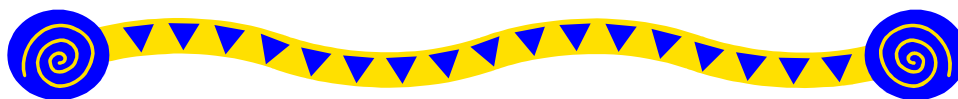


C & C



Calendar & Comments

League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix



## **SUMMER ISSUE- 2010**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Congressional District 3 Candidate Forum** – A non-partisan discussion with candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives on energy, environment and natural resource issues.

Thursday, July 8, 2010, 8:00- 10:00 a.m.

Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap Ave. Phoenix

Hosted by the Arizona League of Conservation Voters

LWVMP is one of the partnering organizations

### **Ballot Propositions Training and Administrative Team Meeting**

Monday, August 9, 2010

10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Administrative Team meeting

12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch Break for those attending both meetings

1:00-3:00 p.m. Ballot Proposition training

Both meetings will be held in Conference Room B at the office, 4424 N. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix (Between Indian School and Campbell on east side of road.) Anyone interested in doing presentations about the ballot propositions on the ballot in November should plan to attend.

### **Constitution Day and Office Open House**

Save the Date- More details next issue

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Meeting Room A at the office complex

6:00 p.m. Check out the new office and have some refreshments

7:00 p.m. Constitution Day panel: **Are Corporations People?**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM SECRETARY VACANCY**

The position of Administrative Team Secretary is still vacant. The job description includes attending the monthly Administrative Team meeting and taking minutes, distributing those minutes in a timely fashion to other members of the Administrative Team and taking the minutes at the annual meeting. If you or someone you know would be interested in filling this position, please contact Barbara Robertson at 602-867-0715.

## **Summer membership anniversaries**

## **LWVAZ STATE COUNCIL**

LWVAZ State Council meeting was held on Saturday, May 22 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Surprise. Metro Phoenix was represented by Barbara Robertson, Eric Ehst and Lucy Kalstrom.

The following officers were elected and approved:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Shirley Sandelands, Greater Tucson	2010-1012
Treasurer	Dot Boone, Greater Tucson	2010-2012
Continuing officers:		
President	Bonnie Saunders, NWMC	2009-2011
1 <sup>st</sup> vice president	Barbara Klein, MP	2009-2011
Secretary	Gini McGirr, GT	2009-2011

There is an opening on the board for someone to chair the Education committee.

Several workshops were offered: Judicial Performance Review PowerPoint, How to Use Arizona's Online Legislative System, and LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative. We also discussed the ballot propositions that are expected to be on the 2010 ballot.

Former Arizona legislator, Jennifer Burns spoke about the O'Connor House Project and some actions that materialized after a handpicked group of people from around the state met last year at the O'Connor House to select a list of political objectives that they hope will improve government in Arizona's second century as a state.

Education Fund Meeting Report: Since this is an election year, there was discussion about how we will handle the production of the Voter Guide which is financed through the Education Fund. Fundraising of \$8,000 will be necessary.

Barbara Robertson

# **The League of Women Voters National Convention--An Overview**

by Alice Stambaugh

During the 2010 LWV National Convention--held at the up-scale Marriott Marquis hotel in Atlanta from June 11th to 15th--delegates not only made decisions that will move the business of the League forward for the next 2 years, but also celebrated the League's 90th anniversary. More than 800 people attended, 604 of whom were voting delegates. Eleven delegates attended from Arizona in addition to the executive director of Common Cause in Massachusetts, who was representing our Sedona/Verde Valley League.

At Convention the formal "business" is to vote on suggested bylaws changes, pass a budget, elect new officers and determine the next 2-year "program"-- the issues the LWVUS will study or lobby on. But in between the plenary sessions where the "business" is accomplished, many other things go on. For example, informational caucuses and workshops address the practical how-to's for running Leagues and furthering democracy. In this regard an e-Democracy workshop was a very thought-provoking session about the need for government groups to structure their on-line presence away from customer service and toward citizenship. Wouldn't it be great if citizens could receive real-time documents and information on-line, engage with elected officials via emails, chats, focus groups, etc., and thereby actively participate in government decision-making? It's happening in some areas already! Other workshops discussed topics such as the ongoing Public Advocacy for Voter Protection program (see article by Kate Samsa in this edition); attracting members using social websites; how to better manage finances; and holding quality voter registration drives. In one large room there was a Ware's Market, where various state and local Leagues showcased items for sale as a way to fundraise for their League. Here Barbara Klein, Kate Samsa and I took our turns manning the Arizona table, raising over \$450 from sales of our pens, compasses and 50-year pins.

