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The Voter

February 2016

<http://nwmc.az.lwvnet.org/>

Transportation Made Simple

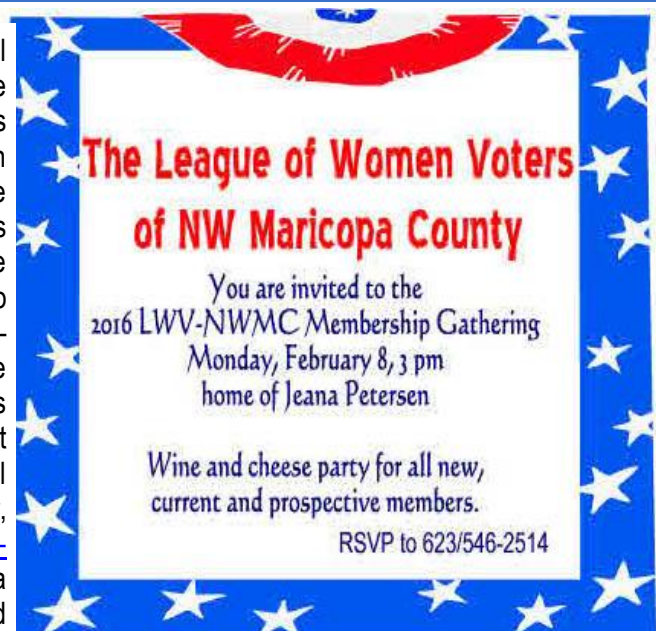
---is the theme of the presentation scheduled at 9:30 am on Thursday, February 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Avenue of the Arts in Surprise. Kathy Chandler, Executive Director and Certified Mobility Manager will inform us about transportation needs and services in the west valley, focusing in Northwest Valley Connect (NVC), a non-profit transportation coordination service.

Northwest Valley Connect is a resource which directs community residents of all ages to available public, private and volunteer transportation resources based on individual needs. Their call center is staffed by specially trained operators providing friendly and free guidance to help residents choose transportation options in the area. Beyond that, NVC fills identified gaps in transportation services for seniors with a unique solution using paid and volunteer drivers. NVC aims to facilitate awareness of transportation options to optimize the use of existing resources while providing new options for the community to address unmet needs. Plan to attend to learn about NVC and invite your friends to join you!

And, there is more --

We are pleased to announce an addition to our February 25th General Meeting. Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan has asked to meet with our league for the first time. Ms. Reagan will talk to us after Kathy Chandler makes her presentation.

All new, existing or potential members, are invited to the wine and cheese party. This is an informal social event to learn more about our history and the variety of services and programs the League offers. There are many benefits to membership including leadership development opportunities. Just because we take on the important issues facing our communities does not mean we have to be serious all the time. Call membership chair, Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, [623-546-2514](tel:623-546-2514) to RSVP. Please bring a friend, come to socialize and have fun.





President's Message

I want to thank the 19 members who participated in the LWV/US consensus on Money in Politics. We had a lively discussion and reached consensus on most of the questions. I will send the report to the LWV/US before February 1st. Also I want to thank Judy Dreskin for allowing members to come to her home for this Unit Meeting and for providing fruit, cookies, and beverages for us.

Please come and bring your non-member friends to the Membership Meeting on Monday, February 8th at the home of Jeana Petersen. See page one for Bonnie Boyce-Wilson's article about the Membership Meeting.

Bonnie will also facilitate the General Membership Meeting on Transportation Issues on Thursday, February 25th. See page 1 for her article on this meeting.

The February Unit Meeting will be at the home of Diane Smith on February 9th. The discussion will focus on program planning for the LWV/US and our own League. Bring your brown bag lunch at noon and share Diane's cookies, beverages, and conversation with other League members. At 1:00 p.m., Lois Brechner and I will discuss with you some LWV/US issues in preparation for the LWV/US Convention in Washington, DC in June. Prepare for a two-hour meeting because we hope to have a speaker on local voting issues -- if so, more on that later.

In cooperation with the **SC/WV NOW**, here is information on that organization's next meeting:

What: Talk on human sex trafficking. Topics to be discussed are what is sex trafficking; where it is, globally, nationally, and locally, including on Indian Reservations; what organizations are involved; and how to help and end human trafficking.

Who: Nancy Ash of Mercies New

When: Wednesday, February 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Where: UU Church, 17540 N Avenue of the Arts, Surprise

BONNIE SAUNDERS

COMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY & March

Mark your calendar!



Monday, Feb. 8th - Membership Gathering - 3 pm. Wine, cheese and conversation Home of Jeana Peterson

Tuesday, Feb. 9th - Unit Meeting - LWV/US Program Planning for Convention and local program planning. Home of Diane Smith.

Thursday, Feb. 25th - General Meeting - 9:30 am. Speaker on Transportation. plus a visit and conversation with Michele Regan, AZ Sec. of State. UU Church.

