



# THE VOTER

DECEMBER 2009

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*Blessed is the  
season which en-  
gages the whole  
world in a con-  
spiracy of love.*

-- Hamilton Wright  
Mabie

## LWVLVV OFFICERS 2009-2010

President: Mary Beth Heavrin  
1st. VP: Sam King  
2nd VP: Jan Biggerstaff  
Secretary: Ann Marie Smith  
Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf  
Directors: Teresa Bell  
Laura Golod  
Freda Greenfield  
Betty Pardo



## *You're Invited*



Holiday Brunch  
Sunday, December 6th 12:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by your LWVLVV Board & Chairs  
Hosted by Teresa Bell

RSVP for directions  
[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org) or 464-7887

This will be an opportunity for League members to get to know each other, discuss issues, and find out more about LWV while enjoying delicious food and drink provided by your Board of Directors and Chairs.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

**At Teresa Bell's Home**  
**Phone for reservations and directions**

**Reservations Required**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

Many, many thanks to Janice Miller and Larry Matheis for providing us with such a comprehensive look at the Health Care Reform issue at our November meeting and many, many good wishes go out to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.



**CAN YOU HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS?**

**Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth**

Provides resources to children under 18 or those who have been in the Nevada foster care system. Program includes street outreach, counseling, free haircuts, food vouchers, free toiletries, shelter placement and more. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located at 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy, "E", or call 383-1332.

**Catholic Charities** will be assisting more than 5,000 Las Vegas Valley children for Christmas. The nonprofit group needs jackets of all sizes, socks and underwear in all sizes, children's shoes, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and toys for ages 1 through 12. To sponsor a family call 387-2291. The charity is located at 1501 Las Vegas Blvd.

**The Shade Tree**, a local shelter for homeless and abused women and children, is located at 1 W. Owens Ave., in North Las Vegas. The shelter needs children's toys and retail gift certificates for teenagers. The Shade Tree also operates Noah's Animal House, a place where women can keep their pets while they find permanent housing and employment. The animal shelter needs Science Diet dry cat and dog food, bleach and towels. Volunteers phone 385-0072 x 104.

**Toys for Tots** sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve has various drop-off sites throughout the city. Toys must be new and unwrapped. For locations near you check out their website: [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

**Straight from the Streets** provides much needed items to the homeless in Las Vegas. The League will again help provide packs of groceries, clothing, toys and gift cards. Executive Director Linda Lera Randle El can be reached through League's email and phone number 464-7887 (leave

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** *By: Sam King*

The Legislative Committee is a joint committee with members representing Las Vegas Valley, Northern Nevada, Mesquite and Pahrump. We meet after State Board Meetings. Communication state-wide has been aided by technology. Effective advocacy and lobbying at all League levels is never simple or easy. The League of Women Voters of Nevada has been fortunate in that our members work tirelessly and that we have been able to hire a lobbyist to keep us informed and represent us during legislative sessions.

During the 2009 Legislative Session the League was active supporting and watching legislation impacting our quality of life in Nevada in the areas of education, elections, environment, the economy and health care. During the Interim, we will continue to monitor the policy work and agenda-setting for 2011. Pre-session gives us the opportunity to be proactive. Our committee will work on outreach. High priority during the Interim will be: 1. Finance – adequate funding; 2 Study on Home Rule—Powers of local Government; 3. Production and Use of Energy; 4. Requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting; 5. Federal Stimulus Oversight; 6. Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice ACAJ; 7. ACAJ's Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice; 8. Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice; 9. Legislative Committee on Education; 10. Legislative Committee on Health Care.

Each state and local League is expected to take official action as requested by a National Action Alert. Health Care Reform Alerts have been a major focus. For the League, health care reform is not a new issue. The League has worked on its position for many years. In 1990 the LWVUS undertook a two-year study. Health care reform is a complex issue. League's position is and has been that the "national policy must promote access to quality care at an affordable cost for all and include strong cost-control mechanisms to ensure the efficient, equitable distribution of services and economical delivery of care."

