



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

THE VOTER

MARCH 2012

**DUES
DUE
MARCH**

Still Only

\$55



**Check out
our
League
Website**

www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

For up-to-date information



HEALTH CARE IN NEVADA TODAY

Marilyn G. Wills,

Director of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Reservations by Wednesday, March 14

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

**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

BREAKFAST \$20 with reservation

Admittance \$5.00

(included in breakfast charge)

RSVP TODAY: 464-7887

lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

LWVLVV OFFICERS 2011-2012

President: *Sandy Metcalf*

1st. VP: *Sam King **

2nd VP: *Jan Biggerstaff*

Secretary: *Ann Marie Smith*

Treasurer: *Lyell Metcalf*

Directors:

- *Beverly Abderrahman*
- *Freda Greenfield*
- *Betty Pardo*
- *Sondra Cosgrove*

LWVLVV PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By: Sandy Metcalf

League will have a busy spring, summer and fall as we plan for candidate meet and greet events, welcome candidates at our regular monthly meetings, and produce our Voters Guide.

I would remind you that we neither support nor oppose candidates for office. We will be looking at ballot issues with a critical eye and we WILL support those that match our League of Women Voters positions and we will oppose those that do not. If you are a voter registrar, please let Sondra Cosgrove know if and when you can help. From now until November, your league will be very busy

FYI

The April newsletter is our Annual Manual and will include the biographies of the candidates, budget, and minutes of the last business meeting, all to be voted on by our membership. Nominations for League offices are accepted from the floor with the permission of the proposed candidate.

Only paid-up members may vote.

STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By: Rosemary Gary

CALL TO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA STATE COUNCIL

Tuscany Suites, 255 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 702-893-8933

Room Price \$90 – Code 12K82H

June 22, 2012 – There will be a Meet and Greet

(Time & Place to be announced later)

June 23, 2012 – Convention – 9:00 am through 5:00 pm

VOTER SERVICES By: Sondra Cosgrove

As we approach the 2012 election cycle there will be many opportunities to register new voters as we get closer to the 2012 election cycle, so please consider becoming a field registrar. If you are interested in becoming a Field Registrar, phone 455-0076 or go to: www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/election/pages/fieldreg. The training is not long and not difficult.

Currently, we have a request for field registrars to register new voters on March 30th from 2 to 10 pm at Desert Pines High School. The School is hosting a carnival and would like to provide seniors and their families with the opportunity to register to vote. There will be field registrar training sessions before March 30th, so you have plenty of time if you would like to help with this event or others.

If you are already a field registrar and would like to help out on March 30th, please contact Voter Services Chair Sondra Cosgrove sondra.cosgrove@gmail.com. Please also contact Sondra if you plan to become a field registrar before March 30th and would like to participate at future events.

As I receive more information on voter registration events, I will pass along these opportunities for volunteers.

MARCH SPEAKER

Marilyn G. Wills, Director of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance since July 2, 2011 manages the Office of Consumer Health Assistance that provides statewide advocacy and education to healthcare consumers and providers. The office helps individuals resolve hospital billing disputes, audit hospital charges, review and resolve physician billing disputes and negotiate charity or discounted payment arrangements. In addition, it helps people locate health care services available in their community, resolve workers compensation issues, as well as locate coverage for prescription drugs.

Wills has also been given oversight of the Office of Minority Health. She worked in the DHHS Division of Aging and Disability Services for nine years.

Wills said the office has been able to expand in the current economic downturn with the help of a federal grant to assist in explaining the new federal health care law to consumers. Nevada is one of 26 states in a lawsuit challenging the law, but until a final legal determination is made, the state is preparing for its implementation in 2014, she said.

Wills said her office does get questions about the new federal insurance coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions, but most inquiries involve billing questions and access to care issues. “We have so many people out there, particularly in this economy, who don’t have resources, don’t have insurance, and are ill or need some sort of medical attention, and one of the problems has been that those people have been more or less forced to go to emergency rooms for treatment,” Wills said. “We’re encouraging people to call us because there are some other alternatives.”

