



# The Arizona VOTER

Winter, 2010

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ARIZONA

Volume 53, No. 2

## *President's Report ~*

Please put on your calendar the LWV/AZ Council 2010, an all-day event (including Board Meeting) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Surprise. There will be another Newsletter in April with all of the details. Two years ago, we had a potluck dinner on Friday evening before the Council. At the last Board Meeting when we discussed doing this again this year, some Board Members suggested skipping that dinner and having only the all-day meeting. I'd like some input from members who might be delegates on this. So e-mail me (Bonniesaun@aol.com) with your thoughts.

The 2010 LWVUS Convention will be held in Atlanta, GA on June 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The LWV/AZ may send three delegates; each local League may send at least one and perhaps more, based on membership numbers. More information will be sent to local League Presidents in a few weeks.

Over the past few months, the LWV/AZ has undertaken a number of projects, which are described below.

We have given our support to the LWV/Colorado and several local Leagues to work toward the appointment of a person to oversee the EPA mission in the Four Corners area.

We have given our support to Steve Lynn, Chair of the AZ Independent Redistricting Commission, in sending a letter to all unaffiliated voters in the state, letting them know that they are eligible to vote in all primary elections except the Presidential Preference Primary. This letter will include information on how unaffiliated voters in all counties can get information on how to participate in these primaries. Apparently, this project is too daunting to accomplish right away but when it does happen, we will be involved.

We have given our support to the LWV/Colorado and LWV/Boulder in asking the LWV/US to support the Fair Elections Now Act in the U.S. Congress. If passed, that law would enable Congressional candidates to run campaigns using a combination of public funding and small donations from supporters. This law could mitigate the Supreme Court decisions, which gave corporations a right to spend unlimited amounts of money for or against candidates for office, even close to the election.

At the invitation of the Secretary of State, several League members from the Phoenix area have participated in a review of the Election Procedure and Manual. Barbara Klein and I sent a Letter to the Editor of *The Arizona Republic* applauding the Secretary of State for the achievement of this review. This letter was published in January.

We were not invited to participate in the O'Connor House Project but we sent a letter with some of our suggestions for future changes to Arizona government.

I extend hearty congratulations to Gini McGirr for her selection as a League trainer, noted in the article below.

The Board of the LWV/US has just released its highest legislative priorities for the next year: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, Campaign Finance Reform. On its watch list of next-level priorities are the following: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

*BONNIE SAUNDERS, President*

League of Women Voters of Arizona  
Board of Directors

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**Mission:**

**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.**

**RUTH S. SHUR FELLOW TEAM**

The LWVUS has announced that Gini McGirr, LWV Greater Tucson, has been selected as one of twelve Ruth S. Shur Fellows to participate as a member of this first and historic national coaching team during 2010-2012.

This is an innovative approach to strengthening League capacity by attracting new members and new leaders - built upon and utilizing some of the successful Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) experience. The team will help expand the number of state and local Leagues that now have access to this program from LWVUS and will help ensure these Leagues' successful participation in the program through offering training and regular monthly coaching support.

McGirr will go in to Washington, D.C. on February 25<sup>th</sup> for the first training session.

**CAPWIZ IS HERE AND GONE – NOW SALSA**

The LWV/AZ is working on an Action Alert system for all members in Arizona. This is sponsored and paid for by LWVUS.

A website has been set up for members to go in and find what national alerts have been sent out with a link to the national office website where you find a line to click on and it takes you to your Rep. or Senator so that an email can be sent to them. It will also be used to send an alert to members to write their state legislators during this session on bills that we have a position for or against.

You can also find:

State Legislative Directory with the AZ state officials, state departments and agencies.

Local government lets you find city, county, etc. names.

Legislative Alerts gives current legislation on AZ Legislature website for bills.

Congress key votes lets you sign up at MegaVote and they are sent to you by email each week.

Congressional delegation gives you names and districts.

Media gives you names of all newspapers, TV stations and radio stations in the state.

Election Guide will enable you to find candidates for different races.

Put [www.capwiz.com/lwv/az/home](http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/az/home) on your tool bar and check in and read this website to help you keep abreast on what is happening in the political world. You can go in now and check it out. But the national office has sent out memo that they are switching from Capwiz to Salsa which is supposed to do all the above plus more. The change-over will be in March so will have to take more webinar training sessions in February and March to find out how it works before this will be able to be used.

*GINI MCGIRR*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT – JANUARY 9th**

Carrie Chapman Catt, the suffragist whose efforts led to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote, was later monitored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for her world peace activism and association with "radicals."

Catt was born January 9, 1859. She was raised in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University in 1881. In 1900, she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She founded the League of Women Voters on February 14, 1920, following the ratification of the suffrage amendment.

In 1925, Catt founded the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War (NCCCW), an organization she chaired until the mid-1930s. The NCCCW was considered the most politically conservative of the leading peace organizations of the time. Despite its relative conservatism, the NCCCW's stance in favor of arbitration in lieu of armed conflict drew the wrath of the FBI, which authorized secret investigations and intelligence reports on the political activities of numerous public and private U.S. citizens, including Catt.

In March 20, 1928, the FBI noted the formation of the Foundation for Moral and Religious Leadership, a new international organization co-founded by Catt and other leaders of the world peace movement. The FBI decried its formation as "simply one more propaganda agency for the radical forces." FBI files concerning Catt were released recently. Catt, who died March 9, 1947, probably never knew of the FBI files on her activities. A biographer of Catt has speculated that she would have reacted with amusement had she known of her secret files!