Tuesday, Mar. 1st - T-shirt orders due to Carol Mattoon

Monday, Mar. 15 - Nominations due to Valerie Ellien for You Make a Difference Award

Tuesday, Mar. 16 - Unit Meeting - . Civic Engagement Report
Home Of Barbara Knutson, brown bag lunch at noon; meeting at 1 pm.

Thursday, Mar. 25 - General Meeting - 9:30 am. Speaker on Water Issues:
Organized By Diane Smith And Darnell Kirksey
Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378

PLEASE NOTE: Items for the March newsletter should be contributed no later than February 25th to Joye Kohl, editor, (joyeebk - AT- gmail.com). Thank you.

You Make A Difference: Calling for Nominations



Each year a member is selected to receive the "You Make A Difference" award in recognition of their special contributions to the League of Women Voters. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the LWV/NWMC in April. Please submit your nomination for this award by March 15.

Please include your specific rationale for why you believe your nominee deserves this special honor. Previous winners are not eligible for the award again (check your directory for the list). Your nomination must be in a written form and needs to include your name, even though all nominations will be kept confidential.

Please e-mail or mail nominations to Valerie Ellien:

Email: vellien@msn.com or mail to her home address (see directory for address).

Important Election Dates in 2016

Monday, February 22: Deadline to register to vote in the Presidential Preference Election.

Note: Those of you not registered with a political party will need to register with the political party of your choice if you want to vote in its "closed" Presidential Preference Election. You can always re-register afterwards back to "no party preference," if that is your "thing."

Wednesday, February 24: Early voting begins in the Presidential Preference Election.

Tuesday, March 22: Arizona Presidential Preference Election.

Monday, April 18: Deadline to register to vote in the May Special Election for Prop. 123 (Education Funding Inflation Adjustment Settlement).

Wednesday, April 20: Early voting begins in the May Special Election for Prop. 123 (Education Funding Inflation Adjustment Settlement).

Tuesday, May 17: Special Election for Prop. 123 (Education Funding Inflation Adjustment Settlement).

Wednesday, June 1: Last day to file candidate nomination petitions.

Thursday, July 7: Last day to file constitution and initiative petitions.

Wednesday, July 13: Last day to file arguments for or against ballot measures (General Election).

Thursday July 21: Last day to file as a write-in candidate for the Primary Election.

Monday, August 1: Deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election. Note: Those of you not registered with a political party will need to request a primary ballot for the party of your choice.

Wednesday, August 3: Early voting begins in the Primary Election.

Tuesday, August 30: Primary Election.

Thursday, September 29: Last day to file as a write-in candidate for the General Election.

Monday, October 10: Voter registration deadline for General Election.

Wednesday, October 12: Early voting begins in the General Election.

Tuesday, November 8: ELECTION DAY.

A New Progressive Radio Program: A great way to keep on top of the issues as they develop is to tune in to a new radio program "the Sam Kelly Show" on 1480 am weekdays from 3-5 pm where you'll hear legislative updates, local and national guests, talking about the issues that impact you here at home! Sam Kelly, aka as Sam Wercinski of Arizona Advocacy Network, will take your calls live at [602-252-1480](tel:602-252-1480) because *your opinion matters!*

Get-Out-The-Vote T-Shirts

To help encourage citizens to get educated about the candidates and proposals, and then let their voices be heard by getting-out-and-voting this year, our League has designed and is placing an order for T-shirts for us all to wear and help spread the word. We will be walking billboards for the cause. We can wear them to the grocery store, to exercise, to meetings, registering voters, etc. For instance, when Leaguers attend events, they can make their presence known by all wearing the same shirts. And when registering voters, this makes Leaguers easy to recognize. Many of us have found that our "message" T-shirts are an excellent way for folks to initiate a conversation with us.

The shirts will be a quality white T with patriotic red and royal blue printing. They will have one design on the front and a different design on the back along with the League of Women Voters name.

Front: Back:



~League of Women Voters~

**Your VOTE
Is Your Voice**

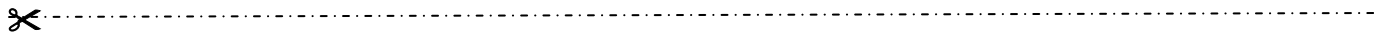


~League of Women Voters~

If you would like to order one (or more), you have two choices:

- **\$10 per shirt** 50/50 blend, Gildan brand
 - **\$11 per shirt** 100% cotton, American made, Bayside brand
- we can mix the order between the two types*

To place your order for one or more of these super cool shirts, fill in the coupon below and send or give it to Carol Mattoon, 19402 N. Willowcreek Circle, Sun City, AZ 85373, 623-815-1019.



Please place order by March 1, 2016

Name _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail address _____

Size and number of shirts wanted:

50/50 blend: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ 2-3 X (\$3 more) _____

100% Cotton Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ 2-3 X (\$3 more) _____

Total number of shirts _____

Total cost _____

Please make checks out to LWV-NWMC



West Valley Education Forum - "School Success Begins at Birth"

Babies are born with 100 billion neurons but need adult's help to develop the network of connections between those neurons. If you are a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, caregiver, teacher or policy-maker, you need to watch the video of the keynote address at the WV Education Forum.

