



THE VOTER

MAY 2013

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Nevada's Political
Issues
LEAGUE WEBSITE
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MAY Speaker
State of Nevada Treasurer
Kate Marshall

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

**NEW
LWVLVV OFFICERS
2013-2014**
President: *Sondra Cosgrove*
1st. VP: *Sam King*
2nd VP: *Beverly Abderrahman*
Secretary: *Ann Marie Smith*
Treasurer: *Kathleen Bienenstein*
Directors:
Jan Biggerstaff
Freda Greenfield
Betty Pardo
Bonnie Swadling
Sandy Metcalf (past President)

**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**

Happy Mother's Day to
us all!

*Mothers hold their
children's hands for a
short while, but their
hearts forever. ~
Author Unknown*



Reservations by Wednesday, May 15

RSVP TODAY:
lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org
464-7887

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *By: Sondra Cosgrove*

As we near the end of the 2013 legislative session, the third session with too few dollars and too many unmet needs, it’s time to start discussing strategies for the near and long-term future. We know that the League has always stood for good government, sound public policy, and educating voters; these principles are our foundation. Yet it’s in times like these that we also need to recognize that how we promote and enact those principles has changed as circumstances have changed.

What worked one-hundred years ago, fifty years ago, and even two years ago may not work now as technological innovations and globalization accelerate. Today the most successful non-profit groups are able to not just develop effective strategies for current needs, but also exercise flexibility mid-stream if a new approach promises better results. So, as we plan for the future it will be important to ask: If something completely unexpected happens tomorrow, are we ready to react, adapt, and continue moving forward to achieve our goals? I’m positive, if we all work together, that we will be able to answer: Yes!

HEALTH *By: Ellen Nakamura*

The Health Insurance Marketplace is the new term for all the federal and state health exchanges. Nevada Health Link is the new name for the Silver State Health Exchange. Education meetings with various groups are starting with the main campaign starting in June/July 2013 and open enrollment will start in October 2013 for a January 2014 start.. Check out healthcare.gov for further changes to the health care system after 2014. Now is the time to get informed about a new insurance system.

I would like to thank the League for giving me the privilege of witnessing the implementation of a major federal program since Medicare. I am stepping down as Health Committee Chair. I hope there will be a member available to take the wheel. There are many health issues needing research and monitoring. Give it a try.



Sad News

Member Terri Robertson recently lost her son William Potter. A celebration of his life will be held May 18 at Tule Springs Park at 4:30 p.m. (contact family if attending). A card may be sent to Terri at 6135 Carey Ave., Las Vegas 89156.

MAY SPEAKER— KATE MARSHALL

Kate Marshall was first elected State Treasurer in 2006 and re-elected to second term in 2010. She originally ran on a platform she called the Marshall Plan, which included several main points she would emphasize during her tenure. The basic tenets were simple: Improve and implement programs that will save taxpayer dollars; reduce spending by becoming more efficient; and identify innovative methods for increasing economic development in our state. By the conclusion of her first term, six of these covenants had been met, with a seventh being considered during the 2011 Legislative Session.

As a young girl, Kate understood the important role education would play in determining her future. After finishing high school, she attended California State University, San Francisco, later transferring to the University of California, Berkeley, earning her way through college, working at the university library.

Following graduation from UC Berkeley, Kate joined the Peace Corps, teaching English and Commerce in the rural outback of Kenya. Successful in her first teaching experience, the Peace Corps recruited Kate to establish the teaching curriculum for the Peace Corps program for Secondary School English in Kenya.

After returning from East Africa, Kate was accepted and graduated with a jurist doctorate degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley, spending her summers interning with law firms, most notably United States Senator Paul Laxalt's law firm, Laxalt, Washington, Perito & Debut, in Washington, DC.

Kate later applied and was accepted to the United States Department of Justice's Honors program. In 1994, she received the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division's Outstanding Contribution Award, and in 1997 she received public acknowledgement for her work in the Antitrust Division from then United States Assistant Attorney General of Antitrust Joel Klein. In 1997, Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa asked Kate to move to Nevada to create Nevada's Antitrust Unit.

In 2000, Kate became in-house counsel for ATG Inc., a private telecommunications firm serving small and medium size businesses in Northern Nevada.

Before making the decision to run for elected office, Kate ran her own successful law practice, specializing in consumer protection, telecommunications law, and competitive market analysis.

Kate and her two wonderful daughters, Anna and Molly, live in Reno.



BRING A GUEST - WIN A PRIZE

Everyone that brings a guest to the meeting will be included in a drawing for a gift.

CHILDREN AT RISK: By Joann Wright

As you know Liz Bates, who was handling this committee, has moved to Pennsylvania. She has turned over the Youth at Risk to me and I am writing to let you know what is going on.

We will be working with the William Fry Drop-In Shelter. Our contribution will be a once per month task of making PBJ sandwiches on a Thursdays between 4-6 for distribution by the shelter on Friday.

