

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS METRO PHOENIX

## Scottsdale Team

**Meeting Date** December 14, 2017 at 9:30 am at the home of Gerry Corey.

**Members Present:** **Gerry** Corey (Host), **Pat** Bauer, **Ethel** Demarr, **Loree** Janusz, **Dale** Kalika, **Judy** Levine, **Diana** Love, **Paula** McKey, **Diana** Nashban, **Joanne** Pamperin, **Doris** Perlmutter, **Alice** Stambaugh, **Solange** Whitehead, and **Katie** Wilke.

**Agenda 1** - We **welcome** new Scottsdale team member **Solange** Whitehead.

**Agenda 2** – The **November 9, 2017 minutes** were approved by consensus, with the following correction: add Martha O'Connor to Members Present.

**Agenda 3** – Our speaker, **Solange Whitehead**, a former member of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, gave a brief history of the DDC at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Twenty years ago, the discussion of a DDC (Desert Discovery Center) gained interest and support from the Tourism Department. The DDC was built into the Gateway Trailhead. There is original documentation for the original DDC. The same financial interests that didn't want the Preserve, i.e. Developers, do not want the proposed 4,000 contiguous acres added to the Preserve. There is no data to support more tourism. Feedback shows that returning tourists want to see the wilderness. 65-98% of Scottsdale citizens oppose the DDC/DE development. The proposed DDC/Desert Edge breaches the ordinance. The continuing annual expenses of the Museum of the West are \$4 million with an annual loss of \$2 million. The DDC/DE projected annual operating cost is \$6.3 million. The maintenance of the DDC/DE could bankrupt the City.

As a member of the group, Protect Our Preserve, Solange states that a new charter amendment is needed so that the City Council can't approve the DDC on the Preserve without a public vote. The Protect our Preserve strategy is a new (reworded) Initiative that requires 35,000 signatures. It states "Any development of the Preserve will have to be approved by the voters." Sam Campana has hired all paid circulators and tried to hire their attorney. POP has the same attorney as Save Our Schools.

When Council member David Smith was the City Treasurer, he used to remark that there was no way that tax money should be used for development. Council members Korte, Millhaven, and Smith do not support a public vote. The opinions of Mayor Jim Lane and Councilwoman Klapp (a future mayoral candidate) are not yet clear. Council members Phillips and Littlefield are not inclined to spend money on this project. Solange does not believe that the Council would vote against the DDC/DE on the Preserve. Solange plans to run for City Council. **Dale** Qs – How many citizens are aware of DDC and MSP? A survey of 3-5% of the population, or around 10,000

citizens, would have been helpful. How does it personally impact citizens? Who are the stakeholders? The continued fundraising for the DDC/DE will take tourism dollars away from downtown. **Alice** would like a fact sheet that lists issues such as the debt, the additional 4,000 acres, the future project campaign promises, etc. Protect Our Preserve pact members include Howard Myers, B Janik, Solange, and Kaye. Former Mayor, Mary Manrose, will be their spokesperson. One way to spread word about the citizens' initiative could be through "Nextdoor", a neighborhood communication website.

**Agenda 4 – Advocacy Update – Alice.** Cindy Hans, LWV Chandler representative from ODM campaign, Rivko, Anne Pyron and Alice are the LWV Lobbyists.

**Agenda 5 – Outlaw Dirty Money (ODM) Petitions – Alice.** Nearly 300,000 signatures are needed. Alice referred to Robert Robb's recent column in the Republic and recommended reading the book Dark Money by Jane Mayer. She also read a relevant quote by Justice Scalia, recommending that we make it available to potential petition signers. \*

Alice provided the following handouts:

HO#1 – Fast Facts – What is "dirty money?"

HO#2 – What is the Outlaw Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment

HO#3 – General Tips for gathering signatures and Compliance Guidelines  
(Do not sign your own petition.)

HO#4 – Frequently Asked Questions.

**Agenda 6 – Announcements – Alice.** Anne Schneider – UU Legislative Day, District 23, February 21. Looking for volunteers. Wednesday, February 7 is LWV Legislative Day. Breakfast, Lunch. Registration is required. Alice provided a Handout for the February 7<sup>th</sup> Faith Community Environmental Day at the Legislature.

**Next Meeting is Thursday, January 11 at 9:30 am at Judy Levine's home. Allegra Fullerton from AZ Schools 101 will be our speaker.** Doris Perlmutter is the backup for meeting location.

*Minutes Prepared by: Katie Wilke Final 1-8-2018*

\*To accurately refer to this quote: In the 2010 Doe vs. Reed case, regarding disclosure of petition signatures, the Court ruled "that disclosure under the PRA (Public Records Act) would not violate the First Amendment with respect to referendum petitions in general..." In his Concurring opinion, Justice Scalia wrote, "*Requiring people to stand up in public for their political acts fosters civic courage, without which democracy is doomed. For my part, I do not look forward to a society which, thanks to the Supreme Court, campaigns anonymously (McIntyre) and even exercises the direct democracy of initiative and referendum hidden from public scrutiny*"

*and protected from the accountability of criticism. This does not resemble the Home of the Brave.”*