



THE VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

INSIDE ARTICLES

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Picture from Lionel Sawyer & Collins website

WHY MERIT SELECTION? Cam Ferenbach, President of the Nevada State Bar

CANDIDATE NIGHT

**Tuesday
OCTOBER 5TH
6 to 10 p.m.
Italian American Club
2333 E. Sahara**

Contact
Sam King
for more information
702-228-9608
sam229@aol.com

General Election
Tuesday, November 2,
Early Voting
October 16 - October 29,

LWVLVV OFFICERS 2010-2011

President: Sandy Metcalf
1st. VP: Sam King
2nd VP: Jan Biggerstaff
Secretary: Ann Marie Smith
Treasurer: Lyell Metcalf
Directors: Beverly Abderrahman
Teresa Bell
Freda Greenfield
Betty Pardo

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**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**

PLEASE NOTE NEW CHARGES
BREAKFAST \$20 with reservation
Admittance \$5.00
(included in breakfast charge)

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Reservations by Wednesday, September 15, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sandy Metcalf*

"Remember the past, live in the present, and plan for the future"... *author unknown.* Welcome back! We have many interesting meetings planned for 2010-2011 so join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month, September through April with the exception of December. Our first meetings will deal with ballot measures, meet the candidates events, information on taxes and budgeting.

Also we are anticipating a national study of the federal role in education in 2011-12 which we may take part in. We may also study the privatization of some government services. As you can see, we will be busy. So join us for some or ALL of League programs and studies. See you in September.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER Cam Ferenbach is a share-

holder in the Litigation Department at Lionel Sawyer & Collins. Except for a six-month leave of absence, during which he served as a Maricopa County Public Defender in Phoenix, Arizona, since 1980 he has actively litigated cases in all Nevada courts, state and federal. He has tried cases to the court and to a jury and argued before the Nevada Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Upon graduation from Princeton University in 1969, Cam accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy and served in the Submarine Force for four years. He then settled in Arizona, where he supervised the installation of a rural water utility system before attending Arizona State University School of Law. In 1980, upon graduation from law school, Cam moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to work for Lionel Sawyer & Collins.

In *Chambers USA*, Cam Ferenbach is ranked as one of the leading litigators in the State of Nevada, and is described by clients as "a wonderful, consummate professional." He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation, and in *Nevada Super Lawyers* for General Litigation. Mr. Ferenbach has an AV rating in the *Martindale-Hubbell* Directory.

Cam was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania and raised in Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

(information from Lionel Sawyer & Collins website)

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sam King*
Greetings,

Hope everyone had a great summer. As the 2010 election cycle moves into fall full swing, our local Leagues are planning candidate forums, registration drives and outreach. Local Leagues will conduct studies; provide voter education, outreach, and information. LWVNV Board is planning our lobbying strategy for the 2011 Legislative Session so that we can make a positive impact on quality of life in Nevada. These are uncharted economic times. The 21st century challenges will need 21st century solutions that cannot be hindered by 20th century status quo.

In June, LWVNV held our 2010 Council in Pahrump, Nevada. We want to thank our Pahrump Valley League hosts for their wonderful hospitality. Our meeting took place at the Pahrump Winery. Representatives from all four leagues attended. The agenda was full and the meeting productive.

Our state brochure for the 2010-2011 Legislative session is hot off the press. League of Women Voters of Nevada advocacy continues to focus on elections, economy, education, the environment, and healthcare /social services. Redistricting will be a major task for the session. However, nothing will be more pressing than finding a way to fund state operations. Nevada is facing a 3 billion dollar budget shortfall.

In September, there will be a LWVUS sponsored training for LWVNV members in Las Vegas to help local leagues attract new members and to retain and maintain interest and services for our long time members.

