



INSIDE THIS EDITION

President's Message

Page 1 & 3

Civics Education

Page 2

Coming Events

Page 3

Tackling Healthcare Costs

Page 4

Voter Services

Page 4

Silent Auction

Page 4

Nomination Slate

Page 5

Election Oversight

Page 5

Silent Auction Donation Form

Page 5

The Voter

April 2016

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

President's Message

March was indeed a busy month, as I predicted in my last letter.

All five of the local Leagues in Arizona and the LWV/AZ provided 15 professional development scholarships to educators from all over the state to attend the Third Annual Civic Learning Conference on the 4th, which was sponsored by the AZ Department of Education in partnership with the Maricopa Community Colleges. Kudos to Barbara Knutson for making all of the arrangements for these scholarships, representing the LWV/NWMC at the Conference, and reading all of the evaluations from the teachers. Thanks to the other four Leagues and the LWV/AZ for providing funding for this very important project for the third year. As a history teacher at GCC, I have a lot of students who know little about our government and Constitution! So I know how important improving the teaching of civics in high school is!

As a follow-up for our members, Tammy Waller of the AZ Department of Education came to our Unit Meeting on the 15th at Barbara's home. Tammy talked about her role in training teachers in some new and exciting methods of teaching civics. We had some fun answering some of the questions on the new civics test, which must be passed by all students in order for them to graduate from high school. It goes into effect with the graduating class of 2017. Naturally, all of us did well in answering the questions!!

At our garage sale on the 19th, we made a total of \$60.25. Seven or eight members brought items for sale and three members helped me with the sale. Thanks to all of them. It's not a lot of money but it is total profit and is a way for members to help with such short-term projects.

Did you know that We Run Elections? In February, Charles and Jane Merritt helped with an HOA election in Surprise and in March, Diane Smith and Susan Penner did the same for an HOA in Peoria. These projects are a fundraiser for our League -- we charge \$25 per hour per person who works on any of these projects, each of which is a service to the community. These HOAs are very much concerned with guaranteeing to the residents that their elections are run fairly and they trust the League to accomplish that goal. Thanks to all four of you for doing this project -- and anyone else who helped them.

Thanks to Darnell Kirksey and Diane Smith for organizing our March General Membership Meeting, a discussion on "Water: How Are We Doing?" by a panel of water experts. I heard from several members that they learned a lot from these experts.

By the time you read this, our Annual Meeting may have already happened (April 2nd). I hope all those who attended enjoyed the Silent Auction, the Businesscontinued page 3

The League of Women Voters Promotes Excellence in Civics

As a strong advocate for Civic Education for adults and K-12 students, the League of Women Voters (LWV) provided 15 professional development scholarships to educators across the state of Arizona. These scholarships allowed teachers to attend the 3rd Annual Civic Learning Conference that was sponsored by the Arizona Department of Education in partnership with the Maricopa Community Colleges.

Five LWVAZ Leagues from Central Yavapai County, Greater Tucson, Greater Verde Valley, Metro Phoenix, Northwest Maricopa County, and the State LWVAZ, all contributed funding to the LWVAZ Education Fund for teachers from their geographic area to attend the conference. This is the third year the LWV has participated in this scholarship program. Local League members contacted area schools encouraging them to attend the conference and offered to pay their registration fee. When asked if the teachers would have been able to attend the conference if the district had to pay for their registration, 10 of the 13 respondents indicated their district could not have afforded to send them. Two did not know.

Being a strong supporter of Civic Education, our goal is to have educated, informed citizens who understand the importance of being involved, and thus are motivated to vote in their country's and their own best interest.

We are concerned about the small percent of citizens who vote in the primaries and general elections. The people who represent our citizens and determine policy are really selected from a small percentage of citizens. Voting Matters!

We believe that Civic Education creates citizens who have a grasp of history and the fundamental processes of American democracy. It creates an understanding and awareness of public and community issues. Through Civic Education our citizens have the ability to think critically and enter into dialogue on those issues with others who have different perspectives.

