



2017-18

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The Voter

November 2017

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



"10 Most Effective Actions You Can Take Today"

Tuesday, November 14 Unit Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise

The discussion will focus on practical ideas people actually can do, and can sustain, to help protect democracy in our state and nation. There are many kinds of effective actions and numerous resources available. Everyone has some power, and democracy works better when those, who haven't much power, use what they have!

Anne L. Schneider is a retired political science professor and former dean of the College of Public Programs at Arizona State University. A native of Oklahoma, she educated in the public schools of that state, with a Ph.D. from Indiana University. She publishes the Arizona Legislative Alert -- a weekly (more or less) newsletter that tracks legislation and politics in Arizona with a focus on social justice.

Consumer & ID Theft Protection Day

Protect Yourself From The Crime of the Century!



Michelle Rucker



Linda Vitale

Thursday, November 30th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378

Every Two Seconds Someone Falls Victim -- Everyone is at Risk!

If you are concerned about "Fraud and ID Theft", this meeting is for you. The speakers will explore the issue, the magnitude of the problem and protective actions you can take.

Michelle Rucker is the Community Relations Coordinator for the Arizona Attorney General's Office. She holds a BA in Anthropology from Northern Arizona Univ. She travels across the state to speak to Arizonans about important issues that affect all of us, including: human trafficking, consumer scams and internet safety to both adults and kids.

Linda Vitale writes a weekly ID Theft column in the Daily News Sun. She is the author of "Scam Me Once, Can't Get Scammed Again". Linda speaks publicly about ID Theft protection to groups, on the radio and on TV. She is an AARP volunteer educator. A 21 year tax professional, in her quest to raise awareness about this growing public threat, Linda blogs online at her new website: <https://prevent-idtheft.com>

From the President's Desk:



Our League began its year of activity on October 10th with a Kick-Off Brunch at the home of Linda Napier. About 25 members and friends attended this event, which featured delightful home-made goodies. We want to thank LWV/AZ Co-President Alice Stambaugh for her words of wisdom at this Brunch. When I arrived late to this event, I was delighted that Linda's husband was playing the harp! How spectacular! And they saved me some of the goodies to eat!

Fifteen members attended one or more of our three-week discussion of the book, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*, by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. The discussion was lively, especially the part on what WE can do to fight voter suppression and racism, among other possible political problems. Several people who also attended are not League members so one of my suggestions was that they might consider joining the League!

About 40 members and friends attended our Kick-Off Event on October 26th, including LWV/AZ Co-President Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer who gave us inspiration for our League year. We are happy to have had both of our State League Presidents at these events! Thanks to Martha Thompson for her delicious homemade deep-dish pizza, to Judy Moor for the salad, to Lois for the wine, and to Joye Kohl and Judy Dreskin for their desserts (maybe thanks to someone else who brought something else also??). We had so many attendees that we ran out of food!! What a delightful problem! Lots of attendees signed up to participate in a variety of activities in a variety of areas of interest -- Voter Service, Education, Health Care, a politically oriented book club. The latter is my idea. If you are interested, let me know.

Read the front page about the events of November: Anne Schneider on action on Nov. 14th and Linda Vitale and Michelle Rucker on identity theft on Nov. 30th.

.....BONNIE SAUNDERS, President

COMING EVENTS



Saturday, November 4th - "We the People" Summit 2 - 9am-6pm. Renaissance Phoenix Downtown - 100 N 1st St., Phoenix, AZ 85004. Registration required. See page 5. Every question, how to register and more is answered at <http://www.wethepeoplesummit.com/> Email Linda Napier to coordinate carpools.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 - Unit Meeting w/brown bag lunch: noon-2:30 pm - Dr. Anne Schneider will discuss "Taking political action". Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise

Monday, Nov. 20th - Deadline for November newsletter submissions. Send digital text/photos to Joye Kohl. (The date is earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

Thursday, November 30th - General Meeting - "Protect Yourself from the Crime of the Century: Consumer Protection & ID Theft" by Michelle Rucker and Linda Vitale. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise.

Thursday, December 14th - Holiday Party, 4:00-7:00 p.m. - Home of Bonnie Boyce-Wilson.



