

President's Update

Barbara Klein, President
League of Women Voters of Arizona

10/8/2011
www.lwvaz.org

Included:



1. [Civil Discourse & Consensus](#)
2. [Redistricting links](#)
3. [Indy Protection Project](#)
4. [LWVAZ requests AZ Corp Comm to make Clean Air Promise](#)
5. [Founding Sisters \(Book club offering\)](#)
6. [Media Messaging & Social Network](#)
7. [Real Players](#)

[Check out the new state website www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org)

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 League never supports or opposes a party or candidate but advocates for or against issues based on positions established after long-term study.

We are a grassroots organization. Join us in making democracy work!

CIVIL DISCOURSE is one of the keystones of Consensus. For several years the League has taken part in promoting Civil Discourse. Immediate past-president Bonnie Saunders was committed to upholding this principle and worked with other groups such as Project Civil Discourse in this regard. Recently going through old notes on a lecture I gave about the League's Consensus process, I ran across this portion which I thought might be worth sharing.

----- Civil discourse is NOT WEAKNESS - not a lack of ideas or commitment

It is a way to open your mind to information in the belief that the 'other side' may have some points to consider. This is not always easy and often takes a great deal of strength. Sometimes your 'strength' is tested by the tendency just to go along with the ideas of your friends, peers or a political party. Furthermore, it takes **strength to confront YOURSELF** – your own comfortable and familiar understandings, ideas or beliefs (and whether they are right or wrong).

Civic discourse for consensus building creates an atmosphere conducive to a safe and positive learning environment. It is safe because a League member or participant is always allowed to seek further facts from a wide range of information, expand understanding and develop an awareness of other points of view. When it is approached honestly, a true consensus process helps promote calm, rational and informed discussions on topics and issues and leads to in-depth understanding. -----

Continuing in coalition with Project Civil Discourse, I encourage all our Local Leagues to conscientiously promote this behavior. One suggestion is to place small reminders in all your programs or just make announcements before issue events or forums. For ideas on wording or events call the office for more information.

See updates & reports on **Redistricting** in separate mailings. For more info visit www.lwvaz.org

For AZ IRC meeting schedule visit www.azredistricting.org

Don't forget to add your comments on their website – the more specific you can be (even if just about YOUR district or your area) the better. It is a bit too late for generalities at this point.

Also, for good insider-scoop you may want to visit the Arizona Eagletarian, a blogger who follows the IRC and has covered the activity of the AZ Competitive Districts Coalition at <http://stevemuratore.blogspot.com>

Indy Protection Project – Still welcoming Committee members

I would like to thank the following people for taking on the chore of being part of the Independent Protection Project – reviewing and making suggestions to the legislature regarding independent candidates and voters in this state. Chairperson Bonnie Boyce Wilson is still welcoming new League members to this project.

Welcome & Thanks Good Luck.

Bonnie Boyce Wilson, LWVNW chair

Eric Ehst, LWVMP

Kathy Suagee, LWVCC

Katie Wilke, LWVMP

Vicky O'Hara, LWVCYC

Sue Ward, LWVGT

Barbara Klein, LWVAZ

Not a 'Pledge' but a 'Promise' -

LWVAZ Requests a Clean Air Promise from AZ Corp Commission

In my last update, I discussed this new national program from LWVUS. In this issue I would like to mention that in coalition with AZ PIRG, we requested this promise and also promoted our energy ideas in a letter to the Arizona Corporation Commission. The vital body of the letter is included here:

As you are likely aware, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Arizona is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. The LWV of Arizona influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The LWV, in partnership with public health and environmental organizations, are currently asking members of Congress, other elected officials, key community leaders and the public to make the "Clean Air Promise."

The Clean Air Promise states "I PROMISE to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths, I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality."

The LWV of Arizona and its members across the state, particularly those that reside in the areas serviced by Arizona Public Service and Southwest Gas, urge each of you to make the "Clean Air Promise." One immediate way to demonstrate your commitment to this pledge is to support energy efficiency and a strong decoupling policy to provide the aforementioned utilities with the incentive to use less, not more energy.

Meet our Challenge

Make this Commitment

*"I will bring in 1 new member
within 2 years
to help Make Democracy Work."*

*Please pick ONE person in the
next year to 'woo' and teach
about the League. Within two
years – make sure you bring that
ONE person into League.*

YOU can do it

Visit new League site www.peoplenotpolluters.org and make the promise yourself!

