



THE VOTER

ANNUAL MANUAL APRIL 2011

**IF YOU ARE
VOTING,
PLEASE
BRING THIS
MANUAL
TO THE
APRIL
MEETING**



*Image courtesy of the Office of the
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives*

DINA TITUS

***DISCUSSION ON
CIVIL RIGHTS***

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

Reservations by Wednesday, April 13

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)**



**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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sandy Metcalf*

To all our members: Please bring your newsletter (AKA) the Annual Manual to our April meeting where not only will we have a great speaker, Dina Titus, but we will do the League's yearly business of electing officers, changing (or not) the bylaws, adopting a program for emphasis, and adopting a budget for 2011-12. Come be part of the in-house action of running the League.

Thank you for all your enthusiasm and willingness to serve on committees. We will be calling on you to be part of study groups regarding the National League's study on education. Please say yes and be part of building our national stand on education. Remember we believe in the "trickle up" theory--National League positions begin with us--the local leaguers. We also anticipate a study on Privatization in government next spring. So you can already see, we have a busy year ahead of us and that is just the start.

DINA TITUS—April Speaker

Dina needs no introduction to the League—she has been an active supporter of League's issues for many years. She was born in Thomasville, Georgia. Her first exposure to politics came at an early age, when her father, Joe Titus, ran for the Tifton City Council. Her uncle, Theo Titus, served in the Georgia House of Representatives for many years.

After earning her bachelor's degree from William and Mary, Titus went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

Titus has been married to Professor Thomas C. Wright for 30 years. Wright's field of expertise is Latin American history.

Dina will be serving as a member of the United States Civil Rights Commission. One of only eight members nationally, Dina was appointed to a six-year term by Senator Harry Reid. Dina is returning to the classroom as a member of the Political Science Department at UNLV, where she will be teaching Women in Politics, State Politics, Legislative Process, Elections, and Nuclear Policy. Finally, Dina will be hosting a radio show on UNLV's KUNV (91.5 FM) featuring people, policy, and politics in the community and on the campus.

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

The 2011 Nevada Legislative session has opened the door for dialog as to what kind of quality of life we want to have in our state. These are truly uncharted times. There are ideological arguments every session, however, this session has been eye-opening in the reality that choices made will direct and define Nevada for decades. Nevada's government provides essential state services for all Nevadans through state and local employees, including teachers, police officers, and social service workers. Prior to the economic downturn in 2007, in comparison to other states, Nevada already had the smallest number of state employees per capita and ranked near the bottom of many indicators of health/well-being and education. Since 2007 our state government has experienced four rounds of budget cuts. It is the reality that in 2011 cutting cannot balance the budget, nor can one-time fixes keep the necessary essential services and start Nevada on the path to economic recovery through thoughtful, responsible management. Our state system is unitary. This session is witnessing the issue of home rule. This session redistricting is a requirement. Politics must rise beyond partisan agendas. Much has been introduced in the realm of reform. True reform requires an honest review.

The current crises that Nevada faces will impact us for decades, and as a result we need to answer some fundamental questions: What kind of a state do we want to live in? Do we want a healthy, functioning community and well-supported public systems and services? How can we improve our fiscal system?

Well-educated students, well-trained workers, a healthy environment and functioning infrastructure are the foundations of a strong economy. Now more than ever we need our public systems and structures to respond to the economic situation, to provide support and protection to those hardest hit by the economic downturn, and to pave the way for a robust recovery. This is no time to dismantle the tools we need to move our state forward. Any responsible approach to addressing the current budget shortfall requires a hard and balanced look at both how we spend money and how we bring it in.

Any budget must look at both revenue and expenses. Studies, including a study by the League of Women Voters of Nevada, show that the Nevada tax system needs reform to fit both the present and future economy. The League of Women Voters has remained on point with our legislative focus founded upon our positions. Members are receiving alerts and we are voicing our support, opposition and watching pending legislation and policy. Thank you for all you do. Our strength is in our grass roots organization.

