THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2011

IMPORTANCE OF LOBBYING

Joyce Haldeman
Chief Lobbyist
Clark County School District
and
SCOT RUTLEDGE, Executive Director
Nevada Conservation League Education Fund

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

Reservations by Wednesday, February 16, 2011

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)

Phone: 702-464-7887
E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Check out our League Website
www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org

For up-to-date information

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*

I've tried hard to think of a positive way to begin this message but after hearing the governor's state of the state in Carson City on Tuesday, I'm afraid my usually optimistic self has left the building.

Please take time to read a budget summary for K-12 education. As a former teacher and principal, what has been proposed appears to me to be a direct assault on K-12 education. How can we lament not having an "educated work-force" and constantly say, do more with less. I'm all for innovation but make sure that we talk to the people in the trenches, the teachers and school administrators. They need to be at the table from the get-go!

Pay close attention to the details of the Block Grant and Educational Reform piece and, finally, let your Assembly person and Senator know how you feel about the cuts to education at all levels, K-16. We must be prepared to act on behalf of Nevada's children.

ENVIRONMENT: *By: Terri Robertson*

SEED BALL PROJECT

One of the strategies used by public land managers for the rehabilitation of burn areas or areas that have been damaged by overuse or misuse are seed balls made from seeds native to each area. Please join the Environment Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5th. We will be set up on the sidewalk in front of the REI in Boca Park at 710 S Rampart Boulevard 89145, phone: 951-4488.

If you are like me and might need to take a rest please bring your own chair. I will have the tables set up and the mixture ready for your wonderful hands. If you don't like getting dirty please bring yourself plastic gloves. This is a project where kids can shine. So if you have children or grandchildren that want to have fun in the mud, please bring them along.

Our federal land managers have many projects that will benefit from our work. Thanks to Friends of Gold Butte for purchasing all supplies and to our local BLM office for supplying the seeds. AND A BIG THANK YOU AHEAD OF TIME FOR BEING THERE.

You are also welcome to tag along on a field trip to Saving Energy Solar. We will visit their facility on February 16, at 2:00 p.m. They are located at 2043 Pabco Rd. Henderson, NV. Please feel free to contact Terri at 459-7613 if you are interested in either project..

Seed balls began in Greece in 1998. These marble-sized balls contain seed, soil and clay. They are scattered on top of the ground, and have no need to be watered. Seed balls take care of problems that make it hard for most seeds to germinate. A seed ball prevents wind from blowing the seed away, it keeps heat from lowering the viability of the seed embryos, and the seeds are not exposed to rodents, birds and insects.

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sam King*

Hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and that everyone is refreshed and ready, as we prepare for an uncharted busy 2011 legislative season for our state and national lawmakers. League of Women Voters of Nevada will be actively engaged.

Our LWVNV State Board crafted a Greeting to our newly elected and returning officials. The greetings have been sent to Nevada state legislators and executive officers. Our national representatives have been contacted and informed as to our positions. Coalitions and partners have been contacted. Local Leagues are encouraged to send greetings to elected officials on the local level. Speaking with one clear voice is the linchpin to making certain that LWVNV is on point as we work to influence policy (Copy of the Greeting is provided within this message.)

Local Leagues have been given copies of the State Brochure which includes a form to join League and to donate to our grass roots advocacy. Reaching out to attract new members by distributing our brochure when the opportunity arises is a wonderful way to increase our membership and impact the quality of life in our communities.

LWVNV has a long history of working and collaborating with like-minded groups on our issues. As members of a national organization, LWVNV follows the lead of LWVUS; however, we do not act on every national position. Members will receive alerts as information unfolds. There will be times when we ask for a call to action. Please watch for these. Our Legislative Committee has a strategy so that members will be gatekeepers who stay in front of legislation as it is crafted, written, debated and amended prior to a vote and becoming law. Those who wish to join the Legislative Committee, please email me sam229@aol.com.

