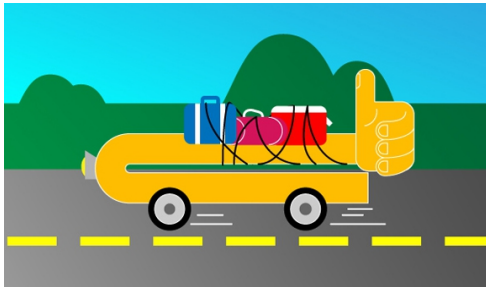


Calendar and Comments October 2013

Barbara: *Goodbye, and Good Luck



Barbara Klein, State League President, local League member and mentor to many, is moving to Ashland, Oregon, in November, where she and her husband have purchased a house. We're happy for her but so sad for us. We will miss her very much but wish her well in her new "green" state.

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer will move up from 1st Vice President to State President. Robyn is a long-time, very experienced League member who was president of the California LWV at one time. She lives in Clarkdale so will be traveling a bit more than she has been used to! We welcome her in this new position.

***There will be a bon voyage lunch at the Olive Garden in Scottsdale in November, before Barbara leaves.
Date/time to be announced soon.**

On September 3rd, League Metro Phoenix member Margot Champagne visited the Leagues' national office in Washington, DC. She met with Jessica Jones, Grassroots Advocacy Manager, League of Women Voters United States, for assistance in researching whether any other League group around the U.S. had done a White Paper or other project in connection with the "death-with-dignity" issue. If not, LWVAZ will be the first League group to do so!



Events Upcoming

Arizona Advocacy Network's

3rd Annual Arizona Advocates Taking Charge Networking Mixer

Fair Courts and Diversity on the Bench

October 17, 2013, 5:00 - 7:00 pm (Panel at 6:15)

Rooftop at The Clarendon Hotel, 401 W. Clarendon Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013

Join advocates celebrating the launch of a new collaboration with local, state and national partner--including League--to strengthen Arizona's Fair and Unbiased Courts. Eric Lesh from Lamda Legal, Liz Fujii from Justice at Stake and Tim Hogan of ACLPI will highlight relevant court decisions impacting our lives, equality, and justice. Stick around with friends for more food, drinks and music.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Originalism? Strict Constructionism? Textualism?

We all have criticized our courts over the way judges have looked at our federal and state constitutions. Now the League, and several other organizations, have been invited to sponsor an event with the Goldwater Institute which may help clear things up.

Constitutional Judging: The Proper Role of the Judiciary in Enforcing our State and Federal Constitutions

Oct. 25, 1 pm to 4 pm

The Goldwater Institute

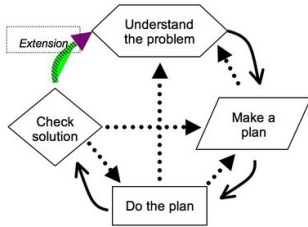
\$50, with continuing education credits provided.



Panelists from around the nation will present a variety of judicial perspectives on the proper role of the judiciary in enforcing state and federal constitutional law. [See flyer here](#) for registration information.

Baby, We've Got Problems -- But they CAN be Addressed!

What might it take to solve some of the nation's problems? Well, some people say we need more women in office!



The abysmal number of women in elected positions around the U.S. is the subject of a new report introduced in August by Representation 2020 (a project of FairVote). It is called **State of Women's Representation 2013: American Women in Elected Office and Prospects for Change*.

YOUR LEAGUE is sponsoring a forum on this report called

The Democracy We COULD Have: From Suffrage to Real Equality

**Tuesday evening, November 5th, from 6:30 to 8:30
Scottsdale Community College
Turquoise Room**

Panelists are:

Andie Levien, lead editor of the report
Eric Ehst, League member and former president of AZ NOW
Lilia Alvarez, who ran for Maricopa County Supervisor in District 3 in 2012

The discussion will focus on why there are few women in office compared to their voting numbers, and three suggested remedies. One of those is to encourage multi-member districts with proportional representation, important goals for League. We have invited a number of women's organizations to co-host, and hope to have the event videotaped.

We would love to have League members **volunteer** at the literature or greeting table, and/or provide cookies or finger desserts. Please contact Alice Stambaugh if you are interested.

*You can read this report here: _

http://www.representation2020.com/uploads/9/2/2/7/9227685/swr_report_.pdf and/or [click here for a summary of the recommendations.](#)

East Valley Team

Meets at Marge Thornton's home, 400 E. Alameda, Tempe.
Bring your brown bag lunch! For directions, call 480-966-6053.

October 31, Thursday, 11:30 am

Topic: Maricopa County Study Chair Barbara Sherman will summarize the status of the study including the research we have done throughout the summer.

Phoenix Team

Meet at The Terraces, Monaco Room, 7550 N 16th St, Phoenix, 85020
(park off of Morten Ave. south of Northern), 602-906-4024

October 9, Wednesday, 10 to 11 am

9:30 a.m. coffee, snacks

Topic: End-of-Life Choices

Freda Anderson, President of Compassion and Choices, AZ, will discuss the Oregon law currently being followed by 3 other states, and the activity of her organization.

