



# THE VOTER

JANUARY 2010

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A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

A New Year's resolution  
is something that goes in  
one year and out the  
other.

Author Unknown

## 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

## \* EDUCATION \* THE FUTURE IS HERE

### PANEL MEMBERS:

Associate Superintendent Billie Rayford; Jeremy Hauser,  
Director of the CCSD Empowerment Schools program;  
Essington Wade, Principal of Virtual High School and  
Student Zhan Okuda-Lim

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 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

Members & guests with reservations: \$18

(No-shows will be charged)

**Members without reservations & Non-members: \$20**

### 10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

Phone: 702-464-7887

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

**Reservations by Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

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

Welcome to the first LWVLLV newsletter of 2010. The LWV is 90 years young this year and growing stronger day by day. 2010 is a milestone year for League, and to celebrate, our local organization will be having a "Birthday Party" during our February monthly breakfast meeting and "all" are invited to share in the festivities with us. February 14<sup>th</sup> is the official day that League turns 90.

The upcoming birthday celebration seems to come on the heels of our December Holiday Social. Many thanks to Teresa Bell for hosting our December Holiday event at her home and to all the Board Members and Chairs that provided the abundance of tasty food goodies that everyone enjoyed. There were many members attending, including many newer faces of our membership. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to mix and mingle and to share experiences and interests. Thanks to all for making this such a fun event.

Our January 2010 monthly meeting will be all about Education. There is a great lineup of speakers with information that we can learn much from. This meeting is very timely, as we need to decide as a local membership group about whether we support a proposed LWVUS Study concerning the role of the federal government in public education. A brief overview of the Proposal section of the study notes: To study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education, (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance, including funding, and (4) the development of common standards. More information will be provided to members by e-mail in January 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and healthy 2010 and hope to see you soon at our upcoming January Breakfast meeting.

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

The December meeting of the Health Committee took place at the clinic at Cynthia Cunningham Elementary School. After learning about how Communities in Schools works with the needs of children, food, clothing, health care we were directed to the children's clinic at Cynthia Cunningham Elementary School. Communities in Schools built this clinic. It is one of two elementary schools with a clinic. The committee wanted to see what services were offered.

Dr. Noah Kohn serves as the clinic's full time doctor. He explained the care children get at the clinic. Children up to age 18 are treated for whatever is necessary with the exception of illness that requires a specialist. Dr. Kohn gave up his practice to do this work. He hopes to expand the clinics to other schools with necessary funding.

There are three other clinics at upper grade schools. We were impressed with this effort to provide health care.



As an update, for our January program we have Associate Superintendent Billie Rayford, Jeremy Hauser, Director of the CCSD Empowerment Schools program, Essington Wade, Principal of Virtual High School, and Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative on the State Board of Education and participant in the Initiative for Student Representatives to write legislation for the 2011 legislative session (working on a bill draft for a lottery). The panel will explain innovations in education in Clark County School District.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### The League of Women Voters Turns 90 on February 14, 2010

The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley will celebrate at our February 20<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting with a birthday party. Our local League was chartered in 1965, so we will hear from some of our early members about the projects that changed our community in the early years. Also, to continue with a project that Florence McClure started, we will hear about the latest news at the Rape Crisis Center. We hope to have all our members and invited dignitaries sharing stories, enjoying cake, and toasting to the history and future of LWV.

### Founding and Early History of LWVUS:

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, 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. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman 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?"*

### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

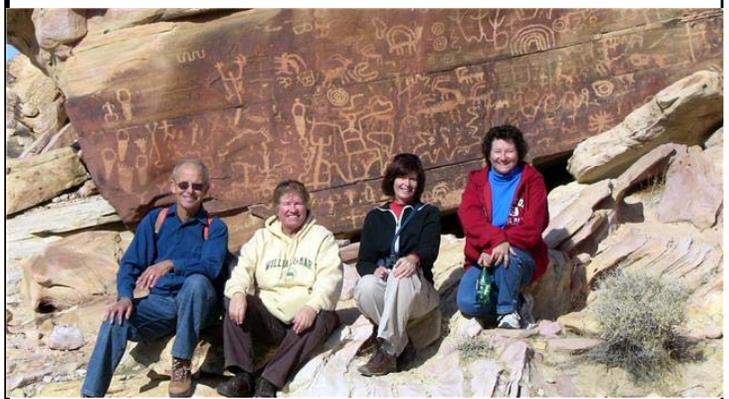
The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley published their first study called "Know Your County" while they were a provisional League, in 1965, and took on County Planning and Zoning for their first project. Clark County was just creating a Master Plan at the same time. The League arrived at a position in support of the master planning process and held public hearings on it. According to Jean Ford, a zoning issue came up about a gas station that did not fit the master plan so the League testified in support of the planning department's decision against it. In Ford's oral history, she said, "the commissioners realized the position they put themselves in by adopting a master plan when they didn't intend to follow it at all. It was going to get in the way of all the wheeling and dealing that was going on. It was a benchmark in local government to see the League, these little ladies, show up and ask to testify, and for the commissioners to just be absolutely caught in a position they didn't want to be caught in. That was our entry into the world of politics and lobbying in Clark County." (A Nevada Woman Leads the Way, pp101-102)

