



# THE VOTER

**ANNUAL MANUAL** APRIL 2012



**MAYOR  
CAROLYN GOODMAN  
*Potpourri***

**MEMBERS:  
IF YOU ARE  
VOTING,  
PLEASE  
BRING THIS  
MANUAL  
TO THE  
APRIL  
MEETING**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012**

**Reservations by Wednesday, April 18**

**Phone: 702-464-7887**

**E-mail: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)**

**LWV LVV OFFICERS  
2010-2011**

President: Sandy Metcalf  
1st. VP: Sam King  
2nd VP: Jan Biggerstaff  
Secretary: Ann Marie Smith  
Treasurer: Lyell Metcalf  
Directors: Beverly Abderrahman  
Teresa Bell  
Freda Greenfield  
Betty Pardo

**THE LAS VEGAS SOCIAL CLUB**

**ADJACENT TO**

**MAIN STREET STATION**

**200 N. Main at Main & Stewart**

**9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.**

**SOCIAL & BREAKFAST**

**10:00 A.M. PROGRAM**

**BREAKFAST \$20 with reservation  
Admittance \$5.00  
(included in breakfast charge)**

**[www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org)**



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *By: Sandy Metcalf*

I saw this somewhere and thought it was funny and VERY true. "We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress." Bob Hope

Just a reminder to all of you, look over the slate of officers, the budget, and other pertinent information in this issue of our Voter. Each year in April we do our local league business as part of our April general meeting. If you wish to nominate someone for office, please ask that person if it is okay.

We are already planning events for next year so if you have a great idea for a program email or call Sam or me. We are already planning a candidate Meet and Greet in August at the Main Street Station in our regular meeting room.

Come be part of the in-house action of running the League

**Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman, April Speaker**

Winning 60 percent of the vote, Carolyn G. Goodman became the mayor of the city of Las Vegas on July 6, 2011. Her husband of 49 years and then current mayor, Oscar B. Goodman, administered the oath of office. It is the only known instance of a spouse succeeding her husband as mayor in the United States.

Mayor Goodman and her husband as relative newlyweds moved to Las Vegas from Philadelphia in 1964 arriving in August with only \$87 left in their collective pockets shortly after Oscar successfully completed the Pennsylvania bar examination. Initially, Oscar worked for the District Attorney's office while Carolyn worked in the hotel industry and thereafter in West Las Vegas for the Department of Labor. Thereafter, while her husband traveled the country building what became an outstanding criminal law career winning high-profile cases, Carolyn raised their four children simultaneously earning a master's degree in counseling at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Mayor Goodman is well known in the Las Vegas community for founding The Meadows School in 1984, Nevada's first nonprofit, nonsectarian, independent, coeducational, college preparatory school for pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Recognized nationally by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the National Association of Independent Schools in 2006 with the Seymour Preston Trustee Award for Leadership, Carolyn has devoted much of her life to volunteerism in Las Vegas and more specifically to education. (*Information from website*).

**EDUCATION..** *By: Sam King*

The League of Women Voters supports public education and it is part of our grassroots advocacy which includes attending meetings and researching available information. The Education Committee is and has been actively following the education reform movement nationally and locally to understand what is at stake for public education. As we review all policy and procedures in place and on the table we will pass along our findings. It is our intent to work within the community so that there is education information about the direction, goals, expectations and resources impacted by reform including results and accountability. When appropriate, League will support reform and the school district. In a public release, Clark County School District explained how Superintendent Jones's administration will be transparent in actions including budget requirements to realize positive reform.

**From the Las Vegas Review-Journal: School ratings: District moves toward transparency Opinion**

Dwight Jones made his priorities clear when he became the Clark County School District's superintendent a little more than a year ago: honesty, transparency and accountability. He said those fundamental principles of good public policy would pave the way for higher expectations and, eventually, higher achievement.

Mr. Jones took another step toward fulfilling his promises when he unveiled a school ranking system that recognizes the district's best campuses while revealing which elementary and middle schools aren't getting the job done. (High school ratings will be released in a few weeks.) The one- to five-star rating system is a major philosophical turnaround for a school district that, until Mr. Jones' arrival, always tried to spin obvious shortcomings into causes for celebration while never making the kinds of overall achievement gains promised year after year.

To view this story in its entirety please visit:

[www.lvrj.com/opinion/school-ratings-140473273.html](http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/school-ratings-140473273.html).

**\$27 BILLION**

U.S. budget deficit for January 2012, a 46% drop from January 2011, because of higher tax withholdings and a decline in government spending. (Time magazine)

**POLITICAL CORNER**

On Monday (March 12), Gov. Brian Sandoval announced the appointment of James W. Guthrie to the post of state superintendent of schools effective April 2. Mr. Guthrie has a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a doctorate from Stanford University and was a professor at the UC Berkley for 27 years.

