

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARIZONA



The Arizona Voter

4423 N. 24th St., Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016

<http://lwvaz.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/LWVAZ>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - INDY PROTECTION PROJECT

I am looking for some interested people to work on another exciting 'virtual' project. While I hope to see all Local Leagues with at least ONE member on the team, it is not limited to one; it is only limited to those interested.

The state board has approved the first step of a project that concentrates on Independent Voters in this state. [The 'third' part we actually started several years ago with the help of the Tucson League and Steve Lyn, the previous chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission. That part is currently on hold until further notice.]

The part we will be taking on IMMEDIATELY is an Indy Protection project. The details are below:

Indy Protection

Overall: A review of certain discriminatory rules in the election procedures will be completed and recommendations developed. [The manual is available on line and we have a copy downloaded for email. This can be 'searched' for our purposes.] These points along with any other obviously unfair laws will be documented.

These points/ recommendations are to be presented to the Secretary of State Ken Bennett, (SOS), with a request that he make the same recommendations to the Legislature.

We will also prepare them for each legislator and either hand-deliver these to their legislative mailboxes, mail them by US mail or email them. We may wish to send some of our concerns via letter to the Department of Justice.

League: This project can be done with a small committee (hopefully at least one person from each local league). The report or the review and recommendations can be accomplished by virtual means, by conference call and with individuals working from home.

Continued on the next page...

Indy Project continued...

A meeting should be set up with the SOS office upon completion and the recommendations made in person. The committee is to decide how to deliver the report to the legislators.

Visibility: Media should be contacted and PR sent to them regarding the problems and proposed solutions. This project would not need a coalition and as such the visibility that we gain from it will either rise or fall on our own efforts.

Membership: Efforts are to be minimal regarding added membership, and would have to be done initially and quickly, but members could reach out to any registered Independents to encourage them to join expressly to work on this project.

Cost: Fundraising for this project is probably not practical as it is so short term. However, it would not stop us from 'broadcasting' our efforts on some of the new Independent networks to seek donations. It is best to consider that the LWVAZ is to bear cost of the project. The costs would basically be to cover the printing of reports and delivery (if not done by email). Costs depend on decisions. If the Secretary of State's report is the only one printed and all the others sent by email, the cost would be less than \$10 for everything. If the SOS report was printed and all others hand-delivered, the cost would be less than \$50. If all were printed and mailed by USPS, the cost could be as much as \$175. [Media prefers email delivery.] Thus the range is somewhere between \$10-200 for the project.

Time Frame: Short term. Committee would need to be established and working background materials distributed by mid-September. Work would have to be totally completed by mid /late November. Presentation to Secretary Bennett should be made in early December for his consideration if we hope to have it delivered to the legislature by early January. All reports to the legislators should be delivered just before or as legislature begins session.

Bonnie Boyce Wilson, election reform chair, is to oversee the project; however she is unable to do so until October. In the meantime, I will send out materials, gather participant names for the committee, share some of the issues already of concern and oversee our efforts until she returns. League Leaders can reach me with names at my normal address; others can email their interest to me at: S-N-liaison@lwvmetrohoenix.org

Barbara Klein, LWV AZ, President

BOOK STUDY GROUP TO MEET NOVEMBER 16 Join us at a Local League meeting – or even on-line



Share YOUR voice with others in a newly formed LWV book study group which starts in November.

For those in the Phoenix area, LWVMP, LWVNWM members or others, there is a meeting on November 16th at 11:30 a.m. (brown bag lunch) at the League office, 4423 24th St., Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016

This book club is part of a State-wide group of interested Leaguers and friends who are to meet in various venues to discuss three books during the coming year. The first book is Eleanor Clift's "Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment".

Do you remember the first time you voted?
Do you recall when you learned about the fact that women could not vote until 1920?

This book gives us background on those courageous (and sometimes outrageous!) women who worked so very hard to see that we have the same voting privilege as men. This book provides much food for thought and should provide us with a lively discussion. Study questions are to be provided to help leaders and to see that there is continuity throughout the various venues.