But any story about Convention would have to also mention the tremendous energy generated by the coming together of 800 passionate, articulate women and men who all want to make democracy work the way it was intended, but who do NOT always agree on how to do that. Thus there were many caucuses, handouts, spontaneous meetings, and one-on-one dialogues that were intended to persuade delegates to take a particular position on an issue. Delegates worked very hard to educate on issues such as the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV--see Barbara Klein's article in this newsletter), safe drilling and mining, corporate "personhood", voting transparency, Medicare for all, and many other issues. It all ended in well-controlled but sometimes-tense parliamentary debates during the plenary sessions, where for the first time motions were made via on-floor computers. People spoke at "pro" or "con" microphones and final votes were taken and sometimes disputed!

The results of all votes on budget, bylaws, officers and programs can be read on the LWVUS website, but here are several of the most hotly-contested motions that passed: The adoption of two national studies, one on the role of the federal government in public education and the other on the trend toward privatization of government functions; a change in bylaws to require a biennial vs. an annual budget, beginning in 2012; an increase in PMP to \$29.70 for 2010-11 and \$30 for 2011-12; the addition to an existing position, of NPV as one way to achieve the goal of direct popular vote in the presidential election; the addition to the Equality of Opportunity position, of language supporting the right of same-gender couples to marry under civil law; and the passage of a resolution directing LWVUS to "advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all"-- Medicare being the metaphor for a single-payer system.

Finally, readers might be interested in the lighter side of Convention. We all enjoyed the four glass elevators, which whisked us up and down the 47 floors of the hotel. Besides several restaurants,

Starbucks and a bar, the hotel connected with a mall/food court, which met most of our dining needs. However, almost everyone braved the heat and humidity at some point, to enjoy some fine dining in the city or to see some of the sights, such as the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Martin Luther King's birthplace and visitor center; CNN, or the Margaret Mitchell house. The 90th anniversary celebration events included a panel of past LWVUS presidents who inspired all of us--and made us laugh--with their recollections about their time as League President. There were MANY comments from delegates who had no idea how influential the League has been through the decades in furthering voting rights and democracy in our nation, and we were impressed and motivated. We reminisced in various ways, as well, about the original suffragist movement, and particularly fun was the one-woman play "Petticoats and Politics"--complete with dessert bar--bringing some of those suffragists to life. Our excellent speaker at the Monday night banquet was Robert Cooney, author of the new, well-reviewed book "Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement".

The LWV National Convention broadened my understanding of the League--how it operates, and how dedicated so many people are to ensuring that all people have access to a functioning democracy. I look forward to attending another Convention in the future.

## **Report on PAVP activities at the Convention**

At the convention, Tim O'Brien and Jeanette Senecal of LWVUS hosted a luncheon for all members working on Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Projects. Of the twenty or so attendees, from Arizona, Bonnie Saunders, Gini McGirr, Barbara Klein and Kate Samsa attended.

At the luncheon we got the great news that our work in Arizona was an influencing factor in the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to release a recent document that instructs states more specifically on their legal responsibilities in complying with the National Voter Registration Act. And we're not done yet!

On the last day of convention, Kate and Barbara participated in a caucus on PAVP with Tim O'Brien at LWVUS's request. We described the beginnings of our project and how it has kept evolving to its present phase. Barbara provided comic relief with her stories of her experiences while surveying Department of Economic Security offices.

Kate Samsa

## **LWV Arizona leading the way to adopt NPV WHY?**

I am taking a personal interest in reporting our success at the recent 2010 convention in adopting the National Popular Vote (NPV) \* concurrence. Being involved with it for years now, and for many months before convention I can report how proud I am that we have adopted this (and how much work a League campaigns can take). True to our history, Leaguers asked every possible question about NPV, some to clarify and many to challenge and still others to query us about the League process we chose to take. Other than those who simply support the Electoral College (not a League position), I believe we answered all their concerns.

**Background:** Many of us were introduced to NPV at the 2006 national convention. At the 2008 national convention we adopted a study. I served on the committee and worked closely with both sides of the issue. Local Leagues studied it in 2009 at which time we saw all the complaints about the consensus questions. LWVAZ and most of our Local Leagues came to 'consensus' on the subject despite the fact that the questions made it very difficult. And while many Leagues (almost 2/3rd) expressed support and some opposed it, many were not able to reach consensus at all – often citing the questions as the reason why.

