



THE VOTER

THE ANNUAL MANUAL

MARCH 2013



IF YOU ARE
VOTING,
PLEASE BRING
PAGES 3 & 4
OF THIS MANUAL
TO THE
MARCH MEETING



March Speaker
District Attorney
Steve Wolfson

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 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

Reservations by Wednesday, March 13

RSVP TODAY:
lww@lwvlasvegasvalley.org
464-7887

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

2013-2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW

LEAGUE WEBSITE
www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

- LWVLVV OFFICERS
2012-2013
- President: *Sandy Metcalf*
 - 1st. VP: *Sam King*
 - 2nd VP: *Jan Biggerstaff*
 - Secretary: *Ann Marie Smith*
 - Treasurer: *Lyell Metcalf*
 - Directors:
 - *Beverly Abderrahman*
 - *Kathleen Bienenstein*
 - *Freda Greenfield*
 - *Betty Pardo*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sandy Metcalf*

I would like to thank the LWV Las Vegas Valley board and committee chairs for their hard work during the last three years. We have had interesting speakers for general meetings, wonderful excursions (such as to Gold Butte) and coordinated action in our community and state. It takes all of our efforts to make the league a viable force in southern Nevada and the state.

Again my thanks and I know you will continue to volunteer your efforts under the new board with Sondra at the helm.

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*By: Rosemary Gary*

The 2013 League of Women Voters of Nevada Convention will be held Saturday, 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. The time for this event will be announced at a later time. A block of rooms at the Best Western Motel in Pahrump on Highway 160 has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at a cost of approximately \$80/night. To arrange for rooms, call Dina Williamson-Erdag at (775-537-1017).

NOTE: LWVUS plans to come to Las Vegas in July to offer training for the LWVNV. There will be a limited number of slots available.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: *By: Sam King*

The 2013 Nevada Legislature in full swing, always full of surprises, yet with familiar issues needing resolution. League of Women Voters of Nevada's grassroots advocacy is front and center studying bills, reviewing policy and reaching out to like-minded groups to see where positions align and strengthen our voice. The Economic / Environment Discussion centered around Lake Tahoe Development, taxes, the tax process, mining, Constitutional tax protections - among other relevant issues. While much has been said that any tax suggestions must be revenue neutral there is a disconnect in funding necessities. There is a discussion on a possible sales tax on services. When looking at sales taxes in general, something to remember is that sales taxes are regressive. All tax issues will be on the League's Watch List. The Margins Tax Initiative can become a legislative action or go on to become a ballot question. The Margins Tax will be on the League Watch List and SJ 15 is on the League Watch List. The resolution passed in 2011 and is up for a 2013 vote implementing amending the Nevada Constitution relative to how mining is currently taxed. Any revenue policy merits League monitoring.

HEALTH *By: Ellen Nakamura*

SB 70 is front of the Senate Commerce and Labor this Wednesday February 27. AARP is asking for caretaker stories on their accounts of employment discrimination due to your family situation caring for a loved one. SB 70 "provides certain protections to employees who care for family members". It does this by adding "Family Caregivers" to the current protected classes from employer discrimination (age, race, religion, disability, gender, etc). This is critical to allow family caregivers to be able to continue working while providing the care. It doesn't give them any special protections - just what others already have. Please support their bill and their position. For more information, contact Mr. Barry Gold, AARP Nevada Government Relations Director, 702-998-3236, csloan@aarp.org, attn SB 70 support.

MARCH SPEAKER STEVE WOLFSON, D.A.

As Clark County's top prosecutor, District Attorney Steven Wolfson leads the largest and busiest law firm in the state. Wolfson manages a \$65 million budget and more than 600 employees, 140 of which are attorneys who handle approximately 65,000 cases annually.

Wolfson joined the Clark County District Attorney's Office on Jan. 24, 2012 upon appointment by the Clark County Board of Commissioners. He was chosen to serve the three years remaining on a four-year term vacated by the previous district attorney who retired Jan. 3, 2012. Wolfson will have to run for re-election in 2014 to retain the position of district attorney.

