



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY

THE VOTER

MAY 2012



EVERY VOTER COUNTS

LARRY LOMAX,
CLARK COUNTY REGISTRAR

Check out
our
League
Website

[www.
lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

For up-to-date information

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012

Reservations by Wednesday, May 16

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
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*

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*By: Rosemary Gary*

I know we are all glad to see the warmer weather finally get here and the flowers and trees blooming. We in the League are looking forward to a break from our normal routine of so many meetings. Many of you will be leaving this hot climate for cooler areas of the country, but we hope not until after the NV State Council to be held at the Tuscany Suites, 225 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV on Saturday, June 23, 2012 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be a meet and greet on Friday, June 22nd either at the Tuscany Hotel or at a site to be announced later. If you plan to stay at the Tuscany Suites Friday, June 22nd, the room block code is 12k8qh; please explain you are with the LWVNV. We hope to see you there; this is where you learn about how the LWVNV operates.

VOTER SERVICES *By: Sondra Cosgrove*

The Voter Services Committee is busy registering voters and working on the Primary Voter Guide. The electronic guide will be available May 21st on the League's webpage. The Secretary of State's Office released the following important dates as we get closer to the June Primary Election.

Carson City, NV; April 30, 2012 - The final day to register to vote by mail or electronically is less than two weeks away, and Secretary of State Ross Miller is reminding the public that online resources are available for voters who need to meet several key deadlines to participate. "My office is working closely with county registrars to ensure that all Nevadans have the opportunity to register and cast their votes in a secure electoral system for the primary election," said Secretary Miller. "Those who plan to vote in the primary election need to ensure they meet upcoming deadlines, whether it is registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot."

Key 2012 election deadlines:

May 12: Last day to register to vote by mail (or electronically at www.registertovotenv.com for Clark County residents)

May 12: Last day for military and overseas citizens to register to vote. Military and overseas citizens are encouraged to fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register and request an absent ballot at the same time. The FPCA can be accessed at <http://www.nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=83> and at www.fvap.gov.

May 22: Last day to register to vote in person. Applications for registration must be submitted in person by the end of the business day at all county clerk and voter registrars' offices throughout the state. A complete list of county clerks and voter registrars can be found <http://www.nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=81>.

May 26 to June 8: Early voting

June 5: Last day for registered voters to request an absentee ballot. The Absent Ballot Request Form can be found <http://www.nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=83>.

June 12: Primary Election Day

Information about registered voter status and polling location is easily accessible through My Voter File at nvsos.gov/votersearch. Registered voters with Department of Motor Vehicle-issued identification in Clark County can now update their address or change their party affiliation online at www.registertovotenv.com. The Elections Division is collaborating with the remaining Nevada counties to launch online voter registration prior to the General Election.

MAY SPEAKER**Larry Lomax, Clark County Registrar**

After a 30-year Air Force career in which he served six years working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in late 1997, he faced mandatory military retirement for a colonel. He poked around on the Internet for job listings in Las Vegas to live closer to his grown children in California. Then-Registrar Ferguson was seeking a deputy in the election department, and Lomax thought the post "might be fun."

"I may never have run an Election Department, but I've run a lot of things," said Lomax, whose resume of military leadership impressed County Manager Dale Askew. He accepted Ferguson's recommendation to tap Lomax for her replacement.

"This (job) is just a matter of learning the rules and regulations and making sure they are followed," Lomax said.

Mayor Carolyn Goodman at April Meeting

Mayor Goodman, addressing an audience of about 60 League members and guests, commented that she and her husband, former Mayor Oscar Goodman, had lived in Las Vegas since 1964. As a resident, she had become appalled by the political process and by the fact that the media often distorts the truth. As League members we have a responsibility to speak out to make sure young people know the truth and not just what they learn from the media. Sensationalism sells newspapers and magazines and brings in money. In her opinion, the League's role in educating people is to get the truth out there.

When she and her husband moved here they were Republicans. At the request of Senator Richard Bryan, they changed their affiliation to Democrat. However, they had always voted for people and issues and, when Oscar decided to run for Mayor, they changed their affiliation to non-partisan, as they felt that the office of Mayor is not a partisan position. When term limits prevented Oscar Goodman from running again, Carolyn Goodman decided to run in order to continue the momentum of what he had achieved in his 12 years on the job.