Through collaboration with like-minded partners, we are providing information on 2010 Ballot Questions, specifically the merit selection of judges and the implementation of an appellate court. The state budget projected shortfall, sun-setting of taxes and the economic recession, redistricting and census results will come together to make an interesting and possibly contentious legislative session. If we add to this the fact that we now have term limits, we can expect not only many new faces in Carson City but also an interesting 120 days; institutional knowledge is acquired over time and time is limited by the present system.. One hundred twenty days every other year calls the question concerning the issue of annual sessions. Given that there have been several special sessions in the past five years I question whether a biennial legislature is working.



CANDIDATE NIGHT
Tuesday
OCTOBER 5TH
6 to 10 p.m.
Italian American Club
2333 E. Sahara



**IN MEMORIAM
RUTH ANNETTE MILLS**

From: Betty Pardo and Margi Mark

Ruth Annette Mills was the quintessential model of an American woman. She raised a family, contributed to her community as a school teacher and then devoted her life to Health Care Reform in Nevada and the League of Women Voters.

She was an inspiration to those who knew her and a loyal and supportive friend as well.

With an undying determination to accomplish her goals she quietly and persistently moved the League and the Health Care Reform Project towards the accomplishment of their goals. She and her League Health Care committee were years ahead of the childhood obesity problem, and she lived to see health care reform become part of the National Agenda.

Among her many honors, distinctions and memberships are the following:

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society in Education

Delta Kappa Gamma Professional Society

LWVLVV President, 1992-1998

VP LWVLVV Education Fund Project, 2003-2008

President LWVLVV Education Fund Project, 2008-2010

LWVNV State Treasurer; State Health Chair, 1999-2004

Chair, Nevada Health Care Reform Project, 1993-2010

Congressional appointee National Silver Haired

Congress, 1997-2002

Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum, 1999-2002

Attorney General's Women's Role Model Award, 1997

Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award, 1998

Distinguished Governor's Award for Seniors, 2000

Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee, Clark County

Social Services, 2003-2004

Ruth Annette, your League will miss you, but your League Legacy will always live on, and whatever the League does from now on, your spirit will be with us.

With love and great admiration,

The League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley

The White House
July 27, 2010

Ms. Ruth A. Mills
Health Chair,
The League of Women Voters of Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for writing to me. It has been heartening to hear from people who are interested in helping to combat childhood obesity, and I thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with me. We launched an initiative here at the White House called Let's Move! to address this growing concern, and we need ideas like yours for this initiative to be successful.

As you know, children all across this country are afflicted by poor health and a lack of nutrition in increasingly devastating numbers. Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled over the past three decades, and for the first time in our Nation's history, the current generation may be on track to have a shorter lifespan than their parents. These trends are startling, but I am encouraged because I know that individuals and organizations are already hard at work to combat this issue.

We launched Let's Move! with an ambitious national goal of solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation, so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight. Let's Move! will engage every sector impacting the health of children to achieve this national goal, and will provide schools, families, and communities simple tools to help kids be more active, eat better, and get healthy. This initiative is comprehensive, collaborative, and community-oriented, and it will specifically address the various factors that lead to childhood obesity by helping parents make healthier choices for their families, providing healthier food in schools, increasing physical activity, and improving access to affordable food in all communities.

We are going to need every one working together to achieve our goal, and so I urge you to join us online at www.LetsMove.gov, where you can stay updated on news and connect with our efforts. Our strength as a Nation and our ability to responsibly shape our future depends upon tackling this issue, and I hope you stay active in the fight against obesity in your home community. We need your ideas, your hands, and your heart to lead us to a brighter, healthier tomorrow.

Thank you again for writing. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Michelle Obama

EDUCATION *By: Sam King, Chair*

The League supports adequate and equitable funding at the national level for all levels of public education. The League of Women Voters, in its national, state and local efforts, is committed to continuing efforts to establish excellence in all our children's schools. Any attempt to change the NRS regarding education must keep these priorities in mind: constitutionality, fiscal, equal access, transparency and accountability.