We need educators of history, government, economics, and geography to bring these topics to life for our K-12 students. Students need to see how these subjects relate to their lives today and in their future. New, effective methods of teaching Social Studies must be promoted to engage today's students.

The League of Women Voters is proud to be involved in the efforts of the AZ Department of Education and in its commitment to this very important conference. As the only known State level conference of its kind, we are helping educators to increase civic knowledge and promote civic engagement for our future voters as they become adult citizens of Arizona and our country.

"We pay a price when we deprive children of the exposure to the values, principles, and education they need to make them good citizens." – Sandra Day O'Connor

Barbara Knutson, State LWV Coordinator of this project



With the aid of registration scholarships from LWV, Dysart USD scholarship recipients joined with educators across to state to share and learn teaching methods for Civic Education.

Kayla Lyons, Dysart USD, Valley Vista H.S., 11/12th grade Social Studies; Harold Nichols III, Dysart USD, Shadow Ridge H.S., 10th grade Soc. Sts; Diane Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction, AZDE; Christine Wilfong, Dysart USD, Sundown Mt., Social Studies; Michael Goto, Dysart USD, Shadow Ridge HS, 11/12th grade Social Studies. Not pictured Shannon Loehr, Dysart USD, Social Studies teacher; Michael Plutschuck Jr, Dysart USD, Moon Mt & Washington Elms Soc. St.

Photo by Charles Tack

APRIL COMING EVENTS
Mark your calendar!



Saturday, April 2nd - Annual Meeting at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City west.

Monday, April 4th - 7 pm - Prop 123 Public Information Meeting - UU Church

Tuesday, April 19th - 7 pm - Movie Night at the UU Church - "FixIt" Health Care Movie

President's Message - continued from page 1

Meeting, the Luncheon, and the Speakers. Thanks to those who made this Annual Meeting a success -- members Jeana Petersen, Barbara Knutson, Jean Darnell, Julie Gustavson; and LWV/AZ President Shirley Sandelands and Voter Service Chair Anne Dolak -- and to all of the Board Members and others who reported on their activities during the past year. About 60% of our members have done something more than writing a dues check and I appreciate that. I also appreciate those who have paid their dues but have not been able to come to meetings for one reason or other.

And that reminds me -- **your dues (\$55 for one, \$75 for two members of a household) are due in April.** Some of you have already sent in your dues -- if you did, thanks for that. I hope others bring their dues to the Annual Meeting -- if you did, thanks for that. For those members who can't get to the Annual Meeting, **please receive this sentence as a dues notice and send your dues check to me or to Treasurer Judy Dreskin as soon as possible.** Sometime during the summer, a Board Member will have to e-mail you and/or call you to remind you that your dues are due. Save us some time and write your dues check right now before you forget to do it!

On Monday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the UU Church, Joye and John Kohl will give a power point presentation that explains Prop 123 and hand out a League brochure with pros and cons. Both the power point and the brochure are as neutral on that Proposition as possible -- when it was written, the LWV/AZ had not taken a position on that Proposition. At its meeting on the 26th, the LWV/AZ Board voted to oppose Prop 123 and speak out against it, mainly because the Proposition doesn't provide nearly enough money to the K-12 schools to move AZ from its position at or very close to the bottom of all of the states in funding education.

As we wind down the League year, **we have need of more help from the members** -- we need someone to be the **P.R. Chair** (send notices of meetings and press releases to the local press); someone to act as **historian** (take charge of the photo albums, the scrap book of newspaper articles, and the display board -- this could be one person or two or three!); **greeters** at General Membership Meetings (welcome attendees, make sure attendees sign in, maybe bring refreshments -- there could be separate people for each meeting for each job or the same people could do one of these jobs for several meetings). **Anyone who is interested in doing one (or more) of these small jobs, let me know. Also anyone who wishes to be appointed to the Board for the next League should contact me before the last Board Meeting of the year on Saturday, April 23rd.**

When I started writing this letter, I didn't know I had so much to say but I kept thinking of something else -- and I've probably left out a lot. Have a good summer, punctuated by ads for presidential candidates, and return next fall ready to register voters, help to get out the vote, work on other voter service projects, attend meetings.