Our state convention will be held in Mesquite, Nevada, June 11, 2011. Mark your calendars for June 10, 11 and 12, 2011.

Thank you for all you do. It does make all the difference. Communication is imperative. I will send updates as they arise and please contact me with questions and information. I welcome your input and look forward to working with you as we do what we do; work to maintain our democratic principles and improve the quality of life in our communities.

A Woman Should Have…
One friend who always makes her laugh…
And one who lets her cry.
Maya Angelou

JOYCE HALDEMAN, February Speaker

Joyce Haldeman is the Associate Superintendent of Community and Government Relations for the Clark County School District. She began her career in education as a high school English teacher, following her graduation from Brigham Young University in 1973. Once she started having children, she became a full-time mom, shifting her school-related activities to various PTA assignments on a school, regional, and statewide basis. During this stay-at-home time, Joyce developed an interest in political campaigns. From her kitchen table she coordinated successful grassroots efforts for dozens of candidates vying for various political offices. She also served as a volunteer on so many committees that eventually her husband begged her to go back to work so that she would have more time for the family.

From 1993-2000, Haldeman worked in various capacities in the Community Relations division of the Clark County School District. She left CCSD in February 2000 to accept a position of director of Community and Government Relations at the Community College of Southern Nevada, but returned to the school district several months later to head up the Community and Government Relations division reorganized under the new superintendent, Carlos Garcia.

Among other duties at the school district, Joyce has been responsible for coordinating the public awareness campaigns for successful school bond elections in 1994, 1996, and 1998. The passage of the ballot questions generated billions of dollars to build over two hundred new schools and renovate existing schools in Clark County. Haldeman supervises the School-Community Partnership Program, the Department of Public Affairs, the Communications Office, and the Office of Parent Services. She is the chief lobbyist for the District and directs the activities related to setting legislative policy.

Haldeman has served as a member, co-chair, or chair of numerous committees, task forces, and panels. Her honors include: graduating member of the 1993 class of Leadership Las Vegas; "Insider Club Inductee," *The Ralston Report*, March 1993; "Woman of Education*," Nevada Woman Magazine*, September 1997; inclusion in "The Thirty Most Powerful Women in Nevada," *The Ralston Report*, May 2000; named "One of the Most Influential Women in the Southern Nevada Business Community," *In Business*, July 2000; "Distinguished Service Award – Administrator of the Year" from the Nevada Association of School Boards, 2003; and her children's belief that she makes the best lasagna in the world.

Joyce has been married to the same man, Steve Haldeman, for 37 years, which says a lot about his ability to endure. They are the parents of 5 children- a lovely, intelligent daughter and four (usually hungry) handsome sons – and grandparents of 4 (soon to be 5) absolutely perfect grandchildren.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

Sign up for one of our committees at our next meeting

- Health
- Education
- Legislative
- Voter Services
- Children at Risk/Juvenile Justice

THIS COMMITTEE NEEDS A CHAIR

- Affordable Housing

Committee meetings listed on back page

Where Your Taxes Go

From Readers Digest (thirdway.org)

A U.S. taxpayer earning the 2009 median income ($34,140) and paying $5,400 in federal income tax and FICA ponies up for the following, for starters:

Social Security	$1,040.70
Medicare	625.51
Medicaid	385.28
Interest on national debt	287.03
Combat operations	229.17
Military personnel	192.79
Veterans benefits	74.65
Federal highways	63.89
Health-care research (NIH)	46.54
Foreign aid	46.08
Education funding	
Low-income K-12 students	38.17
Military retirement benefits	32.60
Pell Grants	29.75
NASA space program	28.09
Internal Revenue Service	17.69
Environmental cleanup (EPA)	11.67
FBI	11.21
Head Start	10.50
National parks	4.27
Drug Enforcement Adm	3.14
Amtrak	2.23
Smithsonian Museum	1.12
Funding for the arts	.24

CHILDREN AT RISK / JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE *By: Liz Bates*

Kathleen and Liz reported on the DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System) Coalition meeting held on January 8th. Kathleen has signed up to be on the Education Committee and Liz on the Low Risk Mentoring Committee. At the invitation of Stephen Compan, Juvenile Hearing Master, Liz visited his courtroom in the Family Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court on Monday, January 10th and thought it gave great insight to the issues the youth are involved within the justice system and how alternatives are being handled in the juvenile court system.

