

The Voter

LWV/NWMC

October 2016

President's Letter

Since Joye Kohl will not return to Sun City West until later in October, I thought I would send out a brief Newsletter to let members know what is coming up in the LWV/NWMC. Look forward to Joy's more professional Newsletters after she returns.

This year, the LWV/US Convention, with the theme of "Making Democracy Work for All," was held in Washington, DC on June 16th-19th. There were 686 delegates from 48 states, DC, and the Virgin Islands. There were six delegates from AZ, all of them from Tucson except for me. It was my 6th convention in a row and I went to one in 1992.

Every time the Convention is held in DC, my husband and I take the opportunity to travel across the country by RV and visit relatives and friends back East. This year, we visited our older daughter in FL, our two brothers and sisters-in-law in NC and PA, and our best friends in CT. Since I had never been and since we had an extra day with nowhere else particular to go, I also toured the Museum of the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, NY. Here I am in front of that Museum.



My husband and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this June. We crossed the country on I-10 and went to FL to visit our older daughter. When we arrived at her home, not only was she there but our younger daughter from CA had flown across the country to celebrate that anniversary! What a delightful surprise that was!!

As we have done each time the Convention has been held in DC, we camped at an RV park in MD. It offers a bus ride to the DC Metro Station and I took advantage of this every day of the Convention. Because of being camped so far out, however, I did not participate in any of the caucuses or other after-hours meetings at the Convention so I missed out on some of the substance.

The outside speakers were excellent. Jennifer Lawless, Director of the Women and Politics Institute at American University, spoke about how to promote voting among **millennials**.

Amanda Taub, who reports for Vox News and *The New York Times*, spoke about the parallels between American **authoritarianism** and the European version. She discussed authoritarian values, including striking predilections for strong leadership, societal order, respect for older people, obedience to authority, good manners, racial and religious profiling, use of the military rather than diplomacy, a national ID card, and ending birthright citizenship. People who subscribe to authoritarian values usually fear change and "the other."

NPR Reporter Peter Overby talked about **women in politics**. After his talk, we had a major discussion about how to deal with Hillary Clinton as the Democratic Candidate for President without being partisan about it and how to answer questions about her. We can talk about the historic nature of her candidacy as the first woman to be nominated by a major political party, but we must NOT express explicit support for her. We reiterated that we MUST be nonpartisan about it. However, we can discuss the inciteful and hateful rhetoric that we have heard. We can cite our principles and seize the opportunity to stand up for our positions on issues without connecting them with candidates.

Delegates voted to change the first word under Bylaws Article III. MEMBERSHIP. Sec.2. Types of Membership. A. Voting Members. from "Citizen" to "Persons." There was a motion to eliminate completely the age requirement for membership in Bylaws Article III. MEMBERSHIP. Sec. 2. Types of Membership but it failed. Subsequently, the delegates voted to change the age of allowable membership from 18 to 16. The age issue was the only major controversy of the entire Convention!

Delegates voted to adopt the proposed LWV/US Program for 2016-2018: "Campaign for Making Democracy Work." Delegates voted to maintain all of our positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. Those positions are available to read on-line or in *Impact on Issues, 2014-2016*.

Delegates adopted the LWV/US Board-recommended concurrence on Redistricting. The summary of this position reads: "Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation." The full position will be in the next iteration of *Impact on Issues*. I can show you that position if you want to read it. [Page 32 of Convention Workbook.]

Delegates agreed to concurrence with the LWV/Colorado's position on Behavioral Health, which includes Mental illness and substance use disorder in the definition; calls for access for all people to affordable, quality in- and -out patient care, including medications and support services; integration with and equality of behavioral health care and physical health care; and early and affordable diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents.

Delegates approved several resolutions. In the wake of the Orlando shooting, one resolution emphasized our position on gun control and another supported restoration of funding for CDC research on the impact of gun violence. A resolution reiterated the strong League support for statehood for the District of Columbia. Two environmentally related

resolutions expressed support for the U.S. ratification of the UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change and for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan to bring CO2 levels down to no more than 350 ppm by 2100.

Chris Carson, who has been the liaison between the LWV/AZ and the LWV/US and who attended the LWV/AZ Convention in 2015, was elected President. We plan to invite her to our LWV/AZ 2017 Convention in April.

The LWV/US Convention 2018 will be June 28th-July1st at the Hilton Chicago in Chicago, IL. The first Call to Convention will be sent out in October 2017.

The LWV/NWMC Meeting List on a later page will also be in the Membership Directory, which will be passed out to members at the Kick-Off Breakfast. Any changes will be noted in future Newsletters.

BONNIE SAUNDERS

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Kick-Off Breakfast, Thursday, October 13, 2016

Come to our Kick-Off Breakfast, beginning at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 13th at the home of Jeana Petersen. As most of you know, Jeana is a superb and gracious hostess and events at her home are always enjoyable!

Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, former LWV/AZ President and our current MLD coach, will attend and have words of wisdom for us in our quest for growth in membership and leadership. We will also talk about the two ballot propositions; copies of the LWV/AZ Voter Guides will be available. We hope many members will come -- bring prospects if you know someone who is interested in the League.

As soon as possible (deadline M:10/10), R.S.V.P. to me if you will be attending this Breakfast. Jeana will need to have some idea about attendance. Bring interested prospective members -- this is a great meeting to get acquainted with the League.