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** *By: Teresa Bell*

**GOLD BUTTE TOUR** The Environment Committee toured Gold Butte, an area north of Las Vegas, near Mesquite, in place of the regular meeting on December 15. What a privilege! Member Terry Robertson arranged the tour with Nancy Hall, President of Friends of Gold Butte. Friends of Gold Butte are working through the process of getting federal protection as a National Conservation and Wilderness Area for Gold Butte, a designation we support. Through National Conservation Area and Wilderness designations, a balance of primitive and motorized recreation will be established while providing critical habitat for various Mojave Desert wildlife and plant species. It will also protect its rich cultural resources.

Charlotte Overby, the Communications Director of Nevada Wilderness Project from Reno, and Brian Geirger, Deputy Director of Communications of Campaign for America's Wilderness from Washington, D.C., joined several Environment Committee members and friends as we drove and hiked around this amazing place. While taking the easy walks and gentle rock scrambling, we were able to see many primitive rock art sites and geologic vistas. After the sight-seeing and a picnic lunch, we penned notes to Representative Titus in support of the protective action.

We encourage each of you to take the drive north on I-15, to the Bunkerville/Riverside exit, and spend some time exploring the 500 miles of roads (four wheel drive or high clearance vehicle recommended) that crisscross Gold Butte. Then voice your support for Gold Butte by communicating with elected officials. For more information: [www.friendsofgoldbutte.org](http://www.friendsofgoldbutte.org).



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

The Legislative Committee is a state committee with members from all local Leagues. The next meeting will be held January 23, 2010. Our committee is active during and between Nevada Legislative Sessions. We are preparing for the next legislative session which may be called prior to February 2011.

Interim work involves the Census, elections, ballot questions, elections and advocacy plans. The Legislative Committee planning for advocacy priorities is as an ongoing process. Please join our committee if you have an interest. Contact Sam King @ [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org).

**2009-2010 NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS**

- President — Sam King, Las Vega
- 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

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

The Voter Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:15 p.m. at Teresa Bell's house. We will start contacting the Legislative Candidates for their statements for our Primary Voter Guide which will be published on our website with links from Government and other organizations. We will establish the calendar for the Primary and General Election Voter Guide Production and assign volunteers who will work with the candidates to return their statements.

**Census 2010:** The census serves as the core of our democracy as the basis for reapportionment of congressional representation across the states. It also is linked to the principle of one person, one vote. In short, responding to it is an exercise in civic responsibility. LWVUS is an official partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. Leagues across the country are already carrying out outreach efforts to ensure everyone is counted. Census Day is April 1, 2010. With the 2010 Census just 4 months away, the need for community participation is necessary. LWVUS is working with national and local organizations across the country, including NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected Officials) and the broader "ya es Hora, Hagase Contar" ("It is time, Make yourself Count") campaign. For more information, visit [www.lwv.org/Census2010](http://www.lwv.org/Census2010)

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

December reminds us that 2009 has moved on and is history. January is the month of new beginnings. December is the last and most festive month of the Gregorian calendar. December 25 combines religious observance and the festive nature of Saturnalia, a Roman holiday honoring Saturn. Hanukkah, in most years, is celebrated in December. The beauty and joy of December may be tied to a sense of sadness and perhaps regret as we say good-bye to 2009.