Staying neutral on the subject of NPV really seemed like it would end up being seen as a conflict to our own position on direct elections and in a negative light. [Indeed, on the floor at convention, a member from Massachusetts said that one of their state legislators had erroneously said that very thing in floor debate “the League of Women Voters opposes this.”] After the study, a sub-committee of the national board, the program planning committee, suggested we could try to remedy the results of the study (read that as ‘fix’) by several options. One was bringing it to concurrence at the 2010 convention. Seemed like a long shot, but a good idea with all the support there was. On behalf of LWVAZ, I personally requested funds and manpower from the NPV organization to help make this happen. They were very generous, and we also had speakers/supporters at convention to help with the LWVAZ concurrence from Common Cause, FairVote and the NPV organization. We held two caucuses and had information tables where we spoke with members almost constantly. I am afraid to say there were still some VERY general ideas that members had wrong, but that always happens until they have that ‘ah-ha’ moment. Many members from Arizona either planned to speak from the floor; spoke at caucus which just helped explain it to other members. As maker of the motion, I had to answer almost a dozen questions from the floor and was able to speak to the motion twice. Since it was a concurrence, we needed a 2/3 vote to win – and we got it. A BIG cheer went up in the room when it passed. A standing division was called for and that was taken, but the support was clear. It had passed. LWVUS support of NPV is now part of our position on selection of the president. The added words are: “We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president, until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished”

**Going Forward:** Now it is up to members. NPV is a state by state plan and it will have to be the choice of each state League as to whether they work for it actively or not. Or it may be the choice of local Leagues to lobby their state League and spearhead the issue. Of course, it is already law in 5 states, in which the League had no voice during the debate. In our state during one past session, NPV was introduced to the AZ legislature (by two Republicans and one Democrat); but did not advance. One of the great things about this project is that it is TRULY non-partisan. In the NY Senate it passed 52-7, with a majority of both the Republicans and the Democrats. With so much division these days, issues that are easily non-partisan are very welcome to the League.

Additionally, the list of organizations that have already ‘signed on’ to NPV (with their support) is long and impressive. We have great allies for coalitions.

**Our Hope:** During convention we heard from many past LWVUS presidents about all that the League had accomplished during their tenure. It is my hope (our hope) that one day, perhaps decades away, perhaps not, that we will be able to say that the League was instrumental in eliminating the Electoral College. In the meantime, the stepping stone of NPV (when enacted) will at least make sure that in this nation EVERY VOTE is EQUAL.

We should definitely be proud, I know that I am. Thanks to all of you.

Barbara Klein

LWV Arizona 1st VP and LWV Metro Phoenix, state/national liaison

**\*Quick summary:** if you have forgotten, NPV is an interstate compact so it is an agreement between states. For now (and until the time that the states in agreement represent 270 electoral votes) the compact will be on a kind of virtual ‘shelf’ waiting to be implemented. Once it is implemented those states will be taking a somewhat altruistic approach to the presidential elections. They will no longer look only at the vote IN THEIR STATE as it is not an election of the president of Arizona (or any other state) but that of the United States. The compacting states are basically promising (by law) to give their electors to the person who REALLY won the most votes nationwide. [Note: While everyone is familiar with Gore having won the most votes in 2000, the tables can be reversed. The election was almost unfairly taken from George Bush in 2004 when Kerry was on the verge of winning Ohio, even though Bush had won a great deal more votes across the country. It is NOT a partisan issue. The inequality of the Electoral College can fall on either side.]

## Goals for upcoming year – set at calendar planning day

- Technology improvement
- Issue Education
- 3 M’s

**Technology** improvement is rather obvious. We need to make sure we are keeping up to the times, at least in some ways, and that includes hardware. We want to review the speed and quality of our office computer and consider how we can use on-line services. Additionally, we are encouraging the LWVAZ to update their front page which leads to our website as well. A small committee has been formed to take on these chores. **Alice Stambaugh** to chair it, with **Eric Ehst, Lucy Kahlstrom** and **Barbara Klein** to serve. Anyone interested should contact the office – as Jan will be a committee member by default. (480.966.9031).

**Issue Education** (different from our studies) will be approached by using our new format of **Brown Bag Politics**. This will allow us to have non-partisan forums during the lunch hour FOR FREE to the public.

**3 M’s** were repeated over and over at national convention as what must take priority to keep the League vibrant (or alive in some areas). The 3 M’s are Membership, Money and Media. This can really be read as **increasing membership**, working on **fundraising** and gaining **visibility** in whatever good ways we can.

Barbara Klein

# PRIMARY ELECTION –AUGUST 24

**Deadline for September C& C- August 12**



## **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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