



# THE VOTER

ANNUAL MANUAL

APRIL 2009

## “NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CENTER”

Liz Carrasco  
Mediating Juvenile Cases

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 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

10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

*To be followed by Business Meeting  
And Election of Officers*

### INSIDE ARTICLES

- \* President's Message
- \* Slate of Officers
- \* Candidate Bios
- \* Proposed Budget
- \* Minutes

**PLEASE  
BRING THIS  
MANUAL  
TO THE  
MEETING**

### LWVLVV OFFICERS 2008-2009

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

Newsletter: Jan Biggerstaff

**Reservations by Wednesday, APRIL 15**

Phone: 702-464-7887

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



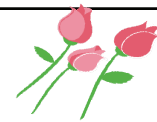
**PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

As many of you know, President Kathleen Bienenstein's mother recently passed away, and Kathleen is with her family in Michigan. Our condolences to her—when our mothers leave us, it leaves a hole in our hearts that nothing can really fill.

A big thank you to Mary Beth Heavrin for organizing a very informative panel of speakers for our March 2009 meeting. Zelda Ellis from the Las Vegas Housing Authority, Kenneth LoBene, Las Vegas Field Director, H.U.D., and our own Linda Lera-Randle El, Founder and Director of Straight from the Streets who brought us not so encouraging news about the lack of affordable housing in Las Vegas. Linda updated us on the impact the lack of affordable housing has on the homeless as well as giving us information on the "tent" city.



Zelda Ellis, L.V. Housing Authority; Kenneth LoBene, L.V. Field Director, H.U.D.; Linda Lera-Randle El, Founder and Director of Straight from the Streets and Mary Beth Heavrin, Chair, Affordable Housing. March meeting.



The Education Committee's meeting prior to the regular meeting on March 21. A lively discussion, pertinent information and a dose of humor give members some direction and ideas of the state of education at the legislature.



**APRIL MEETING**

The meeting this month will be presented by the Clark County Neighborhood Justice Center. The NJC was created by the Nevada Legislature in 1991 to provide no-cost information, referral and mediation services to Clark County residents, businesses and organizations. The NJC has also established innovative specialized mediation programs. These programs include the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), Conflict Intervention Team (CIT), Court Mediation Program, and Family & Offender Reconciliation Using Mediation (FORUM) program. The NJC offers citizens an alternative to the court process for conflict resolution. Since its inception, the NJC has assisted citizens in addressing over 20,000 cases, thereby reducing the pressure on the court system and offering disputants information and referral services as well as free mediation conducted by well trained volunteers. Of special interest to our Juvenile Justice Committee, they offer special mediation for juvenile cases. Always looking for volunteers, mediation training is available several times a year. For further information "google" Clark County, Nevada Neighborhood Justice Center.



In May 1872 Victoria Woodhull was nominated as the presidential candidate of the Equal Rights Party.

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 21, 2008** *By: Ann Smith, Secretary*

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Kathleen Dickinson. She recognized a group of Political Science Students as guests. The program for the meeting, coordinated by the Criminal Justice Committee, was "AB510 – The Pros and Cons of Early Release". Committee Chair Bonnie Swadling introduced speaker Assemblyman David Parks. Assemblyman Parks commented that our State's third largest expenditure is incarceration (after education and health). While about 5% of inmates face life without parole, it can be expected that the other 95% will be released at some time. AB 510, which passed the Legislature last session, makes changes to Parole and Probation to facilitate earlier release of prisoners who meet certain requirements. While alternatives to traditional incarceration are looked at, safety of everyone involved, both prisoners and staff, is a major concern. A question and answer period followed Assemblyman Parks' presentation.

The Annual Meeting was convened. Kathleen Dickinson stated that the Minutes to the 2007 Annual Meeting were printed in the Annual Manual. Betty Pardo moved to accept them, Bonnie Swadling seconded. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Sandy Metcalf stated that the proposed Budget, which included a proposed rise in dues, was printed in the Annual Manual. The rise in dues is due to the fact that National League will be raising the national dues at their meeting in June. Betty Pardo moved to accept the Budget including the new dues structure, Sam King seconded. The Budget and new dues structure were unanimously approved. The new dues structure will be: \$55.00 for individuals, \$75.00 for households, \$25.00 for students.

