



2016-17

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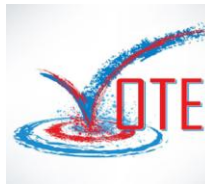
Collage of Summit Photos

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The Voter

February 2017

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



**Come One - Come All
and
Did They Ever Come!!**

"It was just the starting point!!!"

VOTERS' RIGHTS SUMMIT

The Voters' Rights Summit was the first statewide event the League has hosted, and what an exciting gathering it was! We were thrilled that almost 300 attendees devoted an entire Saturday to learning about AZ's voting laws and discussing ways to improve them and "Remove Barriers to the Ballot Box!" People were attentive, focused, and enthused throughout the day, and eagerly participated. Many were fired up and ready to work to make our election system more open, fair, and accessible. The enthusiasm was infectious!!!

People came from all over the state:, Yavapai, Cochise, and Mohave Counties, Sedona, Tempe, Glendale, Chandler, Dewey, Scottsdale, Prescott, Peoria, Cave Creek, Mesa, Fountain Hills, Kingman, Paradise Valley, Gilbert, Globe, Bisbee, Cottonwood, Tucson, Phoenix, Sun City, Surprise, and Sun City West.

We had Recorders or their staff from 5 counties, Maricopa, Cochise, Mohave, Coconino, and Yavapai. We had people from law offices, mainstream organizations, organizations we never heard of, and individuals who had no organizational ties. We had students, women, men, young, and old. By hosting this statewide event, we helped acquaint many to the League. Of those who attended, 27% were League members. Of the remainder, 43% joined the League, which translates to 90 new members across the state! Phenomenal!

.....continued on page 2

What Do You Know? Remember the old College Bowl Game on Television? The Unit Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 14th will be your opportunity to join a team and go for the gold or payday!!

The regular unit meeting will be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church. This is a change of location from your directory.

The Voters' Rights Summit -- continued from Page 1

It did indeed take a village to create and carry out this Summit. Many shared their time and talents to make this a worthwhile, inspirational, and timely event that ran smoothly throughout the day. In all, 59 people volunteered their time in some way. Many thanks to those from our League who helped in so many ways: Judy Dreskin, Maya Hennessey, Darnell Kirksey, John and Joye Kohl, Barbara Knutson, Patty Lang, Linda Napier, Susan Penner, Jacquie Rose, Heidi Roupp, Bonnie Saunders, and Bonnie Boyce-Wilson. A **MAJOR THANK YOU** to Linda Vitale and Lois Brechner who were part of a six member team from across the state that worked on this Summit with passion, perseverance, and a lot of hard work and long hours since last June, and to Judy Moor for being our very capable registrar! In all, 17 volunteers from our League!

We had an impressive line-up of ten speakers that dealt with various voter's rights and election issues, 14 morning breakout sessions where all small groups dealt with the same question, "What do you think are the main issues AZ needs to work on in regards to voter's rights and election reform? Think outside the box and feel free to be creative." In the afternoon, there were 9 breakout groups, and each dealt with a different topic and attendees could attend the one that most interested them. Many important ideas sprang forth from the speakers and "Action" breakout groups.

This one-day Summit was only the starting point. Now that we have met, explored some of the problems, and brainstormed some possible solutions, we are working to put together an "action" plan to move forward and foster the changes that need to take place. Several in attendance volunteered to be on a steering committee that will act as an umbrella group to oversee smaller groups that will work on specific topics. We want to focus on finding and implementing solutions. Together we hope to determine what needs to be done...starting **today**, what will take longer, and how to move forward to actually institute the ideas and solutions suggested.

If you are interested in participating in this "Action" phase, please let us know. Even if you were unable to attend the Summit, you can read the reports and catch up on what transpired at the Summit. We are currently in the process of preparing a final report. We have compiled the results of both the morning and afternoon "Action" Groups and all of the evaluations and created two reports/documents which are available should you want a copy: "Top Five Areas for Action", and "Action Groups Reports Outs." We are working on resource sheets which will have links to the PowerPoints that were used, a list of groups you can network with, notes of each speaker's presentations, etc. Soon they will be posted on the LWVAZ website (www.lwvaz.org).

We have created a closed group on Facebook that we can use for sharing information, comments, discussions, post updates including 'Calls to Action' on legislation, up-coming meetings other groups will be hosting, etc. If you would like to join the group, please request an invitation, and we will approve it. The group name is LWVAZ Voters' Rights. Once approved, anyone in the group can post information, and all will be notified that something was posted. You can also contact us through [lwvazadvocacy - AT - gmail.com](mailto:lwvazadvocacy-AT-gmail.com).

Many thanks to the 22 members from our League who attended and so enthusiastically participated and shared ideas. And a special thank you to those who indicated that you would like to work on these issues. It truly was an exciting day to come together with such an energetic, focused, and passionate group.

Carol Mattoon, Summit Chair

Editor's Note: Please see a collage of Summit photos on page 5. .

