



THE VOTER

MARCH 2009

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*"May those who love us,
love us; and those who
don't love us, may God
turn their hearts; and if
He doesn't turn their
hearts, may he turn their
ankles so we'll know them
by their limping."*



LWVLVV OFFICERS 2008-2009

President: Kathleen Bienenstein
1st. VP: Sam King
2nd VP/Administration:
Margaret Mark
Secretary: Ann Marie Smith
Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf
Directors: Mary Beth Heavrin
Betty Pardo
Bonnie J. Swadling
Jan Biggerstaff

"AFFORDABLE HOUSING" **The Faces it Benefits** **VISIONS FROM THE HILLS TO THE VALLEY**

Speakers:

Zelda Ellis, *Las Vegas Housing Authority*
Kenneth LoBene, *L.V. Field Director, H.U.D.*
Linda Lera-Randle El, *Straight from the Streets*

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009

THE LAS VEGAS SOCIAL CLUB
ADJACENT TO
MAIN STREET STATION
200 N. Main at Main & Stewart

9:30 A.M. BREAKFAST
Full Breakfast \$18 with reservation-required
(No-shows must be charged)
10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Reservations by Wednesday, March 18, 2009

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *By: Kathleen Bienenstein*

I want to thank Bonnie Swadling, chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for scheduling the Attorney General, Catherine Cortez-Masto, as the speaker for the February meeting. Her information about the role of the Board of Prison Commissioners was very informative.

March is National Women’s History Month. The National Women’s History Project, founded in 1980, is an educational nonprofit organization. Their mission is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs.

In keeping with that theme, our League in conjunction with several other organizations, co-sponsored the film, “A Single Woman” that was shown at UNLV on February 19th. It was a terrific film on the life of the country’s first Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin. The director of the film, Kamala Lopez, shot it in 4 days and spent 3 years editing it. She is hoping to schedule screenings across the country. From here she was headed to Yale University.

HEALTH COMMITTEE *By: Annette Mills*

We continue to work on the issue of children’s obesity. Currently we are working on legislation which would require testing of height and weight in Nevada schools. In addition, we are proposing a bill to tax foods with non nutritional value. The money would be used to support projects assisting obese children.

Results of the legislation passed during the last session on height and weight testing show Washoe County having 18% overweight students and 18.5% obese. We are still waiting for the results for Clark County and the rest of the state.

We have been invited to join other Leagues to support national health care issues. From time to time you may receive an alert from us to support federal legislation.

Please check the League website for our latest reports.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

For this month’s Affordable Housing program the Director of Affordable Housing for Las Vegas and Operations of Public Housing, Zelda Ellis, has been invited to speak.. Linda Lera RandleEl will also speak on the face of who benefits from affordable housing.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *By: Sam King*

The Education Committee meets prior to our monthly meetings. We are working with our lobbyist Julianna Ormsby to watch all bills that concern the League and especially the numerous education bills. High priority is funding, funding, and funding. A bill that changes the way education dollars are retained instead of returned to the general fund is on the watch and support list. Also Legislative revisions for public employee retirement and benefit systems that will affect recruiting and retaining teachers is something we will watch. Education is key to a sustainable community.



ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP *By: Lisa Kershaw*

On February 13th the Environmental Group had a tour of the Solar Power Plant near Boulder City. Row upon row of huge mirrors catch the sun and track it through the day, superheating a liquid that produces the steam required to run the generators. The nearby dry lakebed creates a lot of dust, and cleaning those mirrors is a huge job, where rain and snow are very helpful. In the “heart center” of the power station dozens of computer screens blinked with data showing how much energy each row of mirrors was generating. Naturally, they produce 4 to 5 times more energy on a clear summer day than on an overcast winter day. Currently no power is stored, but they have plans to add storage capability using molten salt fluid. The plant has 25 permanent employees and many subcontractors - just keeping the ground free of weeds and bushes requires a lot of work. Bob Cable, the plant manager, told us they have a 20 year contract with NV Energy. The only government involvement is that state legislature required renewables. The plant is completely financed by private companies, and since the up-front costs are bigger than for coal-fired plants, there were a lot of financial hurdles to overcome.