Founding Sisters for Founding Book Club

The next AZ Voter is not coming out until mid-November, so we are using this update to give background for the 1st first book club meetings. Remember that starting in early November we will post these questions & take comments from any Arizonans on the LWVMP website at www.lwvmetrophoenix.org (Karen Michael)

Arizona Leagues start Book Study Groups. The first book to be studied during Fall 2011 will be “Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment.” When your League’s group meets, please spend a few minutes discussing other books you can suggest for the coming year. The plan is to read one book in the Fall, one in Winter, and another in Spring. Suggestions will be reviewed and the decision on a book for Winter will be made prior to the first of the year. One League is meeting at noon time – brown bag lunches. Please share your meeting ideas with us! We want this to be a fun, social time as well as a discussion and learning experience.

Please begin the session by having people introduce themselves. It would be a good idea to have copies of your League’s most recent newsletter available for non-League members. We strongly encourage ‘courting’ these non-members to become Leaguers!

“Founding Sisters” was selected as our first book because in less than a decade we will be celebrating not only the League of Women Voters 100th birthday but also that women have had the right/privilege of voting for 100 years. We do not really think about that fact often enough let alone consider the trials and tribulations of those who made it possible for us to have that right.

FOUNDING SISTERS AND THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT - by Eleanor Clift

1. Do you remember the first time you voted? What was special about it? Why did you vote?
2. When did you first become aware of suffragists? Did you know any women who marched before the 19th amendment was ratified?
3. Discuss how the women abolitionists in their fight to end slavery became suffragists with women’s civil rights as their goal. (see Chapter 1). How did the temperance movement fit into the picture?
4. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Amelia Bloomer, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, were early promoters of a woman’s right to vote. What brought about the breaches in their relationships? Were they all working towards the same goals?
5. Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt came along and organized others to reach out to women across the nation. Let’s discuss the hardships these women endured as they traveled to the western states to promote their cause and why they each lead divided movements.
6. The role of the wives of presidents should not be ignored. How could they have played even more prominent roles?
7. What issue would inspire you to march & fight as these suffragists did to win us the privilege of voting?

Good Bye and Thanks

*Clean Elections is funded
by voluntary Donations &
Criminal Fines - NOT Taxes.*

*Clean Elections =
the Many over the Money*

I want to take this opportunity to thank **Kate Samsa** for her work on the LWV state board both as chair of the PAVP (Public Advocacy for Voter Protection) project and for participation with me at Secretary of State meetings for AZ election manual/guideline reviews in 2009 and 2011. Additionally, those in LWVMP appreciated her membership, friendship and contributions.

We are losing her to California, where we can only hope the League is clever enough to find her. Thanks Kate. We will miss you.

Media Message Club and New Social Networks

Media Message club

In case you missed this in the latest Arizona Voter.....
Want to be part of a LWV group vetting emerging issues in Arizona that may be of interest to League?

The purpose of the group is to increase League's visibility as a premier GOOD GOVERNMENT organization in Arizona.

Maybe there is an issue that you think the League should be covering or it may be an issue that the LWVAZ President needs advice on. We will 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.

Sound interesting??!

Is this what you think LWV is all about?

Sign up today by emailing Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, LWVAZ Program Vice President at rcpbauer@gmail.com

If you are on **Facebook**, please "like" our 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.

We welcome ALL new members.

Be a REAL player – an opinion

It may not be an 'official' part of the League, and some days I believe this more than other days, but the League is a group that seems to demand more proactivity from its members than other groups. You don't have to step up to this particular plate, but it is the way things get done – being PROACTIVE.

OK, so you may not be that type. It is great that you enjoy meetings, pay dues, share with others, offer feedback, encourage members to participate and the many other things that are also vital. We need ALL of this.

However, for many of the special things we do we need that extra bit of 'oomph.' Maybe it is thinking outside the box, planning a new event or thinking of a creative idea, but the 'oomph' part comes from taking the bull by the horns and being ACTIVE - making sure it happens. The League IS different. At the state and local level when we talk about 'grassroots' we mean it. The action comes from you – from us all. And the PROACTIVE part not only means thinking it up, but often organizing it all and being active at every step of the way. Sounds like a bit of work, and more than others might ask. But in the League YOU CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I ask each of you to be willing to push yourself just a little beyond your comfort zone (whatever it is). Be Proactive and move us a bit further toward one of our goals – or even help us develop a new one. You chose the 'what'-'how'-'why' and you can make the difference. Be a real player!

In League, Barbara Klein

*Please don't ignore this box
(or this request)*

We need the following people

One person

*to be willing to learn & work on
visibility for the League statewide.*

A Communications person

One person from each Local League

*to be willing to serve on the state
nominating committee. Please tell your
local representative YOU will do it.*

We need you!