Future Meetings: October 9, November 13, December 4 or 11 (whole-League holiday lunch)

Scottsdale Team

October 29, Tuesday, 3 pm, venue TBA

Topic: End-of-Life Choices

League member Margot Champagne who is highly involved with the organization Compassion and Choices, will discuss the Oregon law currently being followed by 3 other states, and the activity of this organization.

Contact: Kathy Schwarz, 480-946-6013.

Musings

Submitted by Dave MacDonald



Why is it that so many of us appear to be sitting on a "cushion of cynicism" with respect to the behavior of political people--*before* the fact of their behavior? And then we act affronted (although never surprised) at the revealed scandals?

I fear we are threatened by a depressive future wherein our middle class develops an attitude of "infinite resignation". Can't we forgive the scandal if the person does an otherwise really good job? Eliot Spitzer--former governor of N.Y. and the nemesis of Wall Street--comes to mind. He, for example, would probably make a superior regulator at the federal level! Can't you just hear the chorus!

NEWS

Seeking Answers About the Use of the Federal Voter Registration Form

Submitted by Marie Provine

On Wednesday Tammy Patrick, of the County Elections Department, provided the Community Outreach group with some information and predictions about the implementation in AZ of the federal forms case decision handed down this summer by the US Supreme Court. As you probably recall, the Court majority reaffirmed Congressional intent to have the federal form be sufficient to vote in federal elections. The pregnant question, of course, is what about state elections? Can states like AZ still require evidence of citizenship?

The answer appears to be YES in the view of AZ officials and Judge Silver. This means that AZ elections personnel will likely be preparing two types of ballots for upcoming elections, a regular full state ballot for those whose citizenship status can be ascertained, and a short one for those who registered with the federal form, and whose citizenship status is not clear but who are otherwise eligible (that is, old enough, resident in the state, not disqualified by felony status....).



Meanwhile, Secretary of State Bennett is doing his best to get AZ's citizenship requirements on the state portion of the federal form. Having lost at the administrative level, he and the Kansas secretary of state are pressing on in federal court. He has also asked Attorney General Horne to rule if those who use the federal form will only have the right to vote in federal elections.

Patrick predicts that AZ will process federal forms in a way that tends to enlarge the full-ballot pool. Social security numbers and DMV records will be checked to determine citizenship status, and those federal-form registrants who appear on one of these records as citizens will get the full ballot. The practice will be uniform across the state to avoid equal-protection violations.

INTERESTED in where our government gets its money?

New Study Begins: Will you be a participant?



State League adopted a new study in the spring, which will be coordinated by the Central Yavapai County League (CYC). The scope is: a study of state and local revenue sources and the allocation of revenues, using these LWV principles: 1) that the government must maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation; 2) that efficient and economical government requires adequate financing.

Once the study committee begins its work, the study scope may become less broad.

However, CYC League would like at least one representative from the other local Leagues to participate in doing the study. The committee would meet primarily via email or conference call, and there would of course be research involved.

Is this something that interests you?? Please contact Alice Stambaugh if you would like to represent LWVMP on this study (480-947-2095).

Civic Engagement Series - Great Talk by County Manager

Submitted by Sandy Kaszeta

On September 12, 2013 Marge Thornton, Maureen Schmid, Karen Michael and Sandy Kaszeta attended a talk by the relatively new Maricopa County Manager, Tom Manos,

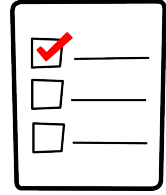
Mr. Manos--participating in ASU Downtown Center's Civic Engagement series--discussed the County budget and challenges he sees for the future. He provided a wealth of information that will be included in the East Valley Team's Maricopa County Government study report. In fact, a valuable aspect of the day was the opportunity to *meet* Tom Manos and let him know about the study we are doing.

Much of the budget information Mr. Manos presented can be found at the County website: www.maricopa.gov. On the right side find the box that says "Open Books" and click on it.

The Board of Supervisors will soon be doing some strategic planning. The process will include opportunities for public input. Mr Manos mentioned how hard it is for the County to do long range planning when the legislature will only do short turn planning. With three new supervisors in the last year, the priorities will likely change.

The current priorities are:

1. Ensure safe communities;
2. Provide all citizens access to an effective, integrated justice system;
3. Promote and project the public health of the community;
4. Promote educational and other opportunities for citizens to improve their own circumstances and quality of life;
5. Reduce the environmental impact of county government and provide leadership for County government regional environmental sustainability, including preservation of open spaces;
6. Contribute to an effective regional economy;
7. Contribute to a safe and effective transportation system;
8. Increase citizen satisfaction and trust in county government with efficient, effective and accountable public services;
9. Exercise sound financial management and build the County's fiscal strength;
10. Maintain a quality, diverse and innovative workforce and equip County employees with tools and technology they need to do their job safely.



