

LWVMP February & March, 2016 C&C (Calendar & Comments)

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The LWVMP Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 16, 2016

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at The Terraces, 7550 N 16th St, Phoenix at Morten St.

Speaker: Tom Collins

Executive Director Citizens Clean Elections Commission

Look for a special C&C soon, devoted mainly to Annual Meeting information required by our ByLaws to be sent 30 days before the meeting. This will contain: a draft budget, names of new officers, bylaw changes and other important items.

Big News! LWVMP Returns to the 21st Century with a New & Improved Website **by Care Lengel**

By March, LWV Metro Phoenix members will receive word that our New and Improved LWVMP website is up and running! Having been offline for a year, this new site will offer lots of accessible League information and usable League links! Members will also get short introductions about how to use the Public site, the Members Only section, paying dues and donations online, plus the "League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix" page on Facebook. With this New and Improved LWVMP Website, we can easily update information. It will allow us to do League business and provide the public with plenty of Voter Information too! Be ready to test out the New and Improved LWVMP website as soon as we "Go Live" this month!

Spotlight: Meet Judy Levine, Membership Chair
Newest Members of the LWVMP Admin Team

After moving to Smithtown, NY in 1961, Judy joined the local League, which was one of the oldest in the state. She held most Board portfolios over the next ten years and also served as the local League's rep on the Suffolk County League. During the seventies, Judy became less active as she returned to the University for Masters degree and then employment as Speech/Language Pathologist for Special Needs students. However, Judy took on a new task writing a weekly column for two local weekly newspapers Republican and Democratic. The column was the same but was called "Leaguenotes" in one and "Lines from the League" in the other, so each felt they had something written just for them. Judy retired from teaching in 1994 and took on the Presidency of the local League during which time, the League doubled falling membership & started the first LWV website in the state. She then served on the NY State Board as Public Relations Director, setting up a program of assistance and sharing with local League PR directors across the state. Judy left the State Board after her term ended and returned to local League work. She was elected to the first Board of Trustees for the Town's new Independent library, serving until she moved to Arizona in 2003. Judy says "I look forward to renewing my League activity here, helping to build our membership and expand our reach throughout the area." And LWVMP is already indebted to Judy for her expertise, enthusiasm, and the initiation of a new Scottsdale unit.

What's Your Maricopa County Government IQ???
by Rivko Knox

Twenty-six LWVMP members and guests got a chance to find out what they knew -- and mainly didn't now -- about Maricopa County government at a Phoenix Community Team meeting held on January 13, 2016 at the Terraces. EV Team members Barbara Sherman and Sandy Kaszeta distributed a quiz about Maricopa County with 19 questions and a possible source of 52. What was the highest score? A mere 19 points, which did merit a bag of aromatic fair trade coffee for the 'winner,' though everyone also got a piece of chocolate for trying.

Questions included: a) What is the percentage of AZ's population residing in Maricopa County today? b) How many row officers do we elect in Maricopa County?; c) Are row officers appointed or elected?; d) And who is your County supervisor?; e) How many elected governing boards does Maricopa County have; f) Name the elected governing Boards in Maricopa County aside from the Board of Supervisors? AND not officially on the quiz but...what is a Row Officer???

(See below for answers).

Of course Barbara and Sandy knew all the answers and more about the County government and shared much with the rest of the attendees. B&S also asked for suggestions from those attending as to how to help the residents of Maricopa County

learn more about what is going on in the county. Suggestions included: contacting the AZRepublic to see if they would publish a monthly column about the County Board written by an LWVMP membe; contacting the Cronkite School of Journalism and encouraging them to assign a student to cover all County Board meetings and report on such; and getting a dedicated group of volunteers to agree to attend all County Board of Supervisors meetings and provide reports.

For more information about Maricopa County Government, invite the B&S 'show' to come to your next meeting OR if you are a member of other organizations, have them invite B&S to attend so we can make sure more 'eyes' are on the County government that impacts on all our lives, whether we live in an incorporated community or not!!