Kathleen Dickinson announced the proposed Program for Emphasis for 2008-2010: Sustainable Communities - Making Democracy Work. Sandy Metcalf moved to accept the Program for Emphasis, Sam King seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The following Committees reported:

**Immigration**, Sandy Metcalf. National League has released its Policy on Immigration, which is very much in line with the input from our committee. She especially thanked Betty Pardo and Freda Greenfield for their work on the committee.

**Education**, Sam King. The May meeting will feature Clark County School District Sgt. Jaime Sanchez, who oversees the Gang Unit. The meeting is being coordinated by Regina Harrison, chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee. Sam commented that Jan Browne from the Northern Nevada League did a great report on First Responders. **Environment**, Monica Brett. The committee is working on a debate to be held in the Fall, Oct. 4, at UNLV focusing on how best to maintain our country's infrastructure, using a grant from the American Society of Civil Engineers. On April 7th, the Blueprint for Nevada event was held and went very well. Mayor Susan Holecheck of Mesquite spoke on "Making Mesquite Sustainable – What's Coal Got to Do With It?". Energy Savings Day in the summer is in the works. **Voter Services**, Teresa Bell. On May 3rd, we will be registering voters at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. 20 people are needed to help register. On July 8 and July 11, 4 to 8 registrars will be needed at Caesars Palace. The 2008 Clark County Voter Guide is in the works. **Health**, Annette Mills. She received an e-mail from a new coalition calling themselves a Health Reform Group, and cautioned members not to confuse this with the League-sponsored Nevada Health Care Reform Project. Their goals seem to conflict with ours. The committee visited 3 Square Food Bank and is continuing with the study of childhood obesity. **Membership**, Margi Mark. We have 135 members. There is a new membership brochure and the new website will be online soon. **Fundraising**, Kathleen Bienenstein. Kathleen asked members to look at all the new items we are offering and to bring their checkbooks to the meetings. Customized logo items for our League chapter are being purchased from Prison Industries, a division of the Department of Corrections. **Affordable Housing**, Mary Beth Heavrin. Mary Beth commented that we are active in educating the public on many issues and that it might be helpful if we could encourage people to be vigilant when seeking out information concerning the financing of their homes. **Education Fund**. President Dot Gayton was not present. The purpose of the fund is to finance educational projects. Board members are all past presidents of the League and their mission is to distribute the funds.

Co-president Kathleen Dickinson commented that her co-president, Laura Golod, could not be present today. On behalf of the two of them, she thanked all of the board members and several League members who work behind the scenes, including Kathleen Bienenstein, Bonnie Swadling, Sandy Metcalf, Betty Pardo, Judy Moore, Ann Marie Smith, Monica Brett, Annette Mills, Sam King, Regina Harrison, Freda Greenfield, Margi Mark, Mary Beth Heavrin, Kay Armstrong, Jan Biggerstaff, Teresa Bell, Harold Sturza, Rose Johnson, Marjorie Branch, Beverly Dabney, Lucille Carstenson, Gloria Porter and Meredith Hartstern. Kathleen distributed thank-you cards and Las Vegas Valley League pins. She also distributed copies of a documentary about homeless teens in Las Vegas entitled "Beyond The Lights," by Jose Diaz, a teacher at Faith Lutheran High School, five of his students and input from Westcare and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. The proposed Slate of Officers for the 2008-2009 LWVLVV Board was presented by Nominating Committee Chair Marjorie Branch. President: Kathleen Bienenstein; 1st Vice President: Sam King; 2nd Vice President: Margi Mark; Secretary: Ann Marie Smith; Treasurer: Sandra Metcalf; Directors: Mary Beth Heavrin, Rose Johnson, Betty Pardo, Bonnie Swadling; Nominating Committee for 2008-2009: Marjorie Branch, Chair, Teresa Bell and a member to be appointed by the new Board. With no nominations from the floor, a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers was passed unanimously.

The proposed Slate of Officers for 2008-2010 Education Project Board was presented by Nominating Committee Chair Marjorie Branch. President: Dot Gayton; 1st Vice President: Annette Mills; 2nd Vice President: Susan Servin; Secretary: Betty Pardo; Treasurer: Sandy Metcalf. A motion to accept the proposed slate of officers was passed unanimously.

