



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

# THE VOTER

APRIL 2013

**NEW  
LWVLV OFFICERS  
2013-2014**

- President: *Sondra Cosgrove*  
1st. VP: *Sam King*  
2nd VP: *Beverly Abderrahman*  
Secretary: *Ann Marie Smith*  
Treasurer: *Kathleen Bienenstein*  
Directors:
- *Freda Greenfield*
  - *Betty Pardo*
  - *Bonnie Swadling*
  - *Jan Biggerstaff*



**April Speaker  
Elizabeth Crum**  
Co-host of "The Agenda"  
Political Reporter & Commentator  
at KSNV-TV News3 Las Vegas

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013**

**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**

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



**2013-2014 DUES  
ARE DUE NOW**

**Reservations by Wednesday, April 17**

**RSVP TODAY:**  
[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)  
**464-7887**

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

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** *By: Sondra Cosgrove*

It is with humility and a great sense of honor that I thank you for entrusting me with the presidency of the League Of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley. The League is one of the oldest and widely respected organizations in the country and a well-known advocate for open and honest government, protecting the right to vote, and enabling every person to participate in our political system. In 1920 the League’s founders stood at the forefront of promoting issues important to women and today we follow in their footsteps by continuing to fight for the marginalized, to promote the general welfare, and to empower all who wish to effectively share in our democracy. You have my word that I will do my best to continue this tradition.

As we approach our state’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary many are vigorously debating what our state will become in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I cannot over-state that we all have a stake in the outcome. As such, League will continue providing information on a wide range of topics as well as education on how public processes work and how our state’s systems can be more effective. Our program emphasis for this year, “Empower, Educate and Inform Voters,” will guide us in the hard work needed to accomplish our shared goals and to form coalitions with all community partners.

Please feel free to provide feedback on what you’d like to see more of and what new endeavors we can undertake to maintain our position as a respected source of leadership for women and our community. You can contact me at [sondra.cosgrove@gmail.com](mailto:sondra.cosgrove@gmail.com)

**APRIL SPEAKER ELIZABETH CRUM**

Elizabeth Crum is co-host of “*The Agenda*,” a leading source for political commentary, Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m.; at KSNV-TV, News 3 Las Vegas. She is also president, publisher and editor at Nevada News Bureau. She has been a Political Analyst at KTNV and a 2010 Elections Blogger (August to November) at National Review.

Elizabeth is a lifelong political junkie, fan of good, old-fashioned journalism, a policy wonk, a Tweetaholic, an avid reader and an enthusiastic traveler. She is considered a conservative-libertarian blogger and commentator with a soft spot for compassionate lefties.

She was educated at St. Clair County Community College and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Elizabeth is a frequent guest on *Nevada Week in Review*, and we are extremely pleased to have her as our April speaker.

**EDUCATION:** *By Sam King*

The League of Women Voters Education Committee meets prior to our monthly program, the third Saturday of the month at 8:30am, at the Main Street Station Social Club. Our September speaker will be Stavan Corbett, Member of the Nevada State Board of Education. We will have lots of questions about upcoming board items, State Superintendent Guthrie and the new Board organization. The LWVLLV Education Committee has been busy following education legislation during this 2013 session. Education is the key to quality of life.

**STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

*By: Rosemary Gary*

The Legislature is in full swing and Sam is keeping all of us well informed. Thank you, Sam, for that.

We must also keep an eye on our precious voting rights under fire in Arizona’s Supreme Court.

3/24/1919 Carrie Chapman Catt proposed formation of League of Women Voters. We have grown into one very strong organization. People listen to us, want to hear what we have to say, and come to respect our opinions. Let’s not forget our place in this great scheme of things.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the LWVNV Convention being held June 8, 2013 at the Mt. Falls Resort & Golf in Pahrump beginning at 8:00 am. A continental breakfast will be available and a buffet lunch will be served at a cost of \$25/person. There will be a Meet and Greet at the Sanders Winery on Friday evening, June 7<sup>th</sup>. For anyone wishing accommodations, a block of rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the Best Western Motel in Pahrump on Highway 160 at a cost of approximately \$80/night. To arrange for rooms, call Dina Williamson-Erdag at 775-537-1017.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS:** *By: Sam King*

The LWVNV Advocacy is active this 2013 Session. Our four leagues are collaborating on issues that center around elections, economics, education, environment and health care. We are following the SB15, Annual sessions, Voter registration modernization, human trafficking, and Lake Tahoe....are a main focus. The session has been deliberative so far. Things will gain momentum as we move into April.. Members should be receiving updates and alerts.

Visibility and making our voice heard is the linchpin to effective advocacy.

Meetings at the call of the Chair.

**POLITICAL CORNER**

**The Real March Madness? Soaring athletic bills catch students off guard.**

Money from students—and taxpayers—subsidize college sports. Even in the face of ever tighter budgets and ever escalating costs for students, subsidies keep soaring. According to a January report from the American Institutes for Research, athletic subsidies per athlete at public schools with top-tier football teams spiked 61% from 2005 to 2010 while per student academic spending rose just 23%. Sports budgets in the Mid-American Conference are 75% funded through subsidies. One unknowing student commented, “I pay a ridiculous amount for events I don’t attend.” “I’m here to learn, not to watch sports.” *From Sean Gregory, Time Magazine (Mar 14, 2013).*



**HEALTH** *By: Ellen Nakamura*

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace? Coming soon to your future household budgets. Don't be left behind. Check it out and ask your friendly Congressional representative the latest. Or..... Stay tuned to this space next month.