Answers:

a) 61%; b) 7; c) elected; d) look at your voter registration card and the google Maricopa County Board of Supervisors; e) 3; f) Community College Board and Health/County Hospital Board & a Row Officers is an independently elected position other than a member of the Board, e.g., the Sheriff!!

LWVMP at The Opening Day at the Legislature Rally!

by Anne Pyron & Rivko Knox

Thanks to the efforts of **Anne Pyron** working in coalition with Planned Parenthood, pro-education funding groups, and other progressive organizations, she, **Anne Schneider, Barbara Robertson and Rivko Knox** participated in a rally and march at the State Capitol on January 11, shortly before the Legislature convened. Holding terrific signs made by **Care Lengel** we walked, marched, attracted a lot of attention, had our pictures taken by many people, took some ourselves that were posted on our Facebook page, made several very interesting contacts, and Rivko got Morgan Loew of Channel 5 & part of the interview was aired at 5:00 that evening.

Photos from Anne

As it turned out, the Coalition, with 23 organizations planning the rally, realized too late their insurance coverage wasn't appropriate for this year's event. So, there was no formal 'spot' for us. However, without those signs, no one would have noticed LWV! So again, thanks Care. With your signs, LWV made a real splash and made LWV known! And of course the great thing is that we can now use those signs again and again.

Having Your Say with the AZ State Legislature - Request to Speak 2016
by Alice Stambaugh

The Legislature is truly off and running, and you have probably been receiving lots of info from various organizations about different bills covering a number of issues.

The STATE LWV follows bill on these main issues:

Voting Rights and Election Reform
Campaign Finance
Integrity of the Judiciary
Education

LWVAZ does not put out Action Alerts unless a bill has gone through Committee and is up for a final vote. However, you can be participate and/or be informed:

1. There is only ONE time that a person can testify about a bill in front of legislators--and this is at a Committee hearing. If you would like to make a written comment on a bill being heard in Committee, the Legislature has an online "Request to Speak" system (RTS). You may also sign up to come down to the Legislature to speak personally to the Committee during a hearing on a specific bill. Your comments, written or otherwise, become part of the permanent record. It is no longer necessary to go down to the Capitol to sign up for an RTS account. Here are the steps to take online:

Go to azleg.gov

Click on Request to Speak on the left bar

Click on Sign On (upper right hand corner)

Click on Create Account

Create the account with email, password and your name

Then you are ready to go!

Once you're there, take a look at Bill Status -- try out different tabs, pick a Committee & see what bills have been submitted. The agenda & calendar section are useful.

"Personal Progress" allows you to follow particular bills more easily over time. If you find a bill you would like to comment on, go back & click on "Request to Speak", enter the bill number & follow the instructions.

2. To get a general summary of bill status on a number of issues at once, you might be interested in subscribing to League member Anne Schneider's excellent *Arizona Newsletter Alerts*, via legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org. You can also check out Arizona Advocacy Network (AzAN) on Facebook that has a Bill Tracking & information sharing system. <http://freepdfhosting.com/498648e7a5.pdf>

A Field Trip to Scottsdale City Hall
by Paula McKey

On Thursday, January 14, Scottsdale unit members met with Vice Mayor David Smith at Scottsdale City Hall. Our purposes were to: a) introduce the LWV & ourselves to the Vice Mayor; b) become better informed citizens by increasing our knowledge of Scottsdale City government & current issues; and c) provide LWV information to Vice Mayor Smith.

Ten Leaguers attended. **Alice Stambaugh** provided Vice Mayor Smith & those attending with an interesting history and description of what the LWV is and does as an organization in the community. We learned that the City has approximately 2,500 employees. The recession did not cause any lay-offs of City staff. Any desired reduction in staff was managed with attrition.