In this video (link below), Dr. Debbie Pischke provides valuable information, insight and guidance into ways to facilitate a young child's brain development. There were two video clips she used which did not come through on the video of the presentation. Don't turn off at that point, just forward through the two short sections. The first missing clip is from 7:42-12:33 and the second is from 16:07-19:13. The information is worth it. The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ltTiryUGWQ>.

We all have a role to play in facilitating a young child's brain development was the message extended at the forum in Surprise, AZ Thursday, January 28th.

Since 90 percent of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten, the early experiences affect whether their brain will develop in ways that promote optimal learning. So reading, talking, singing and playing with young children from infancy is critically important in their brain's development added Pischke.

The speaker adeptly led the audience through an analysis of many of the complex things children must learn. One of the illustrations was learning to be able to decode the differences in the meaning of items such as a chair or the letter "d" shown in four different orientations.

Pischke, Director of the Early Childhood Program in the Peoria Unified School District, explained in a variety of ways the three critical skills associated with executive function: a working memory, inhibitory control and cognitive flexibility. Executive function might be compared to the air traffic controller of our brain she said. To illustrate inhibitory control (or ability to delay gratification) she showed a video clip of a marshmallow test with young children. Sharing research findings which show how important that ability to delay gratification is for children, she noted that children who have better impulse control have more activity in the frontal lobe, are less likely to require special education later in school, score 200 points higher on SAT test scores and are less likely to require later government assistance.

The screen time of young children has a detrimental impact on the attention span of young children noted Pischke. While in 1970, television exposure was generally very limited for children of four years of age, today three month old babies are being exposed to television and other digital screen devices. That exposure, especially before age two, is related to increased attention disorder by the age of seven she added.

In the follow-up discussion, a lively interactive discussion occurred among general attendees, the keynote speaker, and professionals representing cosponsoring organizations. Audience members explored and shared their concerns for the difference between our knowledge of early childhood learning needs and the public policies in existence.

The forum, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of NW Maricopa County, was cosponsored by First Things First - NW Regional Council, Children's Action Alliance, Expect More Arizona, AZSOS (Support Our Schools), Bringing Up Arizona, SW Human Development, Dysart Community Center, the Dysart, Peoria and Nadaburg Unified School Districts, the Buckeye and Litchfield Elementary School Districts, AAUW-NW Valley Branch, Dysart ASSET, Marley Park PTA and the West Valley Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association



PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE ELECTION "NOT YOUR NORMAL ELECTION"

Are you an Independent or a Party Not Designated Voter?

If so, and you want to vote in the Presidential Preference Election on March 22, 2016, you **MUST** temporarily re-register with either the Democratic, Republican, or Green Party by February 22. **This is the only way you will be able to vote for your presidential candidate of choice.**

The Presidential Preference Election is a unique election with its own set of rules because the election is solely for registered voters of specific political parties to cast their votes for their candidate preference for the Office of President. Since 1/3 of Arizona voters are registered as Independents, it is important that we all spread the word that they can vote in this election if this one regulation is followed. Your vote can have a significant impact on the outcome of this election! Once this election is over, you can always re-register back to your original party choice.

The deadline fast approaches for a process that will enable you to vote in this election.

Here are the five steps required to temporarily change your party designation:

1. You will need to re-register by February 22, 2016, to be eligible to vote in this election. The change can be made on the form obtained online at www.maricopa.vote or www.arizona.vote, or in person, or by mail.
2. The Presidential Preference party choices are either Democratic, Republican, or Green.
3. You should call **602-506-1511** to confirm the party change has been made and to request a ballot.
4. In order to change back to your original party choice, you will need to re-register anytime after the election. Make sure you select or write your party choice on the form; do not leave the party space blank.
5. It is recommended that another call should be made to confirm the change.
If you would like more information, please call **602-506-1511** or visit <http://www.azsos.gov/elections/voting-election/election-information> or re-register at servicearizona.com.

Presidential Preference Election Q & A - March 22, 2016

What is a presidential preference election (PPE)? The PPE election is solely for voters registered within a specific political party to specify their preference for a candidate of their political party for the Office of President.

Is the presidential preference election a primary? No, the PPE is not a primary election. The primary election will be held on August 30, 2016 and will **not** contain presidential/vice presidential candidates.

Can independent voters cast a vote in the presidential preference election? No, only voters registered with a participating political party may vote in the PPE.

I'm on the permanent early voter list. Will I still get my early ballot for the presidential preference election? Yes, **IF** you are registered with a participating party, you will automatically receive an early mail-in ballot if you are already signed up to receive an early ballot.

Will my polling place be the same for the presidential preference election as it is for all other elections? Polling place locations are always subject to change, no matter what election is being held. For the PPE elections, polling places are consolidated. Make sure to check where your polling location is on [VoterView](#) before Election Day.



Be informed, Be heard, Your VOTE is Your Voice

