



The

Arizona

Voter

August-September 2002

League of Women Voters® of Arizona

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LWVAZ Council Report

The state council was held in Sierra Vista on May 18-19 with 22 delegates, 7 board members, 2 off board members, and six local League presidents attending. Seven local Leagues were represented. Sedona-Verde Valley was the only local League not represented.

Officers elected were: 2nd VP, Sandy Baker, Mesa; Treasurer, Joyce Steiner, Tucson; Directors: Doris Flax, Sun City West; Ginger Fetzer, Tucson; Bob Richardson, Tucson.

Workshops: The Metro Phoenix League presented "Does the Majority Rule?" — a PowerPoint presentation with member participation.

Sally Davenport, Dnet Chair, gave an update on Dnet explaining how it works

and what a great tool it is for the League.

Pat Call, Cochise County District 1 Supervisor, gave a great PowerPoint presentation on the problems along the Mexican border. He discussed how much it costs Cochise County in doctor/hospital expenses, trash pickup, desert damage, etc. His color pictures of the desert were outstanding.

Metro Phoenix member Bart Turner gave the Legislative Wrap-up at the Sunday luncheon. He spoke on the bills that were supported or opposed by the League during the last legislative session. Thanks Bart for being a League lobbyist.

A very big thank you to the Cochise County members who were there to make the council run smoothly and a special thank you to Nancy Early who opened her beautiful home for a Social Hour. What a delight to relax in her back yard. Thanks to

the many members who came to the lunches and dinner to support the speakers. A very special thank you to Phyllis Prickett, co-president, for all her hard work on the council preparations and seeing that everything went off as scheduled during the session.

The frosting on the cake was the Saturday evening dinner and entertainment at the Arizona Folklore Preserve made possible by co-president Carolyn Edwards. What a treat to hear the Arizona Balladeer Dolan Ellis perform songs he had written. Dolan performed with The New Christy Minstrels in the '60's. The Preserve grounds with birds singing, trees, and cool breezes make for a lovely evening walk. This destination is for anyone that wants pure upbeat entertainment.

Gini McGirr
LWVAZ President

Women's Equality Day: Right to Vote Anniversary

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was certified as part of the United States Constitution. Referred to as the Susan B. Anthony amendment, it states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." In 1971 Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" as a reminder of women's first efforts to gain political equality. In 2002, three states—Arizona, Kansas and Oregon—will celebrate the 90th anniversary of women in their states winning the right to vote.



New LWVAZ Board

Back Row: Joyce Steiner and Bob Richardson, Front Row Left to Right: Sandy Baker, Carolyn Edwards, Harriet Pinsker, Gini McGirr, and Ginger Fetzer, Not Pictured: Doris Flax

League of Women Voters® of Arizona

Officers:

President

Gini McGirr, Greater Tucson

1st VP Program

Carolyn Edwards, Cochise

County

2nd VP Membership

Sandy Baker, Metro Phoenix

Secretary

Harriett Pinsker, Yuma

Treasurer

Joyce Steiner, Greater Tucson

Directors:

Elected:

Education

Doris Flax, NW Maricopa

Voter Editor

Ginger Fetzer, Greater Tucson

Public Relations

Bob Richardson, Greater Tucson

Off Board:

Action—Marge Mead, NW Maricopa

Health—June Ruth, Prescott

Clean Elections/

Advocacy Network—Ann Eschinger,
Metro Phoenix

Dnet—Sally Davenport, Greater Tucson

Nominating Chair—Catherine Zandler,
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Mission: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

In the Corner

Here it is July already and Leagues are gearing up for Fall forums. When you read “Across the State”, you can see that quite a few will be held in August. There doesn’t seem to be any down time this summer.

We had a great state council in Sierra Vista and our thanks go to the Cochise County members for all their planning, friendly faces, great Social Hour, and for the members and husbands attending the luncheons and dinner to make the out-of-towners feel at home. Everyone enjoyed the evening with Dolan Ellis and many bought his CDs. Dolan used to sing with The New Christy Minstrels and is Arizona’s official balladeer.

