



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

# THE VOTER

APRIL 2015



## CONSERVATION

Panel discussion with Representatives from  
NVEnergy, Southern Nevada Water Authority and  
North Las Vegas Planning Commissioner Ken Kraft



**SATURDAY, April 18, 2015**

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

### LWVLVV OFFICERS 2015-2016

President: *Sondra Cosgrove*  
1st. VP: *Beverly Abderrahman*  
2nd VP: *Kathleen Bienenstein*  
Treasurer: *Ann Marie Smith*  
Secretary: *Betty Pardo*

#### Directors:

*Sharon Bruno*  
*Denise Gerdes*  
*Sam Lieberman*  
*Bonnie Swadling*  
*Pat VanBetten*  
*Ruth Weinrott*

## LOCATION TEXAS STATION

No. Rancho Rd.

**(In the Conference Center)**

9: a.m. - 9:30 SOCIAL

9:30-10: a.m. BREAKFAST

10: a.m. PROGRAM

**Reservations by TUESDAY, April 14  
RSVP TODAY:**

**[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org) \* (702) 464-7887  
Reservations Requested**

**BREAKFAST & PROGRAM \$20  
Admittance \$5.00 (included in breakfast charge)  
The Public is Always Welcome**

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

At our March 21st. Annual Meeting we thanked our outgoing Board: First VP Jan Biggerstaff, Second VP Beverly Abderrahman, Secretary Betty Pardo, Treasurer Ann Marie Smith and Directors: Kathleen Bienenstein, Freda Greenfield, Gloria Porter, Pat Van Betten and Ruth Weinrott and immediate Past President Sandra Metcalf.

Our newly elected 2015-2016 LWVLVV Board includes: President Sondra Cosgrove, First VP Beverly Abderrahman, Second V P Kathleen Bienenstein, Secretary Betty Pardo, Treasurer Ann Marie Smith and Directors: Sharon Bruno, Denise Gerdes, Sam Lieberman, Bonnie Swaddling, Pat Van Betten and Ruth Weinrott. Several changes to the by-laws were also accepted.

As we approach the legislative mid-point it is clear we need to stay focused on Good Governance. A part-time legislature with dedicated, but overwhelmed and understaffed legislators, coupled with an exemption from the Open Meeting Law is creating unproductive chaos. We cannot hope to modernize our state through outdated government. Consequently, while League is following many issues and bills, please keep in mind we also have three constitutional amendments promoting more responsible governance.

SJR8 will enable annual sessions. It still keeps our legislature part-time, but it at least allows legislators to address our governing needs more than every other year. SJR18 will remove term limits. In a system of representative democracy voters should actively engage and decide who to elect without artificial state interference. You can support both of these Senate Joint Resolutions by simply asking legislators to pass the issue along to the next election ballot.

At our next League meeting we'll be looking at Conservation. We'll have a panel with experts on water, solar, and how to partake of conservation options if you live with an HOA. As climate change threatens our water supply and makes it more likely we'll be running our air conditioning units April through October being smart conservation consumers will be increasingly important.

Please be sure to renew your dues if you have not done so already. You can easily renew now on our website at: <http://lwvlasvegasvalley.org/> While renewing, please consider also contributing to our Education Fund to ensure League can continue our efforts to keep Nevadans informed and engaged in all areas of civic life. Donations made to our Education Fund may be tax deductible.

Longtime League member Harry Mortenson, a retired Assemblyman from 1996 to 2010, died March 11. Harry was a retired nuclear physicist, noted for being quiet but steadfastly persuasive in his policy approach. "He was just a genuine conservationist," said Rob Mrowka, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity.



Harry also had a strong hand in supporting preservation efforts at Tule Springs; President Barack Obama recently signed legislation turning it into Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. Harry married Helen in 1957 and they have three children and many grandchildren. Cards may be sent to Helen Mortenson, 3930 El Camino Rd., Las Vegas 89103.

**Saturday, April 18 Committee Meetings**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Will meet at 8:30-9:30 am prior to regular meeting.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Will meet at 8:30 am prior to regular meeting

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND** Everyone is welcome!



**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

This year, the **League of Women Voters** is celebrating 95 years of Making Democracy Work®. Founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the movement that secured women the right to vote, the League has spent nearly 100 years engaging voters around a range of policy issues. Today, League activists in nearly 800 Leagues across the country work year-round to educate and empower voters to tackle the most important issues facing our communities and our country. Our work may look different than it did in 1920, but it remains rooted in our mission and vital to ensuring the strength of our democracy. Rooted in the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the League has worked to foster civic engagement and enhance access to the vote since our organization was founded in 1920. Over time our work has evolved from efforts to gain and foster women's suffrage to ensuring that *all* eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information they need to exercise their right to vote.



The League's mission – Making Democracy Work® – includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Through our national Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP) and dozens of state-based volunteer activist teams, the League works year-round to combat voter suppression through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action and public education. Our efforts have resulted in the protection of voting rights and ballot access for millions of Americans. Our work to protect voters falls into the categories below:

**Voting Rights** – We seek to protect and expand voting rights through advocating for proactive reforms such as expanded early voting and online voter registration, ensuring existing pro-voter laws are being followed and challenging all efforts that limit the ability of voters' to exercise this basic right. The League actively opposes voter photo ID laws, advocates against barriers to the voter registration process, works to prevent last-minute Election Day barriers and helps millions of voters get the information and any required documentation they need to vote.