The City is required by law to have a balanced budget. The General Fund is \$225,000,000. It is funded 50% by 1.65% sales tax, 10% from property taxes, and 40% by other sources such as collection of fees. The sales tax of 1.65% is imposed on food sales in Scottsdale. Additionally, 0.35% of the 1.65% sales tax is dedicated to the Preserve Fund. Water fees have been flat since 2006. Capital expenditures were reduced to manage reduced revenues during the recession.

The Council is divided regarding a vision for growth and development. The disagreement is with the type of growth. The Council is open to privatization of service provision if the performance will be as good or better than the City could provide and can be contracted for a lower price. Vice Mayor Smith used the example of contracting for ambulance services as an appropriate use of privatization of services. There is consensus within Council regarding the proposed non-discrimination ordinance with respect to employment and housing provisions. However, there is not a consensus regarding the “public accommodation” provision. This provision impacts private employers. The disagreement concerns the number of employees that an employer must have to require compliance with the ordinance.

Vice Mayor Smith suggested several ways that the LWV might become involved in Scottsdale city government. He stated that “dark money” was a concern not only at the federal and state level, but also at the local election level. The LWV might want to become involved with this issue. He also encouraged LWV members to apply for numerous boards and commissions; to attend and observe City Council meetings; and encouraged LWV members to consider running for office.

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (CCEC) Under Attack

by Rivko Knox

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission, created by a 1998 Citizens Initiative that was largely written by LWV and for which members all over the state helped to gather signatures, is at risk. Especially since the CCEC passed a disclosure requirement for dark money in November 2015, three things have happened.

1. The Secretary of State (SOS) has asked the Governor's Regulatory Review Commission (GRRRC) to require the CCEC to void that new rule stating that it has no authority over non-participating candidates.
2. The SOS's Office is requiring all Clean Election Candidates to electronically file every single Qualifying Contribution slip (& for statewide candidates organized by county, in a specific order) as well as submitting all the paper documents -- without stating a reason for this new onerous requirement OR providing scanning equipment to candidates,
3. The SOS is rewriting Chapter 6. Campaign Contributions & Expenses, of Title 16, Elections & Electors, that also includes the section re the CCEC. The stated goal is to develop a new campaign finance system that will be simpler, shorter, clearer & less burdensome BUT which will also increase dollar amounts for reporting, reduce reporting & will impact on what the CCEC does. The SOS will shortly introduce a bill to that effect.

As many of you know, a Dark Money Disclosure Initiative to amend the AZ Constitution was launched in January sponsored by Terry Goddard, a Democrat; Paul Johnson, an Independent; and Chuck Coughlin; a Republican, with another one likely to be released by AzAN. LWVAZ will be studying both of them to determine whether we will support, oppose or be neutral on either or both.

Alice Stambaugh and **Rivko Knox** attended the SOS's meeting to introduce these changes and **Rivko Knox** attends all CCEC meetings as an observer for LWVAZ, occasionally making statements with prior approval.

So please be on the look out for emails requesting LWV members contact the State Legislature and the Governor to preserve Clean Elections.

What Is a Presidential Preference Election (PPE)? Who Can Vote in AZ PPE?

Although AZ law requires open primaries (where any registered voter can vote for any party they choose), on **March 22**, AZ will hold a **PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENTIAL ELECTION** or PPE in which **only** persons registered as Democrats or Republican can vote. That means that over 30% of AZ's registered voters, who are registered as Independents, will **not** be able to participate. Be aware of this and spread the word to your friends, neighbors and relatives. NOTE: That's why there is no PRIMARY in the title of the PPE, which would open it up to all registered voters!!! Some important dates to keep in mind:

- * February 22 Last day to register or reregister for the PPE
 - * February 24 Early voting for the PPE beings.
 - * March 22 Presidential Preference Election
-

LWVMP Members Participate in The One Arizona Vote Summit
by Anne Pyron

On MLK Day, Jan. 18 at Carl Hayden High School, INSPIRE Arizona brought together a coalition of groups including Arizona Advocacy, Promise Arizona, Arizona Center for Empowerment, Central Arizonans for a Sustainable Economy (CASE), Crossroads Campaigns, Democracy Alliance and Nonprofit Vote, and Mi Familia Vota. The speakers and panelists featured U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego and leaders of the coalition groups. Among LWV members attending were the following from LWVMP: **Marge Thornton, Alice Stambaugh, Andi Fetzner** and **Anne Pyron**. There were also several members from around the state attending.