The national convention was fast paced as usual and it seems as if there is never enough time for discussion of program and budget and to get around to all the interesting caucuses. The Metro Phoenix League held a caucus on their new program, “Does the Majority Rule.” Of the nine delegates attending, only Ginger Fetzer and myself (this was my 10th one) had attended a previous convention so it was great to find out what the first-time delegates thought of it.

I want to thank the Central Yavapai County, Cochise County, Yuma and Greater Tucson for asking me to visit their Leagues at annual meetings or board meetings. I hope to get around to visiting the other Leagues and meeting their members.

The surcharge to help fund Clean Elections was declared unconstitutional and is now back in court. We should know the outcome in early August. The money is still being collected and the candidates that have turned in their petitions and \$5 contributions are being funded. The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (CCEC) states there is enough money to fund the general election candidates also.

Rep. Dean Cooley’s withdrawal from the District 18 House race could force the remaining two Republican candidates to give back money to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. The law states that if a candidate is unopposed, they receive only the funds they gathered from their \$5 contributions. This matter will

be discussed at the July CCEC meeting.

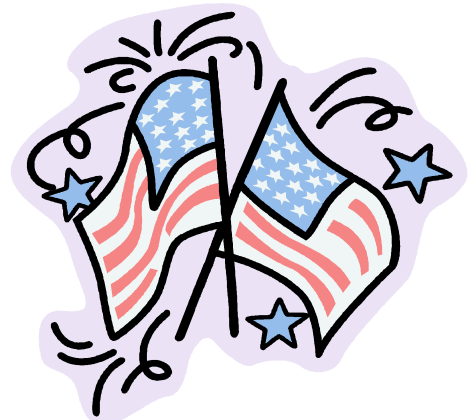
Eight candidates who were certified to receive public funding have decided to collect traditional contributions instead. They need not to say why they are withdrawing from the funding. These are candidates in Districts 14, 15, 2, 19, and two for the Corporation Commission.

The Greater Tucson League had a news conference to launch Time to Vote, a Get Out The Vote campaign. Attending were the mayor of Oro Valley, the vice mayor of Tucson (a League member) and a county supervisor (a League member). Sally Davenport, co-president of LWVGT, was interviewed following the news conference and made the local news that night. The LWVGT has made video Public Service Announcements using local celebrities. These PSAs will air on local television stations before the elections.

You may be reading letters-to-the-editor or articles in the newspapers about the League and the Libertarian candidates for governor. The League did meet its commitment to these candidates by scheduling a forum for the two Libertarian candidates running in the primary. They met with the Debate Task Force and were advised the media would be televising only the Democratic and Republican forums. They may think they will get more media coverage if they continue to attack the League instead of attending a forum and answering questions from the audience. I would say they are doing an injustice to the voters by not doing all they can do to get their platform out to the public.

Keep the League spirit...

Gini McGirr



LWVUS Convention— Banquet Awards: 2002

The 45th Biennial Convention was held in Miami, Florida, June 15-18 at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

There were 634 delegates representing 320 local Leagues and all 50 states, 11 past national board members and 120 Florida volunteers to keep the convention running smoothly.

The delegates from Arizona were: Marge Mead, NWMC; Ruth Kadota, Greater Flagstaff; Joel Foster, Barbara Robertson, Barbara Klein, Metro Phoenix; Ginger Fetzer and Donna Austin, Greater Tucson; Harriett Pinsker and Gini McGirr, LWVAZ Board.

Gini McGirr, LWVAZ president, was elected to the LWVUS Nominating Committee. The Arizona liaison national board member, Janis Hirohama, was elected 1st Vice President of the LWVUS Board of Directors.

All program positions were retained. There will be updates on the Election of the President and Apportionment.