We are currently slated to do this on Thursday June 20th between 4 - 6 pm. We only need 3-5 people. My husband and I will definitely do it and if you can let me know if three of you can make it on that day. We will get with the director of the shelter and get a calendar set up for us for the year so we can publish our own calendar and make it easier for everyone.

If anyone has contacts for donations of bread, peanut butter and jelly, let me know. This is a 501c3 organization and there is documentation that the shelter must give to any donor.

I will keep all of you apprised about other events that take place at the shelter that you might want to join. Any questions, please email me at: joann.wright@gmail.com.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: By: Sam King

Nevada is unique in that its legislature officially meets every two years. Nevertheless, the legislature does not hibernate in even years. Interim meetings are held. Interim seems to be the catch-all at this time. This session the elected representatives are working on updates to the Nevada Constitution which would change the biennial session process, change the mining protections in terms of taxation and look at marriage. Nevada is subject to partisan politics, yet this session interesting sponsorships have been formulated. Speaker Kirkpatrick and Assembly Minority Leader Pat Hickey are working on a bill which codifies that an elected member must LIVE in the district as a requirement to run for the office. The voter modernization bill is working its way through the process. As is sex education, marijuana dispensaries, guns and campaign finance reporting.

As always the session is rife with interesting personalities which make Nevada politics unpredictable.

EDUCATION: By Sam King

The League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley Education Committee meets prior to our monthly programs, the third Saturday of the month at 8:30 am September thru May. We welcome all members who are interested in education, kindergarten through high school and post secondary systems. Education is a life-long endeavor. League is dedicated to helping inform and educate our community about the democratic process, elections and participation including advocacy.

In Clark County, the local school board is going through a process of budgeting, staffing, working on reform and updates to improve the system with a goal of improving student achievement. Superintendent Dwight Jones resigned March 22, 2013. His tenure was short and the impact of his administration is being evaluated. Clark County School District has been faulted for failing to meet adequacy and equity in many categories. Mr. Jones was hired as a catalyst and leader who would institute reform. Time will tell how his leadership will be remembered.

With Mr. Jones leaving, the Clark County School Board is looking how to fill the position. The Board voted to conduct a superintendent search and appointed Mr. Pat Skorkowsky interim superintendent. There are Town Halls open to the public to provide input who will ultimately become the next Clark County School District Superintendent- Although a search has been approved the Board could choose to make Mr. Skorkowsky 's appointment permanent.

Leaving Nevada seems to be infecting education leaders. Dr. Guthrie, appointed State Superintendent, also resigned. The position of interim State Superintendent is now held by Rory Fitzpatrick. The official process for permanently filling the State Superintendent position is the responsibility of the State Board of Education and the Governor.

The 2013 Legislature is wrestling with funding government services and must fund public education first. Since the session is winding down- funding will be finally determined at the end.

2013-2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW



Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Elizabeth MacNamara, President

(April 7, 2013) - The U.S. Supreme Court has made a series of decisions including *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, *McComish v. Bennett*, etc. that have affected the areas of campaigns and elections, issues in which the League of Women Voters has been active since its inception and that are primary concerns of the organization.

Unlimited expenditures from millionaires, corporations, unions, and trade associations overwhelm citizens' voices, lead to corruption, and unfairly disrupt the representative process. Moreover, much of this spending occurs without disclosure of the sources of funding. This lack of transparency undermines the voters' ability to make informed decisions and makes corruption even more likely.

The question is how best to address the issues that emanate from the U.S. Supreme Court decisions. These issues demand a multidimensional approach: federal legislation on disclosure, "independent" spending, coordination rules, real enforcement by the IRS of violations of the rules for non-profit organizations, reform of the Federal Election Commission, etc.

The League has received requests to support a constitutional amendment without fully specifying the content of the amendment. The League has long evaluated its advocacy work based on our positions, on the opportunity to best make a difference, and on the availability of necessary resources. The League has not yet found a proposed constitutional amendment that we can support within our positions. Because Money in Elections is a priority for the League, we will be continually re-evaluating the opportunity for legislation in this area.

CONGRATULATIONS!

League member Linda Miller was nominated for an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by the Historic Preservation Commission. The award recognizes the countless hours and personal commitment toward the creation of the "Images of America: Early Las Vegas," book. The award ceremony will be held May 15, 9:a.m. at the Las Vegas City Council meeting, Las Vegas City Hall. League congratulates Linda for a well-deserved recognition.

It's A Pioneer Breakfast!

Saturday, June 15 - 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

At the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort

Come get pioneer flapjacks, bacon & eggs, fruit

Learn about the early Mormon settlers and early pioneers

\$5.00 /person includes admission to the Old Fort

Proceeds go to Friends of the Fort



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEVADA

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013-14

To be voted on at the State Convention June 7-8 in Pahrump. All League members are invited. Only officers and delegates may vote. Delegates are chosen by local Leagues who are entitled to 1 delegate for each 15 voting members of their local League. (LWVLVV at this time has 91 paid members so will be entitled to have 6 delegates plus officers).

