

THE VOTER

JUNE 2019

**The League of Women Voters of Arizona State Convention, Prescott, AZ
May 18-19, 2019**

Award Goes to Barbara Knutson

One highlight of the convention was the awarding of the “2019 Skeet Blakeslee Award” to our own Barbara Knutson. This award is given for leadership above and beyond the call of duty in the work of the League in Arizona.



Bonnie Saunders submitted the letter of recommendation for the award to be made to Barbara and in that letter noted that Barbara was a pioneer in improving Civics Education in Arizona high schools. As a member of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County, she has been a leader in the

Civic Learning Conference in Arizona for many years. Barb lobbied across the state to raise money for teacher scholarships and in 2019 the emphasis was on student team participation to attend the conference. A highlight of the conference is a naturalization ceremony. Barbara welcomes prospective new citizens and their families to the conference, which features a naturalization ceremony. LWVAZ sponsors receptions for the new citizens, with the opportunity to register to vote. Alice Stambaugh, co-president of the Arizona League was also given the 2019 Skeet Blakeslee Award. She has championed the organization’s legislative advocacy program and set priorities on which bills in the Arizona Legislature were deemed high priorities for coordinated advocacy efforts. She also visited key legislators in advance of legislative sessions and produced “actions alerts” about pending bills that are emailed to hundreds of League members in Arizona.

Dues Reminder from our Treasurer, Pherne Lewis

Pease send your check for \$65.00 to Pherne at 12927 W Peach Blossum Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375. If you paid your dues anytime between now and last December, you are paid up and do not need to pay again.

STATE CONVENTION MUSINGS and more from your president and some of her cohorts!

To quote Dr. Suess:
*"I've been brought here this morning
At the enormous expense
Of precisely one dollar and fifty-five cents
---plus 19 cents more if you add on the tip
To the driver who drove on this hazardous trip."*

The title of the convention was **"99 Years of Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy"** that set the tone for two days of work and fun with business, workshops, awards, speakers, food, and entertainment. I came away from this experience with gratitude for my fellow travelers and new appreciation and commitment for our reason for being as a League. We elected new LWVAZ leaders in our officers and board for the next two years, expressed excitement about a new League forming in Flagstaff, and look forward to the promise of a 100 year celebration in 2020 of the 19th Amendment giving women the vote. I would like to welcome **Susie Bowman** as a newly appointed member of our board with her title of Membership Co-chair. The board has developed programming for the coming year that fits with our mission of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. All members are invited to attend regular and board meetings. We will be launching a "Just One Thing," campaign in September to encourage everyone to commit to doing just one thing for and with the LWV, no matter how big or small in the coming year. Have a good summer everyone. **Judy Moor**

Dr. Suess again:
*"Congratulations!
Today is your day,
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!"*

I was surprised and delighted to note that of our five local delegates (Judy Moor, Kathleen Long, Martha Thompson, Lynne Leonard, and Becky Saylor), all joined within the last five years! I can say the same for LWV/AZ delegate Susan Penner and workshop presenter Linda Napier. State delegate Diane Smith has been a member for about 10 years. That leaves me as the 'old lady' of the League -- I joined the LWV/NWMC way back in 1998! We need the involvement of these fairly new members in order to flourish and carry on our mission. Kudos to Linda for her presentations on 'Medicare for All,' fielding sometimes jarring questions with grace and tact. **Bonnie Saunders**

We arrived on Friday night to a beautiful home that five of us rented in Prescott. It was my first convention, my first ever speaking to a group other than our league and a resolution to pass. Whew! The first class resulted in a great discussion about healthcare. My second presentation on the other hand was a challenge. Wow! I was really thrown aback. When we all gathered that evening in the living room of our Air b&b to debrief our day, everyone propped me up and explained that challenging things happen with every speaker and trainer. You have to work on how you handle situations of all kinds. When I walked into the meeting Sunday morning, first on the agenda, was the resolution! Here we go again! I was learning fast and Bonnie was there standing by me. The resolution passed after two amendments and much discussion! An amazing experience and valuable lessons learned! And not only about how to handle myself and what I needed to work on but also how my league sisters stood beside me and supported me through the whole weekend. **Linda Napier**

My experiences from two conventions and two off-year meetings has been a learning experience. The two years I served on the State Board as a delegate were rewarding and informative. I served on the Nominating committee for the State Board and it was a challenge to find willing candidates, however, due to the expertise of Joan Kaltas we recruited a great team of leaders to take us into the next two years. Serving on the State Board was a privilege and I know the Arizona State League will accomplish great things in the coming years. Kudos to the team that organized the Prescott Convention this year. **Diane Smith**

I was a delegate from LWV/NWMC to the recent Arizona state League of Women Voters Convention. It was my first time to attend, as I have been a member of the League for less than two years. When asked to attend, my first thoughts were, "But I don't know enough about anything to participate." My fellow attendees assured me that I would learn so much in those two days and get up to speed quickly. They were right! The workshops were excellent and the processes followed for the business meeting and consideration of resolutions were informative and well executed. The overall result was to renew my enthusiasm for the League of Women Voters which I hope to translate into increased participation at the local level. The convention was a wonderful experience and I am so happy to have had the opportunity to attend. **Kathleen Long**

