



THE VOTER

MARCH 2010

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Sabra-Smith-Newby, Clark County Director of Administrative Service

Home Rule, Clark County Budget & Community Priorities

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010

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

Members & guests with reservations \$18

(no shows will be charged)

Members without reservations and Non-members: \$20

10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Reservations by Wednesday, March 17, 2010



*Irish Blessing
May the Good
Lord take a liking
to you... but not
too soon!*

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

Our LWV 90th Birthday Party was such a special and memorable event last month and many thanks go out to Teresa Bell and Sam King for providing us with a morning to remember. Additional thank you's go out to all of those who shared their League stories and memories with us. League also received proclamations at the event that will again be available for viewing at our March meeting. Following the March meeting the proclamations will be taken to the UNLV Lied Library and kept in the Archives.

The meeting seemed reminiscent of a reunion where we were able to share a common past and to delight in seeing one another again. We had a wonderful turnout of members and visitors alike, and I hope that many of you will be attending this month as we learn more about "home rule" and what exactly this entails. See you soon.



Sabra Smith-Newby

Sabra Smith-Newby, our March speaker, is director of administrative services, overseeing animal control, park police, code enforcement, emergency management policy and analytic services. She also is the county's chief in-house lobbyist.

Lately, the 32-year-old, who holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard, has also been the county's point person on "home rule".

From the standpoint of Clark County officials, the 2009 Legislature carried out one of the worst government-on-government thefts in state history.

Over the coming year, the county's \$1.35 billion general fund budget will take a \$100 million hit because of moves by the Legislature. The following year it will lose another \$80 million. And depending on the special session, another hit is expected.

A Celebration of Nevada Women's History

From: Teresa Bell

March is Women's History Month. To celebrate, the Southern Nevada Women's History Project and the Las Vegas Clark County Library District are joining forces to present a special program highlighting the contributions made to our community by women.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the West Charleston Library. The League of Women Voters marks its 90th anniversary in 2010 and the local League will honor its past by enumerating some of the milestones of the organization. As guests arrive they will be treated to a display of quilts as well as a series of video clips produced by Women of Diversity for its 100 Years of Influence Project. These video clips, which begin at 12:30 p.m., will feature early community activists, groundbreakers and other women who shaped the culture of Las Vegas.

Lifelong Southern Nevada resident Carolyn Sparks will recount some of her experiences in the community, including the women who influenced her life. Ms. Sparks is a business owner, former University Regent, and philanthropist.

Former educator and community activist and third generation Nevadan Gene Segerblom will be honored as a woman whose contributions span many decades. During her four terms in the State Assembly, she worked to preserve the historic resources of the state, protect the natural landscape, and promote tourism to the state.

Following the program all participants are invited to a reception and tea in the Library conference room. Women's organizations and attendees are encouraged to bring brochures, membership applications and business cards. Tables will be set up for display. LWV LVV will have a table to introduce attendees to our mission.

BE INFORMED! Do not sign any petitions unless you have read and fully understand what you are signing. As we move into the political season this is extremely important.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *By: Sam King*

The Education Committee meets at 8:30am, prior to the LWVVV Monthly meeting. Please join us to discuss the future of public education

May you live to be a hundred years, with one extra year to repent. Irish Blessing



HELP NEEDED

The Area Health Education Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, is in desperate need of financial assistance. Any amount will be appreciated. AHEC has been assisting women and children for many years. Kathleen Dickinson serves on the child abuse committee. Their mission is to improve Nevada's health status through education and outreach. The most important programs are child abuse prevention, women's issues, workforce development and student development. For more information you may contact them at 702-318-8452. They are located at 3014 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 150, Las Vegas, NV 89102. They were an important partner of the Nevada Health Care Reform Project.

STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *By: Sam King*

The media coverage for the 26th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature was thorough and gave a day by day snapshot of the process; showcasing legislative progress, partisan setbacks, the harsh reality of the impact of funding cuts upon individuals, quality of life and services for our most vulnerable citizens - as the legislature made incremental steps toward consensus necessary to close the budget shortfall. However, media reports do not convey the omnipotent energy and the face to face interaction that is the heart of active advocacy. The legislative process moves in waves, ebbs and surges and at times forms tide pools as the process unfolds. Representative government institutionally calls upon participation of insiders, outsiders, and observers. League advocates are observers and insiders who gather information, speak with other advocates, and network. Face to face meetings build relationships. Meetings in the lobby are powerful.

Senator Townsend, walking out of Senate Committee of the Whole on Wednesday evening, described the legislative process for special session 26 best as he looked at those of us milling around and said “It is what it is”. The crux of the session proved once again that Nevada’s tax structure is broken. Cuts and leaner government have not solved the problem of funding state services. Realistically the special session was not the place to reform the tax structure. Nor was a special session the place to find long term solutions for Nevada. Biennial sessions with multiple special sessions are not the way to govern and produce sustainable policy.

