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League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County

The Voter

May 2016

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

President's Message

In this last Newsletter of the League year, I want to thank all of the Board Members who have served over the past year. They have chaired meetings, found speakers, taken minutes, kept track of our money, edited this Newsletter, written pamphlets, spoken to members and the public, registered voters, come up with ideas for League activities, promoted learning about democracy and our system of government, presided over meetings, brought prospects and new members to meetings, found venues for our meetings, chaired committees, helped with fundraising. I'm sure I must have forgotten something but you can see that Board Members did a huge amount of work this year.

Our Annual Meeting on April 2nd went well, although we always wish for higher attendance. LWV/AZ President Shirley Sandelands and Voter Service Chair Anna Dolak attended and inspired us with their words. LWV/NWMC member Julie Gustavson spoke to us of her work on education at SpeakOut Arizona. We made a modest amount of money at our silent auction.

Several of us are going to the LWV/AZ Council in Phoenix on April 30th. We will meet and talk with members from the other four Leagues, prepare for the Voter Guide, and learn more about League ideas and fall projects.

This fall promises to be busy, with elections at all three levels (national, state, and local) and the Voter Guide on the Ballot Propositions to be published by the LWV/AZ and distributed our League members to various locations.

Have a great summer and return to League activities this fall, refreshed and inspired to participate in election activities and League meetings. Starting on May 23rd, I will be going to the LWV/US Convention in Washington, DC, and visiting my many relatives and friends on the east coast. I'll be back briefly at the end of June and going to California in July to visit my grandchildren. Before August 1st, I will return and get started working on League and other projects.

Your dues are due (\$55 for one member, \$75 for two members in a household). Some members have already sent in their dues but quite a few have not. Please send your dues to Treasurer Judy Dreskin as soon as possible -- before one or more Board Members will need to contact you directly during the summer to ask for those dues. We do welcome three new members who have joined recently -- Fay Brattan, Maya Hennessey, and Mary Macleish. We would welcome any of our prospective members who receive this Newsletter by e-mail to join us this summer so that you can get your names into our Membership Directory, which will be published in the fall.

Bonnie Saunders, President

2015-16 Annual Reports

Membership

Chair: Bonnie Boyce-Wilson

There were 10 new members who joined this year and our membership now totals 70!

A New Member gathering in February was graciously hosted by Jeana Peterson. Following refreshments and social time, new members introduced themselves and were welcomed by the group. A brief video of League history was shown. Committee chairs invited newcomers to become active by participating in a committee.

Voter Services

Chairs: Charles Merritt and Susan Penner

Voter Service started the year April 21, 2015, yes, that's right, and the excitement continues. Between April and July we held 3 voter registration events and attended two Maricopa County Elections Community meetings down town. In, August brought a request for voter registration help at Dysart Schools Constitution Day event in September.

Activities in September – December: Constitution Day at Dysart, National Voter Registration Day at Glendale Community College, Movie Premiere of Suffragette, Represented LWVAZ at the Social Studies Conference in Laveen, AZ and ASU and AAUW in Glendale, Vista Del Rio Adult Living Center, back down town to the Elections Department and sent an email to the Secretary of State's office asking for help.

2016 ELECTION YEAR: January-March: We were invited to visit with our Secretary of State and Secretary Michele Reagan asked to speak to our League. She spoke at our February meeting. Following a request from Estrella Mountain Community College we were represented on a panel as part of Women's History Month. Two requests (Marley Park in Surprise and Vistancia in Peoria) were received for overseeing HOA Elections which we did. We also attended the Clean Elections Panel on Money In Elections.

Education

Co-chairs: John and Joye Kohl

The Book Donation Project: The 54 books donated by our League members to the Dysart USD district will help the district schools as they continue to face serious budget issues resulting from state funding cuts, a rapidly growing student population over the past decade and the demands of a higher than average population of Title I students. Many, many thank you letters have been received from students and school personnel.

West Valley Education Forum - "School Success Begins at Birth": Keynote speaker Dr. Debbie Pischke's information and guidance for parents, grandparents, care-givers, school personnel and policy-makers provided valuable insight into ways to facilitate a young child's brain development. The presentation was live streamed via YouTube and available for follow-up viewing online. All cosponsors were urged to share the video link with their contact network. A follow-up news release from the forum was sent to cosponsors and the media and we received good newspaper coverage.

2016 Legislative Session: Funding inadequacy, Empowerment Scholarship Expansion and reducing ESA accountability, reducing teaching certification requirements, cursive writing requirements, failure to address transparency/ accountability requirements for charters and use of public funds for private education -- so many problems in the 2016 Legislative session. While difficult to address the many threats to public education, we do know that the impact of contacts to legislators have helped stall efforts for empowerment scholarship expansion and further funding cuts although until the Legislature has adjourned, everything remains in play.

