us to 'speak with one voice' and it is these positions that we establish that allow us to take ACTION. This determines WHERE WE STAND as a League.

Each League (local and state) provides their suggestion to the LWVUS, but not all will really organize, plan, campaign and follow through on the efforts. Below is a summary of the current program (platform) issues that will be part of the national convention work.

We will be discussing more strategy for the AZ concurrence effort at our state council meeting (which itself is turning out to be an interesting day – May 22nd). EVERYONE IS INVITED - ENCOURAGED. There will be short discussion of all these efforts then.

(Reminder, Concurrence needs 2/3rd vote, Updates and Studies need majority vote, and resolutions need majority vote.)

Concurrence: National Popular Vote (NPV) from **LWV Arizona**

Concurrence: **LWV of Saratoga County** seeking concurrence at Convention with the **LWVMD** and/or **LWVME** positions on Marriage Equality.

Concurrence: **LWV of Tompkins County NY** is submitting the following statement regarding the FRAC act for concurrence: "Safe Drilling and Mining"

The LWVUS supports significant strengthening of the regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties with regard to the development of fossil fuel resources and the mining of hard rock. This includes passage of the FRAC Act (HR 2776 & S1215), elimination in national and state legislation of exemptions for drilling and mining, and additional legislation requiring the EPA and state agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment.

[**Note:** you may have seen a recent episode of NOW (PBS) on this topic of "Fracing".]

Resolution: from **LWV of the Monterey Peninsula**. Presenting a resolution that the LWVUS add the principle of Transparency to the SARA Resolution

Study: **LWV Monterey Peninsula CA**. Citizen's Right to Vote: Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. Review this Existing LWVUS Position to include integrity and transparency in voting systems. [**Note:** *As the resolution above and this study are from the same League and cover similar issues, it is unclear whether they will pursue both efforts or just one.*]

Study: **LWV Columbia/Boone County (MO)** proposes the adoption of a national study on the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace."

[**Note:** *LWVMP had much discussion over whether this issue should be addressed as a resolution, for short term until the adoption of such a post, instead of a study*]

Study: **LWV Palo Alto, CA** proposes to study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education, (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance, including funding, and (4) the development of common standards.

Study: **LWV Santa Cruz County, CA** (Regulation of Financial Institutions). Proposal to study the role of the federal government in regulating financial institutions with a focus on: (1) the causes of the recent financial crisis, (2) existing regulation of financial institutions, and (3) measures to protect against future financial crises & ensure greater economic stability.

Study: **LWV Bartlesville OK** proposes study of privatization of public services including basis of privatization, cost, efficiency, observation and evaluation of quasi-public institutions.

Resolution: There will also be a Health Care resolution. LWVAZ signed onto the effort of this resolution on March 27, 2010. Originators have requested that other local leagues in AZ consider the same. The exact language of the resolution will be presented at our annual meeting. [It is similar to the resolution we passed at state convention last year – which requested LWVUS support a single payer system of HC.] This is a multi-league effort.

If anyone wants further information, details of the proposals, or is interested in working for one of these issues, email Barbara Klein.

O'Connor House Project

Have you heard about the O'Connor House Project, set up by former justice Sandra Day O'Connor? They seem to have a lot of clout, a lot of steam, and did not invite the LWV to join them, despite their mission that would seem to beg the inclusion. LWVAZ wrote them about the oversight, but were not given the courtesy of a response. Still, they may be interesting coalition partners at some time, so it is good to follow their activities. Below are a few from this year.

As with the state Chamber of Commerce and several locals, the O'Connor House Project appears to support the establishment of Lt Governor. **[LWVAZ is currently studying this issue.]** They are opposing Clean Elections and do not seem interested in any of the changes put forth last year by Michele Reagan (R) or the possible hybrid system supported by the CE Institute and introduced to some legislators by Chad Campbell (D).

While a related bill seems dead in the legislator, the O'Connor House Project appears to be supporting single member districts for AZ house – moving even further away from proportional representation than currently. This is a MAJOR issue which is flying under the radar for most Arizonans, perhaps because it is a bit 'wonky.' The LWV needs to understand how this will affect voters BEFORE they find out the hard way.

[Note: This is a perfect example for those who do not understand how American-style PR would help them. Our semi-multi-member districts in AZ house, where we EACH have two house representatives instead of one like in the AZ senate (a single member district) allows more Arizonans to have a better chance of electing at least one person they feel represents them. While not perfect (and also just a semi-PR system) we can see that you have a better chance at representation in the AZ House than in the AZ Senate where you have only legislator. Reminder that the LWVMP suggestion for national programming is Proportional Representation, -asking the question 'How would a proportional representation (PR) election system effect gerrymandering and redistricting? A very cutting edge topic.]

CALENDAR

APRIL	5	Pay Equity Forum (See March issue for details) 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 90 th St. & Shea, Scottsdale
	13	Scottsdale Community Team
	14	Phoenix Community Team
	22	Administrative Team meeting 10:30 a.m. New office
	24	Annual Meeting, Tempe Multi-Generational Center
	29	East Valley Community Team
SAVE THE DATE:		
MAY	6	Sue Gordon Memorial Luncheon (see article)



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Our Mission Statement

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.

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