All Local Leagues (or small groups) are encouraged to organize a meeting or coffee shop stop to share in this new activity. No hand holding – just do it!!

For those who are not near a Local League but would still like to participate, comments for discussion are to be posted on our new website www.lwvmetrophoneix.org (click on Book Club).

Karen Michael is coordinating the book study. If you have suggestions for future books, wish to have a list of the study questions or have other related questions, please contact Karen at: karanddic@wbhsi.net or 480-802-0588.

Karen Michael, Book Group Coordinator, LWVMP

LWV Arizona's Media Message Group



Are you a League member interested in writing articles on League issues, interested in reviewing emerging Arizona issues for League involvement, and interested in having FUN carrying out the mission of the League of Women Voters? Well, we are looking for you to be a part of our MEDIA MESSAGE GROUP. The group is a virtual group – using email, online chats and an occasional conference call to talk with each other.

The purpose of the group is to increase League's visibility as a premier GOOD GOVERNMENT organization in Arizona. The outlets for the work done by the Media Message Group are:

- 1) Local and state media such as newspapers, radio, and TV;
- 2) Statewide conferences and forums; and,
- 3) Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, or blogs.

Also the group is to vet emerging issues in Arizona that may be of interest to the League. It may be an issue that you think the League should be covering or it may be an issue that the LWVAZ President needs advice on. You are to use existing League positions on issues as a starting point then determine who the key stakeholders are and their stand on the issue and determine options for League involvement in the issue.

Sounds interesting!! Is this what you think League is all about? Sign up today but emailing Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, LWVAZ Program Vice President at rcpbauer@gmail.com or Barbara Klein, LWVAZ President at: S-N-liaison@lwvmetrophoenix.org and be a part of LWVAZ's Media Message Group.

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, LWVAZ 1st VP-Program

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Like us on Facebook to increase our visibility.

I realize that many of our League members are not on any social media; however, as the new Social Media coordinator for the State League, I was asked to create a Facebook page for the League of Women Voters of Arizona. Current affairs issues important to Arizona and of interest to our Leagues are posted as deemed in line with our positions. If you are on Facebook, please “like” the page at <http://www.facebook.com/LWVAZ!>

If you don't have an account, you can set one up and keep it very private; it is all up to you. When you do have an account on Facebook, go into search, and type in 'League of Women Voters of Arizona.' The page should be available in the drop-down list, double click to open it. Click the **Like** button.

Please help us increase our visibility.



Terri Farneti, Social Network Coordinator



PR PERSON NEEDED

Have you ever had experience calling a radio station, or sending a press release to the newspaper or preparing a flyer for a special event?

If so, we could use you. It may sound like a fancy name but these are the jobs that the 'communications' person does. We need a PR person or a communications director to simply make sure these types of things get done, and to get us visibly for what we do. If there is someone in your League that would be interested in doing this (at-home) activity, please let someone on the state board

AROUND THE STATE News from the Local Leagues

LWV Northwest Maricopa County

While many of the members were away from Arizona during the summer, our summer stalwarts were busy hosting candidate forums for the Surprise municipal elections. The first was held on June 25th for the Sun City Grand Republican Interest Group and then on August 3, the League hosted and moderated a candidates forum at the City Council Chambers. The City held elections on August 30 for Mayor and Council Districts 2, 3, and 4.

LWV Greater Tucson

Voter Service members registered voters at the Broadway Proper Retirement Home and at the 7th Annual Native American Family Wellness Day Fair at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center. A workshop on "How to Plan a Forum" was held in June. A City Council candidate forum is planned for October.

Communication: A new website www.lwvgt.org has been set up and also a Facebook page.

Library project: Members were at certain libraries to register voters before the City Council election. The libraries were targeted to coincide with low voter turn-out areas of the community. The League has installed "election centers" at libraries with poster and display unit which included in-

formation cards about the balloting.