Navigating access to health care, even with a health insurance policy, can be a complex process, she said. “And a lot of our cases get extremely complicated and difficult and some of them are very heartbreaking – people who need surgeries or need cancer treatments – and we try our best to find the resources for people out there,” Wills said.

Marilyn graduated from Western State College with a BA in Psychology/Sociology and has a teaching certificate.

Donations to Peggy’s Attic (children’s new and slightly used clothing) and books for Shade Tree will always be accepted at League’s meetings.



BRING A GUEST WIN A PRIZE
Everyone that brings a guest to the meeting will be included in a drawing for a free breakfast.

DUES DUE NOW Still Only \$55

WHAT DO OUR \$55 YEARLY DUES PAY FOR?

National Dues (per member)	\$30.00
State Dues (per member)	\$15.00
Local Dues (what's left)	\$10.00

The remaining money from your yearly dues pays for a monthly answering service, a post office box, a website, mailings, insurance, brochures, newsletters and office supplies. All work and effort to keep the LWVLVV relevant are donated by our active members.

Your contributions and donations throughout the year enabled us to keep our 2012 dues at \$55.

MONTHLY MEETING ROOM CHARGES (MAIN STREET STATION)

Minimum meeting charge	\$576.00 (or \$18 per person)
Microphones (\$10 ea)	20.00
Speaker (each) breakfast & mug	30.00

We are charged for each plate or cup used.

What is an Accountable Care Organization (ACO)?

From: Ellen Nakamura, Health Chair

The National Committee for Quality Assurance assesses medical organizations. NCQA. Guidelines were established in November 2011. This program builds patient-centered medical homes and provides an independent evaluation of an organization's ability to coordinate high-quality, efficient patient-centered care. The NCQA ACO accreditation program evaluates organizations in seven categories:

1. Structure and Operations
2. Access to Need Providers
3. Patient- Centered Primary Care
4. Care Management
5. Care Coordination and Transitions
6. Patient Rights and Responsibilities
7. Performance Reporting and Quality Improvement.

Recently Nevada Health Care Partners has received this designation.

What is a medical home? A patient-centered medical home is "a model of care that strengthens the clinician-patient relationship by replacing episodic care with coordinated care and a long-term healing relationship. Each patient has a relationship with a primary care clinician who leads a team that takes collective responsibility for patient care, providing for the patient's health care needs and arranging for appropriate care with other qualified clinicians. The medical home is intended to result in more personalized, coordinated, effective and efficient care."

Is this medical trend the "new idea"? Please visit the trailer for the PBS documentary, US Health Care The Good News reported by T.R. Reid at www.NCQA.org for more information.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS
2012-2013**

PRESIDENT SANDY METCALF

1st V.P.SAM KING

2nd V.P.....JAN BIGGERSTAFF

SECRETARY.....ANN MARIE SMITH

TREASURER.....LYELL METCALF

DIRECTORS.....

**BEVERLY ABDERRAHMAN
KATHLEEN BIENENSTEIN
FREDA GREENFIELD
BETTY PARDO**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CHAIR.....Bonnie Swadling

MEMBERJane Newton

MEMBER.....

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three and not more than five members. The chair and one or two members, who shall not be members of the board shall be elected at the annual meeting. Immediately after the annual meeting, the board shall appoint at least one of its members to the committee.

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

FROM NATIONAL:

February 14, 2012 was League's 92nd birthday –

Our birthday wish this year is a special one. 2012 is an important election year and there is a great deal of work to be done to help **register, educate** and **mobilize voters**. That is why the League is launching an important campaign –

Power the Vote!

HEALTH By: Ellen Nakamura

Right now, I am just trying to get either field visits to various health centers or have a support group representative visit a meeting to educate the membership in general. The ACO and medical home is part of Marilyn Will's talk. She will focus on Nevada but this is a present trend nationwide or at least a discussion. Committee members have various health issues so I will address them in educational pieces not in presentations in March.

CHILDREN AT RISK *By: Liz Bates*

I'd like to congratulate our Committee member Kathleen Dickinson for a superb job of coordination of the "We The People" state finals competition on February 4th. It was again a great privilege to volunteer to assist with an opportunity to see youth in our State participating in such a wonderful competition of their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and their ability to learn and debate ideas.