The League of Women Voters follows legislation and voter initiatives. On the 2010 ballot there will be a question on the merit selection of judges. Currently Nevada judges are elected by the voters. There is a ballot question in 2010 which would change this to a combination appointment and confidence vote. The League of Women Voters of Nevada will be working with League of Women Voters US and Justice at Stake to provide information to Nevada voters on the Merit Plan. Effective advocacy requires partnerships, education, and grassroots organization. We will continue our fundraising efforts. The Nevada League of Women Voters will work with National and local leagues. We have a full calendar and will keep members informed. Working on communication is a priority. Local League web sites are a great resource for linking us together. Thanks for all you do as members and as individuals.



**EDUCATION COMMITTEE** *By: Sam King*

The LVVLWV Education Committee meets at 8:30 am, Main Street Station Social Club, prior to the monthly program and breakfast. The Juvenile Justice Committee partners with the Education Committee. Please join us; we welcome new insight and members.

Education is a fundamental right and the foundation of our democratic form of government. League Social Policy states that we support issues and policy supporting “equal rights and equal opportunity for all... promoting social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.”

November 15, 2009 on Meet the Press, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and Reverend Al Sharpton spoke as a round table team explaining that they are working together and committing their political capital to find a way to dramatically improve our public education systems. They are traveling around the country visiting schools to see what is working and what is not. They stated the goal is that as a nation we must do dramatically better. Speaker Newt Gingrich and Reverend Al Sharpton concurred that “Education” is the number one factor in determining three things: (1) Our future economic prosperity, (2) Ensuring our nation’s national security, (3) and the heart of our nation’s 21<sup>st</sup> century Civil Rights issue.

Nevada, as a state, is working through how to improve and equitably and adequately support systems of education K-20.

National has sent all local Leagues a proposal to “study the role of the federal government in public education with a focus on: the basic goals of public education; the role of the federal government in education policy-making; the relationship between national, state and local levels of education governance including funding; the development of common standards.” The study will be an effort to form consensus as to improving and looking at public education. Our committee looks forward to the study.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE** *By: Regina Harrison*

On behalf of JJ I would encourage everyone to look at the JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT (JJDPA) BILL #. S678, and if they would like to support it, they should call or write their Representatives from our state to support the bill and appoint or become a part of the COMMITTEE that is presently working fast and furious to get this bill passed.

In addition if you go to <http://www.act4jj.org/about.html>, you will find tons of information to help understand many of the issues that are being addressed through this bill.

***Support Juvenile Justice!******Contact your members of Congress!***

This fall marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. For 35 years, the JJDPA has provided direction and support for juvenile justice system improvements and has significantly contributed to the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency. The JJDPA sets out federal standards for the custody and care of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Reauthorizing the JJDPA this year will:

- \* Protect children from the dangers of adult jails and prisons;
- \* Improve safety for youth in custody in juvenile detention and correctional facilities;
- \* Increase fairness by requiring states to take steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities;
- \* Reduce the inappropriate detention of status offenders.

The continuing success of effective juvenile crime prevention and deterrence depends on Congress strengthening both the provisions of the JJDPA, as well as the funding resources needed for states and localities to implement the law. Please take a moment to click on the link below to send a letter to your member of Congress!

[http://criminaljustice.change.org/actions/view/support\\_juvenile\\_justice\\_reform](http://criminaljustice.change.org/actions/view/support_juvenile_justice_reform)

**HEALTH COMMITTEE** *By: Annette Mills*

The Health Committee met at the offices of World Doc for an orientation on their work. We watched a Power Point presentation while having lunch for about an hour and a half. World Doc is in thirty-eight states. A person can gain access to assistance with their health questions without having to pay to see a physician. They also offer a record keeping page for any who want it and a discount card for medications. As a computer generated system it is especially good for those without health insurance. The website is [www.myhealthny.com](http://www.myhealthny.com). Check it out. It’s free.

Next month’s meeting will be held at a Communities in Schools Clinic site where World Doc has installed a computer for their use. It has been arranged for Thur. December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Phone for directions.

A recent report from Families USA offers the following resources: Your Medical Bills: A Consumer’s Guide to Coping with Medical Debt; Short Changed by Medical Debt and What States are Doing to Protect Consumers. These reports may be obtained from Families USA, [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org).

**MINUTES** *By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary*

**November 21, 2009 General Meeting - Main Street Station**

League President Mary Beth Heavrin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A short business meeting preceded the program. LWVLVV Education Fund President Annette Mills was called upon to present a plaque to Margi Mark for her years of sustained work on behalf of League.