She commented on the fact that Las Vegas is a vibrant, alive city. There is a lot of development downtown, a lot of excitement, and things are returning to private ownership. This means jobs for residents. She cited the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, the Neon Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, the State Museum which has moved from Lorenzi Park to the Springs Preserve and the National History Museum. People won't come to Las Vegas for fine art museums, but they will travel here for the Mob Museum. It has already exceeded its expected visitor count. Las Vegas is unique and our cultural environment needs to be unique.

In 1998, at the first First Friday in the Arts District downtown, 200 people attended. Last month there were 25,000. The new City Hall has opened, and is saving \$400,000 annually in operating costs. The old City Hall has been purchased for small business development. Tivoli Village in Summerlin is expanding and is debt free. There is lots of development going on. The Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health is bringing in medical research and medical tourism.

But, in order for our city to continue to be successful, we must fix education. When she arrived here in 1964, we were No. 2 nationally in education. We must vote for people who are committed to education.

A question and answer session followed.

"Everybody wants to save the earth. Nobody want to help Mom do the dishes."

P.J. O'Rourke



ENVIRONMENT *By: Terri Robertson*

Have you ever noticed all the wonderful creosote bushes on display in our State? What would the desert be like without this least understood of all desert bushes? Jackrabbits and the desert tortoise may take a taste now and then but they are the only ones to eat it so how important can it be? Well just imagine a desert floor without the creosote. In the heat of the summer it is the creosote that provides desert dwellers with the comfort of shade all summer long. It is under the creosote these same desert dwellers rely on the root systems to stabilize their burrowed homes.

That wonderful smell that covers the desert after a rain comes from the creosote. Its leaves are topped with resin. This resin prevents water loss in the hot summer months. It is the resin that also keeps the creosote from being eaten by most mammals and insects. The creosote also produces a toxic substance to keep other plants from growing next to it.



This all adds up to a long life span for the creosote. One creosote is estimated to be nearly 12,000 years old. King Clone, as it is called lives in the Lucerne Valley, and is 45 feet in diameter. The creosote was and still is an important medicine plant for Native American.

For the past three years Friends of Sloan has participated with youth involved in the After School All Stars Lifetime Adventure Program. Orr and Cashman Middle School students meet two times a week after school and receive education on geology, biology, and archaeology. They are also taught how to use a GPS and how to put up a tent. Several field trips are planned for them during the year. Friends of Sloan believes that, "Conservationists must accept the responsibility of introducing our special places to the hearts, minds, and feet of children."

These students have been involved in two work projects in the Sloan Canyon NCA. This next school year we would like to take them to visit the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site. The road in will require 4 wheel drive vehicles. The trip will be during the fall or winter. What I am trying to do now is just to get a number of how many people have 4 wheel drive vehicles and would, if the date meets your schedule, be able to assist in driving these students into the petroglyph site. Contact me if you can help.

Friends of Sloan received a Proclamation from the County Commission for their efforts in providing outdoor experiences for youth. The first week end in March Friends of Sloan provided a week end camping experience in Gold Butte for After School All Star Lifetime Adventures students from Orr and Cashman Middle Schools. Twenty eight students attended and were immersed in education on Gold Butte cultural sites, historical sites, biology, and geology. Twelve volunteers interacted with, led walks, and shared their Gold Butte knowledge with the youth.

Pictures by Terri Robertson

POLITICAL CORNER



Clark County registered voters who have a Nevada driver's license or DMV-issued ID can now update their address or change their political party online.

There are more than 200,000 people in our data base whose addresses are no longer current," said Clark County Registrar Larry Lomax. "The ability to update their information online makes it easy for voters with a Nevada driver's license to keep their registration data current so they will receive their Sample Ballot and be able to vote at a polling place near their residence.

To update their data, voters can go to www.clarkcountynv.gov/vote, click on the "Online Registration Services" button and provide the requested information. The system will immediately notify them they have successfully updated their address or party. A new voter registration card will be mailed to them within a few days of updating their information.

Eligible residents who have never registered to vote and have a Nevada driver's license or DMV-issued ID can also use the online system to register. Online registration has been available in Clark County since September 2010.

From LWVUS:

Power the Vote: VOTE411, A Voter's Go-To Resource
As the primary season continued through April, the League had voters covered. VOTE411.org, the nation's premier online election resource, was ready to go with information on voting locations, the latest candidate and ballot information, and general and state-specific information on voter registration, absentee ballot rules, early voting options, and details of what voters need to bring to the polls. For young and first-time voters, the League created a new [Take Control web video](#). This 30-second spot is designed to encourage young voters – our newest generations of voters - to get registered and vote.