Wolfson comes to the County from the city of Las Vegas where he served nearly eight years as a city councilman. He was elected in June 2004 to represent Ward 2 which encompasses the westernmost portions of the city, including parts of Summerlin, Peccole Ranch, Queensridge and The Lakes. On May 6, 2009, after running unopposed, he was sworn in for a second full term, which would have ended in June 2013. Wolfson resigned from his city council position to become district attorney.

Wolfson was born in Los Angeles, Calif. He received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from San Diego State University and a Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law. His public sector work includes a past stint in the Clark County District Attorney's Office as well as the United States Attorney's Office. He has also been active with the State Bar of Nevada by serving on the Board of Governors, the Judicial Ethics and Campaign Election Practices Committee, and other bar-related committees. Additionally, Wolfson was chairman of the State Bar of Nevada Ethics 2000 Committee, a blue ribbon committee established by the Nevada Supreme Court, to review and bring up-to-date all Supreme Court rules involving attorney conduct.

Wolfson has been married more than 25 years to former District Court Judge Jackie Glass. They have two daughters, Rachel and Rebecca.

EDUCATION: *By Sam King*

Education continues to be a Nevada political priority. The League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley conducted a study on "Privatization" which dovetails into current education reforms whereby public education and nonpublic education / for-profit education / nontraditional education systems and vouchers are part of the education reform debate.

Members of the education table also discussed the margins tax in relation to adequate and equitable funding of public education. Upcoming education bills to watch are SB 58 CCSD Distance Education SB 59 Charter School Bill Education funding is always a legislative issue with ramifications for K-12 and post-secondary education. Review of the Nevada Plan in respect to North / South / Rural concerns is long overdue.

SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The annual conference of the SOHR will be held this year at UNLV on Saturday, April 6th with special sessions open and free to the public. *Growing up in Las Vegas: 60 years of changes and challenges* at 8:30-10:00 a.m. and *Participating in an Oral History Project* from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. are roundtable discussion with *Women Making News* from 1:45 to 3:15 a panel discussion. Contact Caryll Dziedziak at 292-3542 or cdziedziak@gmail.com as space is limited.

2013-2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW

PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR EMPHASIS 2013-2014

EMPOWER, EDUCATE AND INFORM VOTERS

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
2013-2014 PROPOSED LWVLVV
SLATE OF OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT.... SONDRAS COSGROVE
1st V.P.SAM KING
2nd V.P.....BEVERLY ABDERRAHMAN
SECRETARY.....ANN MARIE SMITH
TREASURER....KATHLEEN BIENENSTEIN
DIRECTORS:
BETTY PARDO
FREDA GREENFIELD
BONNIE SWADLING
JAN BIGGERSTAFF
SANDY METCALF (Past President Seat Automatic)

2013-2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
CHAIR.....RUTH WEINROTT
MEMBERSTERRI ROBERTSON

* * * * *

*Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the
permission of the proposed nominee*

Only paid up members may vote in March

**2013-2015 PROPOSED SLATE
EDUCATION PROJECT BOARD**

(non profit 501(c)(3))

PRESIDENTBETTY PARDO
1ST. V.P.....SUSAN SERVIN
2ND V.P.MARY BETH HEAVRIN
SECRETARY..... KATHLEEN DICKINSON
TREASURER.....SANDY METCALF

Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1 **PURPOSES:** The Educational Project is organized and shall be operated exclusively for educational, charitable, scientific, and literary purposes.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO
Education Project Board BY-LAWS**

(changes in red)

(Will take place in 2015)

ARTICLE V Officers BOARD

Sec. 1 **Election, Qualifications and Term.** The board of the Education Project (shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. They (delete) shall be elected at the annual meeting of the LWVLVV in odd numbered years and hold office for two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. They shall have been members of the LWVLVV for at least five years and served at least one term on the LWVLVV board.

Officers will be selected at the first meeting of this elected board and will serve for the two years.

