



2016-17

INSIDE THIS  
EDITION

Voters' Rights  
Summit

Page 1 & 4

Meeting with  
Adrian Fontes

Page 1 & 2

Best Democracy  
Money Can Buy  
Film

Page 2

Coming Events

Page 3

Book Donation  
Project Report

Page 3

# The Voter

January 2017

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



**Come One - Come All**  
to the  
**VOTERS' RIGHTS SUMMIT**  
**Saturday, January 7th**  
**9am-4 pm**  
**ASU-West**

"Voting is a right for all eligible voters. The problems seen during the Arizona presidential preference and general elections highlighted the need for all of us to work together to create a more open, fair, and accessible voting system" states our own League member and Summit Chair, Carol Mattoon. The LWV-Arizona hosted statewide Voters' Rights Summit will be held at the ASU College-West, UCB Bldg., "La Sala" Ballroom, 4701 W. Thunderbird Rd, Glendale, Arizona.

If you have questions or concerns about voting, join this group to explore the critical voting rights issues in Arizona and help explore potential solutions and ongoing advocacy activities!

Speakers will discuss the current voting laws and policies, how the present voting system works, current barriers, how barriers impact individual voting, mechanisms available for change, potential reforms and improvements as well as steps necessary to achieving reform. The registration is \$20 and includes breakfast, lunch, and a snack.

The registration form, due Jan. 2, can be downloaded here:  
[http://www.lwvgt.org/files/Summit-LWVAZ\\_Tri-fold\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.lwvgt.org/files/Summit-LWVAZ_Tri-fold_Brochure.pdf)

---

## **Meeting with Adrian Fontes -- Penner Represents LWV**

On December 21st, Voter Services Co-Chair Susan Penner represented the League at a meeting in Phoenix at the home of Beatrice Kabab, Chair of the MC Publicly Verifiable Elections Committee. Sharing experiences and concerns one on one with Adrian Fontes, the newly elected Maricopa county Recorder, and others was exciting. Others in attendance included: Joanne Scott Woods, Director of Arizona Communities for Change Public Forums; John Roberts Brakey, Co-Founder of Americans United for Democracy; Integrity and Transparency (AUDIT-AZ); Elizabeth

continued page 2

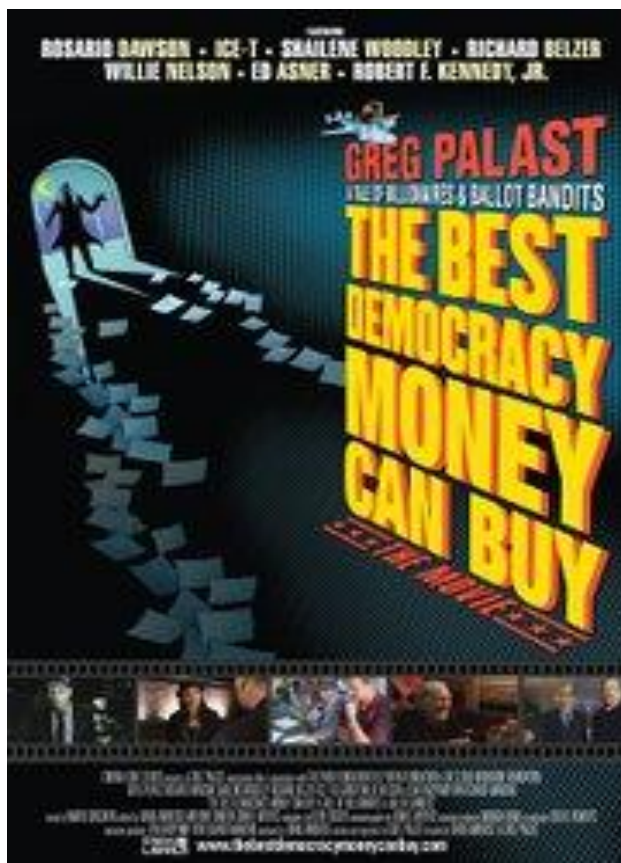
**Meeting with Adrian Fontes** continued from Page 1

Ferrendelli, ASU intern; Dean Palmer, Election Integrity for People Demanding Action AZ, Mike Schiller, Transition Team Coordinator and Karen Loschiavo, Communications Manager. The 90 minute meeting was live streamed on Facebook. Penner asked that the video be posted on YouTube for everyone's easy access. Those on Facebook should be able to find it at ARIZONA COMMUNITIES FOR CHANGE, AUDIT-AZ or TAKE BACK ELECTIONS.

One of the important objectives of this new administration is to define and separate the duties of the Records Office and the Elections Department. Mr. Fontes is initiating a nationwide search for an Elections Director. He asked participants to submit ideas regarding what qualifications were felt to be necessary and to incorporate them into a job description.

"To sit at a kitchen table with this group of individuals in a position to make changes in our elections was truly a unique experience", noted Penner. "We believe those who attend the Summit will share similar experiences in the small group sessions."

Many if not all of the people at the meeting with Adrian Fontes will also be at the Summit. Penner says, "I am looking forward to seeing you there too! I would like to thank Heidi Roupp for the great job she has done contacting our local legislators by phone regarding the Voter Summit. I sent out an email and she followed up by phone. Great teamwork. If you don't already know, Heidi is a new member and also hosted our terrific holiday party."



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise Movie Night will feature **“The Best Democracy Money Can Buy”** on **Tuesday, January 17th at 7 pm**. The subtitle of this must-see movie is: **“A Tale of Billionaires & Ballot Bandits.”**

Investigative reporter, Greg Palast, gives you the scoop on how this and prior elections were impacted.

Palast takes a look into the operation of the program known as “Crosscheck” designed to eliminate millions of votes -- primarily those of minorities. Palast and his side-kick explore some of the so-called "duplicate voters". Next they hunt down those behind the elaborate scheme to disenfranchise millions of voters.

This real life detective story is told in a film noir style, utilizing hidden cameras, some animation, secret documents and a little help from some Hollywood actors. Palast’s film spotlights efforts to impact voters' rights.

.....Linda Vitale



## **COMING EVENTS in January and February**

### **Mark your calendar!**

**Saturday, January 7th - Voters' Rights Summit** - 9 am-4pm, ASU College-West, UCB Bldg., "La Sala" Ballroom, 4701 W. Thunderbird Rd, Glendale, Arizona. Registration due by January 2nd - see form on page 4.

**Tuesday, January 10th - Unit Meeting - Convention Planning and Local Program Planning**, 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. LWV/AZ Program Planning and post Summit discussion.

Board Meeting 2-4 pm.

**Tuesday, January 17th - 7 pm, UU Church Movie Night - Film : "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy"** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise

**Wednesday, January 24th - Jan. Newsletter copy deadline** - send to Joyeebk -AT-Gmail.com (In email address, replace the -AT- with the @ symbol please).

**Tuesday, February 14th - Unit Meeting - "Arizona Bowl on Public Education"** - presenter: Joye Kohl; 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. Take part in this interactive and fun "take-off" on the old College Bowl. Join a team and see which team can answer the most questions correctly!

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.

**"Solving Achievement Gap Requires A New Paradigm"** is a great new report from - Bringing Up Arizona. You can access a copy at: <http://www.bringinguparizona.com/achievement-gap-solution/>

### **League Book Donation Project for the Dysart Unified School District:**

Thirteen members contributed 49 books at the Christmas Party as part of our annual book donation project to help the Dysart Unified School District. We are down nearly 19 percent from the number of book contributions last year. If anyone missed participating but would still like to contribute, please contact Joye at 556-1746 by January 7th. Books from the requested book list can still be ordered or purchased at local stores.