Save the Date!



Tuesday, January 9th - Unit Meeting- "Program Planning" w/brown bag lunch: noon-2:30 pm - "Program Planning" - LWV/US and local. Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. Board meeting to follow unit meeting.



Voter Services

Maricopa County Elections Department: Eight members up for a 'tour' at our AM Kick-off meeting. The sign up sheet be available again at our October 26th meeting. Due to in progress, the building is in lock-down until the results "official", so no tours until they are back to normal. I am closely with our District Representative Kenosha Skinner schedule the tours when we get the all clear.

Presentations were made at two AAUW meetings. Susan and Kenosha were presenters to the Sun City/Peoria branch and Bonnie Boyce-Wilson to the NW Valley branch in Sun City West. Susan Penner set up a League table exhibit. Next we'll have a table at the SCW Newcomer's Meeting on November 2nd. It's great to be able to combine membership and voter registration events.

If you know of a place or event that would be a good match for us to be represented, please contact me.

.....Susan Penner

Our Book Project

It is that time again. For many years, our League members have purchased and donated books for an annual League project serving the Dysart Unified School District. The books our League donates, given from the good heartedness of members, helps support the libraries and reading program in the district. This year the District's wish list is for their preschool program. If you have following the info about the importance of reading for later school development, you know having a good selection of library books is helpful. As the district budget has tightened, the monies for books has also been reduced. Please join in and make a contribution to augment the book resources for preschoolers.

NOTE: Your book donations to the League book donation project do not interfere with your ability to give and utilize the full public school tax credit -- that is entirely different. A donation receipt will be provided to all donating to this special project. You may simply bring your book donations with your purchase receipt to the League Holiday Party on December 14th. or to the November 30th meeting.

Dysart offers quality preschool programs at all of the elementary schools that will help prepare the preschool child to succeed in life. The district offers an innovative and educationally stimulating preschool program for four-year-olds which features the Arizona designed to help children develop skills in seven major content areas: Math, Science, Social Studies, Language & Literacy, Physical Development, Social & Emotional Development, and Creative Arts.



A list of books requested by the District this year, can be found at: [Dysart "Wanted Books" List for Preschoolers](#) Clicking on the link will provide you with the info to locate and purchase the book by ISBN. Once you check the information, you may buy your books wherever you wish. We will also prepare a simple text listing to be distributed by email. We have nearly 100 members, how about 100+ books for our donation!

K-12 Public Education is in Jeopardy!

Whatever one reads or sees today, there is irrefutable evidence that public education is in jeopardy. It may be the problem of ----

- ◆ **Teachers:** with dismal pay in AZ; certified, experienced and new teachers fleeing the state; a multitude of unfilled positions; and the legislative effort to undermine teacher preparation requirements.
- ◆ **The push for School Choice** and the attack on equity for all students, the resegregation of our schools or the undermining of funding for all schools.
- ◆ **Funding:** Unmet financial needs of district schools which are reaching 80 percent of Arizona's K-12 students and the vast majority of special needs youth; maintenance issues, unmet library and media resources, etc. Our students receive 31% less in per pupil funding than the national average, even though we have some of the highest rates of childhood poverty in the nation. At the same time, valuable taxable revenue continues to be diverted away from the general fund in the form of tuition tax credits in order to subsidize private education. The public dollars diverted from public schools through private school tax credits and ESA vouchers has grown from \$14 million in 1999 to \$253 million in 2018.
- ◆ The **Achievement Gap** and its interrelationship with poverty. Instead of supporting those schools reaching the diverse group of at-risk students, the emphasis has been made on supporting the schools with higher achievement levels and their select student populations.
- ◆ **Disparate fiscal and academic requirements** between district and charter schools and no requirements of private schools even though they are recipients of state funded empowerment scholarships. The lack of fiscal accountability and transparency is well documented but remains unchanged.

If you are concerned about the status of public education in AZ, we need your help! Please join the LWV-NWV Education working task force. It is important, your input, and voice/hands are needed! Talk to John and Joye Kohl about ways you might become involved. Consider helping with the West Valley Education Forum scheduled for January 25th..