**Improving Elections** – We work to modernize our voting systems, streamline the voting process, promote transparent and accountable redistricting and make it easier for all eligible citizens to become active participants in our electoral process. In efforts to improve the voting experience, the League focuses on efforts to establish permanent and portable statewide voter registration, expand early voting, improve polling place management, expand online voter registration and implement electronic streamlining. We also work to ensure compliance with laws like the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

**DC Voting Rights** – We advocate for the rights of citizens of the District of Columbia to be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as are all other citizens of the United States.



**APRIL PANEL  
Conservation Issues**

Exactly how do all entities communicate and work toward sustainable living in Clark County? Or do they? This month's meeting will give you an opportunity to ask the burning questions you have been waiting to ask about the future of our water supply, the pros and cons of solar energy, and why are the roads always under construction?



**We are looking for a few good FRIENDS!**

Perhaps you know of a friend or two who appreciate the efforts of League but do not have the time to participate as full-fledged members. LWVLVV is now offering a FRIEND designation to anyone that wishes to lend their voice but not their time. For a donation of \$25 or more they will receive the newsletter by email, information on the legislature on issues that are important to the community and invitations to special events that were formerly available only to members. This make a perfect gift for a friend or family member.

*Spring Flowers*



*If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. ~ Nadine Stair*



Thomas Randle El, *Straight from the Streets* organization accepting donations from League members. In case you were unable to bring a donation you can send to: Straight from the Streets, 2524 Conestoga Trl, Las Vegas, NV 89108



Nancy Brune, Executive Director of the Kenny Guinn Center, updating members on the direction of and plans for Good Governance by the Center.



**In case you didn't know:  
How the legislative calendar works.**

*From: Joyce Haldeman, Associate Superintendent Community and Government Relations Clark County School District*

The Nevada Legislature is unique in how it operates. Its process is truly its own. At this point in the session you may have noticed the sheer volume of bills that have been introduced, and soon, will be heard before their respective committees. Was this sudden bill dump expected or was this some high-powered political move by the *powers that be* to muddy the legislative waters? Thankfully, the answer is the former.

The reason so many bills have been introduced this week can be explained by examining the legislative calendar. Key dates and deadlines throughout the session move the process along, but also create what can only be described as "controlled chaos."

The Nevada Legislature just passed its first major deadline, what is generally called "Legislator Bill Introduction." This deadline requires that any bill that an individual legislator wants to be heard by a committee must be written and introduced by midnight of day 43 of the legislative session. Any BDR that misses this deadline is considered dead.

This will not be the only time the Nevada Legislature will experience a mad rush to meet a deadline. With the implementation of the 120-day calendar, these deadlines ensure the work of the legislature is done (mostly) on time. Mostly? Yes, because just as the 120-day calendar was adopted by the legislature as the framework for doing business, but they also have the ability to change it, even mid-process. Case in point is the deadline we've been talking about. It became apparent that the bill drafters could not finalize all of the bill draft requests they had received from individual legislators by the Monday deadline. The legislative body took action and extended the deadline by one day. As a result, in multiple floor sessions on Monday and Tuesday, a total of 248 new bills were introduced. Additional dates you should be aware of that may cause just as much chaos as we have seen this week.

- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Committees' Bill Introductions. This is the deadline for committees to introduce legislation.
- April 10<sup>th</sup>, First Committee Passage. This deadline requires that all bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their assigned committee.
- April 21<sup>st</sup>, First House Passage. All bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their house of origin
- May 15<sup>th</sup>, Committee Passage (Second House) This deadline requires that all bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their assigned committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> house.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Second House Passage. All bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass the 2<sup>nd</sup> house.
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, Close of session ("Sine Die")

Any bill that fails to meet these deadlines, unless they are exempt, will be considered dead.

**NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS**  
 President—Donald Rust, Pahrump  
 1st. Vice-President - Jan Browne, No. Nevada  
 2nd Vice-President—Beverly Abderrahman, Las Vegas  
 Secretary — Jean Laird, No. Nevada  
 Treasurer—Sandy Metcalf, Las Vegas  
 Board Members— Sondra Cosgrove, Rosemary Gary, Mary Liveratti, Betty Pardo, Sandy Ramaker, Frances Rust, Nancy Scott, Dina Williamson-Erdag

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 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)

*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 May, the third Saturday of the month. Meetings are now held at TEXAS STATION. 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).  
 THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME!

**NOTE!**  
**Meeting Location**  
**TEXAS STATION**

**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)

**2015 PROGRAM CALENDAR**  
**APRIL 18** Conservation issues—Panel discussion  
**MAY 16** Dr. Mike Green, UNLV, The results of the legislative session  
**JUNE 13** LWVNV State Convention, Las Vegas  
**SEPTEMBER 19** We're back!

**LWVLVV COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Education - Peggy Evans Couch *Prior to regular meeting*
- Government Affairs - Sondra Cosgrove *Following regular meeting*
- Health - Pat van Betten/ Denise Gerdes—*Prior to regular meeting*
- Membership—YOU—bring in a friend or two**
- Voter Services -Sondra Cosgrove—call of the chair

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS**  
 Note Cards & Envelopes  
 \$2.00 ea -3 for \$5.00

**Official LWVLVV Mugs**  
 Donate \$10 to Education Fund  
 and receive one free.

**Souvenir Book**  
 Only \$30 for a record of  
 LWVLVV History

**All proceeds go to our non-profit Education Fund**

**JOIN NOW \* STILL ONLY \$55**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

YEARLY DUES: ( ) \$55 New/Renew Member ( ) \$75 Household ( ) \$25 Student

( ) **FRIEND Donation to Education Fund 501c3 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)**

**Now accepting payment through PayPal—check our website**  
 Mail to: LWVLVV, PO Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112  
 Please note: Pictures are occasionally taken for our publications. Please check if not ok to use \_\_\_\_\_