



# THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2010

## INSIDE ARTICLES

- \* President's Message
- \* State Pres. Message
- \* Health Committee
- \* Juvenile Justice
- \* Voter Services
- \* Education Committee
- \* Minutes
- \* Legislative Committee
- \* History of League

## Happy Birthday!

*On February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.*

*Join us in celebrating The League of Women Voters' 90th Birthday.*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

**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**

\$18

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

**Phone: 702-464-7887**

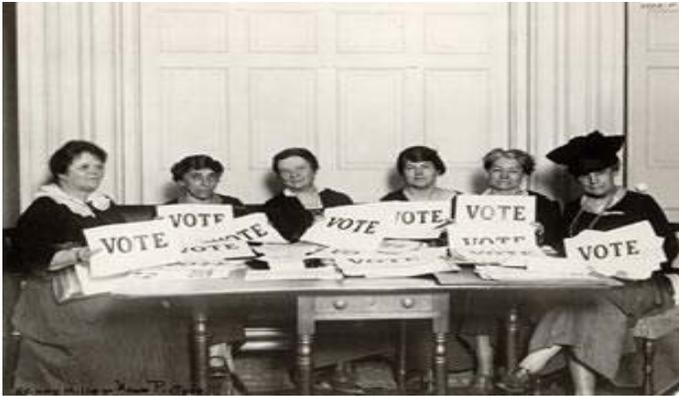
E-mail: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

**Reservations by Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

## LWVLVV OFFICERS 2009-2010

President: Mary Beth Heavrin  
1st. VP: Sam King  
2nd VP: Jan Biggerstaff  
Secretary: Ann Marie Smith  
Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf  
Directors: Teresa Bell  
Laura Golod  
Freda Greenfield  
Betty Pardo





### The League of Women Voters Turns 90 Feb. 14

Please join The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley as we celebrate at our February 20<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting with a birthday party!

The local League was created in 1965. The newly chartered League, under President Jean Ford, chose to study civil rights, county planning, and parks and recreation. In 1965 they published a Study on Clark County Government. Archives are housed at UNLV and UNR. Scrapbooks with newspaper clips, yellowed with age, record the impact that these women of the sixties had locally. The ladies were present at meetings, they used their knowledge, and invoked their rights to protest a zone variance that was diametrically opposed to the newly created Master Plan, and as a result, the Board denied the variance.

Improving the quality of life in our community meant that we have parks for families and children. The Las Vegas Valley League, working with local like-minded organizations, formed a coalition which made the preservation of Red Rock and Tule Springs a reality. When integration was proposed for Clark County schools and the NAACP brought suit against the school district, the League was there with facts and background, and entered the suit as a friend of the court.

Historically, the League has supported healthcare projects and presented a study on child obesity, which resulted in the passage by the Nevada Legislature of AB354 and AB191 for testing height and weight of school children in reference to children's overall health. The League, working with like-minded groups, founded the Nevada Health Care Reform Project. The League wrote and pushed for passage of the Nevada Patient Protection Act, which legislated the creation of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance. Every election cycle, the LWVVV publishes a non-partisan Voter Guide, conducts voter registration drives, sponsors candidate debates, and meet-your-candidate events.

The League of Women Voters is organized on three levels – national, state, and local. The national organization is headquartered in Washington D.C. Fifty state Leagues are mostly headquartered in state capitols. Nevada, in addition to our state League, has four local Leagues: Northern Nevada, Las Vegas Valley, Mesquite, and Pahrump Valley.

In 2010 our mission continues and is the basis of our nonpartisan political grassroots organization, which advocates for policy and legislation and provides education to assure the success of democracy.

### HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters started 6 months before women won the right to vote.

In her address to the [National American Woman Suffrage Association's](#) (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a "league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation." Women Voters was formed within the NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where suffrage had already been attained.



The next year, on February 14, 1920 - six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified - the League was formally organized in Chicago as the national League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to the challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work. From the very beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League were not exclusively focused on women's issues and that citizen education aimed at all of the electorate was in order.

Since its inception, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. In fact, the first league convention voted 69 separate items as statements of principle and recommendations for legislation. Among them were protection for women and children, right of working women, food supply and demand, social hygiene, the legal status of women, and American citizenship. The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs. In the 1930's, League members worked successfully for enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts. Due at least in part to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service.

During the postwar period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the [United Nations](#) and to ensure U.S. Participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization; it still maintains official observer status today. See also [League History](#) from the League of Women Voters of the US.



**STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** By: *Sam King*

The Gibbons Plan to Reform Nevada Public Education was released to the public early in January, "We're coming up with our proposals, our ideas. They are not the complete answer. Some of them may be totally unacceptable to legislators, but at least we're coming up with ideas." This press release, along with talk of an upcoming special session, candidate announcements and the impact of national politics, provide the prologue for Nevada 2010.

The Nevada tax structure has proven insufficient and the economic recession has strained funding so that further budget cuts are a reality. The promise of green jobs in Nevada gives us hope, yet the time frame for conquering this new frontier does not provide an immediate fix. Health care reform is a priority, yet the blueprint is still on the drawing board in Washington.

The League's Four E's are at the forefront of the political debate-elections: education, economic issues, environmental issues and healthcare.

Having Governor Gibbons publicly proclaim that Nevadans deserve a new direction for Nevada public education is the right thing to do. During our last legislative session, a committee to study and reform public education was established and is in progress. Unfortunately, elected officials debating the right thing to do are often clouded by political bickering.

Over the years, the organization of our state public education system has morphed into a bureaucratic blueprint which has not effectively met the needs of Nevada's student population. Local school districts, especially Clark County, have latitude in directing and orchestrating the delivery system. The chain of command governing public education in Nevada is in no way line and staff from the state to local districts. There is a proposal for reorganization of the present governing system in terms of the state, based upon accountability, consistency, transparency and efficiency. Some would eliminate the elected State Board of Education. Over the years the Nevada Department of Education has been restricted by out-sourcing its responsibilities and cutting staff.

Departments should be responsible for services they oversee. Elected school board members should be responsive and responsible to those who elected them, as should all elected officials in every branch of government.

State legislatures control education finance, administrative codes, statutes and requirements. Public education is a state responsibility and in Nevada a fundamental right. True reform for the public education system in Nevada must be based upon consistency, adequacy, equity, proven outcomes and oversight. The present system has advisory councils, commissions, and a number of outside influences which impact the effectiveness of the State Department of Education. The present system does not provide clear consistency state-wide. In terms of federal oversight of public education, beginning with No Child Left Behind and expanded by federal education stimulus grants such as "Race to the Top", states are faced with federally defined

mandates for accountability and have opportunities for federal dollars to support public education. Unfortunately mandates internal to No Child Left Behind, while philosophically grounded, have variables and punitive consequences. No Child Left Behind will hopefully be reformed.

Grants such as "Race to the Top" require that teacher performance be part of their professional review. Performance should be part of any evaluation. The key is to use performance indicators that must be equitable and adequately referenced and defined and be shared by teachers in the classroom and those who supervise the classroom teacher. Quality education requires professional instructors supported and empowered. Empowerment should not be a separate program. A professional staff is part of the solution, however should not be a pawn in the reform process. Collective bargaining in Nevada, with respect to professional educators in Clark County, has always been challenged.

As we move beyond the Prologue for 2010 and the election cycle builds momentum, the way change and reform are fleshed out will provide the League with many opportunities to voice our positions grounded in the Four Es .

During our January 23 State Board Meeting we discussed communication. Mary Lee is our state League Webmaster. With the upcoming special session, we will make our Four Es message clear. During the meeting we set up local responsible persons who will work with me to unite our voice. We do not have a lobbyist on board but will be lobbying.

The 2010 election cycle is rolling forward and this is an opportunity for us to provide information. These are truly uncharted times and new rules ( Supreme Court on campaigns). However this does not mean they are our new principles. Alerts will be sent.

Our state council will be hosted by Pahrump Valley. The planning committee is in place. Council date June 4 and 5, 2010. Next State Board will meet March 27, 2010.

**2009-2010 NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS**

President — Sam King, Las Vegas

Vice-President — Rosemary Gary , Mesquite

Secretary — Alicia Wright, Sparks

Treasurer — Carolyn Fries, Las Vegas

Directors – Karen Beardsley, Kathleen Dickinson,

Mary Liveretti, Sandy Metcalf,

Betty Pardo, Lisa Stiller

**NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY  
20th Anniversary Celebration**

Please join us in celebrating 20 years  
of legislative advocacy

Tuesday, February 23 5:30-7:30

Blue Martini in Town Square

6593 Las Vegas Blvd. So



\$25 advance \$35 at the door

Additional information: [nvwl@aol.com](mailto:nvwl@aol.com)



*If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular? ~Author Unknown*

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE** *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

Happy Birthday League of Women Voters! At the February Breakfast we will be celebrating the LWV’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The plans are set and you will have quite a treat in store for you when you attend the breakfast. It is going to be a fun-filled celebration and we look forward to seeing you there.