Fundraiser: Members met for a potluck supper to honor a Green Valley member, Bonnie Richards, who had passed away. Richards was one of the founders of our Kenya committee. About 40 members bought items and donated cash for \$1500 for the continuing clinic outreach program in Kenya.

Programs: Summer public meetings on Privatization and the Federal Role in Education meetings were held in June and August.

Bishara

In 2006-2007 LWVGT participated in the Global Democracy project sponsored by LWVUS and the U.S. State Department. We interacted with Kenyan Muslim women on the importance of voting and civic engagement. The women came to Tucson to visit and learn, and Carol West and Sally Davenport went to Kenya to continue to work with the women in their communities.

We have just learned that one of the most promising women who worked with us, Bishara Abdulaziz Fadhil, aged 48, was killed in a car accident in Kenya. She is survived by her husband Aziz and three children, all of whom were very supportive of her work.

Continued on the next page...

Bishara continued...

A strong advocate for women's rights in Mombasa, Bishara led by example and taught other women about the importance of registering to vote. These women stood together in the last Kenyan election to resist bribes for votes, a common practice in Kenya.

LWVGT funded a brochure written in Swahili that Bishara distributed to inform the women of their basic rights. Bishara was often asked to speak at international conferences about women's rights. She was quick to credit her Tucson experiences for her personal growth and was considering a run in 2011 for the Mombasa City Council.

Bishara was also involved in many social service projects in her community including volun-

teering with the Red Cross to care for AIDS victims and getting the government to drill wells in neighborhoods so that the women would no longer have to walk for miles to obtain water for their families.

This human dynamo will be missed by all of us who knew her, but may her inspiring leadership help other Kenyan women to continue her important work.

*Carol West, Local League Representative,
Greater Tucson*

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE BECOME A STATE LWV MEMBER-AT-LARGE?

All our local leagues have a goal to increase membership, finding people who share our efforts to build a better democracy and an informed citizenry. But why would we work to increase our MAL (members at large) participation? What do they get? And when is it appropriate to join this way?

Arizona residents who are of voting age but who do NOT live near a local league are welcome to join at the state level. You can consider yourself 'near' a league if you can attend most of its meetings. However, for those who are not near a local league they can still join at the state level (membership fee \$40) and participate in other ways.

- MAL or 'state members' can participate in 'virtual activities' under the guidance of

other League members. These projects are growing all the time.

- The state members receive *The Arizona Voter*, the LWVAZ bi-monthly newsletter.
- On opposite months, they receive the LWVAZ president's update.
- They can obtain mentioning for activities they may want to undertake in their community (with the League's approval).
- They can take part in the new LWVAZ book club on-line, or start one of their own with just a couple friends and the information supplied by the book club project director.
- We pay for their national League dues (approximately \$30).

UPDATE ON INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

Mission: To administer the fair and balanced redistricting of the Congressional and Legislative districts for the state of Arizona.

The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) was formed by the people of Arizona when they passed Proposition 106 during the 2000 General Election. Prop 106 amended the AZ Constitution to create a five-member commission to oversee the redrawing (or redistricting) of Congressional and Legislative boundaries following the decade Census.

The first set of draft maps were publicized on August 15th . The second round of public meetings are now being held across the state. The maps can be found on their website at www.azredistricting.org,

The Commission plans to meet a November deadline to complete the new boundary lines for the 30 legislative districts, as well as carving out a ninth congressional district. The lines would be in effect for the 2012 elections.

The Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition (ACDC) ran the first-in-the nation contest for the public to try their hand at map drawing to meet all the needs of the Voting Rights Act and competitive districts. Over 300 people listed their 'profiles' on the contest site and tried their hand at a map. Almost 800 maps were attempted. This is a major increase in public involvement and alone a great success.

The coalition has run the site for PUBLIC MAPPING at <http://www.azredistricting.com>. The LWVAZ also contributed funds to the functioning of the site and for contest prize money.