Some issues the Committee will consider to pursue include the following: • No Child Left Behind • Funding to the national level • Recruitment and retention of quality teachers • Full day kindergarten • Breaking up the Clark County School District

HEALTH COMMITTEE

As many of you know, the Health Committee prepared a report on the State of Nutrition in Nevada and was instrumental in passing legislation requiring height and weight measurements of children in Nevada schools in order to document the state of children's obesity in our State. Below is some information on Child Nutrition.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization on Senate Pre-Recess Agenda

On August 2, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-N.V.) filed a unanimous consent request to move to full Senate consideration of S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate Agriculture Committee earlier this spring. APHA has been actively advocating for Congress, particularly the U.S. Senate to bring the legislation to the floor for consideration prior to adjourning for the August recess. In the House of Representatives, the House Education and Labor Committee approved H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act, legislation to reauthorize federal child nutrition and wellness policies on July 15. While the House did not consider the legislation before leaving for its summer break, should the Senate move the bill prior to adjourning for the summer recess the outlook for the bill to move in the House in September is quite good.

APHA has endorsed both the House and Senate bills which would: update the nutrition standards of school meals; limit the sale of junk food in schools; provide greater reimbursement and more training to schools so they can serve more nutritious meals; improve and simplify the application process; increase the use of foods from local and regional sources and support improved school nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

The Affordable Housing Committee promotes affordable housing options in the Las Vegas Valley. The committee will meet at various times during the upcoming year. More information about the dates will be provided at the breakfast meetings and in the monthly newsletter.



The Las Vegas Centennial Commission awarded the Friends of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort \$99,000 for the statue of Helen J. Stewart. The July 26th presentation was made by Dr. Linda Miller, League member, acting as Helen Stewart and Phyllis Weaver acting as Mrs. Stewart's close friend Delphine Squires. Dr. Miller made a presentation before the League last October as Helen Stewart and was presented with a check in support of the statue. The statue will be designed by Benjamin Victor, who also created the Sarah Winnemucca statue.

**Judicial Selection in Nevada:
The Consequences of Change**

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 - 7:30pm - Barrick Museum Auditorium. *Prof. Chris W. Bonneau, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh.* Nevada voters will soon face a critical choice about whether they will change the way judges are selected. While much money has been spent on both sides of this debate, advocating either for or against reform, few commentators have empirically examined the likely consequences of reform for Nevadans as a result of their upcoming November 2, 2010 ballot choice. Our speaker tonight consults historical data on judicial elections from across the states that elect judges in order to assess the pros, the cons and the likely consequences of this reform. Co-Sponsored by the William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV.

VOTER SERVICES

By: Teresa Bell & Meredith Hartstern

2010 Primary Election Voter Turnout Clark County	
Provided by NV Secretary of State	
ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS	692,747
ELECTION DAY TURNOUT	79,097
EARLY TURNOUT	85,543 *
ABSENTEE TURNOUT	15,983
MAIL TURNOUT	0
TOTAL TURNOUT 180,623	
PERCENT TURNOUT - ACTIVE VOTERS 26.07%	

Only 26 % of the Active Registered Voters in Clark County voted in the June Primary Election! What actions can League members take to improve interest in voting? LWVLVV plans for this Fall include speakers on the Ballot Questions, Meet the Candidates, Voter Guide publication, & voter registration drives. Polls on why people register to vote, and vote still show that person-to-person contact is most effective. Members can help make these events successful by spreading the word to friends, family, co-workers, and associations. Mention them on email, Facebook & Twitter. Have friendly discussions about candidates, issues, and ballot questions and share articles on all sides of the issues. The Voter Guide will include the Ballot Questions along with the pro & con arguments. League members can study up on these issues to lead discussion. Informing ourselves and others is the fun part of being a League member.

Voter Registration drives are important to get voters in the game and start receiving information. You can be a Field Registrar by taking a short class at the Clark County Election Dept. Or let us know of an opportunity to register voters.

Please note: You are always welcome to join one or more of our active committees

EDUCATION: The League supports adequate and equitable funding for all levels of public education, is committed to continuing efforts to establish excellence in all our children’s schools.