There were several choices of morning and evening breakout sessions, and the League members present covered: Clean Elections, Campaign Building, Simplifying Advocacy, Working With Different Leadership Styles, and Volunteer Recruitment and Team Building. The majority of the audience was young people who are involved in the political progress, starting with voter advocacy. The event culminated with attendees picking up clipboards with registration forms, ready to go register voters!!

LWVMP East Valley Team Helps Host a Tempe Council Candidates' Forum
by Barbara Sherman

Once again LWVMP members who live in Tempe will be helping the North Tempe Neighborhood Association host a candidates forum for the 2016 Tempe City Council race. The forum will be held on Wednesday, February 10, at 6 p.m. at Tempe City Hall. The forum will be televised on Tempe's Channel 11. Parking is available in the public parking garage east of City Hall on 5th St.

Community Teams - Will You Send More Teachers to
the AZ Dept. of Ed Civic Engagement Conference
by Care Lengel

This conference for social studies teachers and other educators is coming March 4, 2016, with keynote speaker and Arizona State Historian Marshall Trimble! Last year, LWVMP offered 7 scholarships to this event for teachers, more than any League in the state.

Now is the time to help teachers and other educators attend the 2016 conference with registration paid by LWVMP. We will coordinate with district contacts, LWV program coordinator Barb Knutson and AZ Dept. of Ed folk to arrange for teachers to attend.

LWVMP Admin Team will offer some scholarships from our Education Fund. Registration this year is \$60 per person. LWVMP Community Team members should notify **Care Lengel** now if you wish to offer additional scholarships as some did last year.

To donate to the LWVMP Education Fund for this worthy cause:

A) Go to Pay Pal through LWVAZ.org. Click on "LWV Metro Phoenix" on the right. When you see the map, scroll down and click below the words, "Donate to the LWVAZ Education Education Fund for 501(c)3 Activities earmarked for LWVMP."

B) Or give by check to LWVAZ Metro Phx Education Fund, 4423 N. 24th St. Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

East Valley Program Planning & Team Report **By Sandy Kaszeta**

The East Valley Team met on January 21 with **Karen Michael** leading the discussion on National Program Planning. During the introduction she shared that only about 50% of Leagues do National Program Planning and that full National positions are available in **Impact on Issues** available on-line. The 2014-2016 focus was on Key Structures of Democracy. This included:

1. A study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution.
2. A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of 40 years of change since the Watergate reforms.
3. A review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress for the purpose of developing an action plan.

Consensus on the first two issues is in the works and the national committee studying redistricting is examining positions already in place. They plan to prepare a concurrence statement.

The National Board has stated that it would like to continue to focus on Making Democracy Work during the 2016-2018 biennium, to include the three issues listed above and stressed that it is very important for the League that we concentrate on voting rights and voter participation. It was noted that the regular process of legislative priorities using current positions will continue. The National League provided a wide variety of statistics as to what the League does in the area of voter rights and voter participation. These can be found in **The Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2016-2018** which can be found on the National League website www.LWV.org

Discussion followed and then those present came to consensus on the Response Form:

1. Do you support the proposed focus, Making Democracy Work, for 2016—2018?
YES
2. Would you like to recommend another program item? NO
3. What LWVUS positions does your League use to take action at the state and local level? ANY THAT ARE APPLICABLE.
4. Comments: NONE.

Karen also completed the Program Planning Process Response, which provided to the Admin Team for action and submission to LWVUS.