As a League, our charge is to advocate, study, provide debate, collect information and - based upon our positions - work to improve the quality of life in our state. Elections determine who our elected officials will be. League provides a nonpartisan forum for candidates to present their positions to voters. The 2010 election cycle is challenging and will be a crossroads for Nevada. In 2011, Nevada will re-district based upon the 2010 Census. Existing taxes will sunset.

Barring another special session, the 2011 legislative session will face several of the same issues raised in Special Session 2010: how to fund government operations and what reform should unfold. Legislators found common ground - at least on paper - to close a nearly \$1 billion operating shortfall. The Great Recession that rocked Nevada, our nation and the global economy, presented an unprecedented task for everyone during this uncharted economic tsunami. No one truly expected the special session to reform the tax structure. As the economy, the 2010 elections, the electorate, education services and government services unfold during the next year redefined by leaner government, hopefully there will be a legislative strategy to find a way to broaden the tax base and prevent an even more devastating shortfall in 2011.

The League stands on its fundamental mission to “promote open governmental systems that are representative, accountable, and responsive, that have a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protect individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assure opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making; that provide sound policies... and preserve public health and safety”. To promote our mission, League advocates

through our grassroots network working with like-minded coalitions.

Evaluating the special session is a mixed bag - the legislature balanced the current budget. This was accomplished in seven days. The opening of the session set the pace, the process was open; testimony, information supporting facts, figures, accounting and legal parameters were in play. The process was transparent. The fact that there was a special session supports the need for the Nevada Legislature to meet more often than every two years. Legislation has been introduced supporting an annual citizen legislature many times over the last twenty years. Given the cost of close to \$400,000 for the special session 2010 and the limitations on special sessions as set by the agenda written by the governor, the value of providing annual sessions is a valid consideration for Nevada in the 21st Century.

The Nevada State League will be working with local leagues to provide candidate forums, explain ballot questions, advocate for good tax policy, study education innovation and provide feedback to the public. As our League Lobbyist, I am working with our board and local boards to provide alerts and communication to our members.



League’s 90th Anniversary Celebration

HEALTH COMMITTEE *By: Annette Mills*

At the February meeting of the LWV Health Committee we discussed the happenings at the national level. We held a conference call with Dr. Meacham, who was out of town.

This month we have been busy with a conference call with Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack. Many ideas were gleaned from the call. From 800-1,000 participants heard what he had to say. The participants were allowed to call in and gave some good ideas of what is going on throughout the country on children's obesity. I wrote a letter to the White House and Secretary Vilsack supporting the children's nutrition bill in Congress.

We will be studying the First Lady's Let's Move America at our next meeting. It is her plan to curb children's obesity.

In another web-nar from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we heard and saw poll results in reference to Children's Obesity. Adults were in favor of expanding children's nutritional programs and the school should take some of this responsibility. We also heard about work being done in California. Many good ideas were gleaned from the conference.

One of our members attended a Community and School Gardens workshop. This is another project to encourage healthy nutrition.

Our next meeting will be March 23. We are considering visits to possible grant participants, so this date is not firm.

FYI

The April newsletter is our Annual Manual and will include the proposed Program for Emphasis and the slate of officers for 2010-2011. Also included will be their biographies, budget, minutes of the last business meeting, and any updates on the bylaws, all to be voted on by our membership. Only paid-up members may vote.



LWVUS 2010 Legislative Priorities (New)

After a review of congressional action in 2009 and a discussion of expected action in 2010, the LWVUS has adopted the following **Legislative Priorities**: Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Money in Elections (campaign finance reform). On the **Legislative Watch List** are: Arms Control, DC Voting Rights, Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, and UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS
2010-2011**

- PRESIDENT** SANDY METCALF
- 1st V.P.**SAM KING
- 2nd V.P.**.....JAN BIGGERSTAFF
- SECRETARY**.....ANN MARIE SMITH
- TREASURER**.....LYLE METCALF
- DIRECTORS**.....
- TERESA BELL**
- FREDA GREENFIELD**
- BETTY PARDO**
- BEVERLY ABDERRAHMAN**

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the permission of the proposed nominee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- CHAIR**.....KATHLEEN DICKINSON
- MEMBER**TERESA BELL
- MEMBER**.....REGINIA HARRISON

* * * * *

2009-2011

EDUCATION PROJECT BOARD

- President**.....Annette Mills
- 1st. VP**.....Betty Pardo
- 2nd VP**.....Susan Servin
- Secretary**.....Kathleen Dickinson
- Treasurer**.....Sandy Metcalf
- (non profit 501(c)(3))

**NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY
20th Anniversary Celebration
1989—2009**

Please join us in celebrating 20 years of legislative advocacy

Tuesday, March 23 5:30-7:30

Blue Martini in Town Square
6593 Las Vegas Blvd. So

\$25 advance \$35 at the door
Additional information: nvwl@aol.com



MINUTES *By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary*

February 20, 2010 General Meeting, Main Street Station

League President Mary Beth Heavrin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She thanked everyone present for coming to celebrate the League's 90th Anniversary and the 45th year of the League in Las Vegas. She then introduced the board members and committee chairs who were present.