**LWVLVV PROPOSED
2013-2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| DONATIONS – Other | 940.00 |
| FUND RAISING | 1,440.00 |
| MEETINGS | 7,200.00 |
| MEMBERSHIPS | 6000.00 |
| MERCHANDISE—SOLD | 300.00 |
| SCHOLARSHIP FUND | 120.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$16,000.00 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| COMMUNICATIONS | \$ 240.00 |
| INSURANCE EXPENSE | 600.00 |
| MEETINGS OUT | 6,900.00 |
| MEMBERSHIP DUES | 360.00 |
| MERCHANDISE—COST | 300.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE | 420.00 |
| PMP NATIONAL DUES | 3,000.00 |
| PMP STATE DUES | 1,500.00 |
| POSTAGE | 120.00 |
| PRINTING | 300.00 |
| PUBLICATIONS | 60.00 |
| SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS | 200.00 |
| TRAVEL | 2,000.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$16,000.00 |

OVERALL TOTAL

0.00

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LWVLVV BY-LAWS

(Changes in Red)

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Sec. 3. **The Vice-Presidents.** The first Vice President shall serve as President in the absence of the President, and shall also serve as parliamentarian and be responsible to have the bylaws at every meeting. The second Vice President shall be in charge of administration. *(act as Chair of the Events Committee and will form each event committee as needed.)*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. **Selection, Qualifications and Term.** The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVLVV, 4 (4 or 6) directors elected at the annual meeting and the immediate past president. All directors shall be voting members of the LWVLVV. They shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Vacancies other than the presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the board.

Sec. 4 **Quorum.** A majority of the members of the board of the LWVLVV shall constitute a quorum. **A simple majority of the quorum constitutes a legal vote.**

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

President: Sondra Cosgrove I've been a Nevada resident since 1986 and raised my two children here in Las Vegas. I worked for the Clark County School District while attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. My B.A. is in American History, with a Minor in Anthropology and I received a Ph.D. in American History with an emphasis in the U.S. West, Native American, and Latin American History in 2004. As a Professor of History at the College of Southern Nevada since 2003 I teach in all my fields.

One class I particularly enjoy is Nevada History and I have been actively involved in Nevada politics for many years. My League membership dates to 2008 and I have been Chair of the Voter Services Committee for the past year. As a historian I have always been a fan of the League of Women Voters and strongly believe League is one institution that can help us overcome the grave issues we face as a nation. Collective grassroots advocacy has always been a part of the American political system and is still the best remedy for many of the dysfunctions causing gridlock both nationally and in the several states.

When I'm not working, I enjoy hiking and camping and am a big fan of all the great outdoor activities we in Nevada can enjoy.

1st. Vice President: Sam King Greetings, I am Sam King and would appreciate your support. I am running for Vice President LWVNV 2013-2014. I am a retired educator and past President of the LWVNV. Presently I am LWVNV First Vice President, Director for LWVNV, LWVNV Government Relations Chair, and LWVNV Education Chair. My more than thirty years as an educator afforded me the experiences and skills which align well with Vice President of LWVNV position responsibilities. I have also helped maintain and develop working relationships within the community and arranged program themes for our monthly meetings. Lifelong learning is my motto. Thank you for your support.

2nd Vice President: Beverly Abderrahman I was married for 54 years, have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, 2 granddaughters graduated from Las Vegas Academy and the youngest is currently in French elementary school. I am a member of stagehands union local 720, was an elected officer and executive board member. I am on the board of directors of the stage employees federal credit union and one of their trustees. I belong to University United Methodist Church. I taught Sunday school and am on the children's council. It has been an honor to serve on the League's Board of Directors. I look forward to being the second vice president and continuing to serve the members of The League of Women Voters. Thank you.

