



HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY 1964-2014

THE VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2014



*Welcome
Back!*

Now is the time and this is the meeting to bring a guest. Lots of activities and work are scheduled for the next several months to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Being prepared through the League is what we are about.

LEAGUE WEBSITE
www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

LWV LVV OFFICERS 2014-2015

President: *Sondra Cosgrove*
1st. VP: *Jan Biggerstaff*
2nd VP: *Beverly Abderrahman*
Treasurer: *Ann Marie Smith*
Secretary: *Betty Pardo*
Directors:
Kathleen Bienenstein
Freda Greenfield
Sandy Metcalf
Gloria Porter
Pat van Betten
Ruth Weinrott



EDUCATION

Clark County School Superintendent
Pat Skorkowsky

SATURDAY, September 20, 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

The Public is Always Welcome

Reservations by Wednesday, Sept. 17
RSVP TODAY:

lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org * 464-7887
Reservation Requested

BREAKFAST & PROGRAM \$20
Admittance \$5.00 (included in breakfast charge)

NOTE!
MAIN STREET has implemented a parking fee. Just tell the attendant you are attending the League meeting to have the fee waived.

VOTE411.ORG®
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By: Sondra Cosgrove

I hope everyone had a great summer and spent some quality time with family, friends, and the great outdoors. Fall is just around the corner and the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley is raring to go! We've got great things planned for our fall meetings along with some extra special events in store.

On September 6th we are sponsoring Outcomes From the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council with Speaker of the Assembly Marilyn Kirkpatrick. Not only will you learn about the Council's recommendations, but also what you can do to ensure those recommendations get funded and enacted.

At our September 20th meeting CCSD Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky is our speaker. He will give us an update on education reforms and tips for how we can help improve education in Nevada (and we sorely need it to improve!). And on September 23rd we'll be celebrating National Voter Registration Day at the three College of Southern Nevada campuses.

But the big news to share is our new online voter registration/Voter Guide program: **Vote411.org**. After attending the National League of Women Voters Convention in June we adopted this service to give all Nevadans a one-stop-shop for voter registration, updating voter registration, election information, and a customized Voter Guide. It's a fee-based program, but we felt it was worth the cost to deliver such useful information for our community. (Here comes a plea for donations) But we had to draw down our reserves to be able to make this service available, so we'd be ever so grateful for any donations kind souls are willing to send our way through our PayPal account on the League's website: www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org.

See everyone soon!

EDUCATION By: Peggy Evans Couch, Chair

We are thrilled that Supt Pat Skorkowsky, CCSD, will be the speaker at our Sept 20 meeting. Public schools in Clark County are facing unbelievable challenges again this school year. Rather than have an Education Committee meeting on the 20th, committee members and others particularly interested in our schools today are urged to come early, 9 a.m. to visit with each other and the superintendent and enjoy breakfast prior to the meeting and his message at 10 a.m. We will meet prior to the October meeting.

By the way, do you know someone who should be in League? Why not bring them as your guest. Remember, however, you are responsible for the cost.



ARE YOU READY FOR A PARADE?

On October 31 the City of Las Vegas is holding a Nevada 150th Anniversary Day Parade. As this is LWVLVV's 50th Anniversary year we will be participating with walkers and 1 vehicle. If you wish to participate see

Sondra at our meeting or email us at lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org.

We are looking for a few good FRIENDS!

Perhaps you know of a friend or two who appreciate the efforts of League but do not have the time to participate as full fledged members. LWVLVV is now offering a FRIEND designation to anyone that wishes to lend their voice but not their time. For a donation of \$10 or more they will receive the newsletter by email, invitations to events and access to website for information on the legislature on issues that are important to the community.

September Speaker: Pat Skorkowsky

Pat Skorkowsky has spent the last 25 years as an educator in the Clark County School District. He has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, academic manager, deputy superintendent and now as superintendent.

Skorkowsky started his career as a first-grade teacher at C. C. Ronnow Elementary School in 1988. It was there that he developed the teaching philosophy that today drives the nation's fifth-largest school district: The idea that we can reach "every student in every classroom, without exceptions, without excuses." Since he began his tenure as Superintendent in June 2013, Skorkowsky has outlined an ambitious and aggressive agenda to improve academic outcomes for every student in the District called "The Pledge of Achievement," which can be found at PledgeofAchievement.com.

Skorkowsky is an active member of the community, serving on the boards of several community organizations, including the Discovery Children's Museum and the United Way of Southern Nevada. He was named the UNLV College of Education Alumni of the Year in 2013 and he received the State PTA President's Special Award in 2014.

He grew up in a small town in central Oklahoma.