New President Kathleen Bienenstein invited outgoing co-presidents Kathleen Dickinson and Laura Golod to remain on the LWVLVV Board as non-voting members.

**STATE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE** *By: Sam King*  
The Nevada League of Women Voters Elects New State Board & Sets Program Priorities

The League of Women Voters of Nevada held its state convention on March 7, 2009 in Carson City, in conjunction with Grassroots Lobby Days. The delegates from across the state elected a new board of directors for the next biennium. The officers are as follows: President – Mrs. Sam King (Las Vegas); Vice President – Mrs. Rosemary Gary (Mesquite); Secretary – Mrs. Alicia Wright (Sparks); Treasurer - Ms Kathleen Bienstein (Las Vegas). The Board of Director(s) is as follows: Mrs. Karen Beardsley (Mesquite); Ms. Lisa Stiller (Reno); and Dr. Betty Pardo (Las Vegas).

For the first time our League used a tele-conference to facilitate participation across the state as the convention format. The challenge for members to meet has made face to face meetings difficult given individual responsibilities and the cost of traveling. Virtual meetings are in keeping with our National League's plan to hold a virtual Council in June rather than the traditional face to face format. Carolee Mullen, representing the National League, met with members in Carson City. Carolee discussed upcoming League of Women Voters US projects. She was interested in how well a tele-conference format worked and was a great addition to our convention program.

Program priorities for the biennium were established by consensus. They are the 4 E's + 1, which are: Education, Environment, Economy, Elections, and Health Care. During the current legislative session, the League of Women Voters established "election legislation" and "good governance legislation" as the priority for advocacy. Although the issues under the Four E's + 1 umbrella are not new, they are crucial to improving the quality of life in our state.

The League is represented by Ms. Julianna Ormsby, Policy Analyst & Lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of Nevada and the Nevada Women's Lobby. Julianna attended the convention in Carson City and clarified lines of communication to make certain that her efforts would maximize League voice on issues that will come out fast and furious during this session. She provides weekly updates to the League Legislative Committee so that we are ready to provide data and testify when needed. Every individual member is encouraged to testify on their personal priority issues as individuals; however, testifying for the League is the responsibility of the state President and lobbyist. Julianna has had positive feedback from lawmakers who have received our brochure and have asked for our input on upcoming legislation.

The fact that times are different than from even a few months ago is evident in the Nevada legislative climate. The League of Women Voters has worked to protect the importance of voting, civic virtue and sunshine in our democratic representative government for 89 years.

In Nevada, our legislative climate needs all the sunshine possible to make good governance the end result of this session 2009.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Four E's. 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 tele-conference 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.

*If you've never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom. ~Audra Foveo*



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

The Health Care Committee will meet the second Tuesday in April at 5:30. We continue to work on the issue of children's obesity. At our last meeting we were honored to have Dr. Luiz Solares. He spoke briefly about nutrition in Brazil. He said children have fruit, fruit, fruit for breakfast. He is professor emeritus in Agricultural Engineering and the nutritional value of fruit.

At the last meeting of the Assembly, Education Committee members Dr. Susan Meacham and Annette Mills testified in support of AB191, the bill to extend the time limit on testing of height and weight in the schools. We are not expecting our bill on a sales tax on foods with non nutritional value to pass. The funds generated would be put into the prevention and treating of eating disorders (children's obesity). We were late getting it to the Legislative Counsel for writing. However, we were not disappointed since there is much work to be done for support of such a bill.

Please check the League website for our latest reports.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING** *By: Mary Beth Heavrin*

The Affordable Housing Committee thanks Zelda Ellis, Kenneth LaBene, and Linda Lera-Randle El for their participation as panelists at our March League breakfast meeting. We learned valuable information about the affordable housing issue that we can pass along to others. This information will help us to better understand any future affordable housing legislation that comes to our valley. As Cervantes wrote many years ago, "forewarned, forearmed; to be prepared is half the victory."



Members use the time for activism as well as a social time.

**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to publish the above, *minus FAX & email address*, in the LWVLVV For MEMBERS ONLY Roster.

New Member (joined this year)  Continuing Member in Las Vegas  Previous Member from out of state

How did you learn about the League of Women Voters?

Did another member invite you to a meeting? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, who?