House Invites League to STOCK Act Signing
League Executive Director Nancy Tate stood with others around President Obama as he signed the [Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge \(STOCK\) Act](#) into law in early April. The STOCK Act makes it illegal for Members of Congress to invest or trade stocks based on nonpublic information they acquire on Capitol Hill. The League believes that [this new law is a strong step in the right direction](#) of strengthening ethics laws as they apply to Members of Congress and their staff. The signing ceremony was live streamed on www.WhiteHouse.gov and you can catch up with [our take](#) from the ceremony on [our blog](#).

CHILDREN AT RISK *By: Liz Bates*

In March the Youth at Risk Committee donated over 100 pairs of socks and many other items to Julie Ball at Peggy's Attic (see photo). Julie is Donations Coordinator at the Department of Family Services at Child Haven. The donations will supply our County's most vulnerable children with much needed items. **Thank you to all who participated!**



Julie Ball, Coordinator



After members toured the Assistance League facilities in March, the Education and Youth at Risk Committees, in a joint effort, collected 70 new t-shirts for Operation School Bell run by the Assistance League at our League

of Women Voter's meeting on April 21st. Thank you to all of those who participated. **Your donations were much appreciated!**

The Youth at Risk Committee will be choosing a project to personally give of members' time and skills to assist in an effort that aids youths at risk in our community beginning in September. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up at the League's May meeting or contact Liz Bates at 702-748-1842.

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.

EDUCATION *By: Sam King*

The LWV Las Vegas Valley Education Committee has been watching the process as Clark County School District works to settle contracts, set its budget priorities and investigate the possibility of putting a school bond before the voters in 2012. There is visible and inherent information to support the need to improve school facilities including upgrades to technology. Four former Nevada First Ladies, Dima Guinn, Bonnie Bryan, Sandy Miller and Dawn Gibbons have pledged to assist in a bond initiative.

The problem is the current uncharted economic climate, public perception of how Clark County School District oversees facility projects and the timing to get the bond initiative on the ballot.

The League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley Education Committee meets the third Saturday of the month prior to the League Program. Please come and join the committee. We need education advocates.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: *By: Sam King*

The month of May celebrates Cinco de Mayo, the Kentucky Derby and Mother's Day. The LWVLVV May program will focus on elections and voter registration information. Once registered, the voters must educate themselves on the candidates and issues that will be determined by the election and will impact the quality of life in our communities.

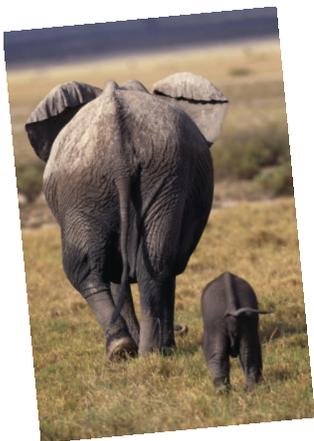
Candidates run on their personalities, qualifications, and issues. The League does not endorse candidates, however League does advocate for or against policy based upon our positions. The League of Women Voters Las Vegas Valley produces a Voter's Guide based upon what candidates write about themselves for voters to use to make informed decisions. Women's issues are inherent in League positions. Women's Rights are also civil rights and very up front and personal in Election 2012.

With many thanks to LWVNN member and LWVNV Director, Jan Browne who provided the information. Please review the "Top Ten Historic Advances for Women in the 20th century that are now at-risk in 2012".

(see page 5)

HEALTH *By: Ellen Nakamura*

The Health Committee meets at 8:30 am before the May meeting. Come by and get an update on the Silver State Exchange before the June Convention. Please stay involved with the issues that are important to you during the summer. Please email the League to get more information about the committee and we will have two outings during break.



*Mothers come in
all sizes and
shapes*



*Happy
Mother's Day
to us all*



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

Top Ten Historic Advances for Women's Lives Now at Risk

1. Women's Right to Vote (1920) The 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1920, guaranteed American women the right to vote, although many women of color did not win full voting rights until 45 years later under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Currently women surpass men both in the proportion and numbers of women who vote.

Threat: Instead of advocating a 21st century voting system that is inclusive, conservative legislatures in 30 states are attempting to turn the clock back to the 19th century when only privileged white males were allowed to vote. Newly imposed ID requirements target students, people of color and women. As many as 32 million women of voting age do not have documentation with their current legal name.

2. Social Security Act (1935) Social Security is the bedrock of older women's financial security – virtually the only source of income for 3 in 10 women 65 and older – and a critical source of disability and life insurance protection throughout their lives.