Secretary: Ann Marie Smith My family came to Las Vegas in 1987 to escape the cold weather and the hassles of living in New York City. Soon after arriving, I became involved as an advocate for persons with mental illness. As an outgrowth of that activity, I have served on the boards of Caminar, a non-profit agency providing services to persons with disabilities in California; the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, Nevada's federally-mandated protection and advocacy organization for people with disabilities; the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Nevada Fair Housing Center and Nevada Women's Lobby before becoming active on the board of the League. Professionally, I am co-owner of Communications Consulting Service LLC, a foreign language translation service located in Las Vegas. I'm currently Secretary of the League and work on the website and social media as tools for increasing membership.

Treasurer: Kathleen Bienenstein Kathleen is currently employed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) as the program coordinator for Southern Nevada. Prior to moving to Nevada from Michigan, she spent 30 years as an automotive design engineer. She is a past president of the League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley and a volunteer with the USO at McCarran Airport. Ms. Bienenstein currently serves as Chair of the Nevada National Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site) Community Advisory Board for Environmental Management of the Department of Energy.

Directors:

Betty Pardo Betty is a retired art teacher and school administrator. She has been involved with the League of Women Voters for twenty years and was actively involved with the defeat of the voucher system in California and helped formulate the Nevada State League's position on vouchers and charter schools. She has served on the board of the Las Vegas Valley League in the positions of vice-president, president and director. As president her goal was to improve both the age and diversity of the membership. Since then the Las Vegas Valley League has improved somewhat its variety of ethnic members and the age of its members. Most recently Betty participated with the formulation of a consensus on an Immigration Position for the National League. She has been actively involved with the production of the Voter Guide since its inception as well as voter registration. For the future, she would like to see greater participation of its members in the many and varied pursuits of the Las Vegas Valley League.

Freda Greenfield I have been a member of LWV for ten years. I was a bookkeeper until I retired and moved to Las Vegas. I assist our treasurer at the meetings. I am chairperson for the telephone calls to members without E-mail. I am a Voter Registrar which I believe is such an important part of the League's mission. I was a volunteer for Nathan Adelson Hospice and Veteran's groups and still assist in collecting for Straight from the Streets. I have enjoyed every aspect of the League and learned so much.

Bonnie Swadling is currently employed by the Nevada Department of Corrections as a Psychologist in Indian Springs. Prior to moving to Nevada from Michigan, she was the Clinical Supervisor for Community Mental Health responsible for supervising staff providing treatment for clients who have been determined to have a major mental illness, developmental disabilities, or serious emotional disturbance including; assessment, coordination of services, consultation and education.

Jan Biggerstaff I am very interested in serving the League of Women Voters in whatever capacity that enables my past experiences to further the League's goals. I am a retired small business owner, served 4 years as a Clark County School Board Trustee, 8 years an active CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) serving on the CASA Board for 6 years. I also served on the board of Caminar, served 2 years on the CC Animal Advisory Committee, 6 years on the CC Advisory Committee for Child and Family services. I served 12 years and was termed out on the State Board of Education. I am retired and loving it!

Sandy Metcalf I have been a league member in California, Arizona, and Nevada for over 45 years. During this time I have served league as a local board member in Torrance, California; the local league treasurer in Phoenix and the chair of the committee to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and then the Arizona state president for two years; additionally I served as a member of the board for the San Diego County Interleague Organization before moving to Las Vegas. I worked for the Clark County School District for 20 years as a teacher and administrator. I served on the Nevada Department of Education. I have belonged to the Las Vegas Valley League since 1979. With our local league, I have served as study leader and member of 2 other study task forces, treasurer twice, and I am finishing a three year stint as your president. I served 2 terms as state league president in Nevada during the 1980s as well as state secretary in the 2000s. I earned a B. A. at the University of Arizona and my graduate degree at UNLV. Additionally, I am a volunteer with the Assistance League of Las Vegas. Lyell and I have been married for 53 years and we have three children: Douglas, Stephanie, and Craig.