The committee visited Shade Tree: Jan, Beverly, Kathleen and Liz expressed their appreciation for the activities and needs of the Shelter and the time Marlene Richter took to give the Committee an extensive tour of the various area/facilities of the Shelter and the Animal Shelter. Per Marlene's recommendations for donations it was decided to collect women's new underwear and socks of all sizes and bus passes at the next League meeting in February. Reminders were distributed to League members.

Safe Nest: Jan, Beverly and Liz met with Beverly Cardino-Banta, Director of Development who brought Tamara Utzig, Supervisor of Advocacy Services, into the discussion on possible ways the League could interact with this shelter. It was agreed that Jan would contact them with Sam King to discuss possible assistance in connection with Legislative issues concerning the shelter. Also discussed were the problems of minors not having access to protective orders without a parent's consent and the perceived negative attitudes of some judges regarding women victims of violence.

Discussion on Committee Focus/Goals - The Committee decided the following will be their focus this year:
1. Adopt Shade Tree Shelter as an organization to assist. 2. Jan and Sam will work on Legislative issues concerning juveniles including contact with Shade Tree and Safe Nest shelters regarding issues which could be enhanced by the assistance and support of the League. 3. Continue with support of JDAI efforts in the courts and DMC Coalition activities.

It was decided and unanimously approved to change the Committee name to "CHILDREN AT RISK" rather than "Juvenile Justice" to match the National League's program emphasis.

You are invited to join this active committee —meetings are held immediately after the general meetings the third Saturday of the month.

REMINDER:

Please bring to next meeting items for Shade Tree (and receive your pink bootie).
Needed are women's new underwear, socks of all sizes and bus passes.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *By: Sam King*

The LWVLVV Education Committee meets monthly at 8:30 am prior to our monthly program. The 2011 focus will be study practices and legislation governing public education K-20. Education is a corner stone for democracy. An educated involved citizenry is the linchpin in maintaining freedom, opportunity and quality of life. Our communities will not prosper without educated citizens to drive our economic engine. The 21st Century faces challenges and in order for us to meet the challenges, our systems of education must be up to the challenge of training our young people and providing life-long learning opportunities for everyone.

The Education Committee will be visible at hearings, meetings and government meetings to follow the process. Please come and join us.

MINUTES: *By: Ann Marie Smith*
January 15, 2011 General Meeting -
Main Street Station

League President Sandy Metcalf called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She then invited committee chairs to speak briefly about the committees and encouraged members to sign up. Sign-up sheets were distributed on the tables.

Sam King spoke on the Education committee, which meets at 8:30 am on the Saturdays when we have our monthly meeting. The committee will be watching several education-related issues at the Legislature, including funding. In addition our League will be participating in the National Study on the Role of the Federal Government in Education.

Ms. King also spoke on the Legislative committee, which is a state-wide committee. They sent congratulatory letters to all newly elected state officials along with a brief statement on League positions. She mentioned that the Nevada Women's Lobby will be presenting a workshop on Lobbying 201 on January 22nd. More information is available on the Lobby's website.

Ann Marie Smith encouraged members to join the Health committee which meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Borders Book Store in Town Square at 5:30 pm, in the café area.

Liz Bates announced that the Juvenile Justice committee visited Shade Tree shelter. The committee meets on general meeting days after the general meeting. At the February meeting, they will collect donated items for the shelter. Items needed include new underwear and socks for women (all sizes), socks for kids, daily bus passes. Also needed are clothing and accessories for interviews.