From the President's Desk:

I attended the Voters Rights Summit on January 7th. Never have I felt prouder to be a League member than I did at the Summit, planned by our own Carol Mattoon and her committee from around the state. MAJOR KUDOS TO ALL OF THE COMMITTEE AND ESPECIALLY TO CAROL FOR HER IDEAS AND LEADERSHIP!!. I know she wrote an article about the Summit in greater detail elsewhere in this Newsletter but I want to copy here the report that I sent to our LWVUS Membership and Leadership Development National Coaches, Caroline de Lamas and Nancy Eitreim. They were most impressed with what happened.



More than 300 people (including 77 League members) signed up, although about 40 did not show up. Attendees came from as far north as Flagstaff and as far south as Cochise County on the Mexican border. The speakers were excellent -- ranging from state legislators to advocates for voting rights to election officials to professors to election attorneys. The workshops were excellent -- facilitated mostly by League members. In those workshops, we discussed problems with voter suppression and we listed solutions to those problems. As soon as the Committee can get it done, all participants will get a copy of the possible solutions. Several people signed up to be on a Steering Committee to try to implement some/all of these possible solutions.

The Committee persuaded the Presidents of the five Local Leagues to offer a \$50-membership at the summit (even though most of us usually charge more). About 90 people joined a Local League at the Summit, about 65 in Phoenix, 18 in NWMC, and maybe a dozen in the other three Leagues!!

About 40 people (many of them new members or prospects) have signed up to attend our New Member Celebration this coming Thursday evening at the UU Church. The last Unit Meeting was energized by the Summit and I have reason to think that the New Member Celebration will be even more energized.

We plan to take some of these issues to the LWV/AZ Convention April 29-30 in Surprise, AZ -- speakers, more workshops, getting a lot of these new members involved. This Summit was NOT a one-shot deal; it was NOT only an educational tool. We want it to be the stepping-off point for future action on voting rights.

.....BONNIE SAUNDERS



CLIMATE CHANGE - WHERE DO WE STAND? WHAT CAN WE DO?

Dr. Nancy J. Selover will discuss climate change in Arizona. Dr. Selover, the Arizona State Climatologist, is an Academic Associate in the School of Geographical Sciences at ASU. One of her specialties is urban climate.

Our second speaker, Jeff Gibbs, is a former Litchfield Park planning commissioner who now lives in Surprise. He also is a regular contributor to the Arizona Republic on West Valley Planning issues. He will talk about local climate change issues.

After the talks, there will be a chance to ask questions or discuss the issues raised. Refreshments will be available after the program.

.....Darnell Kirksey, Water & Environment Director

You Make A Difference: Calling for Nominations

Each year one member is selected to receive the "You Make A Difference" award in recognition of the member's 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 to jojo.kohl41-AT-gmail.com.

Include your specific rationale as to 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.



COMING EVENTS in February and March
Mark your calendar!

Tuesday, February 14th - Unit Meeting - Arizona Bowl on Public Education - come see if you and your team can win payday! Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise NOTE: This is a change in location from your directory. Bring your brown bag lunch and join the group for conversation at noon -- coffee and/or tea will be provided.

- Meeting begins at 1 pm.
- Board Meeting 2-4 pm.

Thursday, February 23rd - General Meeting - "Climate Change" - Organized by Darnell Kirksey; 9:30 am - Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise.

Wednesday, February 25th - March Newsletter copy deadline - send to Joyeebk -AT- Gmail.com (In email address, replace the -AT- with the @ symbol please). Note: This is a courtesy effort for all email addresses to prevent scammers from picking up email addresses in online transmissions.

Tuesday, March 14 - Unit Meeting - "Issues about Health Care and Insurance Coverage" Organized by Valerie Ellien. Location: Sun City West Fire House, 13431 West Deer Valley Road, SCW; Bring your brown bag lunch and join the group for conversation at noon -- coffee and/or tea will be provided. Meeting begins at 1 pm. Board meeting 2-4 pm.

What Do You Know? continued from page 1

Think you know something about public education? After all, we have all been students, parents, educators, community members and/or media consumers, thus we have been exposed to lots of information about classroom instruction. Right?



Come join the group, check out your knowledge and have fun by participating in the Arizona Bowl on Education. Teams will be established and you will have buzzers, bells, whistles or noise-makers to signal that you know the answer first!! The format will be a take-off on the old College Bowl television programs you remember. Come win the "payday"!



The timing is right. Education is a hot topic in the Legislature; bills are being introduced. We each need a base knowledge of and understanding of all levels (K-12, early childhood, community college and University) if we are to be good advocates in support of education serving the needs of Arizona citizens of all ages.

We promise you an enjoyable time. Be thinking of a clever name for your team identity. Bring your brown bag lunch at noon. Join in an informal discussion with fellow Leaguers before the program.

.....Joye Kohl, Education Co-Chair

Voter Services: We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. Voter Service is a small title for a big subject. If you have a passion/interest to engage and educate voters and potential voters you are in the right place. If you would like to see a return to sensible debates/forums check that box too. Your ideas and enthusiasm are important and welcome.
Susan Penner and Charles Merritt, Voter Services Co-Directors

The Voters' Rights Summit

January 2017



Five of the instrumental team that made the Voters' Rights Summit such a success! Now those are happy faces! 1/7/17