Some links to help you traverse the AZ K-12 Education Scene

AZ Schools NOW <https://azschoolsnow.org/> Join AZ businesses, non-profits, parents, and teachers in the movement for strong public schools. Find pertinent information and credible ways to get involved.

Schools More than \$1 Billion short of pre-recessionary spending -

<http://clientsdata.buco3.com/594/pdf/factsheetbilliondollardeficit.pdf>

SOS Voucher Facts Infographic -- <http://clientsdata.buco3.com/594/images/uploaded/sosfinal2.jpg>

Private School Tax Credits Divert Public Dollars for Private Benefits

<http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Private-School-Tax-Credit-brief-12-151.pdf>

The Federal Focus on School Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credits

No one can say that vouchers are not a big threat -- as we all fully understand in AZ. Although H.R. 610, introduced last winter, may not be the vehicle at the federal level, it is anticipated that vouchers, tuition tax credits, and other destabilizing proposals will continue to be introduced, and the Trump Administration continues to promote these initiatives. Many experts believe that the budget reconciliation process and the current appropriations bills are where this fight will play out most heavily.

If you want to fight against vouchers, tuition tax credits and related schemes, [join this anti-voucher letter-writing campaign to elected officials in Washington D.C.](#) to let lawmakers know we want fully funded public schools, not choice schemes that divert billions of public money to private and for-profit schools.

Health Care: LWV-NWMC and LWV-Metro Phoenix Respond

During the summer of 2017, once again Arizona Leaguers responded to the critical need for non-partisan, substantive and well documented health care information by researching and writing a series of informative papers. Actually Arizona Leaguers are known for producing sound, non-partisan information regarding health care. Eight years ago, the LWV-AZ produced a highly respected and non-partisan examination of information related to the health care debate. Here are the list of papers prepared in 2017, the name of the author and the url for accessing each paper.

Health Care Around the World by Linda Napier

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/Health-Around-the-World.pdf>

Overview – A Comparison of the ACA and AHCA by Valerie Ellien

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/Comparison-of-ACA-and-AHCA.pdf>

Medicaid by Marjorie Dion

<http://lwwvaz.org/homepage-version-2/medicaid/>

The Affordable Care Act by Lois Brechner

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Affordable-Care-Act.pdf>

Health Means More Than Health Care/What Prevention Elements are Necessary for a Complete Arizona Health Care Plan by Mary Ellen Cunningham

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/Comparison-of-ACA-and-AHCA.pdf>

The Future of Health Care Coverage for Women by Michelle Dorsey, MD <http://lwwvaz.org/homepage-version-2/the-future-of-health-coverage-for-women/>

Access to Health Care Coverage: ACA Marketplace and Medicaid by Jana Lynn Granillo

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/Health-Around-the-World.pdf>

Employer Sponsored Health Care: Who is covered as well as the impact of the ACA and BCR by Sandra Collier, MA

