

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY



HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY 1964-2014

THE VOTER

ANNUAL MANUAL

MARCH 2014

**THIS IS OUR
ANNUAL
MEETING**

Please review
proposed slate of
officers & by-laws
Print and bring pages
3-4 to meeting
Only paid up members may vote



MARCH SPEAKER

JON RALSTON

Noted Columnist

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

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 12

RSVP TODAY:

lww@lwvlasvegasvalley.org * 464-7887

Reservation Requested

**LWVLVV OFFICERS
2013-2014**

President: *Sondra Cosgrove*
1st. VP: *Jan Biggerstaff*
2nd VP: *Beverly Abderrahman*
Treasurer: *Ann Marie Smith*
Directors:
Freda Greenfield
Betty Pardo
Gloria Porter
Sandy Metcalf



LEAGUE WEBSITE

www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

BREAKFAST & PROGRAM \$20

Admittance \$5.00 (included in breakfast charge)



Where: Las Vegas Club
at Main Street Station
When: April 8, 2014 5-8 pm
What: A combination
50th Anniversary
Celebration
& Candidate
Meet-and-Greet

Complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres
and Cash Bar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sondra Cosgrove*

At our February meeting we engaged in a lively debate with State Senator Tick Segerblom on annual legislative sessions. Tick walked us through Senate Joint Resolution 8 (SJR8) and helped us understand how it would improve legislative efficiency and oversight of state agencies. Many in attendance agreed that the League of Women Voters has always been a strong proponent of representative government and that annual sessions align with the League's position. A number of good questions from the audience related to how the branch of government closest to the people's interests could do its business effectively, including checking the other branches of government, if it only meets biennially for 120 calendar days.

In March our speaker will be political reporter Jon Ralston. Jon will be sharing his insights into this election cycle and what we may expect in November. While this is a mid-term election, it's not low stakes. We have many important state offices and judgeships that will be filled. To meet the fine candidates, remember to save April 8th, 5-8 pm, at the Main Street Station Social Club on your calendar. That's our 50th Anniversary Candidate Meet and Greet Party that you won't want to miss!

Our April speaker is still in flux right now as our meeting is Easter weekend and lots of folks have plans. But not to worry, we'll have a great meeting, with a continued focus on our legislative priorities. And in May we're bringing back our Issues Roundtable Discussions with a number of important community leaders.

Lastly, please remember that March is the end of our fiscal year, so if you haven't renewed your membership it's easier than ever to do so. You can send in a check, pay at the meeting with cash, check or credit card, or you can now use our PayPal account on our webpage. It's important to renew soon so you'll be able to vote for our slate of candidates and bylaws changes at the March meeting. League is only as strong as our members, so we really need as many folks to join as possible so we can keep democracy vital in our community.



MARCH SPEAKER, JON RALSTON

Noted Commentator and sly wit

Jon has been covering politics in Nevada for more than a quarter-century, and is recognized as the foremost expert in the state. This year, he was named one of the Top 50 "Politicos to Watch" by Politico.

Mr. Ralston hosts the program, "Ralston Reports," on all three NBC affiliates in Nevada -- he also puts out an email newsletter called "Flash" that sets the political agenda for the day, breaks news and contains analysis. He also regularly appears on national television, including programs on MSNBC, FOX and PBS.

Jon is originally from Buffalo, N.Y., and has a B.A. in English from Cornell University and a M.A. in journalism from University of Michigan. He came to Sin City in 1984 as the night police reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, later covering general assignment and county government before becoming a political reporter in 1986.

Ralston wrote for the Las Vegas Review-Journal for 15 years, the last seven as a freelance columnist. In 1999, the Greenspun Media Group purchased his political newsletter The Ralston Report, and he worked for that company, publishing columns in the Las Vegas Sun, until September 2012.

(From Jon Ralston's website)

STATE PRESIDENT: By Don Rust

A reminder to all that the Nevada LWV Board will meet in Pahrump at the home of Dina Williamson-Erdag (President, LWV of Pahrump Valley) on Saturday, March 22 @ 11 am (address, phone and directions will come via email soon).

We must continue to fight for retention of voting rights without unnecessary restrictions and impediments. Voter fraud is not, has not been, a widespread problem anywhere in the United States despite arguments to the contrary to identify legal voters.

We must also strongly encourage voters, in all our efforts pertaining to this year's elections, that they should remember that whomever they vote for, that person will represent, not just them, but everyone who lives in their jurisdiction.



PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR EMPHASIS 2014-2015 GOOD GOVERNANCE

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
2014-2015 PROPOSED LWVLV
SLATE OF OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT.... SONDR A COSGROVE
1st V.P.....JAN BIGGERSTAFF
2nd V.P.BEVERLY ABDERRAHMAN
SECRETARY.....BETTY PARDO
TREASURER....ANN MARIE SMITH

DIRECTORS:
 FRED A GREENFIELD
 GLORIA PORTER
 RUTH WEINROTT
 PAT van BETTEN

SANDY METCALF (Past President Seat Automatic)

2015 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
CHAIR.....TERRI ROBERTSON
MEMBERSNANCY GENTIS
 (One member to be appointed by the new Board)
 * * * * *

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the proposed nominee
Only paid up members may vote in March

**LWVLV PROPOSED
2014-2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015**

<u>INCOME</u>	
DONATIONS – Other	\$ 500.00
FUND RAISING	1580.00
MEETINGS	7200.00
MEMBERSHIPS	5200.00
MERCHANDISE—SOLD	400.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	120.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,000.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 400.00
INSURANCE EXPENSE	0.00
MEETINGS OUT	6900.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	0.00
MERCHANDISE—COST	300.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	257.00
PMP NATIONAL DUES	2263.00
PMP STATE DUES	1095.00
POSTAGE	225.00
PRINTING	300.00
PUBLICATIONS	60.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS	200.00
TRAVEL	3000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL	0.00

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO LWVLV BY-LAWS
(Changes in Red - Deletions in grey)
OFFICERS**

ARTICLE IV
 Sec. 4 **The Secretary.** The secretary shall keep minutes of the (*the membership and of the*) board meetings and the **Annual Meeting of the membership.** The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign, with the president, all contract and other instruments when so authorized by the board, and shall perform such other duties as the president and board shall direct.

ARTICLE V
 Sec 2. **Powers** The board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs, and activities of the LWVLV subject to the instructions of the annual meeting. It shall select delegates to state convention and council and to national convention and council. It shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the national or state board may from time to time delegate to it. It shall have the power to create such special committees as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

In the case of proven insubordination, malfeasance, or willful misconduct, the board shall have the power to remove an officer or director. The officer or director being removed, after being notified by certified mail, shall have the right to a hearing upon request.

ARTICLE IX
 Sec 2. **DUES** Annual dues shall be due and payable each April 1 for the new fiscal year. Any member whose dues are unpaid by **Dec 31** shall automatically be dropped from local and national membership provided the treasurer has given at least 30 days advance notice. Any new member joining after **November 30** shall pay one-half of the annual dues amount for the remainder of the fiscal year. **will be paid through the end of the next fiscal year.**

**EDUCATION PROJECT BOARD 2013-2015
(non profit 501(c)(3))**

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

Purposes and Policy

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

The Education Board is elected every 2 years in odd numbered years.

WHERE DO OUR \$55 DUES GO?

* National Dues \$31 State Dues \$15.00 (both per member)
 * Balance of \$9 pays for a post office box, answering service, website, mailings, and office supplies.
*Breakfast charges are \$17.45 ea, minimum 32 people;
 microphones \$25 ea; coffee \$18 per 10 cups;
 and speaker \$30 (breakfast and mug).*

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

Officers:

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: 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 2 years on the CC Animal Advisory Committee, 6 years on the CC Advisory Committee for Child and Family services and am currently a Long Term Care Ombudsman. I served 12 years on the Nevada State Board of Education.

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.

Secretary: Betty Pardo 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. For the future, she would like to see greater participation in developing an informed and educated community.

Treasurer: Ann Smith I have been a member of the LWVW since 2006, and have served most of that time as Secretary of the Board of Directors. I was appointed as Treasurer during the last year to fill a vacancy, and am willing to continue in that role. I have been an advocate for mental health since moving to Nevada in 1987 and have served on several community boards in that capacity, as well as serving on the League's Health Committee. I am co-owner of Communications Consulting Service LLC, a foreign language translation service, and have handled the administration/financial duties for my company since it was founded.

Directors:

Freda Greenfield I have been a member of LWV for eleven 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.

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 CC 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 served three years 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 am a volunteer with the Assistance League of Las Vegas. I now chair the Education Committee.

Gloria Porter retired and moved to Las Vegas 15 years ago. She immediately joined the League of Women Voters. During this time she has been a member of various committees, club secretary, and a board member. She is a voter registrar and was the precinct caucus leader during the hectic 2008 election. Participating in the League has been an excellent educational opportunity and a friendly enjoyable experience. We do need to attract many more members.

Pat van Betten received her BSN in 1958 from Catholic University of America in Washington, was awarded a master's in education in 1989 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Pat is a long time member of the Nevada Nurses Association and active for many years in issues related to nursing and health care reform. She worked as a staff nurse in the CC school District for 23 years, is a retired nurse, an author, and the President of the Blue Diamond History Committee since it was established in 2003. Pat now chairs our Health Committee.

Ruth Weinrott A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., I moved with my family to Los Angeles at age 18. I got married, had two children, and worked at City of Hope as a fundraising secretary. In 1994 my husband and I moved to Las Vegas to enjoy retirement in Sun City Summerlin. We became volunteers at Lummis Elementary School where we read to the children. I served on our temple sisterhood board and also proofread the temple's monthly bulletin for 10 years. I volunteered at the Veterans Administration clinic, and I still run an elementary school program called "Americanism" that is sponsored by the Jewish War Vets Auxiliary. I also served on the board of our local City of Hope chapter, and have been an active member of the League of Women's Voters.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

No Board Member of the LWVW shall participate in a Board activity that places her/him in a position of conflict between private (personal, business or professional) interest and the League's interest. Board members who have affiliations or financial interests that are conflicts of interest or create even the appearance of conflicts of interest with their official duties, shall disqualify themselves from Board decisions until such conflicts cease to exist.