Your League Board at work



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— Sondra Cosgrove, Rosemary Gary, Mary Liveratti, Betty Pardo, Sandy Ramaker, Frances Rust, Nancy Scott, Dina Williamson-Erdag



Leaders Update

The last week of August marked the 94 anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. With that ratification the work of the newly formed League of Women Voters, founded to finish the fight for suffrage, really began. An estimated 25 million women were, with the stroke of a pen, eligible to vote. The task of registering and informing those new women voters was enormous. Add to that the understandable desire of those who had worked so long and hard for woman suffrage to make a difference with their votes.

It is tempting to look back on those early days of the League for inspiration, especially as we look forward to a federal midterm election where much is at stake but where too often voter enthusiasm is low. While it may be challenging, I am inspired by the fact that so many Leagues and members are already out in their communities registering and educating voters through voters' guides, candidate debates and VOTE411.org. I also found that inspiration in the following passage from a convention speech by our first president Maude Wood Park referring to interests hostile to the mission of the League:

"By far the most serious of our opponents is the colossal inertia of large numbers of persons. If this nation ever faces final disaster, it will be because what 'is everybody's business is nobody's business except the self-seekers.'" We need to rewrite that old adage...In this respect ours is a stupendous undertaking, for inertia is a thoroughly uninteresting opponent. Thrills do not come easily in a struggle against sheer dead weight, but that weight must be moved if we are to succeed...If we have the courage to try, we do not need genius or even extraordinary qualities in order to succeed. All that we shall require is steadfast faith in democracy, common sense and persistence...if we have all three - and keep them together - we are invincible."



You Shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon will now donate 0.5% of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to LWVLEVV Educational Project when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). Register on smile.amazon.com and choose LWVLEVV Educational Project as the nonprofit, then we receive .5% of every purchase. They even give you a button to install on your computer to make it easy.



November 4, 2014 General Election Day

**BUY YOUR CHARITY SHOPPING DAY TICKET
DONATE * SHOP * SAVE
\$5.00 Donation to League's Education Fund**



Receive Special Savings Offers
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A Chance to win a \$500 Macy's gift card
Music and entertainment
FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3-5

\$5.00 Donation for each ticket
100% donation goes to our Education Fund

See Betty Pardo or front desk at meeting

UNIVERSITY FORUM—UNLV

**Years in the Desert:
Nevada Women's Long Journey to the Ballot Box**

Monday, November 17, 2014
7:30-8:30 pm

Barrick Museum Auditorium
Dana R. Bennett, Ph.D., Independent Scholar

HEALTH COMMITTEE By: *Pat van Betten*

Our first event is September 6 from 9 to 11 a.m. Assembly Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick will provide an overview of the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council's recommendations and a breakdown of those already funded and those coming to the 2015 legislative session for funding. This event will inform interested community members early about how to ensure all the Council's recommendations receive funding. The event will be at the University United Methodist Church right across from UNLV.

The address is 4412 Maryland Parkway. It's right across the street from the UNLV campus.

MOCK TRIAL STATE FINALS

Students from Bailey Middle School, Agassi Preparatory Academy and Hyde Park Middle School presented outlines and portfolios proposing school-related civic projects on May 3, as part of the state bar sponsored Project Citizen.

Among the ideas suggested by the students were plans to ban rolling backpacks, a call for an end to excessive high-stakes testing and a bid to end Friday classes. In addition to designing displays and writing reports on their ideas, the students also made verbal presentations to judging panels of teachers, principals and community leaders.

As the students with the highest scoring project, Hyde Park Middle School eighth graders represented Nevada with its portfolio, "Rolling Backpacks Roll Away," at the National Showcase in Calabasas, California July 31 – August 11.

2014 – 2015 DUES ARE DUE * PLEASE PAY NOW

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

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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).
THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME!

NOTE! MAIN STREET has implemented a parking fee. Just tell the attendant you are attending the League meeting to have the fee waived.



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

2014 PROGRAM CALENDAR
 September 6 Mental Health Forum
 September 20 Education—CCSD Supt. Pat Skorkowsky
 September 23 Nat'l Voter Registration Day
 September 27 & 28 SW Women's Expo Cashman Center
 October 18 Candidates Lucy Flores & Mark Hutchinson(?)
 October 31 Nevada Day Parade
 November 15 Steve Sibelius/ Election wrap-up
 December 6 Christmas Party—y'all come
 April 2015 AWARD DINNER Looking forward to our next 50 years and reflecting on our last 50 years.

LWVLVV COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Education - Peggy Evans Couch 9:00 a.m. Prior to monthly meeting
- Government Affairs - Sondra Cosgrove, Call of the Chair
- Health - Pat van Betten—9:00 a.m. prior to monthly meeting
- Membership—YOU—bring in a friend or two**
- Voter Services -Sondra Cosgrove

For additional information check our website: www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

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 of Las Vegas Valley
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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
 () **FRIEND Donation to Education Fund \$ _____ (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 _____