<http://lwwvaz.org/wp-content/uploads/Comparison-of-ACA-and-AHCA.pdf>



WELCOME

New and "Rejoining" Members

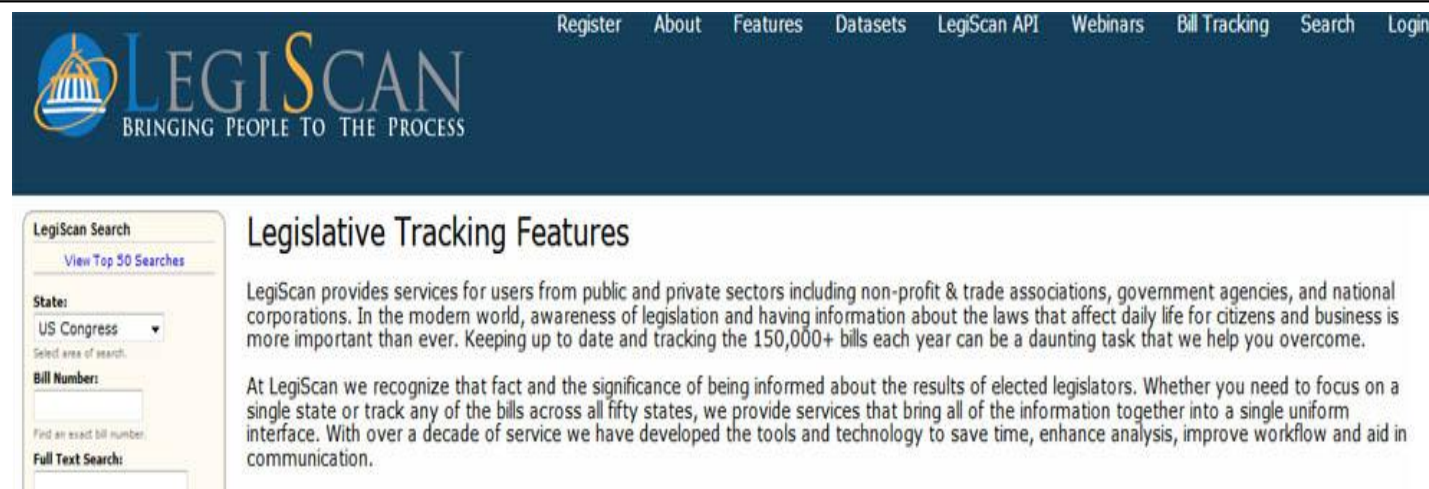
ome to the following members who have joined or rejoined our League during September and October. We look forward to working with you.

*Sandy Sperry
Gayle Bruno
Patricia Paxton
Harriet Kahn*

*Diane Haskell
Deborah Forcine
Lynn Peters
Jocelyn Lee*

*Donna and Leon Hartley
Manuel Hernandez
Harriet Thurstlic*

Another source of legislative information for the state and nation -A Legislative Tracking Tool



The screenshot shows the LegiScan website header with navigation links: Register, About, Features, Datasets, LegiScan API, Webinars, Bill Tracking, Search, and Login. The main content area features the LegiScan logo with the tagline 'BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE PROCESS'. Below the logo is a search interface with fields for State (set to US Congress), Bill Number, and Full Text Search. To the right of the search interface is a section titled 'Legislative Tracking Features' which describes the service's purpose and capabilities.

About Us: LegiScan launched to support the release of the national LegiScan data service, providing the nation's first impartial real-time legislative tracking service designed for both public citizens and government affairs professionals across all sectors in organizations large and small. Utilizing the LegiScan API, having over 10 years of development maturity, allows us to provide monitoring of every bill in the 50 states and Congress. Giving our users and clients a central and uniform interface with the ability to easily track a wide array of legislative information. Paired with one of the country's most powerful national full bill text legislative search engines.

We instill individuals with the information to become more engaged and aware of the happenings of the legislation that affect their daily lives. An informed electorate is an essential part of a democracy to make decisions on how citizens choose to be represented with our tools to follow and research the legislative process.

Mission: Our mission is Bringing People To The Process without bias or conflict, we believe that each individual in a democracy has a voice, and it is through increased awareness and engagement that you facilitate that voice, enabled by the tools provided at LegiScan.

Legislative Tracking Features: At LegiScan we recognize that fact and the significance of being informed about the results of elected legislators. Whether you need to focus on a single state or track any of the bills across all fifty states, we provide services that bring all of the information together into a single uniform interface. With over a decade of service we have developed the tools and technology to save time, enhance analysis, improve workflow and aid in communication. The basic service is FREE! Go to the site to register and watch a demo of the service provided.

Here is the url for LegiScan: <https://legiscan.com/about>



Robyn leads an issues discussion at the Welcome Back Pizza gathering.

Two Grand Welcome Back Events in October to Energize!!!

The first event was a lovely brunch at the home of Linda Napier. Alice Stambaugh, LWV-AZ co-president, spoke eloquently to the 25 attendees about the work of and importance of the League.

The second evening "homemade deep dish pizza" gathering was held at the UU Church on the 26th with 40 in attendance. LWV-AZ co-president Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer led a dynamic interaction with attendees about each person's top issue priority, how to become involved and ways to interface in discussions of issues. The interests and passionate concerns covered the waterfront. At the conclusion, members continued to interact in small groups and to sign up for issue committees and activities.