Last month’s topic was education and the many choices available in the Clark County School District. Many thanks to: Clark County Schools Associate Superintendent, Billie Rayford; Mr. Jeremy Hauser, Director of CCSD Empowerment Programs; Kelly Bucherie and student Zhan Okuda-Lim.

I would encourage everyone to visit our League website that has been updated and has a wealth of information to share about our Las Vegas Valley League. The link is [www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org) I would encourage you to link now and see all the various items of interest. When you check out the website, make sure you scroll down and read about the history of the LWV, especially since this is our birthday month. Have a wonderful month ahead and I look forward to seeing you all soon!



**EDUCATION COMMITTEE** *By: Sam King*

During the January Program, the Las Vegas Valley League heard from representatives of the Clark County School District. Special programs, virtual education, empowerment, effects of No Child Left Behind and the effects of the recession on public education were explained. Student representative, Zhan Okuda-Lim, gave us a student's perspective about education in Clark County 2010.

Las Vegas Valley League is considering a study on the role of the Federal Government in public education.

Our Education Committee meets monthly prior to our monthly program, Main Street Station, 8:30 AM. Please come and join us,

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** *By: Sam King*

The LWVNV Legislative Committee met 01/23/2010. This committee membership includes representatives from all local leagues. Our united voice will focus on our 4 Es message -- elections, education, economy, environment and health care, the foundation of our advocacy for better, transparent, effective government on all levels.

With the recent Supreme Court decision on campaign finance, there will be a different climate during the 2010 election cycle. All members will receive alerts when they become available.

The economy is at the heart of finding a sustainable solution for making our positions policy. Interim discussions about home rule and an upcoming 2010 Ballot question to reform the selection process of judges will be a focus. The Nevada economic forecast has made a special legislative session a reality. We will make our voice heard. The committee will be working and asking members for their help.

**VOTER SERVICES** *By: Teresa Bell*

If you have not had the chance to read the amicus (friend of the court brief) that LWV submitted in Citizens United v FEC Supreme Court case, you have missed a good read. Go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and click on [amicus brief](#) to read the full text. The history on voting and corporations is fascinating. It is a tragedy that we lost this case. The following is the opening argument: While our Constitution reflects an increasingly expansive view of individual participation in the political process, it does not reflect a similar solicitude for corporate participation. To the contrary, our constitutional history reflects a growing concern over the influence of corporations, and the distinction between the legal protections afforded to living persons and corporations has been part of our constitutional law from the Founding. Corporations are never specifically mentioned in the Constitution, and from the earliest days this Court has held that the government need not treat corporations the same way it treats individual citizens. The Tillman Act and the Seventeenth Amendment built upon this solid foundation of constitutional text and history in preventing corporations from dominating our electoral system.

If the Court takes this opportunity to “return to first principles,” as suggested by Citizens United, amici submit that these first principles support preserving, not dismantling, corporate campaign finance regulations. To change course and create a new constitutional right for corporations to make unlimited expenditures in candidate elections would reverse our centuries-long march of progress toward greater democracy and run contrary to constitutional text and history.

*By 1888, corporate power in politics had become so overwhelming that President Rutherford Hayes remarked with dismay in his diary that the United States had become “a government of corporations, by corporations, and for corporations.”*

**University Forum  
The 2010 House Reapportionment  
and Its Implications for Nevada**

Wednesday February 24, 2010 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Barrick Museum Auditorium—UNLV

The number of seats that each state is allowed in the U. S. House of Representatives is proportioned to its population. With the 2010 census, Nevada is nearly certain to gain a fourth representative, but what other states are likely to gain or lose seats? How will those changes affect the allocation of electoral votes in the 2012 presidential election? Since 1790 census questions needed answers and Prof. George Mader, Wm S. Boyd School of Law will present his answers.

**MINUTES** *By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary*

League President Mary Beth Heavrin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She introduced elected officials who were present as well as those running for office. She read a letter from Linda Lera-Randle El, Executive Director of Straight from the Streets and League member, thanking League for our contributions at the November meeting.

Bobbie Gang, from the Nevada Women’s Lobby, announced that NWL would be having a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration honoring 19 Women Legislators, to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 5:30 to 7:30 PM, at the Blue Martini in Town Square. For additional information, e-mail [nvwl@aol.com](mailto:nvwl@aol.com).

