



2016-17

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The Voter

March 2017

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



Exploring Transportation Issues in the NW Valley

Transportation remains the number one challenge for those well enough to live at home but who no longer can drive. At the March unit meeting, The League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County will present special guest speaker, Kathy Chandler, a federally designated mobility manager, speaking on the topic of "Transportation in the Northwest Valley". She will speak at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 14. The 1:00 presentation will be preceded by a brown-bag social time at noon. Plan to join us to learn more about the agency and the valuable service it provides.

Ms. Chandler is Executive Director of Northwest Valley Connect, (NVC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide personalized support to connect seniors and people with disabilities with available transportation services, while developing new transportation options to overcome existing service gaps. NVC marked its second full year of operation, responding to more than 3,500 calls to its call center where trained volunteers "connect" its clients to an appropriate transportation provider. When gaps in service exist, the agency uses its own volunteer drivers to make the trips. The growth in calls has been explosive.

.....Bonnie Boyce-Wilson

What is Happening?

Affordable Health Care and the Affordable Care Act

Come to our Unit Meeting on Thursday, March 23 from Noon until 2PM.

Enjoy your brown bag lunch with other members from 12 until 1PM ; from 1PM to 2PM we'll talk about what's happening with the Affordable Care Act and some current and past proposals to fix our system. The meeting will be at the Unitarian Church, on Avenue of the Arts, in Surprise.

..... Valerie Ellien & Lois Brechner

From the President's Desk:

February has been another busy month!



On Tuesday the 14th, we had our College Bowl Quiz on Arizona Education, attended by 26 members (two of whom actually joined on the spot!) and two guests. Thanks to Joye and John Kohl for conducting this quiz and giving a prize to the team that won.

On Thursday the 23rd, 25 members and 15 friends listened to AZ State Climatologist Dr. Nancy J. Selover talk about climate change in Arizona. Jeff Gibbs spoke about the impact of climate change on the West Valley. Many thanks to Darnell Kirksey for organizing this meeting on this important topic.

We will have two meetings in **March (the 14th and the 23rd)** and there are notes on both of them elsewhere in this Newsletter. However, there are some major changes in which topics are covered on which date, which one is the Unit Meeting and which is the General Membership Meeting, and the location of one of them:

On Tuesday, March 14th, we will have a General Membership Meeting featuring speakers on transportation in the West Valley, arranged by Bonnie Boyce-Wilson -- at 1:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise (behind the Salvation Army). Be aware that both the date and the time have changed from the list printed in the Membership Directory; location is the same. The changes were made to accommodate the speaker.

On Thursday, March 23rd, we will have a Unit Meeting during which Valerie Ellien and Lois Brechner will talk about what is happening with the ACA (a.k.a. Obamacare) -- brown bag lunch at noon, followed by the talk at 1:00 p.m. -- at the UU Church. Our Unit Meetings are for our members and anyone they wish to bring and our prospects and anyone they wish to bring. It isn't really open to the public. Be aware that both the date and the location have changed from the list printed in the Membership Directory. These changes were made to accommodate the speaker on transportation in the West Valley.

This Newsletter includes all of the information that you need to know for the LWV/NWMC Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 15th at the Briarwood Country Club, 20800 N. 135th Avenue, Sun City West -- with the business meeting and voting beginning at 9:30 a.m., the luncheon at noon and the speaker at 1:00 p.m.. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will find the basic agenda of the meeting, the Nominating Committee Slate, and Issues for Emphasis for the next League year. The budget will be sent in a separate e-blast. We hope long-term members will attend in greater numbers than last year. We have lots of new members and we hope most/all of you can come to this meeting so you can learn about this League and about the League in general. We have an excellent speaker in Ken Clark, who will talk about his legislative bills that relate to voting issues.

BONNIE SAUNDERS, President

You Make A Difference: Last Call 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.

Save the Date, April 15!

NWMC/LWV, Members and Friends are all invited to the Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Place: Saturday, April 15 at the Briarwood Country Club, 20800 N. 135th Ave in Sun City West.

Are you committed to Voters' Rights in Arizona? Can our League help to bring more common sense and order into our democratic elections? Come! Learn about a practical method of voting that would be new to AZ; that would better reflect majority preferences; and that would preclude wasteful run-off elections. Let's take a close look at Ranked Choice Voting so that we as a league can then decide whether and how to introduce it in our state.

Morning Session 9:30 – 12:00 includes an overview of the important work that our NWMC League does; and an educational session on the specifics of Ranked Choice Voting. Coffee and Teas are provided.

Luncheon at noon: The Briarwood Clubhouse Salad of Grilled Chicken Breast on mixed greens with cranberries, almonds and feta, tossed in white balsamic dressing; Brownie Sundae.

Speaker at 1:00: Congressman Ken Clark, a member of the AZ State House, will speak about Ranked Choice Voting as an option for Arizona.

Price: Morning Session is free. Luncheon and Speaker is \$21.

