



2017-18

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League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County

# The Voter

October 2017

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

## ***Fall League Kick-Off Brunch***

**October 10th 9:30 - 11:30 am  
13537 W. Gable Hill Rd., SCW**

Welcome back everyone. Join us for the kickoff of the new year. Linda Napier will host the brunch in Sun City West.



The meeting will be chaired by Lois Brechner. Come learn about the exciting year that is scheduled for the 2017-2018 season. Alice Stambaugh, Co-President of the LWV/AZ will be in attendance to answer questions about the League. Sign-ups for coming activities and interests.

Linda has planned a gala event with the help of her husband, who will be the omelet chef, and other board members who will supplement the menu with cinnamon rolls, fruit salad, croissants, tea/OJ/mimosas.

RSVP to Bonnie Saunders by Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>



## ***Fall League Kick-Off Evening Event and General Meeting***

**Thursday, October 26th 5:30 pm**

**Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise**

Join the group for homemade Chicago Style Deep Dish Pizza, Caesar Salad, and other goodies. Learn more about our League, program plans and other activities slated for the year. Share your concerns and ideas about the role of the League in "Making Democracy Work!" Take the opportunity to sign up for an activity which meets your interest or passion. There really is something for everyone.

RSVP to Bonnie Saunders by October 23rd.

### ***The Work of the League of Women Voters:***

- ◆ ***Educating & Engaging Voters*** ◆ ***Defending the Environment***
- ◆ ***Protecting Voters*** ◆ ***Reforming Money in Politics***

**To learn more about our work, attend our meetings and/or go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).**

## From the President's Desk:



I hope all of you had a good, not-so-hot summer. Ken and I spent five weeks in Oregon and California, about half of that time camping by the Pacific Ocean and about half with our two delightful grandchildren and their parents. We also visited Lyn Fischrup, former local League President, in Eugene, Oregon. Now it's back to work. Linda Vitale is working hard on the new Membership Directory and we hope to have copies available at the October events.

We have a lot of good things on tap for the rest of 2017. There are good articles elsewhere in the Newsletter about the two Kick-Off Events on October 10th and 26th -- come to one or both and bring a friend. The book discussion should be interesting and maybe will lead to action -- read the article, read the book, and come with your thoughts. The rhetoric of author Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is the closest we have today to listening to Martin Luther King, Jr. 50 years ago!

Actually, I'm hoping that this book and discussion will be the first installment in the LWV/NWMC Book Club, in which participants would choose a politically oriented (but not partisan) book to read and discuss. Such discussions could be once a month or however often the participants wished. Let me know if you are interested. Such Book Clubs have been extremely successful in several other Leagues in Arizona.

I want to extend many kudos to the Health Care Committee, members of which wrote articles comparing the ACA and the repeal bills that have, so far, failed to repeal the ACA. Those articles are on the LWV/AZ website and shared with Leagues across the country. As I write this, Senators are planning to try to pass a repeal bill that has been called far worse than the ones that failed this summer. How relevant can our work be?! Makes me proud to be a League Member!!

.....Bonnie Saunders

### COMING EVENTS - Fall 2017



**Monday, Oct. 2nd, Domestic Violence Awareness Day** - 6-7 pm, AZ State Capitol, House Lawn, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix.

**Mondays, Oct. 9th, 16th and 23rd - Book Discussion Series on *The Third Reconstruction***. 7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. See article page 3.

**Tuesday, Oct. 10th - League Fall Kick-Off Brunch**, 9:30-11:30 am, 13537 W. Gable Hill Dr, Sun City West. RSVP to Bonnie Saunders by Oct. 7th.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25th - Deadline for November newsletter submissions**. Send digital text/photos to Joye Kohl.

**Thursday, Oct. 26th - Kick-Off Welcome Back Evening (with goodies) and General Meeting**. 5:30-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. RSVP to Bonnie Saunders by Oct. 23rd.

**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.

**Tuesday, 11/14 - 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

**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. For more information, see page 5.

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

## ***Book Discussion Series - "The Third Reconstruction"***

League members and friends are invited to read an interesting and extremely relevant book and to attend a series of discussions 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 topic is the "Moral Monday" action by the people of NC against racism and voter suppression over the past several years. If you don't know who the Rev. Barber is, google him and listen (or hear him when he appears on various news programs -- listening to him is the closest we can come today to the words and charisma of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On three Mondays in October beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the UU Church in Surprise, I will conduct a series of discussions on this book. On Oct. 9th, I will talk about the historical background: [1] the first Reconstruction (1865-1877) and its eventual destruction and [2] the second Reconstruction (the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s) and the backlash to that movement. **On Oct. 16th**, we will discuss the main part of the book, which deals with the actions against voter suppression and racism by the Rev. Barber's movement between 2010 and 2016 -- and how he brought together black and white citizens of NC. On Oct 23rd, we will discuss the section at the end of the book, which outlines how **we** can take action in our own communities to fight voter suppression, racism, and other political difficulties