Teresa Bell announced that a Holiday Social Brunch would be held at her house in lieu of the December meeting. The brunch will be Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 pm. Food and drink will be provided by the Board of Directors and Chairs and all members are invited to attend.

Teresa also stated that The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded 90 years ago this coming February 14<sup>th</sup> and there will be a celebration of the anniversary at our February meeting.

The Voter Services committee is starting to collect information from judicial candidates who will be filing January 4-15, 2010. The next committee meeting is January 12 at 6:15 pm at Chair Teresa Bell's home.

Carolyn Fries, Fundraising Chair, announced the silent auction and encouraged members to bid on the baskets. She thanked Vivien Fully for putting the baskets together. Donations for Straight From The Streets were also collected.

Mary Beth asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of long-time League member and community activist Florence McClure, who passed away November 5th. President Heavrin commented on a letter she received regarding a new study proposed by the California League on the Federal Role in Public Education. With support, this could be brought to the Convention in June.

**Committee Chair reports:** Sam King, State President and Legislative Chair, heads the state-wide Legislative Committee. All local Leagues are working together on issues including education and the tax structure. Regina Harrison, Juvenile Justice Chair, encouraged members to learn about the bill in Washington concerning the death penalty for youth who commit a crime. Terri Robertson, Environment Committee member, announced a field trip to Goldfield on December 15th. The group will be meeting at the Iron Skillet near the Speedway.

Mary Beth then called upon Health Committee Chair Annette Mills to introduce Health Care Reform program speakers Janice Miller, Senator Harry Reid's Regional Director, and Larry Matheis, Executive Director of the Nevada State Medical Association. Annette reminded the audience that the League of Women Voters of the United States has a Position Statement on health care that favors a national insurance plan financed by taxes. The Las Vegas League started the Nevada Healthcare Reform Project several years ago to help move the national League position

forward. The League has done its job. Now we need to support what is going on in Washington D.C. Annette added that Larry Matheis is an encyclopedia of knowledge and worked on the bill with Senator Reid. She considers Janice Miller the best resource in town. Janice Miller gave an overview of the current state of health care reform. She provided handouts entitled Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Detailed Summary (available at [dpc.senate.gov](http://dpc.senate.gov)) and Health Insurance Reform and Nevada: The Case for Change (available at <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/statehealthreform/nevada.html>). Ms. Miller commented that more Americans lack coverage than ever. The Plan will strengthen Medicare, not cut it. Current Medicare Advantage plans often cherry-pick members, accepting the healthiest and rejecting others. The new Plan, as currently drafted, would expand prescription coverage for seniors. It would reduce the deficit, not increase it. We can't wait any more for health care reform. Some highlights of the Plan include: It keeps the status quo on abortion; does not restrict or expand coverage, does not provide Federal funds. It will not increase the deficit, it will decrease it over the next couple of decades. Medicare seniors will not lose coverage It will stop cuts to doctors. It will coordinate services between hospitals and home care. She stressed that this is not the final bill. Work is still to be done. We as Americans deserve this bill. The opposition is well organized and we need to support our position.

Larry Matheis discussed how the bill will be implemented and spoke about the history of health care reform. He commented that he appreciated the League's work on the issues and said he considered Annette Mills his mentor and friend. No one is more committed to making the Community work. Health care in America has excellent technology and excellent training, but it has one obvious failure: coverage. We are behind all other industrialized countries. In this country, participation in health care is determined by the coverage you have. He explained the history of 20th century attempts at health care reform. It was originally intended to be part of the Social Security Act. Medicare and Medicaid were patches to cover non-workers. In our current system, insurance companies do not believe in preventive care. Preventive care would normally involve costs now and benefits later, but insurance companies gamble on not being the ones reaping the benefits later so they are reluctant to pay the costs now.

A question-and-answer period followed. Ms. Miller and Mr. Matheis generously stayed after the meeting to answer individual questions.

Following the presentations, the raffle winners were announced. The silent auction for the benefit of League programs was successfully conducted by Carolyn Fries and Jan Biggerstaff. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

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

December gives us time to celebrate, reflect upon our 2009 accomplishments and prepare for 2010. All planning is ongoing and includes short and long term projects for local, state and national Leagues. As we move forward with our planning for 2010, it is imperative that we communicate, complement and reinforce our efforts to strengthen the League's impact on all levels of government.