2013-14 DUES ARE DUE NOW

MINUTES By: Sondra Cosgrove for Ann Smith, Secretary

The February 16, 2013 League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley members meeting began at 9am with breakfast at the Main Street Station Hotel. Following breakfast attendees were instructed to go to one of five tables; each table had a table leader prepared to discuss issues important for League members. The tables consisted of: Education, led by Forest Darby with Ruben Murillo Clark County Teachers Union President as the invited guest; Health Care, led by Ellen Nakamura with Barry Gold from the AARP as the invited guest; Environment and Taxes, led by Terri Robertson and Sam King with Morse Arberry, Jr., former Nevada legislator, and Michael Ginsburg from PLAN as invited guests; Youth At Risk Including Human Trafficking led by Liz Bates with Stacey Cramer from the Salvation Army and Erika Harmon from the NV Partnership for Homeless Youth; and Government Affairs Including Election Modernization led by Sondra Cosgrove.

For about 45 minutes the table leaders and invited guests provided information on current legislation before the Nevada Legislature. Afterward each table leader provided a summary of each table's discussion for the whole group. At the Education table the discussion included bill IP1, the Education Business Margin Tax; this table also heard about a possible expansion of the sales tax to include services. The topic of funding programs for English Language Learners also was discussed.

At the Health Care table the discussion focused on a bill that will expand anti-discrimination protections to home health care workers. Bill SB70 will be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee this legislative session on Wednesday 27, 2013. At the Environment and Taxation table the discussion revolved around the bill to remove the mining industry from the Nevada Constitution and subject it to the same statutory regulation and taxation as all other businesses. The bill related to Lake Tahoe was also discussed.

At the Youth at Risk and Human Trafficking table the discussion included a review of the anti-trafficking law, AB67. There is some concern that the bill does not clearly differentiate between prostitution and human trafficking. Invited guests provided information about homeless youths as well. And finally, at the Government Affairs and Election Modernization table participants discussed the Secretary of State's proposed bill, SB63, which will modernize the current election system by transferring DMV pictures and signatures into a new electronic poll book, and for voters with no DMV record, the poll worker will take a picture at the polling place. Anyone who has religious objections to having a picture taken will be allowed to opt out by signing an affidavit of identity. This upgrade to the already very secure and efficient election system will allow Nevada one day to have same day registration.



The February Meeting generated lots of interest and interesting discussions.



ENVIRONMENT By: Terri Robertson, Chair

The Environment and Economic committees combined at the February League meeting to hear from longtime Nevada Legislator Morse Arberry, Jr., and Michael Ginsberg, Southern Nevada Director for Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. These gentlemen provided important information on two issues: Reversing the bill introduced by Senator John Lee in the last session that removed Nevada from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The Environment Committee recommends that the LWVLVV support this issue. There are several legislators currently working on a bill to achieve that reversal and as soon as we have that information we will share it.

The second issue was the importance of supporting joint resolution SJR15. It refers to the people for approval, repealing Article 10, Section 5 of the Nevada Constitution, The article that prohibits the state from setting tax rates on the mining industry. This joint resolution passed during the last legislative session and needs a second approval for it to go to the vote of the people. If I were to have to pick the most important issue before us this session the passage of the resolution would have to be it. I have recommended that these two gentlemen need to be speakers at a general meeting. Everyone needs to hear their views on this issue.

A joint resolution asking for Legislative support for the **Las Vegas Valley Public Lands And Tule Springs Monument Bill** will be introduced shortly. Your environment committee recommends continued support for this bill.

The Joshua in Gold Butte are budding! I am trying to find out how long it will be before they bloom. We will set another Gold Butte trip when they are in bloom. I also checked the Bear Paw Poppies in the Sunrise/Frenchman mountain area and the plants have begun to sprout. I will keep an eye on them and when in full bloom we will plan a trip there. When we look at the mental health break we all received on our Gold Butte it is so apparent that nature is a great and important healer of the heart and soul.

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

*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 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
April 13 Stavon Corbett State Board of Education & Emily Homes, CCEA
May 18 State of Nevada Treasurer Kate Marshall

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



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,

2013 –2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW

JOIN TODAY STILL ONLY \$55

Now accepting payment through PayPal—check our website
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/St _____ 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)
Mail to: LWVLVV, PO Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112
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