Threat: Bills introduced by conservative Members of Congress would gut the current Social Security program and disproportionately impact women's economic security. The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction could propose benefit cuts, such as a reduction in the annual cost-of-living adjustment that would especially hurt women, or an increase in the retirement age.

3. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Taken together, these laws prohibit employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, including pregnancy, and national origin. The Equal Pay Act deals specifically with pay discrimination on the basis of sex. Title VII covers all employment actions, including hiring, promotion, pay, and termination, as well as all of the other terms and conditions of employment. Both have been central to expanding women's economic opportunities and helping women achieve economic and retirement security.

Threat: Recent rulings by the conservative majority of the Supreme Court have weakened employment discrimination laws, placing women's rights in the workplace in jeopardy and actions by conservative Senators have undermined efforts to restore these acts and strengthen employment protections for women, including filibustering the Paycheck Fairness Act in 2010.

4. Medicare (1965) Medicare is the nation's health insurance program for seniors and younger adults with permanent disabilities. More than half (56%) of all Medicare beneficiaries are women.

Threat: The conservative majority of the House of Representative passed a fiscal year 2012 budget bill that will effectively end Medicare and replace it for those now under 55 with a voucher to buy private insurance. It would increase out-of-pocket health care costs, limit benefits and severely restrict the choice of doctors.

5. Medicaid (1965) Medicaid provides 19 million women access to vital health services at all stages of their lives. In 2007 nearly seven in ten elderly individuals who relied on Medicaid for assistance were women. Additionally, Medicaid covers millions of mothers and more than one-third of all children.

Threat: Under the conservative House budget, Medicaid was targeted for deep budget cuts and converted into capped block grants to states. Medicaid still faces threats as the Joint Select

grants to states. Medicaid still faces threats as the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction deliberates and identifies at least an additional \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts.

6. Title X, The National Family Planning Program (1970)

Title X is the only dedicated source of federal funding for family planning services in the United States. Title X provides family planning and other preventive health care to more than 5 million low-income and uninsured women who may otherwise lack access to health care.

Threat: For the first time in history, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to completely defund Title X in 2011. Nine states have reduced family planning funding through legislative action and one (NJ) has eliminated it through the governor's veto.

7. Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972) Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs or activities. Title IX greatly expanded equal access to college education, professional and graduate schools and dramatically increased equal access to sports opportunities so that today girls and women represent over 40% of all college and high school athletes. Title IX also plays a vital role in increasing gender equity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education by improving the climate for women in those fields.

Threat: A combination of administrative budget cuts, regulations, private school vouchers schemes, and pressure from congressional opponents threatens to weaken enforcement of Title IX.

8. Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision (1973) In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Roe v. Wade that a right to privacy under the 14th Amendment extended to a women's decision to have an abortion.

Threat: Anti-abortion Members of Congress have introduced legislation that would make all abortions illegal and essentially overturn Roe v. Wade. In 2011, over 1,000 pieces of legislation have been introduced and 162 bills have been passed at the state level to restrict access to abortion and/or family planning.

9. The Violence Against Women Act (1994) The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) created the first U.S. federal legislation acknowledging the severity of crimes related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and violence against women.

Threat: VAWA will expire at the end of 2011 unless it is reauthorized. The law needs to be updated and strengthened, including the addition of provisions that will help protect students on campus who are consistently subject to sexual harassment, assault and violence. Despite this, no action has yet been taken to ensure VAWA is reauthorized.

10. The Affordable Care Act (2010) The Affordable Care Act (ACA) covers maternity care, eliminates pre-existing conditions and prevents health plans from charging women more than men for the same coverage. ACA also covers well-woman preventive health services, such as an annual well-woman visit, contraceptives, mammogram's, cancer screenings, prenatal care and counseling for domestic violence, as basic health care for women at no additional cost and includes the first federal ban on sex discrimination in health care programs and activities. Combined with other provisions, the ACA is an historic step forward for women's health and economic security.

Threat: The House of Representatives voted to repeal the ACA. Conservative senators, state legislators and governors have also pledged to repeal ACA and deny women, of all ages, critical preventive care services.

From AAUW.org

The LWVNN and AAUW are working on a project and the information was a work product of the Coalition.



If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. ~

Nadine Stair

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAS VEGAS VALLEY



P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112
Phone: (702) 464-7887

Email: lww@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 LWVLLV 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
lww@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

2012 PROGRAM CALENDAR

June 22-23.....State Council, Tuscany Suites

August 11 CANDIDATE FORUM

September 19 We're Back

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

LWVLLV 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

JOIN TODAY

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