



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of METROPOLITAN PHOENIX

## MAY 2016 Calendar & Comments

### **Who's Running Things Around Here?**

Well, we hope all League members can be involved, of course! But at the LWVMP Annual meeting in early May, Board members for 2016 were nominated and confirmed. At the first Board meeting of those members, a President was chosen and an Acting Secretary appointed.

President:	Care Lengel
Secretary (Acting):	Andi Fetzner
Treasurer:	Lucy Kahlstrom
Liaison to LWVAZ:	Barbara Robertson
Advocacy Chair:	Rivko Knox
Voter Services:	Unfilled (Anne Pyron, nominated at the meeting, resigned from Board and will work instead on advocacy issues.)
Communications (Web):	Care Lengel
Newsletter & Librarian:	Alice Stambaugh (appointed, off-Board)

### **Other News from LWVMP/AZ Annual and Board Meetings**

1. The new LWVMP website, which Care Lengel spent hundreds of hours developing, is up and running. You can find it still at [lwvmetrophoenix.org](http://lwvmetrophoenix.org).  
There is now a "Members Only" page, which you reach separately, by going to [http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/members\\_only.html](http://lwvmetrophoenix.org/members_only.html). Here, you can find things like the member roster, bylaws, member guidebook, voter services kit, and more.
2. Our LWVMP Bylaws were revised fairly extensively, but primarily to make them easier to read. Two notable changes: The "Administrative Team" is now the "Board". Terms of service on that Board are now one year vs. two.

3. Our LWVMP membership continues to increase! Currently we have 97 members (an increase even from the Annual meeting).
4. Virtual Office/New Phone Number. By the end of June LWVMP and AZ plan to be out of the office on 24th Street. Several years have been spent archiving both State and local files stashed in 8 large file cabinets. Much has been tossed, and much will be donated to the Arizona Historical Society.
  - We are separating from LWVAZ in regard to phone/address/office staff. Jodi will no longer work for us as of the middle of June.
  - LWVMP will operate virtually, without a central physical location or office manager, now that it is easy to communicate and even have many meetings via social networking. The President now has an LWVMP cell phone.  
**OUR NEW NUMBER IS 602-999-0547.**
  - LWVMP has a new mailing address:  
**1155 S Power Rd, Suite 114-58, Mesa 85206**
  - LWVMP has rented a small storage unit for materials still needed--signs/banners, voting materials and files, etc.
5. Eric Ehst and Care Lengel were elected as LWVMP delegates to the State Council, which was held at the League office on April 30. Alison Brevard may be able to attend the National League Convention in D.C. LWVMP would help with costs.
6. Team reports showed how busy all our Teams were over the past year. The Phoenix Team had a number of interesting speakers on issues of the day; the East Valley Team has continued to educate at MCC and other locations on how Maricopa County government operates; and a revitalized Scottsdale League is beginning its study of Scottsdale City government by attending Council meetings and interviewing Council members.
7. Anne Pyron spoke provided a summary of her year's voter service and advocacy involvement, which has included press conferences and testimony to Legislative committees about various voting issues as well as voter registration events and she also mentioned being a witness to the forcible expulsion/arrest of a spectator in the House gallery!
8. There will be a **LWVMP Board training on June 2nd**, and a **Board Retreat on June 20th**, to plan for this coming year.

9. From the LWVAZ Annual Council and the LWVAZ Board meeting the next day:
- Invited guests spoke on characteristics of independent voters--their positions on issues are all over the map and so they could never mobilize as a "party"--and on the idea of getting all stakeholders in AZ to consider the use of excise taxes to support public education. This is done in a number of other states, apparently.
  - It was agreed that LWV Northwest Maricopa County will organize a Summit on Voter Suppression in 2017.
  - LWVAZ formally voted to support the Clean and Accountable Elections Ballot Initiative (originated by Arizona Advocacy Network). If passed in November it would provide for campaign finance disclosure and reduces caps on donations, mandates an end to showering office-holders/candidates with gifts, and a number of other items that would help make campaigns and candidates more honest and accountable to voters. **If interested in gathering signatures, please contact Rivko Knox at 6020430-5287 (cell).**
  - There will be a Senatorial Candidate Forum for the general election hosted by LWVAZ on **Monday, October 17, 2016, from 6-7 pm at Mesa Community College**. It will be broadcast live on a network of television and radio stations reaching voters statewide. Other stations will carry it on a delay basis within a few days. Volunteers will be needed and training will occur a week ahead.

## **Recent and Upcoming Team News and Events**

Phoenix: The May meeting was led by Barbara Price, a member of the Valley Interfaith Project (VIP). Members had an informative, at times passionate, discussion about sentencing reform.

- Among the topics that came up were: \* although County prosecutors say that 94% of criminals are 'repeat' offenders, crimes are often defined at the discretion of prosecutors (breaking into a vacant home could be defined as "violent", for example) and include sealed juvenile records and parole violations (including missing a meeting with a parole officer); \* in AZ, there are 27 types of violent crimes vs. only 5 such at the federal level; \*AZ laws are very 'aggressive & protective of' property; \* so many crimes are committed by persons with mental health or drug issues; \* in 2012, one in every 108 people in AZ was in prison; \* AZ has the 6th highest number of people in prison in the US per capita.

- Price would like to coordinate all the groups looking into this issue, perhaps by holding a 'summit' on sentencing reform, in which League members said they would be interested in participating.
- There is a small pilot transition program just approved in this year's budget for Maricopa County, to be modeled after the So. Regional Community Corrections Centers. Leaguers will be interested in a follow-up.

**Next meeting:** September 14, 9:30, at the Terraces, 16 St. north of Glendale.

**Scottsdale:** In addition to studying the Council and its meetings to determine what issues we might get more involved with, we have agreed to participate with AAUW in a **September 13th Running and Winning** event, to be held at Coronado H.S. in Scottsdale. **If you are interested in helping on that day, please contact Loree Janusz, our local League liaison for the event, at 480-483-3424.**

This very successful program encourages high school girls to consider public service/politics as a career. The girls are able to talk in small groups to past and current women in elected offices and they prepare their own mock campaigns in the afternoon, on a current issue.

**Next meeting:** June 9th, 9:30, at the home of Judy Levine, Via Linda and Hayden. Call 480-907-6800 for more info.

**East Valley:** **Book group discussion on Thursday, May 26, at 1 pm** (note time change), at Marge Thornton's home in Tempe (480-966-6053 for info).

The book is "Dark Money" and there are apparently quite a few Arizona connections which are of interest. "Rather revolting", is one comment that's been made, so hopefully that piques your interest!

There are currently no future meeting plans for the East Valley group.

**Women's Suffrage Event, August 26th.** Anne Guerrant of the Guerrant Foundation is organizing a coalition of Women's Groups to celebrate the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. We will serve as greeters and register attendees to vote. We may dress in costume! More info to be announced as it comes in.

## **NOTEWORTHY**

LWVAZ has gotten a lot of notice because we were the first organization to announce our opposition to education funding bill Proposition 123--on matters of principle and setting a

bad precedent for the Legislature to ignore voter mandates in the future. Good people can certainly disagree on this one. LWVAZ President Shirley Sandelands was on Public Television's *Horizon* program last week, explaining the position. See the link here: <http://video.azpbs.org/video/2365750941/>

---



Metropolitan Phoenix  
4423 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 500  
Phoenix, AZ 85016