(Note): UNR head football coach’s total salary package in 2011 was **\$521,025** and UNR head basketball coach’s was **\$325,089**.



**MINUTES By: Ann Smith, Secretary**

March 16, 2013 Annual Meeting -Main Street Station

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Sandra Metcalf. She announced that this was the Annual Meeting of the League where we take care of League business. However, first we would hear from our speaker.

She introduced First Vice President Sam King, who in turn introduced District Attorney Steven B. Wolfson. As Clark County's top prosecutor, D.A. Wolfson leads the largest and busiest law firm in the state. He manages a \$65 million budget and more than 600 employees, 140 of whom are attorneys who handle approximately 65,000 cases annually. Wolfson was appointed by the Clark County Board of Commissioners on January 24, 2012. He plans to run for re-election in 2014 to retain the position. He had previously served on the Las Vegas City Council, worked with the District Attorney's office and been a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Mr. Wolfson commented that it is important to know what the D.A.'s office does. He surveyed the audience, asking how long everyone had been in Las Vegas. A significant portion of the audience had lived in Las Vegas for many years, if not all their lives.

The District Attorney oversees four divisions: Criminal, Civil, Family Support and Juvenile (Delinquency and Child Welfare). Each year the Criminal Division files charges in over 22,000 felony cases and over 32,000 misdemeanor cases. These cases are prosecuted by over 110 Deputy District Attorneys. In addition to the general litigation teams, there are specialty teams which include the Major Violators Unit, Special Victims Unit, Domestic Violence/Stalking Unit, Vehicular Crimes Unit, Bad Check Unit, High Intensity Drug Trafficking, Criminal Appeals and others.

The Civil Division provides the defense of all civil suits brought against the County and against former officers and employees in civil actions. The Juvenile Division is divided into Delinquency and Child Welfare. The Delinquency section handles criminal matters concerning juveniles. The Child Welfare section is involved in civil proceedings and petitions against parents/caregivers alleging abuse or neglect of a child. The Family Support Division establishes and enforces child support court orders.

After a case is submitted to the D.A. and screened, the D.A. determines whether the case will be prosecuted. 99% of the cases are plea bargained and 1% goes to trial. If there is a trial, either a judge or jury determines the outcome. The D.A. and his staff play an important role in the community to volunteer, education and connect with residents, especially students.

A question and answer session followed.

President Metcalf then proceeded with the business portion of the Annual Meeting.



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**Elizabeth MacNamara, President**

Many of the important issues being argued and debated in Washington involve the issue of federalism. What is the proper role of the Federal and state governments with regard to immigration, health care, marriage and voting rights? As Congress and the Supreme Court consider these questions, state legislatures are meeting and passing laws that impact these issues and more.

Oral arguments in the case of *Arizona vs. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.* focused largely on the technical question of whether the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) preempt an Arizona law requiring documentary proof of citizenship. Permitting Arizona or any other state, to require additional documentation defeats the purpose of the federal registration form, makes mail-in registration and citizen-led voter registration drives far more difficult thereby creating a barrier to registration that the NVRA was intended to eliminate.

The League sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives encouraging them to consider common sense solutions to gun violence issues.

*Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" - Robin Williams*

**CHILDREN AT RISK**

As Liz Bates is moving, the new co-chairs are Chris and JoAnn Wright who will continue supporting the William Fry drop-in center. A meeting schedule will be announced shortly.

**BRING A GUEST - WIN A PRIZE**  
*Everyone that brings a guest to the meeting will be included in a drawing for a gift.*

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY



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

Email: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Website: www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

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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 May, 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/social is followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST \$20 with reservation.

Admittance: \$5.00 (included in breakfast charge).

2013 PROGRAM CALENDAR
May 18 State of Nevada Treasurer Kate Marshall
September 21 Stavan Corbett & Panel on Education

- LWVLVV 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) After monthly meeting
[ ] Health—( Ellen Nakamura) Call of the Chair
[ ] Membership—(Kathleen Bienenstein)
[ ] Voter Services (Sondra Cosgrove) Call of the Chair
For additional information check our website: 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

- NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS
President—Rosemary Gary, Mesquite
1st. Vice-President - Donald Rust, Pahrump
2nd Vice-President—Anna Lee Kamp, Mesquite
Secretary — Frances Rust, Pahrump
Treasurer—Sandy Metcalf, Las Vegas
Board Members— Betty Pardo, Sam King, Mary Liveratti

2013 -2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW

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Now accepting payment through PayPal—check our website
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY
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YEARLY DUES ( ) \$55 New/Renew Member ( ) \$75 Household ( ) \$25 Student
Donation to Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_(tax deductible) Donation to Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_(not tax deductible)
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Please note: Pictures are occasionally taken for our publications. Please check if NOT ok to use \_\_\_\_\_