Register is by mail or online by April 13. Mail a check to Judy Moor, 17480 W. Meadow Lane, Surprise, AZ 85388. Questions regarding registration, 623-584-8191 . . . or . . .

Online, go to brownpapertickets.com / NWLWV Annual Meeting and Luncheon. There is a small processing fee. Questions about event: Martha Thompson 623-271-6080.

LWV/NWMC Annual Meeting Agenda

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Call to Order
- 9:35 a.m. Ranked Choice Voting -- explanations, video, ballot example: vote on something
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting:

Reports from Officers and Directors	Budget Presentation and Vote
Issues for Emphasis -- Discuss & Vote	Nominating Committee -- Slate, Nominations from the Floor, and Vote
- 11:00 a.m. President's Report
- 11:15 a.m. You Make A Difference Award
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn the Business Meeting
- Social Hour
- Noon Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Speaker: Ken Clark: "The Future of Elections in Arizona"
- 2:00 p.m. Adjourn

LWV-NWMC Members Take Part in Civic Learning Conference

February 3, 2017

Sponsored by the AZ Department of Education and Maricopa County Community Colleges

Barb Knutson, Mary Ann Gillispie, Charles Merritt and Susan Penner (LWVNWMC) represented the League of Women Voters AZ (LWVAZ) at the 4th annual conference. The highlight of this event, for me is the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) ceremony. This year 10 people from 6 countries Canada, Cuba, India, Kenya, Mexico and the Philippines were candidates for US citizenship. The ceremony begins with a presentation of Colors, the National Anthem, a video, speakers then the presentation of Certificates of Naturalization followed by the taking of the Oath of Allegiance. A brief period of time is allowed for the audience to ask questions of the new citizens. If you have never witnessed an INS ceremony please do so. It may not be as colorful as this one however it will tug at the strings of your heart, especially when you see and hear (for the first time) citizens from other countries pledge themselves to us. Yes, I said us, we the people of the United States.

**LWV MP and NWMC Meet with
Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes and
Community Outreach Director Francisco Heredia**

Feb. 1, 2017, 3 p.m., at the Recorder's Office

This meeting was requested by Mr. Fontes as a result of his having been personally invited by several LWVAZ Summit Planning Committee members to attend the January 7, 2017 Voters' Rights Summit and then his attendance at such. During the Summit, Mr. Fontes requested to see the Summit recommendations/report once it was completed.

A few days after the Summit, Mr. Fontes called requesting the report, which we had not yet completed. Then his new Community Relations Manager, Francisco Heredia, requested information collected from the Summit and stated that he is "overseeing outreach and partnerships for the new County Recorder Adrian Fontes...and would love to sit down and discuss information about (their) office moving forward and would like to learn more about what (we) are working on."

Since LWVAZ Summit Planning Committee members living in Maricopa County thought it would be advantageous to have additional representatives from both Leagues, several key members were invited to participate in the meeting. In preparation for the meeting, LWV members sent two reports from the Summit to Mr. Fontes and Mr. Heredia, i.e., "Top Five Areas for Action", and "Action Groups Report Outs", plus a document prepared specifically for their office with recommendations we hope they will try to enact.

LWV Members Present: Metro Phoenix - Rivko Knox, Care Lengel, Alice Stamaugh; NWMC - Carol Mattoon, Judy Moor, Susan Penner, Linda Vitale.



**Civic Learning
Conference**



...continued from page 3

It was our honor to host a brief reception for the new citizens. Shortly after the ceremony we provided cookies and refreshments to the most proud, joyous, happy, thrilled, exhausted group of people I've seen. One couple traveled from Kingman at 1 am to be there at 7 am. As you might guess, things were pretty chaotic. Lots of people taking pictures, hugging, kissing and laughing. I had difficulty corralling new citizens so I could present them with a memento from the League (a folder with various voter registration, league information and a beautiful crossed flags (US/AZ) pin). It was all over in the blink of an eye. Barb, Mary Ann, Diane Douglas the Arizona Department of Education Superintendent of Public Instruction and myself standing in silence. Back to work.

Our job was two-fold, escorting and providing a reception for the new citizens and being an exhibitor at the conference. We have a great display board with handouts, pens, etc. and were there to answer questions and promote the League. Thank you Charles you did a great job for us.

Now I'd like to talk about a very special person, Mr. Hintalla, Food Service Manager for Compass USA at PVCC. We were asked and accepted the honor and responsibility of paying for the reception. We had several discussions throughout the day as to how and when we would do that. After lunch and while all the social studies teachers were getting smarter, there was a lull in the action for exhibitors. Mr. Hintalla approached me, smiled and asked, "Susan do you want the good news or the bad?" "Bad please" and he informed me he was unable to take a check for the amount owed \$150. Not a problem, both Bard and I were prepared. "Good please". Mr. Hintalla, "I just spoke to my boss and told him how much I respect what your organization stands for and does. I have a little extra money in my budget this month so can I comp the charges? He said "yes". WOW! Our hero Mr. Hintalla.