Below: Linda Napier giving a workshop on Medicare for All



From Carol Matoon

Yea!!! The delegates passed our Single Payer, Medicare for All Resolution at our LWV state convention today!!! They tweaked it a bit, but not significantly. I am so excited!!! We got the topic out there and on every League-in-the-state's radar screen. Hopefully, programming on the topic in every League will follow. Accolades to my co-chair Linda Napier for hosting two workshops at the convention which helped educate our Leaguers and then for speaking to the motion. Between that and lobbying before hand, it did the trick. I hope other League's across the U.S. meet with the same success. The philosophy that you cannot experience success if you don't take a gamble, address the

challenge, and try, fits this situation. Hopefully, successes like this across the U.S. are some of the first steps to passing an updated Single Payer/Medicare for All Resolution at the 2020 LWVUS convention which will be followed by action at all levels of the League across the U.S.

Below is the **Resolution** as passed:

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of the United States believes quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents; and

Whereas the current and proposed systems do not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas a publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan is consistent with this goal;

Therefore, be it resolved, we the delegates assembled at the 2019 LWVAZ Convention, call upon the LWVAZ Board to support the education and advocacy of Single Payer, and endorse and reaffirm the Resolution passed at the 2010 LWVUS Convention calling on the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that establish a national Single Payer healthcare system.

Pictured below are our new co-presidents of the LWVAZ, affectionately called the “Trifecta.”



Above, left to right are Katie Murphy-Darling, Greater Tucson; Susan Walker, Metro Phoenix; and Terri Farneti, Central Yavapai County. Other officers: Secretary, Judy Wood, GT, Treasurer, Linda Greenberg, Central Yavapai County, and Nominating Committee Chair, Susan Penner, Maricopa County.

From Martha Thompson, Voter Service Chair

Deputy Registrar Training on Saturday, June 8, 1-3pm. I'm driving. Register at eventbrite.com/deputy-registrar-training-219-tickets-54424636553



Kathy getting started, Martha with her homemade focaccia bread, Lynne and Linda at hotel.

Notes from Bonnie Saunders

R.I.S.E. Summer Courses:

I will teach a course at R.I.S.E. on the origins and history of Islam on June 3, 4, 5, 6, 2019. On July 22, 23, 24, 25, I will teach a course on the U.S. Constitution.

Membership in R.I.S.E. is required (a one-time payment for one year) but you might get interested in other courses, such as Great Decisions, U.S. Foreign Policy or Comparative Politics and Government, both of which I plan to teach over the next year.

LWV/NWMC Discussion of Civics

On October 21, 2019, I have agreed to offer some sort of civics presentation at our meeting that day. I would like to have a committee of several members to help with this, especially how to make it more interesting than usual (not, however, with power point). Let me know if you want to help with this project. BonnieSaun@aol.com

LWV/NWMC Book Club:

We have just finished the second year of this Book Club and we have read a lot of really interesting books! We will not meet again until September 2 -- Labor Day at 7:00 p.m. at my house. All members are invited to join this Book Club. During the summer, I hope everyone will read the book that the League gave me at our Annual Meeting, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. It is the story of the final push to gain ratification of the 19th Amendment. Thirty-five states had ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, twelve had rejected or refused to vote, and one last state was needed. It all came down to Tennessee, the moment of truth for the suffragists, after a seven-decade crusade. You might also want to read other books by and/or about women during the summer.

100th birthday of ratification of the 19th amendment & founding of the League of Women Voters in 2020, submitted by Judy Moor, from article in AARP. The Magazine, June/July 2019

The National Archives in Washington DC is documenting the trials and ultimate triumph of the women's suffrage movement in an exhibit called "**Rightfully Hers—American Women and the Vote.**" The exhibit features rarely seen photographs and documents from the mid-19th century through the ratification of that amendment in 1920. Across the river from Washington in Fairfax County, Virginia, a nonprofit group is constructing a national monument to the suffragists on the grounds of a former prison where women were jailed and in some cases assaulted after picketing the White House in 1917. The **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** will be dedicated on August 26, 2020, the centennial of the day the amendment was formally certified. The memorial will cost about \$2.5 million. To donate, or to learn more, visit www.suffragistmemorial.org.

2019 Elections Review Project | Maricopa County, AZ submitted by Susan Penner

On January 16, the Board of Supervisors directed the county manager to form a working group that may lead to substantial changes in the way elections are run in the fourth most populous county in the country. The study has been completed and I want to encourage our members to **Read** and give **Feedback** to the Working Group by clicking on the link below. The Board of Supervisors and the County Recorder share the responsibility of making elections happen. Read the report and view the presentation powerpoint. The Working Group recommends two new directors be hired and an alternate recommendation as well. If you are comfortable in doing so, please send your comments.

<https://www.maricopa.gov/4987/2019-Elections-Review-Project>