He's on record with a number of interesting viewpoints. "America's schools have always been well funded, despite the claims of school funding advocates who persistently assert that the nation shortchanges its students," he wrote in 2009, noting that per pupil spending has increased in virtually every year for the past century, even when controlled for inflation. "Additionally, the misguided practice of using spending amounts as a measure of school quality has helped protect local school-funding levels from any effort to reasonably adjust them."

Mr. Guthrie has specific ideas about education reform efforts. He favors "coherent and comprehensive" strategies that include "more rigorous and visible performance standards, promotion of institutional competition and innovation (and the) recruitment and reward of talented leaders." Pursuit of reform is vital, he argues, because "regardless of the measures involved, student achievement results reflect four decades of abject stagnation." (*Las Vegas Review Journal*)



## Minutes to the April 16, 2011 Annual Meeting Main Street Station

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Sandy Metcalf. She announced that this was the Annual Meeting of the League where we take care of League business. First of all, she thanked the outgoing 2010-2011 board: Sam King, First Vice President; Jan Biggerstaff, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Lyell Metcalf, Treasurer; Beverly Abderrahman, Teresa Bell, Freda Greenfield and Betty Pardo, Directors.

She then asked Mary Beth Heavrin, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to handle the elections. Ms. Heavrin thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee, Kathleen Dickinson and Jan Biggerstaff. She then announced that the slate for the Nominating Committee for 2011-2012 would be chaired by Aimee Riley, and the members would be Kathleen Dickinson and a new member to be chosen by the new Board of Directors. She called for nominations from the floor and, there being none, declared the slate closed. Helen Mortenson moved to accept the slate, Kathleen Bienenstein seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heavrin then stated that the Education Project Board was elected for two years and the members were serving their term for 2010-2012. For the record, the officers of the Education Project Board are President: Betty Pardo; First Vice President: Susan Servin; Second Vice President: Mary Beth Heavrin; Secretary: Kathleen Dickinson and Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf.

She then proceeded to announce the proposed slate of officers for 2011-2012: Sandy Metcalf, President; Sam King, First Vice President; Jan Biggerstaff, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Lyell Metcalf, Treasurer; Beverly Abderrahman, Sondra Cosgrove, Freda Greenfield and Betty Pardo, Directors. She called for nominations from the floor and, there being none, declared the slate closed. Kathleen Bienenstein moved to accept the slate, Betty Pardo seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

President Metcalf took the floor. She announced that the proposed program for the 2011-2012 fiscal year is to continue with Sustainable Communities and Making Democracy Work. In addition, this year we will be participating in a National Study on the Role of the Federal Government in Education. She stressed that the League works from the grassroots level to the top. The members determine the positions that National League will support. Betty Pardo moved to accept the program, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Budget for 2011-2012 was presented to the membership in advance, in the Annual Manual. Treasurer Lyell Metcalf announced that the Budget Committee consisted of himself, Betty Pardo and Freda Greenfield. He gave a short explanation of the zero balance budget method used and moved to accept the budget as presented, Mary Beth Heavrin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Changes to the bylaws were presented to the membership in advance, in the Annual Manual. A housekeeping change was introduced to drop the word "Honorary" from "Life Members" to bring our bylaws into compliance with National Bylaws. Kathleen Bienenstein moved to accept the change, Beverly Abderrahman seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Jan Biggerstaff presented the other changes to the bylaws to change Article VII Nominations and Elections to read as follows:

**Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of at least three and not more than five members. The chair and one or two members, who shall not be members of the board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Immediately after the annual meeting, the board shall appoint at least one of its members to the committee. Additional members may be added at the discretion of the board. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board. The majority of the members of the nominating committee shall be non-board members.

**Sec. 2. Report of Nominating Committee.** The report of the nominating committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors of the LWVLV and officers for the LWVLV Educational Project Board, and the chair and one or two members of the next nominating committee, shall be made available to the members at least one month before the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Sam King moved to make the changes to the bylaws, Aimee Riley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

President Metcalf thanked Liz Bates for bringing centerpieces and balloons to all the meetings this year. She reminded everyone that dues are due for 2011-2012. The State Convention will be held on June 10-11 in Mesquite. She introduced Rosemary Gary, from the Mesquite League, who gave a brief overview of convention highlights. Information will be sent to members. On June 12, there will be an officer training by Susan Wilson, our representative from National League. President Metcalf also announced that Betty Pardo has arranged all of our meetings for the next year at Main Street Station.

First Vice President Sam King took the floor to introduce the Honorable Dina Titus, our speaker for the meeting. Ms. Titus has served the community for many years as an educator, in local government as a State Senator and on the Federal level as a Congresswoman. She has recently been appointed to the United States Civil Rights Commission. Ms. King said that civil rights are the bedrock of our issues.