Then **Barbara Sherman** and **Sandy Kaszeta** reported on the presentation on Maricopa County Government to the Phoenix Team. Finally, **Barbara Sherman** announced that the North Tempe Homeowner's Association will be holding a candidate forum for Tempe City Council candidates on February 10. League is invited to assist with the forum process.

December Holiday Luncheon a BIG Success:
Speaker Mary Jo Pitzl Shared Political Insight & Savvy
by Rivko Knox

In a room filled to capacity with almost 60 people, both members and guests; festive table decorations; a buffet that was a feast for the eyes as well as the taste buds; and an outstandingly informative speaker, LWVMP met on December 9, 2015 for our annual Holiday Luncheon, this year hosted by the Phoenix Community Team at the Terraces.

None of this would have been possible without LWVMP member **Beverly Weiss**, who not only arranged the entire event with the Terraces and helped publicize it but also managed to get six Terrace residents to participate. Some indicated that they were interested in learning more about LWV or in joining the League. Luncheon guests found general League information, Education Fund donation requests and membership forms at each place setting. Further, LWVMP did collect some food donations plus checks for the Desert Mission Food Bank.

Additional thanks go to: coordinators **Barbara Robertson** and **Rivko Knox**; **Allison Brevard** and **Anne Pyron**, who handled the check-in table; **Anne** and **Care Lengel** who provided the League materials; and **Anne Pyron**, again, who brought all the donations to the Desert Mission Food Bank after the event

Our exceptional speaker was Mary Jo Pitzl, Legislative and Politics reporter for the *Republic* since 1980 and a very frequent participant on PBS's Friday night "Horizon" program. She spoke about "Predictions for the 2016 AZ Legislative Session & the May 17 Special Election." Pitzl provided many glimpses into Arizona politics 2016. Among other topics, she said:

- Although AZ got a new Governor in 2014 (Doug Ducey) the partisan split in the Legislature remained the same. Since he took office, Ducey has been trying to rebrand AZ as a serious place in which businesses can flourish. He even hired a marketing firm to rebrand and market AZ, the very same firm he used when he took over Cold Stone Creamery.

- The Governor's stated goal is to shrink government in all ways, by reducing the number of separate agencies plus cutting taxes each and every year. Pitzl said early-on Ducey established a good working relationship with the Legislature, especially with Senate President Andy Biggs. Biggs was characterized as probably the most powerful person in the Legislature and the author of very severe cuts to the universities, going beyond what Ducey requested and cutting **TANF???** to one year, the shortest time frame of any state in the country. Governor Ducey is very focused on running AZ government like a business. He has appointed several agency heads directly from the private sector and has moved the legislative agenda at a fast pace, resulting in one of the shortest legislative sessions in AZ's history in 2015.

- Pitzl predicted that one of Ducey's goals for 2016 would be to have an even shorter legislative session, as he hopes to focus his efforts – and the public's attention – on the passage of Proposition 123 at the May 17 special election. Prop. 123 would allow the channeling of more money from the Land Trust Permanent Fund to education for the next 10 years. Prop 123, Pitzl pointed out, was rushed through a Special Session of the Legislature and is not likely to encounter any significant opposition because it is supported by so many education groups.

- Regarding 2016, Pitzl predicted that there will be no **new** money for schools, except for enrollment growth. Also, the Governor will 'set the agenda' at his State of the State address in early January, which is likely to include: body cameras and privacy issues, and education funding reform. Ducey's agenda may also well include election reform, including who can collect mail-in ballots and focusing again on 'integrity' vs. voter suppression. Other priorities could include private prisons, pension reform and perhaps sentencing reform – which, it was noted, will make for an interesting argument between conservatives and fiscal hawks. Regarding likely ballot measures for the November 2016 election, Pitzl said marijuana reform is very likely to make the ballot, resulting in a very robust public debate and with a lot of money being spent on both sides of the argument. In addition, Pitzl predicted that a version of the Open Primary ballot measure (Top Two) is likely to appear on the ballot next year, probably in conjunction with some reforms for the use of dark money in campaign finance.