Also, welcome Gloria Porter to our Committee!

We discussed several items at our meeting following the tour including: **Evaluation** of current attendance at various youth at risk programs. **DMC Coalition:** During the past year most of our members have attended meetings of the DMC Coalition at one time or another. At present I also attend the meeting before the "court" session held monthly. This provides me with an update on the program and also receiving information about organizations that are on the "frontlines" of the work with youth at risk in our community. It was decided that I should contact Jane and Sam about attending a League Education Committee meeting to discuss participation in the DMC Coalition and other organizations. **Gang Prevention Task Force** monthly meetings at Fitzgeralds. I plan to continue attending these monthly meetings. Each month every organization is asked to announce the name of their organization. It is a valuable source of information for youth at risk services. This month there were representatives from "Glass House Counseling Agency" with some of the residents giving "testimony" to how they have been assisted by this organization.

Projects: Shade Tree Shelter and Peggy's Attic The Committee feels that our ongoing collections of books to Shade Tree Shelter and various items for Peggy's Attic are projects we want to continue participating in - the books to be collected at all monthly league meetings and Peggy's Attic collection to begin with the **March meeting**

Discussion of Legislation agenda is postponed until next year which will be timely for consideration. We will ask Joyce Woodhouse if she is interested in assisting us with this project and with further information about our participation in the Step Up For Kids program. We decided some of these activities may be a good opportunity to "advertise" membership in our Committee.

Future meetings: It was decided to confer with the Education Committee on a joint "field trip" to a facility and/or organization that provide services to youth at risk in the area of education. A few ideas were: the Spring Mountain Youth facility, School Bell which provides clothes to youth at risk, etc.

Thanks so much for all your ideas and support!

EDUCATION *By: Sam King*

The education committee is focusing on education policy, statutes, systems of education, education funding, local capital projects, adequacy and equity, and understanding education reform. Nevada statutes include education policy, however, there is no clear legislation in terms of equitable and adequate education policy nor in defining funding responsibility to meet these requirements. To date there are no Nevada lawsuits relating to education equity and adequacy. The Nevada Plan does determine weighted funding to balance inequities between smaller and larger districts and ensure that each county does support a school district. The Nevada Plan is a budgeting mechanism which does not directly address adequate and equitable education. Adequate and equitable education is the greatest civil rights issue of our time. The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley chartered in 1964 has been involved in education and civil rights since our formation. The League of Women Voters supports equal access to education.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: *By: Sam King*

As a grassroots organization, the League of Women Voters provides a flexible opportunity for individuals to work together to improve the quality of life in our communities. Each and every member strengthens our voice. Joining coalitions amplifies and strengthens our ability to change policy. The League of Women Voters was born out of the woman's suffrage movement aligned with the civil rights movement. The common ground and linchpin between women's suffrage and civil rights developed into a movement to change discrimination practices and policy. Protecting individual liberties and assuring equal opportunity are common sense values. When League works to change policy, we base our action upon defined positions developed through research, study and common sense. The League strives to balance historical institutional knowledge with 21st century developments, needs and circumstances. As an organization, we realize change does not come easy and must be weighed as to consequences. Our grassroots work includes empowering, educating and encouraging informed participation in all levels of government.

As an overview and as we develop our 2012 priorities, we will focus our strategy upon our mission and the following issues :

- Local and National Elections**
- Campaign Finance Reform**
- Environmental Defense**
- Health Care**
- Fair Taxation**
- Immigration Policy**



At the February meeting, Straight From the Streets and our friends Linda and Thomas Lera-Randle El made a donation to the LWVLVV in the memory of Dr. Harold Sturza, Ruth Annette Mills and Mary Albers, long time League members who are no longer with us.

Many thanks to Linda and Thomas.

OUR TRIP TO GOLD BUTTE

By: Kathleen Bienenstein

It was an easy choice bidding on the Day Trip to Gold Butte at the League of Women Voter’s annual fundraiser. The item was a four wheel day trip to Gold Butte guided by Terri Robertson. We had never spent time getting to know Terri, nor had we been to Gold Butte. It was a perfect match for those who have a sense of adventure and want to explore this great State of ours. This past month we collected on the prize.