The main idea of the LWV at all levels is to "Make Democracy Work for All." I urge you to read the book, come to the discussions, and think about what we can **do**. The book is available from Amazon for about \$10. I will appreciate it if you will let me know that you are reading this book and whether or not you plan to attend the discussions. . . . .Bonnie Saunders

### ***Follow the Money***

The Grand Canyon Institute has looked at the ongoing problems associated with charter schools in their newly released report, "*Follow the Money: 20 Years of Charter School Finances in Arizona.*"

The authors focus on the following six areas of concern, providing findings and recommendations: Related-Party Transactions, High Executive Salaries, Questionable Profit Distributions, Reduced Classroom Spending, Academic Underperformance and Reconciling Inconsistent Financials. To read the executive summary and/or the complete report, click here: [http://grandcanyoninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GCI-Policy-Report-Following-the-Money\\_Sept\\_17\\_2017.pdf](http://grandcanyoninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GCI-Policy-Report-Following-the-Money_Sept_17_2017.pdf)

It is worth taking the time to review the well-documented findings to gain a better understanding of Arizona K-12 Education.

## **LWV-NWMC Members Attend Speakers' Bureau Training**

On Sept. 9th six of our members attended the Speakers Bureau Training hosted by Care Lengel on behalf of the LWV and Metro Phoenix. Speakers presented an introduction to some of the important topics the League advocates and then gave us tips on presentation. Care Lengel gave us an Intro to LWV, Rivko Knox presented on Advocacy and Michelle Dorsey on Healthcare. Alice Stambaugh spoke on National Popular Vote and Gerry Corey on Voter Services. The information was valuable, extremely interesting, touching at times and worth every minute of our time! Each of us walked away with important take aways to begin the process of building the speakers bureau for the League. It's so much fun working with Metro Phoenix and meeting more amazing, passionate women!

Linda Napier, Healthcare Co-Chair

Pictured from left to right: Linda Vitale, Marjorie Dion, Linda Napier, Valerie Ellien, Susan Penner. Not pictured: Mariana Hartmann.



## The Summer of Health Care

No one needs to be reminded that this was a whirlwind summer in Washington. But it was no less a whirlwind for Health Care in Arizona Leagues. Here's an accounting.

In D.C., work began in earnest in March when the House of Representatives produced the AHCA -their "serious" attempt at legislative assault on the ACA. On the day there was to be a vote in D.C., a health care presentation was being made at our LWV-NWMC Unit Meeting, (timing –pure chance) describing the impact of the AHCA and the ACA. At that meeting, members formed a Health-Care Committee and in its second meeting a project was born. A small group would produce issue papers on health care that could be used to share with our Congressional representatives, other Leagues, and voters. (Health Care: it's complicated!!)

LWV-MetroPhx was invited to join the project. Topics were suggested, and in a month, draft outlines were produced, reviewed, and the writing moved forward. Editing support was provided as needed; and within 3 weeks, eight issue papers were produced

All of this activity took place under the pressure of time. In their papers, some authors were assessing and including the potential impact of the successive, - and failing – Legislative Bills coming out of D.C. The pressure to complete and disseminate information was real!

LWV-AZ Leadership were involved, Robyn Prud-homme-Bauer, posted all papers on the LWV-AZ Website ([www.lwvaz.org](http://www.lwvaz.org)), and shared our information with LWV Leadership across the country. A committee member contacted our Senators Flake and McCain and visits were planned to deliver 2 packets of 8 issue papers. Three members of the Committee hand-delivered the packets and had extremely productive contacts with the staffs of Senator Flake and McCain – on the day after all the Senate health care bills failed in D.C. High drama for our project and for Health Care in our nation.

The dramatic failure of the US Congress to address the urgent need to make the adjustments to our Health Care system guarantees the relevance of all the work completed by our Leagues this summer, and underscores the need for its next steps.

Linda Napier will take the Committee forward, with ongoing discussion of Education activities. Some Committee members are interested in making presentations, receiving Coaching in Presentation skills and sharing their expertise. Future advocacy efforts will need to be addressed. Health Care promises to be an important League issue for the foreseeable future.

Regardless of what's next, this team effort has been hugely successful. The issue papers on the LWV-AZ Website, shared nationally with LWV-Leadership, and delivered, in person, to our Senators, will continue to provide a rich resource for presentations to our communities.

.....Valerie Ellien

LWV-NWMC Health Care Committee/Research Team: Lois Brechner, LWV-NWMC; Sandy Collier, LWV-NWMC; Mary Ellen Cunningham, LWV-MetroPhx; Marjorie Dion, LWV-NWMC; Michelle Dorsey, President, LWV-MetroPhx; \*Valerie Ellien, LWV-NWMC; Jana Granillo, LWV-MetroPhx; \*Linda Napier, LWV-NWMC; Jacquie Rose, LWV-NWMC, Publicity. (\*Co-Chairs)

**Health Care Committee Success!!!** On July 28th, Lois Brechner, Mary Ellen Cunningham and Linda Napier met with Senator Flake's Health Care representative, Mary Cunningham. They expected a quick 5 minutes but they talked between 15 an 20 minutes and were able to express the planned points.