The tour continued to UNLV’s department of Solar Energy. This department got only the building from UNLV, everything else is funded by grants, (from DOE, NV Energy, National Energy Lab). Here professor Boehm and 30-45 students work on projects, testing the efficiency of solar cells and panels, improving them and getting them ready for commercial use. What he told us is quite thought-provoking: That if a 90 square mile area in middle Nevada were made available for solar energy, it could supply the entire USA with energy. The efficiency of photovoltaic cells is going up and the price is coming down.

STATE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By: *Sam King*



The Nevada League of Women Voters follows a tradition that began 89 years ago, on February 14, 1920, with the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Working as a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and working to influence public education through advocacy, this is our mission.

Our Legislative Committee created a brochure to highlight our priorities, our Four E’S plus 1,--Elections, Education, Environmental Issues, the Economy and Health Care. Our Four E’s are the foundation for supporting positive policies which impact the quality of life in our Nevada communities.

Our Lobbyist, Julianna Ormsby, is key to making our priorities clear and organizing communication so that our legislators understand what we support and that which we oppose. Educating our members on upcoming legislation and clear communication, helps us stay focused when our voices are needed to influence lawmakers.

Advocacy and grassroots organization frame our efforts. The LWVUS guides our focus. Global Climate Change is a national priority. Nevadans are encouraged by the possibility of green energy and resulting jobs created by the new technology. There is a new National Popular Vote Compact Study which will provide the opportunity for our State and local Leagues to work on a position tied to our presidential election process. The LWVUS is focusing on Election Reform and DC Voting Rights. League interests always center on eliminating any and all forms of discrimination against women. We applaud Lilly Ledbetter Legislation. Nevada faces redistricting after the 2010 Census which will be part of our state projects in 2010. Ethics in government is always part of our “sunshine policy”. The week of March 20th is Sunshine Week. The LWVUS has approved the Health Care Education Task Force to educate members and the public on various health care topics and will provide current information on the League’s existing health care position. As we plan for upcoming projects, we can rededicate ourselves to fostering and harnessing civic energy to assist in working out challenges facing our state centering on our

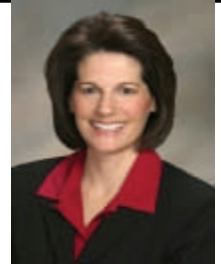
Local, State and National League members are interested in restoring our representative/ democratic relationship between government and the American people.

All local Leagues have worked on fundraising activities and on recruiting new members. Like all non-profit organizations, our Nevada League understands the difficult times ahead as we continue to fundraise to support our advocacy. We are using technology to help increase participation. While face to face communication is always preferable with the economic climate we are using all tools to reach out to all members. There will be a Virtual National Conference rather than the traditional more costly face to face meeting in June. In Nevada, we will develop a means for our delegates to participate. Our own Convention is using teleconference communication to maximize participation.

Once again through our individual and group efforts we make a difference working to improve our community and the lives of all Nevadans.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

By: *Bonnie Swadling*



At our February meeting Attorney General Catherine Cortez-Masto spoke at our regular monthly League breakfast meeting. She was invited by the Criminal Justice Committee to speak on a number of criminal justice topics that our committee had been researching for the past two years. Attorney General Cortez-Masto spoke on the role of the Board of Prison Commissioners. General Cortez-Masto also spoke about various other groups and committees that focused on and assessed the state of our prisons. She discussed a variety of topics from domestic violence to juvenile justice. We were very pleased that she was able to stay after she spoke to address individual questions and concerns.

The Criminal Justice Committee meets one half hour prior to our regular League monthly meeting on the third Saturday of every month. Please come and join the discussion.

*Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead.
Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow.
Do not walk beside me, either. Just leave me alone.*



MEMBERSHIP By: *Margi Mark*

Welcome new member Sondra Cosgrove and returning member Jane Newton.