BONNIE SAUNDERS, President

"The LWVAZ Board voted on Saturday, March 26th, to Oppose Prop 123 and voted to ask the US JUSTICE Dept. To investigate the AZ Legislator's not following Prop 301 and thus disenfranchising the AZ electorate."

A press release will be going out to all on the LWVAZ listserve.

Businessman Tackles Healthcare Costs

Struggling to provide healthcare benefits for his employees, Richard Masters, CEO of MCS Industries, attempted to tackle his escalating healthcare costs. He joined forces with doctors, nurses and other businessmen to come up with a "Fix It" plan. Masters then made a documentary film about his proposed solution. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise will present a free viewing of his new documentary "**FIX IT- Healthcare at the Tipping Point**" at 7 pm on April 19th. (17540 N Ave of the Arts).

The documentary provides an in-depth look at our current healthcare system and how it is damaging our economy. It emphasizes the problems inherent in a system that leaves healthcare unaffordable for one-third of our nation's citizens. This non-partisan documentary helps sort through the various differences of opinion. It examines the myths and facts expressed in the public rhetoric and in the presidential debates.

"Though our healthcare system is becoming more and more expensive, the U.S. ranks 37th in the world for health care", notes Masters. He adds that insurance companies dictate treatment. Physicians are overwhelmed with the cost of processing claims. Businesses struggle to keep up with the high cost of insurance. Major illness often sends individuals into bankruptcy - even those who have insurance.

"FIX IT" examines the economics of our healthcare system and makes a compelling case for reinventing it. Come learn more about this multi-dimensional issue and discuss what can be done to help *fix the healthcare problem*.

The meeting and documentary is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church Education Committee and is endorsed by the League of Woman Voters of NW Maricopa County.



LWV-NWMC Voter Services

will continue the campaign to alert and educate voters by continuing to release election information monthly.

April: Permanent Early Voting List (PELV).

If you have experience with the media and would like to help develop timely messages contact Susan [623-584-6818](tel:623-584-6818)

Annual Meeting Silent Auction Donations-

You can still make a donation for the upcoming Annual Meeting Auction April 2nd. Some past silent auction items included special jewelry, gift cards, collector's items, party/dinner certificates. Check your storage area for that special treasure you're ready to part with or think of a unique talent or skill that could offer.

Call Jean (623/546-9275) to let her know you have an item. Then, fill out the form and deliver it to her or take it to the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee Slate

2nd V.P.: Lois Brechner
Secretary: Judy Moor
**Co-Voter Service: Susan Penner,
Charles Merritt**
**Nominating Committee Chair:
Diane Smith**
**Nominating Committee Member:
To be nominated from the floor.**

Election Oversight

We had requests to oversee elections for two local HOA's, Marley Park in Surprise and The Village in Vistancia.

The election in Vistancia was an interesting one. This was an inaugural election for a board of directors made up of residents in a transitional election from builder to residents. There were 17 candidates for 5 positions. It included early ballots, weighted ballots and a first for us, electronic voting.

Thank you to Jane and Charles Merritt and Diane Smith for volunteering their time. We earned almost \$600 for our efforts.

Campaign to Educate Voters Continues: The next article will be a reminder to those independent/and voters who changed parties to vote in the PPE:

NOW IS THE TIME TO CHANGE BACK IF YOU CHOOSE - THE NEXT ELECTION IS MAY 17, 2016.

.....Voter Service Chairs

League of Women Voters, NW MC

Silent Auction, April 2, 2016 Annual Meeting

Please provide a description of your donation:

Value: _____ Minimum Bid (Optional) _____

Donor's Name: _____