



THE VOTER

OCTOBER 2009

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*We'll be
friends
Until we are
old and
senile.
Then, we'll
be
NEW
friends*



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

“AFFORDABLE HOUSING” Guest Speaker: Ken Lobene, HUD Field Director

Special Guest Artist: Dr. Linda Miller as Helen J. Stewart

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

OCTOBER
LOCATION

THE PULLMAN GRILLE MAIN STREET STATION

200 N. Main at Main & Stewart

9:30 A.M. BREAKFAST

Members & guests with reservations: \$18

(No-shows will be charged)

Members without reservations & Non-members: \$20

10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

Phone: 702-464-7887

E-mail: lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org

Reservations by Wednesday, October 14, 2009

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

Fall is in the air and League is in full swing with lots of activities going on. If you have not yet joined a committee, we invite you to do so. Our committees include Voter Services, Health Care, Education, Environment, Juvenile Justice, Affordable Housing, and the list goes on. If you have an interest area, we encourage you to join with us.

We had a wonderful September Kickoff Breakfast to the 2009-2010 League year and had the pleasure of having the First Lady of Nevada, Dawn Gibbons, speak to us about women and politics. This month the topic of the Breakfast meeting is Affordable Housing with Ken LoBene, HUD Field Director and a follow up on the past Legislative season with Julianna Ormsby, our League lobbyist. We are also excited to have Dr. Linda Miller join us with her portrayal of Helen J. Stewart. We had the current First Lady of Nevada visit us last month and this month we welcome the portrayal of Helen J. Stewart, who is often called “The First Lady of Las Vegas”.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the October Breakfast Meeting, and remember, bring a friend and have twice as much fun.

Kenneth Lobene, Director of Housing & Urban Development in Las Vegas will discuss the role of HUD in helping people purchase & retain their homes during this housing & mortgage crisis.



President MaryBeth Heavrin, First Lady Dawn Gibbons, Dr. Linda Miller and Helen Mortenson. (picture from First Lady’s website)

MINUTES, September 19, 2009 meeting

By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary

General Meeting, Main Street Station

League President Mary Beth Heavrin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She introduced the officers, board members and committee chairs. Chairs Laura Golod (Environment), Sam King (Education and Legislation), Regina Harrison (Juvenile Justice) and Mary Beth Heavrin (Affordable Housing) spoke briefly on what their committees are doing and when they meet. Mary Beth announced that Affordable Housing would be planning the October meeting. She introduced Dr. Linda Miller, who will do a portrayal of Helen J. Stewart at the October meeting. Our Lobbyist Julianna Ormsby will also speak, and there will be an additional yet-to-be-confirmed speaker on Affordable Housing.

Guests attending today’s meeting were introduced and welcomed. Mary Beth announced that we will be sending out e-mails asking for volunteers to serve on the committees

Sam King, 1st^l Vice President and State President, introduced the speaker, First Lady Dawn Gibbons, who spoke on what we as women – both as elected officials and non-elected citizens – can do to address the issues that are important to us.

Ms. Gibbons praised the League for the impact it has had over the past 90 years. League’s issues are human, not political. She spoke of her personal experience with the League as a legislator, adding that women have come a long way over the years and listed several role models, both in Nevada and on the national scene. Women make up 31% of our State Legislature.

She went on to talk about the importance of health care for all and stated that the League should keep doing what we have been doing over the years. The League is – and has been for decades – doing something right. All the hard work and perseverance is paying off.

A question and answer period followed. The First Lady ended by encouraging members to stay active.

Following the presentations, the raffle winners were announced.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.



Helen J. Stewart Chautauqua

Dr. Linda Miller will offer her portrayal of the “First Lady of Las Vegas,” Helen J. Stewart at our October 17th meeting. Dr. Miller, CSN adjunct professor is also an impressive woman in her own right. The 2009 People to People 2009 Outstanding Leadership Award recipient, one of eight Americans out of thirty to receive the award, she is also State Coordinator for the Nevada Council for History Education. Dr. Miller’s presentation of Helen J. Stewart is sure to garner much interest as stated in the Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, Carrie Miller Townley’s biography of Mrs. Stewart, “Any woman ever tackled the world herself, that woman was Helen J. Stewart.”



STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sam King*

Fall seems to bring a new energy to Nevadans after our summer season. This is not to say that there hasn't been lots of work going on by our members during the summer, after our 2009 Legislature adjourned in June. Membership in the League of Women Voters puts a whole new slant on volunteering. I want to thank each of you for on-going efforts to make a difference in the quality of life in Nevada.

Saturday, September 26, 2009, our League State Board met. Technology has allowed us to meet state-wide while on our home turf. Local Leagues gave an update on their September events and upcoming programs. Northern Nevada is focusing on "How we can move up from the bottom of the list". President Nancy Scott shared that the League of Northern Nevada is looking at how to use our Four E's plus Health Care plan to help Nevada move into the positive column in Nevada. Mesquite President, Rose Mary Gary, described the Mesquite September meeting during which Mayor Susan Holcheck focused on education concerns in Mesquite.

Las Vegas Valley League was honored to have First Lady Dawn Gibbons as our September keynote speaker. A transcript of the First Lady's address is available on our local and state web site

I just received the official word that Pahrump Valley League has been certified as Nevada's newest local league. Pahrump Valley League of Women Voters will be assisting in voter registration, membership and fund-raising for their new League and for our State League.

Our State League Legislative Committee component with representation from all local leagues will continue to work on fund-raising to maintain the ability to lobby for our issues. Although the Nevada Legislature adjourned in June, legislative interim committees will continue to have meetings and hearings during the year. Given the economic climate, there may be a special session. We will continue to work with like-minded groups to strengthen our voice. Las Vegas Valley is partnering with the Women's History Group and the State League is working with Nevada Women's Lobby on an upcoming event honoring women who paved the way for all. The census will be something we will support and study since outcomes of the census will impact re-districting and state resources for the next ten years.

Our League Council will be held in June 2010. We are beginning to plan for the program and location. I will participate in a regional League teleconference 10/21/2009 and will share what I learn about the activities and concerns from other state presidents and national.



Sam King, Dawn Gibbons and Camilla Wood

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *By: Sam King*

The Education Committee meets the third Saturday of the month, one hour before our local League monthly meeting breakfast, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am at Main Street Station. We would like to invite anyone interested to join us.

Education is a key component in advocacy. During our September education committee meeting we brainstormed several local, state and national education issues—such as funding for education K-16, No Child Left Behind, student achievement, scarce resources, literacy at all levels, moving to the 21st century with online programs and the organizational structure of the Nevada Department of Education.

In January there will be interim legislative committee meetings to discuss topics such as a "World Class system of education" introduced last session by Senator Horsford and education reform introduced last session by Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell.

Locally Clark County School District put off a bond in 2008. There is discussion of a new bond on the 2010 ballot and tax credit bonds which would not require voter approval. Two types of bonding, one based upon an election and voter approved and one based upon approval from the Debt Management Commission.

It is time to move forward on all of our Four E's plus health care—education, elections, the environment, the economy (Nevada tax reform) and healthcare reform. Charles Handy had a quote which fits all of our Four E's and our advocacy.

Mr. Handy said something like "Most of us prefer to walk backwards into the future; a posture that although uncomfortable, allows us to look at familiar things". Personally, I would rather walk forward to avoid the status quo, walking forward and looking at trying things which although unfamiliar, are based upon what we learned from past mistakes and move us forward. A better position for us all. Best to everyone.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY



NOTE: NEW ADDRESS: P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112

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.

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

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 Beardsly, Kathleen Dickinson, Mary Liveratti, Sandy Medcalf, Betty Pardo, Lisa Stiller

2009-2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR

October 17, 2009 Affordable Housing

November 21, 2009 Health Care—(invited) Senator Reid

January 16, 2010 Education - The Future is Now!

February 20, 2010 Food Chain and the Environment

March 20, 2010 Voter Services - Knowledgeable Voters Needed

April 27, 2010 Campaign Finances Are Your Problem

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

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Affordable Housing—meets following monthly program
- 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



INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN

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 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112**

Please Support the League's Education Fund—it is tax deductible and assists in our scholarship program