President: Don Rust, Pahrump Valley

1st Vice President: Jan Browne, Northern Nevada

2nd Vice President: Dina Williamson-Erdag, Pahrump
Susan Holecheck, Mesquite

Secretary: Jean Laird, Northern Nevada
Sondra Cosgrove, Las Vegas

Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf, Las Vegas

Board of Directors

(3 elected and 3 appointed)

Mary Liveratti, Northern Nevada

Sam King, Las Vegas

Betty Pardo, Las Vegas

Beverly Aberrahman, Las Vegas

Nancy Scott, Northern Nevada

Jan Biggerstaff, Las Vegas

Kathleen Bienenstein, Las Vegas

Bonnie Swadling, Las Vegas

Nominating Committee

(Pending)

POLITICAL CORNER

The fight over gun laws is just beginning, said Paul Waldman in CNN.com and "this defeat may be just what the gun safety movement needs to energize its supporters." If activists can harness the public's anger and disgust about the senate's cowardice, and create a real political movement—with fundraising, door-knocking, and concerted campaigns to uproot opposition senators and congressmen—they might finally overcome the power of the NRA.



Poll Watch: 32% of Americans say they are disappointed that the Senate rejected legislation requiring background checks for gun purchases, and 28% say they are angry. 17% say they are relieved and 6% are excited the bill failed. *Huffington Post*

THE WEEK (May 3, 2013)

MINUTES *By: Ann Smith, Secretary*

April 20, 2013 Main Street Station

League President Sondra Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She introduced our speaker, Elizabeth Crum, co-host of "*The Agenda*," which airs on KSNV-TV News 3 Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m. Ms. Crum has also been a Political Analyst at KTNV and a 2010 Elections Blogger at National Review. She is a lifelong political junkie, fan of good, old-fashioned journalism, a policy wonk, a Tweetaholic, an avid reader and an enthusiastic traveler. She was educated at St. Clair County Community College and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Ms. Crum spoke about the current Legislative Session and how, because of term limits, we have many freshman legislators this session. She has been very impressed with several of the new legislators, whom she referred to as "rising stars."

Going into the session, there were obvious issues to watch, including the budget, underfunded education, both K-12 and higher education, social services. The expansion of Medicaid, which Governor Sandoval supports, is an issue to watch. She was not optimistic about tax reform. If SJR 15 passes, changing the taxing structure for mining will go before the voters. A possible tax on services is being looked at. There are five or six Republican Senators who are willing to talk revenue. The Assembly needs only one Republic vote to pass, and Ms. Crum thinks there are two or three who would go along with a tax increase. The margin tax initiative is being largely ignored.

The lawmakers have voted to pay themselves on time this year, but without any increase. Ms. Crum commented on the Youth Legislature which gives young people a chance to learn about the law-making process. In general, Conservatives are in favor of funding education. How can we expect people to be self-reliant, productive, etc., if we don't give them the tools to do it?

There is a need for increased social services in schools to identify at-risk children. We need fixes to the system and have to spend money to get the fix. Per capita, we spend very little; most states spend more. Ms. Crum commented that Conservatives have to be honest. There is nothing left to cut in our State budget.

A list of bills of interest that are still alive include: SJR 15; SJR 13 which repeals the limitation on marriage. A vote by the public would put it in the



Constitution and we would be the first state to do so. She anticipated that it would probably pass and go to the voters.

SB377 would impose a 2-cent per gallon tax on gas - per year. In 2023, this would amount to a 40-cent increase, but it would support some good projects. The medical marijuana dispensary law would generate income. At some point the legislature will pass it. SB56 would increase transparency in government by showing revenue and expenditures line by line. We should all know what money is being spent. We need to support law enforcement, and need more officers.

AB230 would require a policy on sex education. It is a tricky issue, but there is a opt-out for parents who disagree with the policy. AB155 requires that every professional person in a capacity to report child abuse or neglect must do so. One way to judge a community is how we care for our children.

SJR8 would provide for annual sessions; SB277 would change existing law, which bans anyone who is adjudicated to be mentally ill or has been committed to a mental health facility, to include anyone who has been the subject of a petition filed for commitment. This could be a slippery slope. SB191 increases the maximum speed limit in the state to 85 mph.

Ms. Crum then answered questions from the audience.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 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).

PROGRAM CALENDAR
June 7-8 State League Convention - Pahrump
September 21 Stavan Corbett & Panel on Education

LWVLVV COMMITTEE'S AND CHAIRS

- Children at Risk- (JoAnn & Chris Wright)
Education (Sam King)
Environment (Terri Robertson)
Government Affairs (Sondra Cosgrove / Sam King)
Health—(Open)
Membership—(Kathleen Bienenstein)
Voter Services (Sondra Cosgrove)

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



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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, Mary Liveratti

2013 - 2014 DUES ARE DUE NOW

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

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

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

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Please note: Pictures are occasionally taken for our publications. Please check if NOT ok to use _____