We met Terri at a truck stop just off north bound I-15. As soon as she pulled up in her four wheel vehicle to pick us up, we knew we were in for a terrific adventure. Her license plate said it all “Grannies Rocker”. It bore all the signs of a well travelled off road vehicle; missing side chrome, numerous dents and an array of lines customized by various limbs and rocks running from front to back. “This one has held up pretty good,” she explains, “I rolled my other truck three times a few years ago at Gold Butte.” There was no turning back from this adventure as we sped north on I-15. Like her vehicle, Terry’s face is lined with years of smiles. She is a fourth generation Nevadan who is passionate about protecting the natural treasures of our state for future generations. After helping to preserve Red Rock Canyon, she now has her sights set on protecting Gold Butte.

As we pulled off the I-15 onto an exit marked Gold Butte south of Mesquite, she continued to talk about the State and government officials she has taken on the tour we would be having that day. Gold Butte is currently under the BLM. She speaks excitedly about this finally being the year that a bill she helped write will be presented to Congress to make Gold Butte and its 467,000 acres a National Park.

Driving down the road into Gold Butte, we were struck by the wide and varied desert palette of colors that adorned the numerous outcroppings of rock formations and mountains. Terri tells us that Gold Butte is Red Rock Canyon on steroids. She was right. The raw beauty of this area is what Terri is attempting to preserve. In wording the bill, Terri wants to protect the numerous sacred Native American petroglyphs and artifacts while remaining user friendly for other recreational activities.

We spent the day in the presence of an ancient sage sharing her love and passion for the sacredness of this corner of Nevada. Terri showed us all her favorite spots and where she rolled her last truck. During the day we would meet other travelers and explorers at different trailheads, some were local, others from other states and other countries, but they all knew Terri or had read her articles about the area, or just plain heard the legend of the Granny that travels in her Rocking Chair four-wheeler on the back-roads of Gold Butte day and night. She never met a stranger the entire day.

The jewel my dear Nevadans is Gold Butte and it needs to be protected. We saw signs of damage already taking place and once it’s gone, it’s gone forever.

After returning to our vehicle at dusk, we weren’t sure if the prize was being at Gold Butte for the day or being with Terri Robertson.

Take a ride north on I-15, exit at Gold Butte and get ready to rock and roll to the music of the desert colors! Oh, and watch out for “Granny” another jewel we have in the desert.



ENVIRONMENT *By: Terri Robertson*
April 22, 2012 (NEW)

Every April, in communities around the globe, people come together to mark the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement – the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970 – and to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. Make plans now for your participation in this campaign to advance sustainability, at home and around the world. Standing up for environmental protection is particularly important right now given the fierce attacks on the EPA and its efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions and toxic air pollutants. Find more information and ideas for your Earth Day celebration and about the EPA’s important regulatory efforts, visit the [Clean Air Defense section](#) of the Toolkit for Climate Action.

POLITICAL CORNER

LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2012 include Voter Protection, Campaign Finance Reform, Environmental Defense and Health Care Defense. In addition, these items were included on the LWVUS Watch List for 2012: Fair Taxation, Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Support and Immigration. Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

The LWVUS Board considered many issues and responses from members suggesting Legislative Priorities. The decisions were based on what issues are likely to come before the 112th Congress, the opportunities to make an impact, program decisions made by members at the last Convention and resources available to manage these priorities effectively.



**Go Green -
 Recycle Congress**

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. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited

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).



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

2012 PROGRAM CALENDAR

- April 21** Mayor Carolyn Goodman, Potpourri **Annual Meeting**
- May 17** Larry Lomax, Clark County Registrar of Voters,
- August 11** **CANDIDATE FORUM**
- September 19** **We're Back**

Programs subject to change

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) Call of the Chair
- Health—(Ellen Nakamura) Call of the chair
- Voter Services (Sondra Cosgrove) call of the chair

For additional information check our website:

www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

DUES DUE NOW Still Only \$55

YEARLY DUES MARCH—MARCH



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)

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

Mail to: League of Women Voters, PO Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112