The budget was passed with an increase in Per Member Payment of \$2.00. For one year an additional \$1.35 will be collected for the Election of the President update.

There was great panel presentation on Election Administration Reform with Hodding Carter III, President and CEO of John S. & James Knight Foundation as moderator. Panelists were Supervisor of Elections of Broward County; Asst. General Counsel, Florida Secretary of State's Office, Division of Elections; Supervisor of Elections, Leon County, Florida; Florida Equal Voting Rights Project and Florida Regional Director, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. The panelists fielded numerous questions regarding the 2000 Presidential election in Florida. They were asked for ways to reform the election process.

The Metro Phoenix delegation held a caucus on the "Does the Majority Rule?" There were several other states working on this same issue.

Distinguished Leader Award: Dorrit Bern, ECO of Charming Shoppes. Her company was a lead corporate partner in the 1996 "Take a Friend to Vote" Campaign. Ms. Bern is a champion in empowering women and strengthening communities.

Leader of the Future Award: National Basketball Association. They were named for their work in empowering and engaging young people to make a difference through such programs as "Teaming Up" and "Read to Achieve."

Becky Cain Diversity Award: Avon Products Corporation. This corporation has a program to support its company and managers to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all employees.

The Civic Leader Award: Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Marty Meehan (D-MA). These congressmen received this award for their work on Campaign Finance Reform. Rep. Shays spoke at a plenary session and told of the years of work on the Campaign Finance Reform issue. He thanked the League for all its hard work and support on this issue. Rep. Shays advised the delegates that the FEC is already working to undercut the law. Rep. Meehan was unable to attend the convention, but he had sent a videotape of thanks and praise for the League's work on Campaign Finance Reform.

Yucca Mountain

Both the Senate and House voted to override Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn's veto of the Bush Plan for a nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain. The Energy Department can now proceed with their application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Nevada has filed suit to stop the plan in court.

If the NRC approves the plan, shipments of radioactive waste could start shipping in 2010. Critics are worried that shipping radioactive waste by truck, train, and barge across the country will be too risky; open to terrorist attacks and accidents.

Senator McCain TV Ad Shown at Convention

The ad with Sen. John McCain supporting Clean Elections in Arizona was shown to the delegates at the national convention.

Under Directions to the Board, Gini McGirr asked the national board to send a letter of thanks from the delegates at this convention to Sen. McCain for his monumental work for Campaign Finance Reform and for supporting the Clean Elections Law in Arizona.

Elections 2002— Gubernatorial Forum

The LWVAZ with co-sponsors the *Arizona Daily Star* and KVOA in Tucson, and Phoenix area the *East Valley Tribune* and KTVK in Phoenix will hold a live televised forum for Democratic and Republican candidates on the primary ballot. The forum will be held on August 25 at the Proscenium Theater on the Pima Community College West Campus in Tucson. The forums are scheduled for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Democratic candidates will be on the first hour and the Republican candidates on the second hour. The LWVGT is hosting this forum.

All Democratic and Republican candidates have accepted our invitation to appear.

Tickets are required to attend the debate live at the Pima Community College. Tickets may be requested and picked up at either the Greater Tucson League office or the Metro Phoenix League office.

The forum for all gubernatorial candidates on the General Election ballot will be in Phoenix on October 21.

Local Leagues across the state are planning watch parties for the debates. Check with your local League for details about these parties. They are opened to the public.

Libertarian Gubernatorial Forum Cancelled

A forum was scheduled for the two Libertarian primary candidates on August 5 at a Scottsdale library. The candidates sent a letter stating they would not attend. The forum was cancelled.

When the League contacted media people in March to set up a debate task force, the League asked the media to co-sponsor the Democratic and Republican forum. At that time they were the only parties with multiple candidates. The media agreed to do a primary forum with the Democratic and Republican candidates. In June, another Libertarian candidate turned in a petition with enough signatures to make the ballot. The League contacted the Libertarian candidates that we would put on a forum for them in the Phoenix area.