Notice to Members who like to Party

I am the Membership Bookkeeper, Beverly Dabney is the Membership Secretary and Freda Greenfield is the Phone Committee Chair, but we need a Membership Co-chair, aka Community Outreach, to network and help League increase membership numbers. O.K., so the title is misleading, but if you're the sociable type or involved in the community, this position is for you! There are training materials and ideas for increasing membership available from LWVUS, so if you're interested and would like more information, email me at LWV@lvwlasvegasvalley.org or leave a message at 464-7887.

MINUTES, February 21, 2009*By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary*

Kathleen Bienenstein, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She reminded everyone about Grass Roots Lobby Days in Carson City in March and invited guests present to join our League. The State League's goals were available in a brochure and flyer at the sign-in desk. Logo merchandise was on special sale for the day and there were two silent auctions. The Nevada History Project would be celebrating Women's History Month on March 21 at the West Charleston Library; this event conflicts with our meeting in the morning, but League members can attend the afternoon sessions.

Next month the Affordable Housing Committee is preparing the program. Chair Mary Beth Heavrin asked that questions be sent to her within the next week as these would be the only questions asked during the program. Some League members attended the screening of "A Single Woman" at UNLV on February 19.

Kathleen Bienenstein introduced Bonnie Swadling, chair of the Criminal Justice committee, who in turn introduced Nevada's Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. Prior to her service at the Attorney General's Office, General Masto worked as Assistant County Manager for Clark County beginning in January of 2002. Prior to working at Clark County, General Masto served two years as a federal criminal prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. In September 1995, General Masto was appointed to work in Governor Bob Miller's administration. In July 1998, Governor Miller appointed General Masto to be his Chief of Staff. General Masto is a native Nevadan. She attended the University of Nevada Reno, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1986 with a major in Finance. She graduated Cum Laude from Gonzaga University School of Law, in Spokane, Washington in 1990.

General Masto opened her presentation by stressing that government cannot do the job alone; it needs partners such as our group. She praised League members for their involvement.

The topic of the presentation was the Role of the Board of Prisons Commissioners. There are three Commissioners: the Attorney General, the Governor and the Secretary of State. Their duties include control of the grounds, building, labor and property and supplies and food. They regulate the offices and employees. Although meetings were not regular in the past, the Commissioners now meet regularly and are looking at all the departments to see how they're functioning.

In her position as a Commissioner, she works in conjunction with the Advisory Commission on Administration of Justice, chaired by Judge James W. Hardesty. The Advisory Commission is broken up into several subcommittees. General Masto went on to provide some statistics: Nevada's population is predicted to grow 3.1% annually until 2018; over the past five years, crimes against persons have increased 17% while crimes against property have decreased 26%; the prison population has been relatively stable even though violent crime has increased; 48% of prison admissions are serving their first prison term.

General Masto went on to say that the lack of treatment facilities in the community has a major impact on people going to prison. We have to look at increasing our mental health, drug and treatment facilities. With juveniles, the solution is not to lock them up so they become career criminals, but to help them. Regarding domestic violence, she talked at length about Victims' Rights and victim advocates. There are non-profit advocacy groups with 129 full- and part-time community-based advocates and 189 volunteers. The largest victim category in Nevada is domestic violence. These programs are financed by marriage license fees and federal funding, but are losing funding. There is also an Ombudsman for domestic violence and other victims in the Attorney General's office which is funded by grant funds, but this position is also at risk of losing funding.

In 2008, the victim advocates carried out a one-day snapshot of services it provides. 214 victims called in, 156 were domestic violence, 58 were adults with children and 17 requests were unmet; 13 were women seeking emergency shelter who did not receive it. In an economic downturn, vulnerable populations become at risk. These problems must be looked at globally, and General Masto stressed the importance of being involved citizens.

Following the presentations, President Bienenstein announced the raffle winners. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE*By: Kathleen Bienenstein*

Our sales were up a bit at the February meeting thanks in part to our guest speaker, Catherine Cortez-Masto. I am reducing the prices of the logo clothing by 30%.