Lois very eloquently gave Mary an introduction and told her we were hoping that our reports would help them provide information that was completely unbiased and would help them create a Health Care plan they could be proud of that could be created in such a way that it would save the country a great deal of money and provide the type of Health Care that was good for all.

Mary Ellen explained about medical care in Arizona and preventive health care as a priority and how the people of Arizona could be impacted. Mary continued to ask questions and Linda Napier talked briefly about health care models in countries around the world, some statistics, myths Americans had about the U.S. health care system and Health Care for all. She promised to pass on our report and share it.

We went to Senator McCain's office where we were able to talk to a woman on his staff who listened to what we had to say and said she would deliver our research.

It was a fabulous, successful day and the best outcomes the committee could ever have hoped for when our committee set forth our goals at the first meeting on May 9th.

.....Linda Napier

League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County Invites you to a

# Consumer & ID Theft Protection Day

**Protect Yourself From The Crime of the Century!**



Thursday, November 30th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise  
17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378

~ Appetizers & Beverages will be served ~

**Fraud & ID Theft – # 1 Consumer Complaint  
Every Two Seconds Someone Falls Victim  
Everyone is at Risk – No one is Immune**

Speakers

- **Michelle Rucker** – Community Relations Coordinator from the Arizona Attorney General's office. Her presentation will help bring awareness to the top consumer scams and fraud that are happening in Arizona.
- **Linda Vitale** – Consumer Advocate, Columnist and Author on the topic of Identity Theft. Her presentation will discuss how to detect and deter ID theft and highlight behaviors that put you at risk.

~ Q & A following the presentations ~

#### Sponsors

League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County  
N.O.W. Sun Cities West Valley  
Unitarian Universalist Church – Adult Education Committee  
AARP-AZ – will provide additional educational materials



## We the People Summit 2

The first "We the People" Summit in June was an overwhelming success and part two was just announced! Those of us that attended got so much more than we expected as we chose from over 30 different breakout sessions to attend depending on what we wanted to take away from the day. History of peoples and their struggles, how to communicate so you'll be heard, the legislative process and so much more. I can't recommend this 2nd Summit enough! And it sounds like it's going to be even better!!! Ticket Costs: \$35 General Admission / \$20 Student Admission (Bring Student ID) - Early Bird Tickets ending Oct 15th. Every question, how to register and more is answered at <http://www.wethepeoplesummit.com/>

It's Saturday, November 4th (9am - 6 -pm) at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown - 100 N 1st St., Phoenix, AZ 85004. If you'd like to go all you have to do is register. Email Linda Napier to coordinate carpools.

.....Linda Napier

**SAVE THE DATE!**



3rd Annual - Statewide  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
Awareness Event



**Lighting  
Arizona  
Purple!**

*October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On October 2nd, **Governor Ducey** will light the State Capitol purple as a symbol of Arizona's dedication to end domestic violence. Stand with the Governor as we say, **it can stop!***

## Event Details

**Monday, October 2, 2017**  
**6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**  
**Arizona State Capitol, House Lawn**  
**1700 W Washington Street**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

Register at:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eeb586nc94806380&oseq=&c=&ch=>

**"This is an issue that affects all ages, races, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels."**

***Please join this third annual event to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence: It can stop.***

### **Voter Service Activities**

In June, Susan Rhodes and I attended an orientation program for the new Citizens Academy program offered by the Maricopa County Elections Department (MCED) in Phoenix. We followed that up by attending a Deputy Registrar training in July in Sun City West. We can now assist MC as volunteers in their voter registration events if we choose. Three other opportunities are offered through the Academy. They are positions on the Ballot Center Board, Special Election Board and Citizen Board. More information will be available after the first of the year to prepare for the 2018 Elections.

Pat Paxton, Martha Thompson and I attended a meeting on Reprecincting at Glendale Community College, September 6, again offered by MCED. They are seeking public input/comments on the project. You can do that on-line at:

<https://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections/reprecincting.aspx>

We are so fortunate to have Sherry Aguilar, Surprise City Clerk as a member. Sherry consented to hold a Voter Registration Training session at her offices on September 11th. Darnell K, Linda V, Marjorie D, Martha T, Charles M and myself in attendance. Additional opportunities will be offered in the near future.

I would like to offer the opportunity to tour the Maricopa County Elections Department to our members. I will have sign-up sheets at our "Kick-Off" meetings, October 10 (am) and 26 (pm).

Last but not least, Charles Merritt and I will be concluding our terms in office April 2018. Please consider being a part of our board. We need people with open minds and fresh ideas to carry us forward. It would be great if we had co-chairs to replace us.

That's all for now.

Susan Penner, Voter Services Co-chair.