Susan Penner – Voter Service Co-chair



COMING EVENTS in March and April

Tuesday, March 14th - Unit Meeting - "Transportation in the Northwest Valley" Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise NOTE: This is a change in location from your directory. Organized by Bonnie Boyce-Wilson. Bring a brown bag lunch and join the group in the conversation at noon -- coffee and/or tea will be provided.

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

Thursday, March 23rd - General Meeting - *What is Happening? Affordable Health Care and the Affordable Care Act.* Bring your brown bag lunch and join the group for conversation at noon -- coffee and/or tea will be provided. Organized by Valerie Ellien and Lois Brechner.

- Meeting begins at 1 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. NOTE: This is a time change from the directory.

Saturday, March 25th - March Newsletter copy deadline - send to Joyeebk -AT-Gmail.com (In email address, replace the -AT- with the @ symbol please). Please label all submissions For the LWV Newsletter in the subject line of your email.

Saturday, April 15 - Annual Meeting and Luncheon - Briarwood Country Club, begins at 9:30 am; lunch and keynote speaker at noon.

LWV LENDING LIBRARY

Thanks to Jane and Charles Merritt, we have two additional DVDs in our lending library, "Sick Around the World. Other countries have Universal Health Care. WHY DON'T WE?", and "Dollars and Dentists." Both are excellent and timely PBS Frontline movies.

To check them out, contact Carol Mattoon at a meeting, or [623-815-1019](tel:623-815-1019) or suncityarizona@yahoo.com.

"Sick Around the World: Four in five American say the U.S. healthcare system needs 'fundamental' change. Can the U.S. learn anything from the rest of the world about how to run a healthcare system, or are these nations so culturally different from us that their solutions would simply not be acceptable to Americans? FRONTLINE correspondent T.R. Reid examines first-hand how other advanced capitalist democracies--United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Taiwan and Switzerland--deliver health care and what the U.S. might learn from their successes and their failures."

"Dollars and Dentists: Dental care can be a matter of life and death. Yet millions of Americans can't afford a visit to the dentist. An investigation by FRONTLINE and the Center for Public Integrity reveals the shocking consequences of a broken safety net. Poor children, entitled by law to dental care, often cannot find a dentist willing to see them. Other kids receive excessive care billed to Medicaid, or major surgery for preventable tooth infections. For adults with dental disease, the situation can be as dire--and bankrupting. While millions of Americans use emergency rooms for dental care, at a cost of more than half a billion dollars, corporate dental chains are filling the gaps in care, in some cases allegedly overcharging patients or loading them with high-priced credit card debt. Correspondent Miles O'Brien investigates the flaws in our dental system and nascent proposals to fix them."

What Do You Know About Striker Bills?

Lots of Legislative bills on many topics in this session remain a great concern. Please check frequently to keep up on what is happening. Even those which seem to be temporarily stopped, can still re-emerge as striker bills. If you don't understand "Strikers", see the League white paper, "Strikers: Gambit or Gimmick" at the following link:

[http://nwmc.az.lwvnet.org/files/Striker Bills White Paper.pdf](http://nwmc.az.lwvnet.org/files/Striker%20Bills%20White%20Paper.pdf)

A POTPOURRI OF FEB. LWV-NWMC ACTIVITIES



Welcome new members



Learn about Climate Change



Support and contribute to the Civil Learning Conference



The ARIZONA BOWL
on Education

How knowledgeable are you?

Gain knowledge about AZ education system

id will be the Payday scholarship





PLEASE: I need a home

Looking for a CRAFTY person to update my information and see that I get to meetings/events on time. Please contact Susan [419-340-1116](tel:419-340-1116).

School Choice and Educational Equity for All Arizona Youth -

The 2017 LWW_NWMC education white paper can be read or downloaded at the following link: [http://nwmc.az.lwwnet.org/files/school_choice_and_educational_equity_for_all_arizona_youth - feb 2017.pdf](http://nwmc.az.lwwnet.org/files/school_choice_and_educational_equity_for_all_arizona_youth_-_feb_2017.pdf)



Thank you Mr. Hintalla. Read about him on page 4.

Slate of Nominees for 2017-18

- President: Bonnie Saunders
- 1st V.P.: Open -- to nominations from the floor
- Events Coordinator: Martha Thompson
- Director-At-Large: Carol Mattoon
- Nominating Committee Chair: Diane Smith
- Nominating Committee Member: Open -- to be nominated from the floor

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Smith, Nominating Committee

Issues for Emphasis for 2017-2018

(We will vote on these at the Annual Meeting)

- Ranked Choice Voting -- our Local League Program Item
- Voting Rights -- voter registration, access to the Ballot, Elections Process, Redistricting
- Campaign Financing
- Education

Please Adopt Me!

I will get you to our meetings ON TIME. I help others find our meanings. I will fit in your trunk or the backseat of your car. I am very quiet, you won't even know I'm in the garage. I don't take up any room because I fold up flat and lean right up against a wall. Call Susan at [419-340-1116](tel:419-340-1116) and pick me up! New members--good way to volunteer.



The League of Women Voters of NW Maricopa County