Ms. Titus commented that she is now in the classroom teaching Women in Politics, State Politics, Legislative Process, Elections, and Nuclear Policy. She also has a radio program called "Nexus" on KUNV, 91.5, on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

She has also been appointed to the United States Civil Rights Commission which meets once a month for hearings on civil rights. The Commission started out neutral. During the Reagan years it became politicized with four Republicans and four Democrats. Under the George Bush administration, two Republicans switched to non-partisan, which had the effect of the Commission becoming 6-2. It is now back to 4-4. The Commission is looking at discipline and discrimination in schools. Some schools provide wraparound services to family members as well as students. There is a hearing coming up on inter-student violence. Other subjects include racial, religious, gangs, bullying, gay/lesbian issues. Any kind of discrimination that is covered by the Civil Rights Act can be taken up by the Commission.

A question-and-answer session followed. Some topics included cuts to education resulting in not being able to attract new businesses due to lack of qualified workers, purging of voter rolls, health care roll-back which is aimed at women, immigration, age discrimination.

President Metcalf thanked Ms. Titus and presented her with a gift.

The raffles were carried out. Helen Mortenson briefly talked about the Las Vegas Ice Age Park Foundation which is proposing an Ice Age Park in Southern Nevada as a national monument. We should contact our representatives and support this issue. She provided handouts on the Ice Age Park, the Protectors of Tule Springs, the Desert Wetlands Conservancy and the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Smith, Secretary



**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS** *By: Sam King*

March is recognized as Women's History Month. March 8 specifically celebrates and is recognized as International Women's Day. As citizens of our representative democratic nation, the men and women, members and friends of the League of Women Voters, continue to work to ensure that policy is inclusive and equitable.

The League of Women Voters began as an organization dedicated to passing legislation for women to have a voice in government and policy development exercised by the right to vote. The movement historically changed inequitable policy regarding the right to vote. The suffragist movement forged relationships with civil rights activists working for equity and a balanced legislation which would empower, inform, and assist individuals so they would participate in government. March 2012 embraces and recognizes the work of our predecessors and the need to vigilantly continue to build upon existing policy so that it reflects 21st Century society. We recognize the many contributions of individual women of Nevada. The impact of Nevada's women can be felt in every corner of our state and across every aspect of our society – from government and business to education, religion and culture.

Our state has a proud history of women pioneers. Activists like Mabel Welch Hoggard and Lubertha Johnson made essential strides for education and civil rights, while Jean Ford, Harriet Trudell, Ruby Duncan, Linda Rivera and many others championed advances for Nevada's women, youth, and minority communities which translated into better conditions for all Nevadans. These pioneers established a tradition of women's leadership in Nevada.

Our individual and organizational grassroots efforts continue to grow. The League of Women Voters maintains historic principles and works to formulate positions upon which to advocate, act and change policy to improve the quality of life in our communities. One of our tools for grassroots activism is research and study. The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley recently conducted and completed a study on Privatization. The results will be in the next issue of the VOTER

**CHILDREN AT RISK** *By: Liz Bates*

After visiting **Peggy's Attic** in January the Youth at Risk Committee decided to collect new or nearly new items at the League's **March 17** meeting to be donated to this organization. There is a special need for boys (any size) pants/jeans - approximately 500 pairs are given away each month. Contributions included school supplies, children's clothing, etc. All bedding items (blankets, nursery afghans, sheets, etc.) should be NEW. A special thanks to Straight from the Streets for the generous donations of children's clothing they are unable to use for their clientele.

The committee will be visiting the Assistance League at **10:00 a.m. on MARCH 22** to learn about **OPERATION SCHOOL BELL**. Donations of NEW, SCHOOL APPROPRIATE T-SHIRTS (boys and girls) will be collected at the APRIL 21ST MEETING. Be on the lookout for these items to donate. Thank you to all who have donated to Shade Tree Shelter books!

**LOOK FOR THE TABLE WITH THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE BALLOONS TO ADD THESE DONATIONS AT OUR MEETINGS!**

**VOTER SERVICES** *By: Sondra Cosgrove*

Voter Services activities are running full steam. We have voter registration events planned for the local high schools as well as with some community partners. If you are interested in helping voters register please contact [sondra.cosgrove@gmail.com](mailto:sondra.cosgrove@gmail.com). As the deadline approaches for candidates to declare for the upcoming primary election we are getting ready to publish the League's widely respected Voters Guide. This year we will offer an online version of the Primary Voters Guide as well as an online and print version of the General Election Voters Guide. Caesar's Entertainment is also graciously funding a Spanish version of the General Election Voters Guide. The primary election is June 12, 2012; and the general election will be November 6, 2012. You can follow who is filing to run on the Secretary of State's webpage: <http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=1075>.