BONNIE SAUNDERS

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Attention:
Permanent Unit Meeting Location
League Year: 2016-2017

Our new home for Tuesday Unit Meetings is: NORTH COUNTY FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT STATION #103, TRAINING ROOM, 13431 W Deer Valley Road, Sun City West: Formerly SCW Fire Station located at the intersection of 135th and Deer Valley Road. There is plenty of parking off Deer Valley Road. The entrance to the Training Room is next to the flag pole.

The **format** for the member meetings will remain the same:

Lunch & Social Hour -- Noon to 1:00 pm

Meeting/Presentation -- 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Board Meeting will follow Unit meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION WITH THE FOLLOWING:

REQUIREMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

Prohibited Activities:

- Blocking emergency bays and vehicles is strictly prohibited *park only in designated areas*
- No alcoholic beverages permitted; No tobacco or tobacco products allowed
- Only guide or service dogs allowed in meeting room

Food and Beverages:

- No beverages are available, YOU must bring your own unless otherwise noted our emails.
- The District does not provide ANY food utensils or beverage cups, etc.
- Come fully prepared to have a *"picnic style" lunch inside.*
- We shall leave the training room as we found it - SPOTLESS!

For the November meeting we will provide coffee and water only.

If you have any questions, call Susan Penner at 623-584-6818.

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LWV/AZ Update and Consensus on AZ Election Laws

At the Unit Meeting: 11/15: noon-2:00 p.m.: We will discuss the following questions and try to achieve consensus on them.

1. League supports **automatic voter registration** and **universal automatic registration** as long as concerns over registering non-citizens and others who are ineligible to vote are addressed.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

2. League supports **election day registration** if the process includes steps to address potential fraud.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

3. League supports **permanent portable registration** if the process includes steps to address potential fraud.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

4. League supports **online registration** if the process includes steps to address potential fraud.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

5. League supports **early voting in person and by mail** if the process includes steps to address potential fraud and to be inclusive of and accessible for all segments of society.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

6. League supports **voting centers** if the process includes steps to address potential fraud and provides enough Centers to make voting accessible to all.

___ Strongly disagree ___ Disagree ___ Neutral/no consensus ___ Agree ___ Strongly agree

LWV/NWMC SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016-2017

Unit Meetings: To be held this League year at the Sun City West Firehouse, 13431 W. Deer Valley Rd (corner of 135th Avenue and Deer Valley) on 11/15/16, 1/10/17, 2/14/17, and 3/14/17. Brown Bag lunch from noon-1:00 p.m., followed by discussion from 1:00-2:00 p.m., followed by the Board Meeting from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.. See below for topics of discussion. Bring your brown bag lunch. Board Members will provide coffee and/or tea and perhaps cookies.

October 2016:

General Meeting: 10/13: 9:30 a.m.: Kick-Off Breakfast -- at the home of Jeana Petersen
Information on Ballot Propositions & LWV/US Convention
Bonnie Saunders and Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer

November 2016:

Unit Meeting: 11/15: noon-2:00 p.m.: Update on LWV/AZ Election Laws, maybe consensus/concurrence
Board Meeting - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

December 2016: 12/ :4:00-7:00 p.m.: Holiday Party - Date and place - TBA

January 2017:

Forum: 1/7/17: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: LWV/AZ Voters' Rights Summit: Removing Barriers to the Ballot Box
ASU New College-West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Rd., Glendale
For more information: LWV/NWMC Newsletters and website
Or 480-966-9031 or info@lwvaz.org or Facebook@LWVAZ

Unit Meeting: 1/10: noon-2:00 p.m.: LWV/AZ Program Planning for Convention and local program planning
Board Meeting - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

General Meeting: 1/ 26: 9:30 a.m.: Voting Rights at the UU Church
Follow-up to the Voters' Rights Summit.

February 2017

Unit Meeting: 2/14: noon-2:00 p.m.: Joye & John Kohl: AZ Bowl on Education
New Member Meeting.
Board Meeting - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

General Meeting: 2/23: 9:30 a.m.: Climate Change at the UU Church
Speaker or Panel Discussion arranged by Darnell Kirksey

March 2017:

Unit Meeting: 3/14: noon-2:00 p.m.: Current Insurance Problems with the ACA
Update by Valerie Ellien and Lois Brechner
Board Meeting - 2:00-4:00 p.m..

General Meeting: 3/23: 9:30 a.m.: Transportation Issues at the UU Church
Speaker or Panel Discussion arranged by Bonnie Boyce-Wilson

April 2017:

Annual Meeting: 4/15: 9:30 a.m. : Briarwood Country Club

LWV/AZ Convention: 4/29-4/30 - Colonnade -- Speakers, Workshops, meals TBA.

Joint Board Meeting: Date, time, and place TBA.

LWV/AZ Board Meetings: Since Bonnie Saunders is 1st V.P. of the LWV/AZ, she needs a Board Member (or a regular member) to accompany her to those Board Meetings in Phoenix on the following Saturdays: 11/12/16, 1/14/17, and 3/4/17 . On 4/30/17, after the LWV/AZ Convention, the last LWV/AZ Board Meeting of the year will be here. If you are willing and able to attend any of these LWV/AZ Board Meetings, let Bonnie know.