The County Manager himself says that he has the following priorities:

1. Reform the criminal justice system and
2. Improve customer service for the communities.

He suggested that we check out two programs that the county is participating in:

a. Cradles to Crayons

<http://www.azcourts.gov/mediaroom/PressReleasesNews/CradletoCrayons.aspx>

b. The Smart Justice project of the National Association of Counties

<http://www.naco.org/programs/csd/pages/2013-smart-justice-symposium-.aspx>

Constitution REVOLUTION!

What Would YOU Do?

Submitted by Rivko Knox

“Create an Office of Ombudsmen!”

“Provide a Balanced Budget Amendment via an Interstate Compact!”

“Pass the Equal Rights Amendment!!”

“Revise the 5th Amendment: No Taking of Private Property Without a ‘Real’ Public Purpose!”

“Provide a National Right to Vote for All With Uniform Requirements!”

“Revise the 4th Amendment to Include On-Line & Phone Information.”

These were the panelist recommendations (one per speaker) for changes to the US Constitution at the LWVMP’s “Constitution Revolution!!” event, held November 5th at the League office. (Cont. next page.)

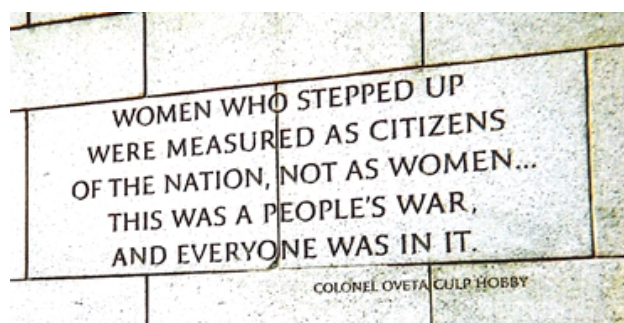
The event was kicked off by special guest Dr. Blair Henry, Executive Director of the People's Convention (www.thepeoplesconvention.org). He discussed his organization's project to revive interest in using a citizen's convention to amend the Constitution, as allowed for by Article V. Dr. Henry said that this organization has held many local workshops resulting in a 'meeting of the minds' of most attendees on what changes should be made to the Constitution. His group plans to start a nationwide campaign in the near future.

Then each of the panelists presented their suggestions for changes, along with the rationale for such.

* Margot Champagne, Immigration Attorney and LWVMP member, said that the Constitution didn't envision the gigantic number of bureaucrats that exist today, who wield significant authority over so many. Thus she felt that the creation of a Federal Ombudsmen who would respond to individual citizen complaints could be a way to address what she felt were major transgressions by federal employees, who would also be required to provide their names whenever they made decisions in dealings with citizens.

* Nick Dranias, Goldwater Institute Director of Public Policy Development and Constitutional Government, explained that a balanced budget amendment, similar to state constitution prohibitions about such, could be achieved using the concept of an interstate compact with 39 states needing to ratify this to be followed by Congressional action.

* Citing the impact of so many wonderful women in his own life, plus its 'almost ratification' (just three states short), Joseph Garcia, a former political reporter, and current instructor at the ASU Cronkite School of Journalism & Director of the ASU Morrison Institute for Latino Public Policy Center, stated it was time to finally enact the ERA into the Constitution!!!



* A clarification of the 5th Amendment to ensure that ‘takings’ by government really serve a public purpose vs. government being allowed to transfer such ‘takings’ to another private entity, was the recommendation of Michael Liburdi. Liburdi is an attorney with Snell and Wilmer who specializes in campaign finance law and election reform legislation, and he worked with LWV on the ‘Top Two’ initiative. He said that a Supreme Court decision in 2005 changed the standard for such takings by allowing a local government (in New London, Conn.) to ‘take’ property from one private owner and turn it over to another that the local government felt would be more advantageous for the overall community. Liburdi pointed out that the AZ Constitution prohibits the transfer of private property by government from one entity to another private entity.

* Doris Marie Provine, an LWV member who is also a Professor Emerita of Justice and Social Inquiry at the School of Social Transformation at ASU, spoke about the need for a Constitutional Amendment that would ensure a uniform voter registration standard for federal offices and guarantee a right to vote per se in the Constitution. She cited the recent creation in Mexico of an independent nonpartisan Electoral Institute that ensures such uniform rules, trains poll workers nationwide, limits campaigns to three months and limits funding, which has resulted in 95% of the citizens of Mexico being registered along with a very high voter turnout rate.

* Alessandra Soler, ACLU of AZ Executive Director since 1966, talked about the need to expand the coverage of the 4th Amendment, especially in light of so much information that has surfaced recently regarding the NSA & other governmental agencies AND the massive change in technology. She recommended that it be revised to ensure that ‘the right of persons to be secure ...’ covers cell phones, on line communication & other new technology.

Audience members also had opportunities to question the panel at the end of the presentation as well as to stay afterwards for one-on-one discussion. Refreshments were provided by LWVMP members. As one who attended, I found the entire evening to be extremely interesting as well as educational.

The Constitution has proven itself to be the most marvelously elastic compilation of rules of government ever written. *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Do not separate text from historical background. If you do, you will have perverted and subverted the Constitution, which can only end in a distorted, bastardized form of illegitimate government. *James Madison*

We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.
Abraham Lincoln