At Large LWV-NWMC Carol Mattoon

Presidential Preference election: Formed and chaired a committee to create a press release and handouts explaining the requirements for voting in the Presidential Preference election in March. The information was distributed to the local media, other organizations, and libraries.

Created a **Get-Out-The-Vote T-shirt**, which served double duty as it raised \$246.80 in income for our League.

"FIX IT ~ Healthcare at the Tipping Point". Formed a committee to brainstorm ways to educate both League members and the public about Single Payer/Medicare for all by showing the movie "FIX IT ~ Healthcare at the Tipping Point". Committee consisted of Chair Carol Mattoon, Jim Dobbins, John Kohl, Jeana Petersen, George and Jane Pauk from Physicians for a National Health Plan.

A lending library was established in our local League with 21 individuals checking out the DVD. From that, there was a ripple effect, as Leaguer's shared it with their friends who they then shared it with their friends, etc. In addition, the committee created a "What Can I Do" handout, created discussion points/questions to use after the film, etc. Committee members have contacted a number of organizations and continue to work to get it shown around the community.

Thanks to several LWV and AAUW members, a variety of public showings were held: Tucson medical students hosted a showing at the College of Medicine in Tucson, Patty Lang hosted a "Lunch and Movie" event at her home, Judy Dreskin hosted a showing for her discussion group, Linda Vitale hosted a showing at the Unitarian Universalist Church "Movie Night", James Dobbins and Sharon Forbes will host a showing at the Colonnade, several folks held showings at their homes, plus it was shown at the LWV State Council meeting. Committee members have contacted a number of organizations and continue to work to get it shown around the community.

Civic Engagement Chair: Barbara Knutson

This year the position of Civic Engagement Chair focused on the LWV-NWMC and LWVAZ partnership with the AZ Dept of Education. We were able to provide scholarships to school districts throughout the to allow teachers to attend the 3rd Annual Civic Learning professional development conference. Our League gave six (6) professional development scholarships to teachers from the Dysart Unified School District. I also worked with the other Leagues in the state and as a result we were able to give a total of sixteen (16) teacher scholarships.

We have also partnered with the AZ Dept of Education's recognition program to support the "Excellence in Civic Engagement" K-12 program. I am representing our League and the LWVAZEF as a member of the Education Department's Advisory Board for the Conference and the Civic Engagement recognition program.

We are very excited about our opportunity to be involved in these efforts and partner with other civic organizations to increase civic knowledge and to promote engagement for our future voters as adult citizens of AZ and our country.



John Kohl Presented with "You Make A Difference" Award at Annual Meeting

John was recognized for service to the NWMC League and the Arizona State League. The 2016 recipient and League member was acknowledged for his expertise in analyzing education policy, his depth of understanding of school finance, and his ability to communicate clearly.

He was the primary researcher and author of the "Voter's Guide to Understanding District and Charter School Budgets", and co-authored the LWV-NWMC white paper, "Exploring AZ K-12 Public Education."



Kohl served on the state League Education Finance Study Committee and the short term Prop 123 Committee for which he worked on the LWVAZ Prop 123 brochure and powerpoint presentation. In addition, the award winner co-chaired the NWMC League education committee that produced three community forums on education.

Kohl had a 47 year distinguished career in education and was granted dean and professor emeritus status when he retired from Montana State University in 1996.

Prop 123 Dollar Flows Vary By Scenario

In the absence of full disclosure by anyone else, ***Bringing Up Arizona*** compared the dollar flows of what advocates want voters to believe and what is likely to happen.

The figures presented below are estimates of the total amount of basic state aid (encompassing both state money and local property taxes) that will be paid to schools from 2016 to when the added payouts from Prop 123 end in 2025.

Here's the bottom line: **Base Scenario** (the existing budget without settlement to the lawsuit): **\$68.0 billion.**

Publicized Scenario (Prop 123 passes, no trigger events occur): **\$71.4 billion.**

Likely Scenario (Prop 123 passes, trigger event occurs): **\$69.6 billion.**

Alternative Scenario (Prop 123 fails, legal action resumed and completed in two years): **\$70.1 billion.**

The comparison depends on the assumptions one makes about the next 10 years. Will there be a recession? More than one? How long will it (they) last? If Prop 123 is defeated, how long will it take to complete the court action that at present is stayed?

.... For a full copy of the report, see Bringing Up Arizona.com
<http://www.bringinguparizona.com/123-will-give-and-take-back/>

Special Election: May 17th



2016-17 LWV-NWMC Officers

President: Bonnie Saunders

1st Vice President: Bonnie Boyce-Wilson

2nd Vice President: Lois Brechner

Secretary: Judy Moor

Treasurer: Judy Dreskin