Ms. Heavrin discussed a study on the Federal Role in Education that has been proposed by another League and asked for a show of hands to indicate our interest in participating in the study. The members present agreed to participate if the study is pursued.

She made the following announcements. On Saturday, March 27, the 2nd Annual Nevada Women's History Celebration will be held at the West Charleston Library. On February 25, the Women's Research Institute of Nevada will present the 2010 Women's Leadership of Nevada Leadership Award to Thalia Dondero. The Nevada Women's Lobby's 20th Anniversary Celebration honoring 19 Women Legislators, previously scheduled for February 23, has been moved to March 23 because of the Special Legislative Session.

Ms. Heavrin then turned the meeting over to Sam King, First Vice President and Legislative Chair, who recognized all elected officials and candidates for offices.

State Senator Shirley Breeden presented a proclamation on behalf of the Democrats in the State Senate. Congresswoman Shelley Berkeley presented a Certificate of Congressional Recognition.

Janice Miller, representing Senator Harry Reid's office, presented a Resolution for a Congressional Record designating February 14th as the Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

Ms. King then talked about our scheduled program and said that Lu Torres, Executive Director of the Rape Crisis Center, was unable to attend. She went on to discuss how the Rape Crisis Center was the outgrowth of Community Action Against Rape, an organization co-founded by the late Florence McClure, a League member, and the impact that Ms. McClure had on the lives of rape victims and women inmates.

Teresa Bell, Board Member and Voter Services Chair, took the floor and presented a Power Point presentation on League History. Some highlights included the 72-year fight for the right to vote for women, led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and the founding of the League 90 years ago by Carrie Chapman Catt. Over the decades, League has fought for issues including the protection of women and children, environment issues, the merit system in government. League sponsored the first televised Presidential Debate in the 1960's, and continued to sponsor them up to 1988. We still sponsor local debates.

The history of our local League is recorded in the archives at UNLV. The first president of the Las Vegas Valley League of Women Voters was Jean Ford, who was spoken of as a great leader.



Ms. Bell then introduced former presidents Dorothy Eisenberg and Annette Mills. Ms Eisenberg spoke of the legacy of Jean Ford and talked about League in the 70's. She also talked about Florence McClure, who was president in 1974. There will be a tribute to Florence McClure at Harrah's on April 30.

Ms. Mills spoke about the founding of the Nevada Health Care Reform Project by the League under her leadership. The League had a position on universal health care and the Project was founded as a coalition to join with others to fight for health care reform. They involved Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley, at the time a new legislator, and ultimately included 100 organizations, resulting in the establishment of the state Office of Consumer Health Insurance. In recent years, the League's health committee has been in the forefront in studying the issue of childhood obesity.

Shelley Berkeley spoke about her early days in Las Vegas, where she became aware of the work being done by the League while still in high school. She acknowledged the accomplishments of Jean Ford, Florence McClure and League members who were present at the celebration: Annette Mills, Renee Diamond, Pat Van Betten, Thalia Dondero, Dorothy Eisenberg and Bobbi Gang.

She expressed her concern over the failure of the current health care legislation which is leaving 400,000 of her fellow Nevadans with no health care coverage. Every hospital in Nevada is operating in the red, since the hospital is the first and only choice for health care for many.

Sam King led a toast to the 90th Anniversary and everyone shared cake. Mary Beth Heavrin commented that the proclamations will go to the UNLV archives.

After the raffles, the meeting adjourned at 11:30.



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.

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



2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR

March 20, 2010 Sabra-Smith-Newby, CC Director of Adm.
Services: Home Rule, CC Budget & Community Priorities

March 27, 2010 Women's History Celebration, WC Library

April 17, 2010 **Jane Ann Morrison** -Political Potpourri
League Business Meeting

September 18, 2010 **We're Back**

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Affordable Housing— following monthly program
- Education — 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—Call of the Chair
- Juvenile Justice —Call of the Chair

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- March 9 Interim Finance 1:30 p.m.
- March 10 Senior Citizens, Veterans, Sp. Needs 9 a.m.
- March 11 K-12 Education Governance Structure 9 a.m.
- March 17 Health Care 9 a.m.
- March 19 Public Lands 9 a.m.
- April 7 Education 8:30 a.m.

Meetings held at the Grant Sawyer Building

YEARLY DUES—MARCH 2010—MARCH 2011 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 ok to use

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