Sam King, Chair of the Education Committee, introduced a panel of speakers from the Clark County School District to speak on the future of education in Las Vegas: Associate Superintendent Billie Rayford; Kelly Bucherie, Academic Advisor for Superintendent's Schools; Jeremy Hauser, Director of the CCSD Empowerment Schools Program; and student Zhan Okuda-Lim.

Ms. Rayford spoke on the choices students have today, including Magnet Schools, Career and Technical Academies, Empowerment Schools, College of Southern Nevada High School and Virtual High School.

Kelly Bucherie spoke on Magnet Schools and Career and Technical Academies, which begin in elementary school and go through high school. They were originally created as a way to break racial isolation. The Magnet Schools bring in Federal money and the District has received grants. These schools have advanced programs in various subjects, including math and science, communication and creative arts, pre-engineering, performing arts, language, leadership and law and computer animation, among others. Entrance to these schools is through an application and lottery process. Students at these schools are prepared for college as well as career training. A brochure was distributed giving more information.

Jeremy Hauser spoke on the Empowerment Schools. They began in 2006 and are changing the dynamics of how bureaucracy reacts to the schools. In Empowerment Schools, the schools are given a budget and make the decisions for spending the money based on the needs of their communities. Seventeen schools have a certain level of participation and budget transparency. The schools take ownership for their decisions and results. If results are not adequate, supervision will step in.

In the College of Southern Nevada High School, students must be self-directed; they take the core high school course, but up to 12 credits per year of electives are college courses that are paid for by the District. Thirteen members in the last graduating class received their AA degrees before their high school diplomas.



Student Zhan Okuda-Lim, State President Sam King, Jeremy Hauser, Empowerment Schools, Kelly Bucherie, Academic Advisor and Assoc. Superintendent Billie Rayford

The Virtual High School program is an online school. All required courses are available online.

Zahn Okuda-Lim is a student in the International Baccalaureate Program at Valley High School. Among other activities, he is the Student Representative to the State Board of Education and a member of the Nevada Youth Legislature. The International Baccalaureate Diploma provides portability in that it is internationally recognized for acceptance to colleges worldwide. The students attend intensive classes in all subjects and use college-level textbooks. It is a more rigorous program than Advanced Placement and is very structured.

A question-and-answer period followed. Members were reminded that the February meeting will be a celebration of national League’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. After the raffles, the meeting adjourned at 11:10.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE** *By: Regina Harrison*

Juvenile Justice will hold their meeting immediately following our general meeting Saturday, February 20th. All are welcome to participate.



**HEALTH COMMITTEE** *By: Annette Mills*

At the January meeting of the LWV Health Committee we discussed the happenings at the national level. The national League has been supportive of the current health reform in Congress.

Plans for children’s nutritional status and the need for intervention were presented by Dr. Susan Meacham. Now that we have statistics as a result of the legislation passed to test height and weight, it is possible to apply for grants. Susan will be working on grants for the next two months.

As for physical activity to aid in combating children’s obesity, we received information about research being developed by Observing Park Environments in Nevada (OPEN). I’m sure this information will assist those using physical activity as another avenue in the children’s obesity battle. Our next meeting will be the first Tuesday in February at 5:30 p.m.



**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)

*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 \$18.00 with reservation, without reservation and non-members \$20**



Magnetic \$10.00  
 Pin \$9.00  
 All profits go to the  
 501 (c)(3) Education Project Fund  
 See: **Freda Greenfield**  
 at meeting or  
[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)



**2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR**

**February 20, 2010** League's Happy 90th Birthday Party

**March 20, 2010** Sabra-Smith-Newby, CC Director of Adm. Services: Home Rule, CC Budget & Community Priorities

**March 27, 2010** *State* League meeting

**April 17, 2010** **Jane Ann Morrison** -Political Potpourri  
 League Business Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Affordable Housing— following monthly program
- Education/ Juvenile Justice — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment— 3rd Tuesday, 2 pm, Borders, Towne Sq. Shopping Center
- Health—First Tuesday of month (phone for location and time)
- Legislative—Jan 23, 2010 after reg Board meeting

**INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Feb 3 Interim Finance 9 a.m.
- Feb 9 Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice 9 a.m.
- Feb 12 Reapportionment & Redistricting 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 17 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Feb 24 Committee on Education 8:30 a.m.
- March 11 K-12 Education Governance Structure 9 a.m.

**Meetings held at the Grant Sawyer Building**

**YEARLY DUES—MARCH 2010—MARCH 2011**

**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 ok to use