**Condolences:**

League Member Joyce Smith-Call, 73, lost her valiant battle with cancer on March 9, 2011, Ash Wednesday, with her family at her side. A retired welfare fraud investigator for the state of Utah, she also served as secretary of the Nye County Democratic Party Central Committee. She ran for Nye County school board in 2002 and was a League member since 2008. Our condolences to her family.

MINUTES By: *Ann Marie Smith*

Minutes to the April 17, 2010 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Mary Beth Heavrin. She asked all state and local candidates present to stand and introduce themselves, one at a time. She then commented that it was her last day as President, and asked that all members remain for the Annual Meeting following the Program.

President Heavrin asked First Vice President Sam King to introduce the speaker, Jane Ann Morrison, a general-interest columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Throughout her career, Ms. Morrison has covered many topics, including politics. Ms. Morrison was asked to give her opinion about Merit Selection, an issue that will be on the ballot this year. She stated that she supports merit selection. Women sometimes feel they have more chance of being elected than appointed. The Review-Journal editorial board holds the opposite opinion. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has been pushing for merit selection. Ms. Morrison sat in on a committee that did a careful review of applications for the purpose of weeding out unqualified candidates and was impressed with the process. Merit selection screens out the bad candidates. As it stands now, anybody can file, regardless of qualifications. She predicted that it's a hard call – and will be a hard fight.

She then commented that she is against term limits – the election process has shown that that people usually vote bad legislators out of office. She predicts that next session we will have a new governor and, due to term limits, will have many new legislators with no experience and will lose many valuable ones. She feels that our current enforcement of campaign disclosures is lacking. Although several of the previous Secretaries of State have vowed to fix this, the Legislature does not really want transparency.

A question-and-answer period followed. The raffles were conducted, followed by a brief break before the Annual Meeting.

President Heavrin thanked the outgoing 2009-2010 board: Sam King, First Vice President; Jan Biggerstaff, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Sandy Metcalf, Treasurer; Betty Pardo, Teresa Bell, Laura Golod and Freda Greenfield, Directors, and presented them with roses.

President Heavrin then announced the proposed slate of officers for 2010-2011: Sandy Metcalf, President; Sam King, First Vice President; Jan Biggerstaff, Second Vice President; Ann Marie Smith, Secretary; Lyell Metcalf, Treasurer; Betty Pardo, Teresa Bell, Freda Greenfield and Beverly Abderrahman, Directors. She invited nominations from the floor. There being none, Susan Servin moved to accept the slate as presented, Margi Mark seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The proposed program for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is Sustainable Communities and Making Democracy Work. Harold Sturza moved to accept the program as presented, Teresa Bell seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Budget for 2010-2011 was presented to the membership in advance, in the Annual Manual. Sandy Metcalf moved to accept the budget as presented, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Changes to the bylaws were presented to the membership in advance, in the Annual Manual. A motion was presented by Susan Servin to change Article IX, Financial Administration, Sec. 3, Budget Committee, to read: "The proposed budget for the next fiscal year shall be made available to all members at least *one month* before the annual meeting," instead of "*two weeks*;" this change would make it consistent with the time period for distributing the slate of officers. Ida Grieco seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Kathleen Bienenstein then moved to accept the bylaws as presented, with this change, Betty Pardo seconded, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes for the Annual Meeting of April 18, 2009 were presented for approval. Sam King moved to approve them, Susan Servin seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

President Heavrin then thanked everyone for their support for the past year and turned the meeting over to incoming President Sandy Metcalf.