The Libertarian candidates insisted they be allowed to participate in the televised forum. They also requested the Independent candidate's participation.

The media will do only the forums they originally agreed to do. The League policy states that we put on forums for any party that has multiple candidates and we have met that commitment. It is the Libertarian candidates decision to not spend an evening with the voters. They have decided to pass on their chance to get their platform out to the public.

Four Women from Kazakhstan Visit Arizona

The LWV is a partner of the Arizona-Kazakhstan Partnership Foundation. The foundation brought four women from Kazakhstan to Tucson in June. Gini McGirr spoke to them on the background of the League and the "Running & Winning" program that the LWVUS has for women who want to run for office. They took home several League materials. While here, they visited Nogales, Mexico and the Grand Canyon. Their free time was spent shopping. They bought many articles from Arizona to take back home.

Gini and Gordon McGirr attended the reception for the women. It was an evening of delicious food, good conversation and many toasts. Kudos to the young ladies that did the interpreting.

Statuary Hall to Include More Women

Since it was founded in 1864, the Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building in Washington, D. C. has offered each state a chance to highlight two of their state's most important people. Legislation passed in 2000 gives states the opportunity to replace their statues. Kansas is replacing both of its statues. The John James Ingalls statue will be replaced with Kansas native Amelia Earhart. Alabama will replace the statue of Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry with one of Helen Keller. Nevada's new statue will be of Sarah Winnemucca, who founded the first school for Native Americans in Nevada. North Dakota will honor Sacagawea, the guide and interpreter to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Great women of history are finally being recognized for their contributions to this country's history.

Across the State

Metro-Phoenix: Held meetings on "Five Shoes Waiting to Drop" and Alternative Voting systems. Members spent time at the Women's Expo registering voters and giving out information on the Clean Elections \$5 check off. Plans for hosting a public watch party of the televised Governor debate are being finalized.

Yuma: Members registered voters on five weekends at the Carver Park Farmer's Bazaar. President Baber had a letter-to-the-editor printed in the local paper on supporting Clean Elections. They will hold forums for State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the 7th Congressional District and will host a public watch party of the televised Governor debate. Gini McGirr, LWVAZ president, attended a board meeting.

Sedona-Verde Valley: Hosted a "Little League" luncheon in June for members to become better acquainted. Joined with Prescott and Flagstaff Leagues to share ideas and legislative information regionally. Approved a program theme, "Making Connections..." to provide learning opportunities for citizens to keep the "big picture" in mind. Will host a Congressional District 1 forum in August.

Northwest Maricopa County: Held annual meeting discussion on United Nations concurrence. Had a membership meeting on "End of the Year Legislative

Update." Developed a new project entitled "Inspiring Students to Vote." This new curriculum program will have ideas, activities, and resources that can be implemented this fall by teachers from around the state. Presented "You Make a Difference Award" to Patricia Mathews for her many Voters Service activities.

Greater Flagstaff: Meeting with guest speaker on United Nations.

Cochise County: Annual meeting had Superintendent of Schools as speaker. Gini McGirr, LWVAZ President, reported on state functions. Hosted the LWVAZ Council in May. Held a June meeting on "Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money."

Central Yavapai County: Gini McGirr, LWVAZ president, was speaker at annual meeting. A new study was adopted entitled "Meeting Basic Senior Needs by Caregivers of All Ages." Registered 54 voters at the YMCA in one day. Co-sponsored with LWV Sedona-Verde Valley for a public forum on water. Have an arrangement with a store to take consignments from members with proceeds going for operating expenses. Will host a Gubernatorial primary forum and a legislative candidate forum in early August and co-host a Sedona Congressional forum.

Greater Tucson: Hosted a Global Issues forum. Held news conference on "Time to Vote" and website, timetovote.info. Will sponsor a Congressional District 7 forum. Will host the Democratic and Republican Gubernatorial primary candidate forum.

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