Minutes to the March 16, 2013 Annual Meeting

Submitted by: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary

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. First of all, she thanked the outgoing 2012-2013 board: Sam King, First Vice President; Jan Biggerstaff, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Lyell Metcalf, Treasurer; Beverly Abderrahman, Kathleen Bienenstein, Freda Greenfield and Betty Pardo, Directors.

The Budget for 2013-2014 was presented to the membership in advance in the Annual Manual. Treasurer Lyell Metcalf announced that the Budget Committee consisted of himself, Betty Pardo and Freda Greenfield. Beverly Abderrahman moved to accept the budget as presented, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested changes to the Bylaws were presented to the membership in advance in the Annual Manual. Jan Biggerstaff explained the suggested changes. Joann Wright moved to accept the changes as presented, Edith Bird seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

moved to oppose the adoption of these changes, Susan Servin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

President Metcalf then asked Bonnie Swadling, chair of the Nominating Committee, to handle the elections. Ms. Swadling thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee, Jan Biggerstaff and Jane Newton. She then announced that the slate for the Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 would be Ruth Weinrott (Chair), Terri Robertson and a new member to be chosen by the new Board of Directors at their first meeting. She then proceeded to announce the proposed slate of officers for 2013-2014: Sondra Cosgrove, President; Sam King, First Vice President; Beverly Abderrahman, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Kathleen Bienenstein, Treasurer; Jan Biggerstaff, Freda Greenfield, Betty Pardo, Bonnie Swadling and Sandra Metcalf as immediate Past President, Directors. She called for nominations from the floor. There being none, Nancy Allf moved to close the slate and accept it. Peggy Maze Johnson seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Swadling then presented the slate for the Education Project Board for 2013-2015 (elected every two years): Betty Pardo, President; Susan Servin, First Vice President; Mary Beth Heavrin, Second Vice President; Kathleen Dickinson, Secretary; Sandra Metcalf, Treasurer. Kathleen Bienenstein moved to accept the slate as presented, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Program for Emphasis for the next year was presented: Empower, Education and Inform Voters.

President Metcalf then announced that two long-time members would be moving out of state: Peggy Maze Johnson and Liz Bates. She wished them success with their new lives and League groups.

On April 21st, there will be another fundraising trip to Gold Butte. More information will be provided by e-mail.

The outgoing Board Members thanked Sandra Metcalf for her service as President for the past two years and presented her with a commemorative clock and a picture book of her term. They also thanked Lyell Metcalf for serving as Treasurer for the past two years.

HEALTH COMMITTEE By: *Pat van Betten,*

The Health Committee of League is up and running! We will focus on mental health issues and welcome all persons who want to work with us to make a difference. We will meet before the regular meeting and plan to gather at 8:30. I hope to see you there because we have work to do and you can help.

EDUCATION By: *Sandy Metcalf*

A follow up on the discussion of Common Core Standards and the increase in the graduation rates in Clark County will be on the table for the Education Committee meeting, prior to our general meeting Saturday March 15 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us and bring a friend or two.

Important Dates 2014 Federal/State Elections

Candidate filing - March 3rd through March 14, 2014

June 10, 2014 Primary Election Day

May 10, Close of Voter Registration

May 11-20, 2014 – In Office Registration at the Election offices and on-line.

November 4, 2014 General Election Day

October 4, 2014–Close of Voter Registration

October 5-14, 2014 – In Office Registration at the Election Offices and on-line.

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).

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



PROGRAM CALENDAR

- April 6 Mesquite Club's Nevada Sesquicentennial Celebration
- April 8 LWVLVV's 50th BIRTHDAY PARTY**
- April 12 Helen Stewart Birthday Tea - Old Las Vegas Fort
- April 19 To be announced
- May 17 Issues Round-table featuring you
- June 6-11 LWVUSA National Convention-Dallas, TX

LWVLVV COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Children at Risk— JoAnn & Chris Wright - Call of the Chair
- Education Sandy Metcalf. 9:00 a.m. Prior to monthly meeting
- Environment Terri Robertson, Call of the Chair
- Government Affairs Sondra Cosgrove, Call of the Chair
- Health—Pat van Betten—8:30 a.m. prior to monthly meeting
- Membership—YOU—bring in a friend or two
- Voter Services -Sondra Cosgrove

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— Betty Pardo, Las Vegas**
- Sandra Ramaker, Mesquite * Frances Rust, Pahrump**
- Mary Liveratti & Nancy Scott, No. Nevada**

2014-2015 DUES NOW DUE * 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

Donation to Education Fund _____ (tax deductible) **Donation to Lobby Fund _____ (not 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 _____