ENVIRONMENT: We are interested in learning more about various aspects of our environment, the political processes that govern decisions about the environment, and sharing ideas and stories about those issues.

HEALTH: We continue to work in coalition with other groups to support health issues relevant to our local as well as national populations. Members interested in learning how to affect a change in the health care system are encouraged to join us.

JUVENILE JUSTICE: An ongoing committee that often meets and works in conjunction with the Education Committee to bring awareness to the problems facing incarcerated juveniles.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A dormant committee that needs someone to chair and lead this much needed committee. Volunteers??

LEGISLATIVE: A popular and very active group that directs the legislative program for our League.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: We continue to monitor and work with the community on finding solutions to a growing problem in our community. .

MEMBERSHIP: An organization is only as strong as its membership. We actively go into the community and recruit new members as well as increase the community’s awareness of the activities of our League to show how being involved with League is educational and fun.

VOTER SERVICES: We are an organization that endorses and assists in voter registration. Classes are held regularly through the County Registrar to provide members with training to become voter registrars.

TIMES AND PLACES OF MEETINGS ON BACK PAGE OF THE VOTER

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____ **FAX** _____

DATE _____ **EMAIL** _____

ADDRESS _____ **ZIP** _____

Permission to publish the above, *minus FAX & email address*, in the LWVLVV For MEMBERS ONLY Roster.

New Member (joined this year) Continuing Member in Las Vegas Previous Member from out of state

How did you learn about the League of Women Voters?

Did another member invite you to a meeting? _____ If yes, who?

PLEASE LIST YOUR INTERESTS / HOBBIES / PROFESSION / AREAS OF EXPERTISE, ETC.:

PLEASE CHECK THE COMMITTEE(S) THAT INTEREST YOU:

EDUCATION **ENVIRONMENT** **HEALTH** **JUVENILE JUSTICE** **LEGISLATIVE**
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** **MEMBERSHIP** **VOTER SERVICES**

Please Complete and Return to:

**League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley; P.O. Box 12991; Las Vegas, NV 89112
 or bring to our next meeting...Thank You**

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY



P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112

Phone: (702) 464-7887

Email: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Website: www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

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 April, 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 is followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: NEW CHARGES
Breakfast is \$20 with reservation.
Admittance at the door \$5.00
(Included in Breakfast charge)

**NAME
BADGES**

Magnetic \$10.00
Pin \$9.00
All profits go to the
501 (c)(3) Education Project Fund
See: **Freda Greenfield**
at meeting or
lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

2010-2011 PROGRAM CALENDAR

- September 18, 2010** Why Merit Selection? Cam Ferenbach
- October 5, 6-10 p.m.** Candidate Night, Italian Am Club
- October 16** John Ralston and ballot questions
- November 2** READ! THINK! VOTE!
- November 20** Equitable funding. Carole Valardo
- December 5th** NO MEETING. Board work session
- January 15, 2011** Redistricting –why worry?
- February 19** How to Lobby, Bobbi Gang
- March 19** Is now the time for annual sessions??
- April 16** Nevada Wilderness Project with Charlotte Overby

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Affordable Housing— TBA
- Education — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment— call of the chair
- Health—1st. Tues of month @ 5:30- Borders Books in Town Square
- Legislative—Call of the Chair (check League website)
- Juvenile Justice —Call of the Chair

2009-2010 NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS

President — Sam King, Las Vegas
Vice-President — Rosemary Gary, Mesquite
Secretary - Alicia Wright, Sparks * Treasurer, Las Vegas
Directors – Karen Beardsley, Kathleen Dickinson, Mary Liveretti, Sandy Metcalf, Betty Pardo, Lisa Stiller

YEARLY DUES—thru—MARCH 2011

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ 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 during meetings. Please check if ok to use

Mail to: **League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112**

Please Support the League's Education Fund—it is tax deductible and assists in our scholarship program