The League of Women Voters US is actively preparing for our National Convention. The 2010 National Convention will be held June 11 -15, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. Convention will be an exciting event focusing on the 90 years of League activism while actively planning for our future volunteerism and advocacy focused upon improving the quality of life in our communities. The League of Women Voters of Nevada is planning for our 2010 Council, to be discussed in our January 2010 Board Meeting.

As we look to League, past, present and future, our objective is to remain focused and visible while embracing our principles as they apply to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our political capital will always be based upon the integrity of our advocacy. Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review. As state President, I look forward to working with our four local Leagues and National as we celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and work together to influence public policy.



**FLORENCE McCLURE**  
*Sept. 26, 1921—Nov. 6, 2009*

Florence McClure was a prominent community activist for women's rights in Las Vegas and southern Nevada. For over thirty-five years she advocated on behalf of women's issues in Las Vegas from 1969 –

2003. Shortly after moving to Las Vegas, Florence began what would become a long and productive career in community service and activism on behalf of women's issues. From the beginning, she took active leadership roles in a number of political organizations including the League of Women Voters.

Florence's most lasting legacy resulted from her tireless efforts on behalf of the victims of rape. In 1973, she co-founded Community Action Against Rape (CAAR) (later the Rape Crisis Center) with Sandi Petta, serving as its first Director from 1973-84. CAAR worked diligently to increase the sensitivity of law enforcement and medical workers toward victims of assault. Due to CAAR's efforts, (from police sensitivity training to rape kits in hospitals and increased funding) the treatment of rape victims in Clark County improved dramatically.

Although Florence retired from the Rape Crisis Center in 1984, she continued to remain active in many community organizations and turned her energies toward working as an advocate for incarcerated women. Florence lobbied Nevada's governor and the state legislature to change the site of the proposed women's prison from rural Nevada (Pioche) to a site in Clark County so that the inmates could be placed nearer to their families to help them in their rehabilitation. The prison was eventually constructed in North Las Vegas, and opened in September 1997.

"Hurricane Florence" as she was dubbed because of her tremendous energy and efforts on behalf of women's issues, has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards. She received an even more lasting tribute in April 2007 when the Nevada state senate passed Senate Bill 330 to rename the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Facility in North Las Vegas as the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center.

Carolyn Dunne, Florence's daughter is also a League member


*(Some information and picture from Women's Research Institute of Nevada website)*

**2009-2010**  
**NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS**

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

*The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing others' loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.*

-- W. C. Jones

  
*Susanna Greeting*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The Las Vegas League is most pleased to welcome new members: Linda Miller, Gloria Sturman, Vikki Courtney, Olwyn and Catydru Pruitt, Chris and Joann Wright, and Diana Alba. We look forward to their input, energy and participation.

**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](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

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

**Breakfast is \$18.00 with reservation, without reservation and non-members \$20**



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](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)



*Wishing you Peace*



**2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR**

**January 16, 2010** Education/ Juvenile Justice- the future is here!

**February 20, 2010** League's 90th Birthday Party!

**March 20, 2010** Voter Services - knowledgeable voters needed!

**April 17, 2010** **Jane Ann Morrison** Political Potpourri

**April 17, 2010** League Business Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Affordable Housing— following monthly program
- Education/ Juvenile Justice — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment— 3rd Tuesday, 2 pm, Borders, Towne Sq. Shopping Center
- Health—First Tuesday of month (phone for location and time)
- Legislative—Jan 23, 2010 after reg Board meeting

**INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Dec 9 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Dec 10 NV Youth Legislature 1 p.m.
- Jan 12 Finance/Federal Stimulus oversight 1:30 p.m.
- Jan 13 Committee on Education 8:30 a.m.
- Jan 13 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Jan 20 Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans 9 a.m.
- Jan 21 K-12 Education Governance Structure 9 a.m.
- Feb 17 Committee on Health Care 9 a.m.
- Feb 24 Committee on Education 8:30 a.m.

**Meetings held at the Grant Sawyer Building**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly dues: (March-March) ( ) \$55 New/Renew Member ( ) \$75 Household ( ) \$25 Student**

Donation to Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible) Donation to Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (not tax deductible)

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**