The 2009-2010 Nominating Committee was made up of Kathleen Dickinson, chair, Teresa Bell and Regina Harrison. After asking for volunteers from the membership, the proposed Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 will include Kathleen Dickinson, Mary Beth Heavrin, Teresa Bell, Regina Harrison and Terri Robertson. Susan Servin moved to close nominations, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Margi Mark then moved to accept the new Nominating Committee, Kathleen Bienenstein seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Education Project Board is elected every two years. Current members are: Annette Mills, president; Betty Pardo, First Vice President; Susan Servin, Second Vice President; Kathleen Dickinson, Secretary; and Sandy Metcalf, Treasurer. The slate of officers for 2010-2012 is the same as the current officers. Kathleen Bienenstein moved to accept the slate, with all five board members remaining the same, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Dunne announced that a tribute would be held at Harrahs on April 30th to honor her mother, League Member Florence McClure, who passed away a few months ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

ENVIRONMENT *By: Terri Robertson*

On Saturday, April 9th, Friends of Gold Butte will lead a driving tour of Gold Butte. If you are interested in spending the day in Gold Butte, please give me a call at 459-7613 or 506-6107 or email me at trober9567@aol.com.

We will meet to car pool at 8:00 a.m. at the Skillet Restaurant near the Speedway. It is just off the I15. Take the Hollywood/Speedway turnoff. Go right and at the first street make a right and you will see the Skillet just ahead of you. We are going to arrange 4 wheel drives to take us on our tour, so it is important that I know as soon as possible if you will be able to attend. If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle and have room for passengers, please let me know that also.

Things to bring: walking shoes (just in case you see something you want to walk to), dress in layers (for comfort), your own lunch and water bottle.

We just may be there in time for some spring flowers and I guarantee that the landscape will take your breath away.

LWVLVV NON PARTISAN POLICY

1. No member of the League shall support or oppose any political party or any candidate for a partisan office at an official League activity. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing political buttons, distributing promotional material, and soliciting contributions.
2. No League member may be a candidate for elective public office in a *partisan* election and simultaneously hold a League Board position.
3. No League member may serve as an officer of a political party and simultaneously hold a League Board position.
4. No League Board member may use her/his official authority or influence for purposes of interfering with or affecting the results of any partisan election.
5. Nonpartisan Election Activity is Unrestricted.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:

No Board member of the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley shall participate in a Board activity that places her/him in a position of conflict between private (personal, business or professional) interest and the League's interest. Board members who have affiliations or financial interests that are conflicts of interest, or create even the appearance of conflicts of interest with their official duties, shall disqualify themselves from Board decisions until such conflicts cease to exist.

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY:

Official statements shall be made for the League only by the president or someone authorized by the president.

Official League observers should restrict speaking at public meetings to questions of clarification.

CHILDREN AT RISK/ Juvenile Justice

By: Liz Bates

Kathleen reported that the DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) Committee and sub-committees have met several times this past month and have moved rapidly toward organizing a volunteer program to give assistance to juveniles and their families providing alternative ways to have a positive influence in their lives.

It was decided at our March meeting that there will be four subcommittees forming for next year (starting with the September meeting). They will be: 1. Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative; 2. Shade Tree Shelter Book Club; 3. Juvenile legislative issues and 4. Match Making - matching League member volunteers to organizations assisting children at risk in our community.

The Children At Risk Committee is pleased with its success in collecting and giving to The Shade Tree Shelter numerous items of new clothing last month, and is now collecting new or slightly used children's books for the Shelter. **Please bring your book donations to the April Meeting - sticker/puzzle books are welcome also.**

The March meeting, presented by the Environment Committee, really was a 'hoot'.



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 effect a change in the health care system are encouraged to join us.

CHILDREN AT RISK: An ongoing committee that meets and works to bring awareness to the plight of children and their families that are at risk of falling through the cracks of services in Las Vegas.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A 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: Another committee looking for a chair 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

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 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.

Breakfast is \$20 with reservation,
Admittance: \$5:00 (included in breakfast charge)

2011-12 PROGRAM CALENDAR

September 17, 2010 We're Back

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Education — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment— Call of the Chair
- Health— Call of the Chair
- Legislative—Call of the Chair (check League website)
- Children at Risk/Juvenile Justice- lunch following monthly meeting

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Teleconferenced at the Grant Sawyer Building

For up-to-date information
<https://nelis.leg.state.nv.us/>

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



**Check out
Our League
Website**

www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

For up-to-date information

YEARLY DUES—MARCH—MARCH DUE NOW

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 not 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