Meredith Hartstern spoke about the Voters Services committee. This year they will focus on voter registration and work with the Registrar's office.
The Affordable Housing committee has no chair at present and needs a volunteer to lead it.

Ms. Metcalf then introduced Assemblyman Tick Segerblom who spoke on the topic of Redistricting. According to law, each Assembly or Senate district should be the same size in terms of population (not voters). As the population grows, it does not grow evenly and therefore the lines must be periodically redrawn to make the districts more even in size. Assemblyman Segerblom distributed handouts that showed the Senate and Assembly districts with the 2000 population and the 2009 population estimates; giving an idea of how much of an adjustment needs to be made in each district. At this time, one Assembly district has almost 200,000 people while another has only 48,000. After redistricting, they will both have as close to the 2009 ideal population of 65,389 as possible. The same will occur with the Senate, with the ideal population being 130,778.

Three out of four people in Nevada live in Clark County. We expect that Nevada will get another Congressional seat this year, but when a fourth seat is added it will be in Clark County. The population in Nevada is 25% Hispanic, and has doubled over the last 10 years. It is 10% African-American and 10% Asian. We are very close to being a minority State. The Legislature reflects this diversity.

In 1990, 62% of Nevada's population lived in Clark County. In 2000 this rose to 69% and in 2009 to 72%. No matter how the redistricting is proposed, there will be a lot of grumbling from the other counties. Hearings will be held throughout the state. The Legislature then proposes the redistricting plan and the Governor either signs or vetoes it. If the Legislature and the Governor cannot agree on the redistricting by January 2012, it will be turned over to the courts.

Assemblyman Segerblom encouraged League members to come to the hearings and testify for competitive districts. Questions and answers followed.

Ms. Metcalf thanked Assemblyman Segerblom for an interesting presentation. Since Municipal elections are being held soon, she asked candidates for municipal offices to introduce themselves. She then announced that the next Board Meeting would be held February 26, at which time the Nominating committee and the Budget committee would present reports.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

During the legislative session, The League of Women Voters of Nevada has always had representation supporting our positions. This year our State President Sam King will take on the duties and responsibility of keeping us informed and up to date on the bills as well as lobbying. However she will need active participation from you. You will be able to follow the activities of the legislature by going to the Nevada Legislature online and checking out the bills and meetings. You will also be able to go to our website to see the alerts and what actions are recommended.

It will take money to take Sam to Carson City when it is necessary. We know most of the meetings are teleconferenced at the Grant Sawyer building, but direct contact with the legislators is important.

We estimated if each member contributed $11 we would have sufficient funds. To generate additional lobbying funds, the proceeds from our monthly basket drawing will all go to our lobbying effort. To sweeten the 'pot' we will sell 20 tickets for $11 at each meeting.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

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THE VOTER is published as a service for members of the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley.
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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 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 9:00- 10:00 a.m. social & breakfast is followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST $20 with reservation.
Admittance: $5.00(included in breakfast charge).

2011 PROGRAM CALENDAR

March 13-15	**Grassroots Lobby Days - Carson City**
March 19	**Is now the time for annual sessions??**
April 16	**Nevada Wilderness Project , Charlotte Overby**
June 11 & 12	**League State Convention, Mesquite**

(programs subject to change)

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

February 3	**Interim Finance 1 pm**
February 7	**76th Session begins**
February 8	**Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice 2:30**

All legislative meetings teleconferenced at the Grant Sawyer Building unless noted.

LEAGUE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

☑ Education — prior to monthly meeting
☑Health—1st. Tues of month @ 5:30- Borders Books in Town Square
☑Legislative—Call of the Chair (check League website)
☑ Children at Risk/Juvenile Justice — follows monthly meeting

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

2009-2010 NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS

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

YEARLY DUES—(MARCH —thru—MARCH)

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