Congratulations to Kathleen Dickinson on winning the monthly gift basket drawing and to Gloria Porter on winning the 50/50 raffle. Laura Golod was the lucky member drawing winner. Remember we always have a gift drawing for members who bring a guest to the meetings.

*Always remember you're unique --
just like everyone else.*



PROPOSED ITEMS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE APRIL MEETING
Program for Emphasis 2009-2010
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



WORDS OF WISDOM

A first grade school teacher in Virginia had twenty-five students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the cliché.

It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are 1st graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

1. Don't change horsesuntil they stop running.
2. Strike while the bug is close.
3. It's always darkest beforeDaylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but how?
6. Don't bite the hand thatlooks dirty.
7. No news is.....impossible.
8. A miss is as good as aMr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll..... stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust.....me.
12. The pen is mightier than the.....pigs.
13. An idle mind is..... the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there'spollution.
15. Happy the bride who..... gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved isnot much
17. Two's company, three's the Musketeers
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what you put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and..... You have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what yousee in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.
 And the WINNER and last one!
25. Better late than..... pregnant



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed Slate of Officers
2009-2010 LWVLVV Board

- President.....Mary Beth Heavrin**
1st. Vice President.....Sam King
2nd Vice President.....Jan Biggerstaff
Secretary.....Ann Marie Smith
Treasurer.....Sandy Metcalf
Directors....Betty Pardo
Teresa Bell
Laura Golod
Kathleen Bienenstein

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

Nominating Committee 2009-2010

- Chair...Marjorie Branch
 Member..Teresa Bell
 Member...(to be appointed by new Board)

2008-2010 501(c)(3) EDUCATION PROJECT BOARD

- President.....Dot Gayton**
1st. Vice President....Annette Mills
2nd Vice President....Susan Servin
Secretary.....Betty Pardo
Treasurer.....Sandy Metcalf

Per bylaws the Education Project Board is made up of past-presidents who serve for a 2 year term.

VOTER SERVICES *By: Teresa Bell & Meredith Hartstern Co-chairs*

Municipal Elections 2009— **Primary – Tuesday, April 7 - General – Tuesday, June 2**

Voter Registration Deadlines: You should re-register to vote if there are changes in name, address, party affiliation.
 By Mail: Primary – March 7, 2009—General – May 2, 2009 In-person: Primary – March 17, 2009—General – May 12,
 Mail-ballot requests must be requested for each election and must be received in your city clerk office by March 31 for the Primary and May 26 for the General. Municipal Elections are important, but usually have extremely low voter turnout. Please help increase voter participation by talking about the upcoming elections to family, friends and associates. If you hear of municipal candidates' debates, town halls, or meet and greets, send the information to our league email so that we can have the information available to everyone.



NOTE * PLEASE Pay Dues at the March Meeting. Members must be paid up to vote at the April General Meeting. See back page for the form. Your \$55 dues include \$29.20 to the National League, \$11 for State League dues and the balance of \$14.80 to our local League.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY



P.O. Box 371332, Las Vegas, NV 89137-1337

Phone: 702/464-7887

Email: lwv@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. Full breakfast is \$18.00 with reservation (required).

2008-2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR

April 18, 2009 "Tax Dollars for Education K-20"
"Violence in our Schools"
Annual Business Meeting & Elections

September 19, 2009 We're Back



NAME BADGES

Magnetic \$10.00
Pin \$9.00

All profits go to the 501 (c)(3) Education Project Fund

Dot Gayton - 464-7887

lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Affordable Housing—meets following monthly program
- Criminal Justice—meets prior to monthly meeting
- Education— meets prior to monthly meeting
- Environment—meets 3rd Tuesday, 2 pm, Borders, Towne Sq. Shopping Center
- Health—meets 1st. Tuesday of month (phone for location and time)
- Juvenile Justice—meets with Education Committee prior to monthly meeting
- Legislative—place, date and time announced at monthly meeting

Newsletter—Jan Biggerstaff

PLEASE PAY DUES 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)

Mail to: **League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 371332, Las Vegas, NV 89137-1332**

OR BRING TO MARCH MEETING