**HEALTH CARE SITES from March meeting:**

[www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

[www.exchange.nv.gov](http://www.exchange.nv.gov)

**HEALTH....By: Ellen Nakamura**

Legacy is what future generations will remember about you or your organization. What is the Health Care Committee's legacy?

Nationally, the Affordable Health Care Act will be reviewed by the US Supreme Court during this session. There will be various study and monitoring groups tracking various stages of implementing the Affordable Health Care Act. There are states that have not started anything to states that have decided to let the US Government implement their state health exchange.

Nevada is staging and implementing the Affordable Health Care Act and is implementing the components of our own State Health Exchange program. This implementation grant has a deadline and all components hold public meetings. Participation is very limited to stakeholders involved but not the most important audience, the public being served. From our past, we as a committee have rallied around an issue and asked whether the legislature is warranted to resolve the issue of childhood obesity. Presently, what are our present and future goals for the health care committee? The present problems are not limited to juvenile justice, environment, health care or education. So, I would like your opinion. You can email me at [enakamura@att.net](mailto:enakamura@att.net).

Please note: You are always welcome to join one or more of our active committees

EDUCATION: The League supports adequate and equitable funding for all levels of public education, is committed to continuing efforts to establish excellence in all our children's schools.

ENVIRONMENT: We are interested in learning more about various aspects of our environment, the political processes that govern decisions about the environment, and sharing ideas and stories about those issues.

HEALTH: We continue to work in coalition with other groups to support health issues relevant to our local as well as national populations. Members interested in learning how to effect a change in the health care system are encouraged to join us.

CHILDREN AT RISK: An ongoing committee that meets and works to bring awareness to the plight of children and their families that are at risk of falling through the cracks of services in Las Vegas.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: A popular and very active group that directs the legislative program for our League. Members are requested to follow the legislative session and give input to the chair. Meetings are held regularly during the session.

MEMBERSHIP: An organization is only as strong as its membership. We actively go into the community and recruit new members as well as increase the community's awareness of the activities of our League to show how being involved with League is educational and fun.

VOTER SERVICES: We are an organization that endorses and assists in voter registration. Classes are held regularly through the County Registrar to provide members with training to become voter registrars. The League is often requested to provide registrars at club functions and in the schools.

TIMES AND PLACES OF MEETINGS ON BACK PAGE OF THE VOTER

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

NAME PHONE FAX

DATE EMAIL

ADDRESS ZIP

Permission to publish the above, minus FAX & email address, in the LWVLVV For MEMBERS ONLY Roster.

New Member (joined this year) Continuing Member in Las Vegas Previous Member from out of state

How did you learn about the League of Women Voters?

Did another member invite you to a meeting? If yes, who?

LIST YOUR INTERESTS / HOBBIES / PROFESSION / AREAS OF EXPERTISE, ETC.:

CHECK THE COMMITTEE(S) THAT INTEREST YOU:

EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CHILDREN AT RISK LEGISLATIVE VOTER SERVICES MEMBERSHIP

Please Complete and Return to:

League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley; P.O. Box 12991; Las Vegas, NV 89112

or bring to our next meeting...Thank You

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY**



P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112  
Phone: (702) 464-7887

Email: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org) Website: [www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

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*THE VOTER is published as a service for members of the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley.  
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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

The LWVLVV meets September through April, the third Saturday of the month. Meetings are currently held at the Las Vegas Social Club adjacent to Main Street Station, Main and Stewart.

A 9:30 a.m. breakfast is followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

**Breakfast is \$20 with reservation,**  
Admittance: \$5:00 (included in breakfast charge)

**2012 PROGRAM CALENDAR**

**May 17** Larry Lomax, Clark County Registrar

**August 11** CANDIDATE FORUM

**September 19** We're Back! Surprise Guest Speaker

**COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Children at Risk (Liz Bates)—Call of the Chair
- Education (Sam King) — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment (Terri Robertson)— Call of the Chair
- Government Affairs (Sam King) Call of the Chair
- Membership (Needs a Chair)
- Health (Ellen Nakamura)— Call of the Chair
- Voter Services (Sondra Cosgrove) —Call of the Chair

For additional information check our website:

[www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

**NAME BADGES**

Magnetic \$12.00  
Pin \$10.00

All profits go to the  
501 (c)(3) Education Project Fund  
See: **Freda Greenfield**  
at meeting or  
[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)



**DUES DUE NOW  
STILL ONLY \$55**

**YEARLY DUES—MARCH —MARCH PAST DUE NOW**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly dues: ( ) \$55 New/Renew Member ( ) \$75 Household ( ) \$25 Student**

**Donation to Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible) Donation to Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (not tax deductible)**

Please note: Pictures are occasionally taken for our publications during meetings. Please check if not ok to use

**Mail to: League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112**

**Please Support the League's Education Fund—it is tax deductible and assists in our scholarship program**