Pitzl then responded many questions including:

- * the role of the Democratic Party – not significant; Ducey co-opted education, which is usually a major Democratic issue.

- * Ducey's philosophy regarding public employees – there will be no pay raises for the vast majority of employees though several agency heads, especially new ones, are highly paid.

* the Diane Douglas recall – it will not happen.

* divisive social issues in the 2016 Legislative session – Cathy Herod (Center of Public Policy) did not get anything major last year so she may try again. But because Ducey is sensitive to the state's public image, religious freedom bills are less likely to come up again although it is likely there will be attempts to allow guns in public buildings and college/university campuses.

* how League can get more stories to be covered -- The *Republic*, like all papers, is undergoing major changes, i.e., from print to digital with a 24/7 news cycle. It is not unusual now for information *originating* on various social networks to be covered second hand by the *Republic*. Thus LWV needs to use social media like Facebook to inform and grab the attention of the public and the media.

* energizing independent voters— Pitzl said that all studies show they are much more likely to vote in a presidential election but there is no guarantee that they will vote "down ballot", and though some ballot measures will get them to the polls, they may not vote for other offices.

* polls – "IF" they are done properly (and many are not) they are accurate; however it is important to note that they are only a 'snapshot' in time.

Want An Exciting Summer Adventure?

Want An Exciting Summer Adventure that includes: meeting & talking with interesting people, listening to well-known experts share their views on current political/policy issues, helping guide the future of the League of Women Voters of the US AND eat, drink and be merry?? If this interests you, please begin considering volunteering to be a delegate to the LWV US National Convention to be held June 16-19 in Washington D.C. To learn more please go to: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2016>

COMMUNITY TEAMS

(Anyone can attend any team, anywhere!!)

East Valley. The Feb 18 EV Team meeting, to be held at Marge Thornton's home, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. will be a working session to help prepare for the course on Maricopa County Government that will be presented on April 4 and 18 at the Surprise campus of Rio Salado College. (Brown bag lunches are recommended).

The meeting concluded with an announcement from Barbara Sherman that the North Tempe Homeowner's Association will be holding a candidate forum for Tempe City Council candidates on February 10. League is invited to participate. Next meeting: Thursday, February 18, at 11:30 a.m. at Marge Thornton's. Bring a brown bag lunch. The meeting will be a working session on Maricopa County Government study.

Phoenix. The Team will meet on Wed., Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. (coffee etc.), 10 -11:30 a.m. a presentation on "Bills, Bills, Bills...Who Will Live, Who Will Die, Who Will Impact on us HOW???" by Dr. Anne Schneider, former Dean of the ASU School of Public Programs, author of the three papers on Constitutional Conventions, Money in Politics & Redistricting that the Phoenix Team studied last year; & also the editor of a weekly Unitarian Universalist "AZ Alert"

Scottsdale: On Thurs., Feb. 11, the Scottsdale unit will be meeting at the home of Judy Levine, 8155 E. Del Caverna Dr. at 10:30 am. The first half of the program will be a report/discussion of the January League visit to Scottsdale City Hall and meeting with Deputy Mayor David Smith, with a view to area in need of League study/activity.

At 11:30 **Alice Corpstein**, long time resident/historian of Scottsdale will give a presentation of the significant changes she has lived through. She is on the Scottsdale Historical Society Board & gives tours of the museum/downtown area. Coffee and other beverages will be served as well as a light lunch of quiche & salad to augment the bbls (brown bag lunches) we usually bring.

Please RSVP to **Judy, 480 9097-6800** or judlev2@gmail.com .

In Memoriam: In early January, Jo Ann Pedrick who came to the Dec. holiday luncheon, was known to many EV Team members & was a LWV members in the past, passed away. Our condolences to her family.