On August 2nd, a press conference, conducted by the co-chairs of ACDC, Ken Clark (D) and Roberta Voss (R), was held at the Capitol to present prizes to the winners of the public mapping contest. One of the three judges was Tricia Gerrodette, a League member from Cochise County. Barbara Klein, LWVAZ president, oversaw the panel of judges for scheduling and arrangements.

The winners of the contest were: Best Congressional maps: Glen Jacques, Phoenix, AZ and Stuart Wright of Ohio. Best Legislative maps: Sam Almy, Tucson, AZ and Glen Jacques, Phoenix, AZ. These winners were each awarded \$500. Klein presented the final reports from the judges to the IRC the following day.

Read the complete report of the Results of Mapping Contest on the LWVAZ website at www.lwvaz.org.



LEAGUE PARTICIPATES IN CIVIL DISCOURSE EVENT

The National Institute for Civil Discourse invited Arizona-based organizations dedicated to improving civil discourse, civic engagement and civic leadership to participate in a half-day program in Phoenix on August 23rd. It was hosted by the Flinn Foundation in Phoenix which supports bioscience research, collaborations and biotech business development.

Thirty participants from 20 organizations met to discuss ways of strengthening civil discourse in AZ. Participants utilized a modified version of a process developed by the non-profit AZ Town Hall.

The event began with Brint Milward (U of A) who presented “The Arizona Civil Discourse, Civic Engagement and Civic Leadership Network.” In this presentation he demonstrated some of the links between organizations around the state – including the League. He talked about the general patterns of effective networks as well as their characteristics (Legitimacy, Resources, Stability, Resilience and Governance). There were lots of questions about how to improve your network and strike the right balance of strong and weak ties between networks. In League lingo, strong ties might be considered coalition partners and weak ones those we may work with on a particular project. Sometimes strong ties serve us no better than weak ones, so the terms should not be confused in that manner.

Perhaps the most critical key of the presentation was the definition of ‘network currency’ – TRUST and RECIPROCITY. These are important issues that the League has often struggled with when dealing with our network “links.” To quantify these two points of currency, your organization can ask some specific questions.

Reliability – Can a partner be relied on to fulfill obligations and expectations?

Predictability – Will a partner behave in a predictable manner?

Fairness – Will the partner act and negotiate fairly and not engage in opportunistic behavior?

[For the League, I will specify a couple of questions under these terms. Do we receive fair recognition for the work or preparation we have contributed? Has our partner respected our process and positions and not put us out on a limb?]

Of course, we have to ask the same questions about ourselves if we want to be good partners.

Your network of partners may fall under different categories of work and goals, those you work with to collaborate on a program, share information, share resources or do strategic planning.

The rest of the day was spent on discussion of ‘ACTING TOGETHER.’ It was facilitated by Tara Jackson and was meant to identify and prioritize ways our organizations can work together more effectively to support civil discourse.

Continued on the next page

Civil Discourse Event continued...

A report will be developed as the result of the efforts of the thirty participants. While not all participants agree with each of the conclusions and recommendations, the ideas are useful and practical in developing a 'muscular' civil discourse. It will reflect the overall consensus achieved by the 2011 Arizona Convening Conference.

In September, the National Institute for Civil Discourse will also be presenting to the US Supreme Court and the National Press Club. They will be inviting many organizations to join them in their efforts.

Participants were encouraged to continue with their thoughts and ideas through Project Civil Discourse, based in Arizona.

Added Thought: Throughout the conference one of the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People", by Steven Covey, kept coming to mind. Habit 5 is "**Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood.**"

**Local League Members
Asked to Serve on
Nominating Committee**

As of yet we do not have a nominating chair, so we are attempting to take another route to achieve our goals. We are asking all local leaders to ask their membership person to find one person in your League that can participate on a nominating committee. The committee selects who is the attendee to the state board meetings. This is not mandatory but it is very helpful in finding and cultivating new leaders. Please be prepared to request with a phone call or email to find a member who would be able to take on this role. As a committee it should be less daunting. The work does not begin for another year. If the committee wishes to name a chair amongst them that is their decision.

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