**PLEASE LIST YOUR INTERESTS / HOBBIES / PROFESSION / AREAS OF EXPERTISE, ETC.:**

**PLEASE CHECK THE COMMITTEES THAT INTEREST YOU:**

- \_\_ EDUCATION \_\_ ENVIRONMENT \_\_ HEALTH \_\_ JUVENILE JUSTICE \_\_ LEGISLATIVE  
 \_\_ AFFORDABLE HOUSING \_\_ CRIMINAL JUSTICE \_\_ MEMBERSHIP \_\_ VOTER SERVICES

**Return to:**

**League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley; P.O. Box 371332; Las Vegas, NV 89137-1332**

**May be completed and submitted online at: [www.lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org/membership.htm](http://www.lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org/membership.htm)**

**or brought to next meeting...**

*Thank You*

**MARCH MINUTES:** *By Secretary Ann Smith*

March 21, 2009 General Meeting, Main Street Station

Sam King, 1st Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She announced that the State Convention had been held on March 7, and delegates in Las Vegas joined by telephone with those who were attending in person in the north. Annette Mills commented that Sam King was re-elected to State President at the convention.

Guests attending today's meeting were introduced and welcomed.

Sam introduced Mary Beth Heavrin, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, who announced that the title of today's program was Affordable Housing: The Faces it Benefits – Visions from the Hills to the Valley. She asked committee member Ida Grieco to introduce the panel: Zelda Ellis, Director of Operations for the Las Vegas Housing Authority, Kenneth LoBene, Las Vegas Field Director for HUD, and Linda Lera-Randle El, Founder and Executive Director of Straight from the Streets.

Ms. Ellis spoke first. She commented that there has been a growth in need for services due to the foreclosures. They provide public housing for families and seniors who meet income guidelines. The Authority is planning to demolish old property and replace it with new affordable housing to attract people with some income to help the neighborhoods. They have received some new funds for upgrades to existing properties, but have suffered decreases in money to run the housing.

Mr. LoBene, who has been with HUD for 32 years, spoke about the scope of HUD, which includes FHA loan guarantees, Public and Indian Housing, Community Planning and Development, and Fair Housing Programs, among others. There are currently 16,000 foreclosures a month in Nevada, with 14,000 in the south. This constitutes a significant problem. He projects 12 years for recovery, if the situation is stabilized soon. Mr. LoBene commented that the real estate industry is the nation's largest employer, if one considers all the businesses that are depending on housing. Lack of movement in this area clogs the market and constrains ability for growth. There is no easy solution.

Ms. Lera-Randle El spoke on the need for everyone to come together and stop pointing fingers. Her agency provides advocacy, activism and some case management and works collaboratively with Clark County. She provided a picture of homelessness in Southern Nevada and the unmet needs. A question-and-answer period followed.

Following the presentations, Kathleen Dickinson announced the raffle winners and Mary Beth Heavrin announced the 50-50 winner. There was an announcement that US VETS would be sponsoring a Vets Stand-down on March 25-27 at the Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

**THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS PRINCIPLES**

For full list of the National Program and Principles go to: [www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm)

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the constitution of the United States. The League believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. The League believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in promotion of world peace.

The Principles are "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. They have served two functions:

- 1) authorization for adoption of national, state and local programs and
- 2) a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels



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



P.O. Box 371332, Las Vegas, NV 89137-1332  
Phone: (702) 464-7887  
Email: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto: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 \$18.00 with reservation (required).

**2009-2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR**  
**September 19, 2009**      **We're Baaack!!**  
**October 17, 2009**  
**November 21, 2009**  
**December**  
**January 16, 2010**  
**February 20, 2010**  
**March 20, 2010**  
**April 27, 2010**

**COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Affordable Housing—meets following monthly program
- Criminal Justice—meets prior to monthly meeting
- Education—meets prior to monthly meeting
- 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



Magnetic \$9.50  
Pin \$8.50  
All profits go to the  
501 (c)(3) Education Project  
Fund  
  
Dot Gayton - 464-7887  
[lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)



**PLEASE BRING THIS MANUAL TO THE MEETING**

**PLEASE PAY DUES NOW—ONLY PAID MEMBERS ALLOWED TO VOTE**

**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 APRIL MEETING**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE Leagues Education Fund—it is tax deductible and assists in our scholarship program.**