January derived from the Roman word Janus, the keeper of gates and doors, suggests that January is a month for new beginnings. Tradition tied to welcoming January says we should take inventory of the past year, make resolutions and plan for the future which is a blank page to be filled over for the next twelve months. Personally, looking back over 2009, there has been progress; however, in many instances things have run amok. I hope for better in 2010. The economy concerns all of us, since these are uncharted times. Education, the foundation of a democratic system and inherent to League operations, faces many challenges. Communities must work so that education provides citizens with the tools to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our nation was built on a belief that literate citizens are our strength.

Elections give individual voice and collective power. Elections are the best system of term limits. Citizens are responsible for overseeing our elected officials, forcing elected officials to be accountable for their actions and hopefully guiding them to good policy. Democracy rests on the belief that civic virtue is political, not partisan. Both our political and natural environment must be protected. Both environments are in danger of erosion if we do not work tirelessly to protect the environment. Health care reform, over the last twelve months, has taken center political stage. With the passage of the Senate Health Care Bill this month, the debate has a platform to move forward. Although modern democracy has given supreme authority, for the most part, to representatives elected by "we the people", citizens have the responsibility and final authority over the system. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is not the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, nevertheless the principles remain constant.

Consensus, a League platform, is not a simple process. As League members, we have worked on studies to reach consensus. A friend of mine summed it up well referencing League studies, "There is research, discussing, cussing and fussing as we move toward the right thing to do. We may reach consensus or not, it's all part of the process." As League members, we speak as one voice following our positions. As independent individuals we speak our conscience. This is the beauty of the system.

As we celebrate the holiday season and open the gates for January 2010, enjoy family and friends, and set future resolutions, the League Four E's may be echoing in the background of our thoughts: Elections, Education, the Environment, the Economy and Health Care. And a celebration of League's 200th birthday will help to remind us how we got here and what we need to do. Thank you all for all you do.

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

The Education Committee meets monthly at Main Street Station, 8:30 am, prior to the monthly breakfast meeting and program. Please join us. We welcome new members.

Across the country, education has been caught in the perfect storm swirling with the economic crisis. Funding public education has always been a challenge in Nevada. Last legislative session set up interim studies on how to reform the state organizational system of education (AJRS) and how to improve and coordinate state educational standards with national and international standards. The Obama Administration has provided federal support to public education within the states in the form of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and in federal grants such as Race to the Top. This support will be studied in the Interim Legislative Education Committee.

The League's basic, long-standing commitment to social policy issues such as children and families, equal opportunity, and good government supports that as an organization, League advocacy include education policy on all levels of government.

In the spirit of social policy, the Education Committee works with the Juvenile Justice Committee. Both committees are working on issues that reform the Juvenile Justice System, and as members we have networked with the Juvenile Justice System on the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, the Re-authorization of the JJDPA Act, the Clark County Truancy Committee, the Clark County Commission on Youth (formerly Ready for Life) and the 2009 Nevada Children's Non Profit Summit Discussion {which centered on social issues concerning our youth, Medicaid Reform, Mental Health Services, Funds for Juvenile Prevention and Rehabilitation, the Youth Promise Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and a proposed White House Office on Children}.

League work requires that a study introduce and direct new positions. There is a proposal before National to "Study the role of the federal government in public education" with a focus on: (1) the basic goals of public education (2) the role of the federal government in public education policy (No Child Left Behind Focus) (3) the relationship between national, state and local levels of education governance, including funding and (4) the development of common standards.

The January Program for the Las Vegas Valley League is provided by the Education Committee and will consist of a panel of Clark County Educators who will discuss- Superintendents' Schools, the Empowerment Program and Virtual High School.



*People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas. Author unknown*

**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**

**2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR**

**January 16, 2010** Education/ Juvenile Justice- the future is here!

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

**March 20, 2010** Voter Services - knowledgeable voters needed!

**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**

- Jan 12 Finance/Federal Stimulus oversight 1:30 p.m.
- Jan 13 Committee on Education 8:30 a.m.
- Jan 13 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Jan 19 Production & Use of Energy 9 a.m.
- Jan 20 Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans 9 a.m.
- Jan 21 K-12 Education Governance Structure 9 a.m.
- Jan 28 Interim Finance 9 a.m.
- Feb 3 Interim Finance 9 a.m.
- Feb 17 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Feb 24 Committee on Education 8:30 a.m.

**Meetings held at the Grant Sawyer Building**



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)



**YEARLY DUES—MARCH 2009-MARCH 2010**

**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)**