



THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2009

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“THE ROLE OF BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS” Presented by



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 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, February 18, 2009

♥ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS
89 YEARS
FEB 14, 1920**



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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *By: Kathleen Bienenstein*

I want to thank Monica Brett for scheduling our panel for the January meeting. They were all terrific.
 February is Black History Month. This month celebrates the contributions, accomplishments and achievements of African-Americans, both past and present.



HEALTH COMMITTEE *By: Annette Mills*

Last legislative session we sponsored AB 354, a bill requiring public schools in Nevada to test height and weight of children. The results of testing in Washoe County have been received. Thirty-nine percent of the students tested were overweight. This figure indicates the need for programs to help these students. This will assist entities desiring to apply for grants. We expect the results of Clark County in the near future. The Washoe Report is displayed on the League Website. We discussed the wording for our new legislation on taxing foods with minimal nutrition value. We hope this will be passed with the tax money being used for a children’s nutritional health account.

Vegas PBS continues the fight against childhood obesity with the premier of its local production, “Fit Kids, Healthy Families” on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 9 p.m. on Channel 10.



KAMALA LOPEZ (Director) and JEANMARIE SIMPSON (Jeannette Rankin) on the set of the film **A SINGLE WOMAN**
Photo by Sarah Goodrich

LWVLVV is partnering with the Women’s Research Institute of Nevada for a screening of the film, “A Single Woman,” that addresses issues of suffrage, reform, and political activism. It will be shown on **February 19 at 6:30 p.m.** “A Single Woman” is a film adaptation of the successful stage play about the life of Jeannette Rankin, America’s first Congresswoman and co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). We are also very excited to welcome the director, Kamala Lopez, to speak about the film’s historical and political content, and also how it relates to current events and issues. She will be joined by other community members in a panel discussion. Please spread the word and plan to attend.



FEBRUARY—BLACK HISTORY MONTH
*Ida B. Wells * Sojourner Truth * Harriet Tubman * Rosa Parks*

LEGISLATURE INFORMATION

To reach the Nevada Legislature website type in the url: www.leg.state.nv.us Spend some time on the home page to familiarize yourself with the options. On the right side there is a place to go to the live meetings. Also a list of bill drafts that you can track as the session gets started.

All bills that we can support (or not) must fall under the guidelines of the state positions.

The State League hires and pays for a lobbyist during the session. As this is a major function and expense for the League, an ongoing fundraising for the next few months will help pay for this much needed position. We have a new lobbyist, Julianna Ormsby, please go through our State President Sam King at 464-7887 or lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org (leave message) with concerns. She welcomes and needs our input on issues that we will track and support. We will probably emphasize 4 or 5 issues to support for each of the education, health and most important budget issues.

NEVADA LEGISLATURE BILL DRAFT REQUEST

The following explains the numbers or letter preceding the dash in the BDR number:
 9--1 A number designates the NRS Title (i.e., Title 9) which encompasses the main subject of the bill draft.
 C--3 The letter "C" denotes the bill draft is a joint resolution amending the Nevada Constitution.
 R--16 The letter "R" denotes the bill draft is a resolution. S--11 The letter "S" denotes the bill draft is a special act.
 The letter **W** after the BDR number means that it has been withdrawn.



The League is sustained by hardworking volunteers. Regulars are Treasurer Sandra Metcalf and Reservations Chair Freda Greenfield

♥ *I like paying taxes. With them I buy civilization.*
 Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

MINUTES, January 17, 2009

By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary

Kathleen Bienenstein, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She announced that there would be a collection taken up today to benefit the contingency fund for Straight from the Streets.

Kathy then introduced Monica Brett, Chair of the Environment Committee. Monica announced that the subject of today's panel was Defining Sustainability for Nevada. She introduced David Ross, Ross Communications specializing in sustainability and a KNPR commentator, replacing KNPR Senior Producer Dave Berns who was unable to come. Mr. Ross in turn introduced the panel: City of Henderson Principal Planner Ned Thomas, Businesswoman Jenna Morton, Green Living Consultant/ Review-Journal Columnist Steve Rypka, Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani and City of Las Vegas Transportation Manager Dan Hyde.

David Ross opened the panel discussion, commenting that Southern Nevada is at a crossroads as we reach two million inhabitants. Dan Hyde stated that environmental issues are also about education. Currently we are importing 70% of our fuel; we need to be using alternative fuels. Chris Giunchigliani discussed respect for the environment, resources and people. Government must take the lead and be a role model. There are currently barriers that must be changed legislatively.

Steve Rypka told the audience how he incorporates sustainability on a personal level, with a natural energy home and hybrid vehicle. He has lowered the family's carbon footprint by 75%. We can all make these changes. We need to think globally, but act locally. Jenna Morton defined sustainability as living in accordance with nature and discussed finding ways to incorporate sustainability in business. She also spoke on the need to remove barriers legislatively. Ned Thomas stated that we are disconnected from nature. We need to build better communities that are environmentally friendly. Every citizen, every business and every group needs to make this effort. The classic definition of sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

The discussion then turned to obstacles. Some ideas discussed included consolidating local government, education, coordinating mass transport, education. The technology is there. A question and answer period followed.

Peggy Maze Johnson, Co-Chair Water Conservation Coalition, reminded we live in the desert we need to conserve water.

Announcements included a Town Hall on education to be held on January 26 at UNLV. The Voter Services meeting was cancelled. Elected officials present were recognized. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.



"Defining Sustainability for Nevada" gave panelists Steve Rypka, Jenna Morton, Ned Thomas, Chris Giunchigliani, Dan Hyde and moderator David Ross a starting point for a lively discussion at the January meeting.

The Presidents Message

from National League:

LWVUS Reception Honoring New Women Members of the House of Representatives (NEW)

On January 6, 75 guests gathered for a historic reception on Capitol Hill to honor the newly sworn-in class of 11 women joining the 111th Congress. The event was co-sponsored by the LWVUS and Rachel's Network, a bipartisan organization that promotes women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth. In attendance were Congresswomen from both parties, **including Shelley Berkley (NV)**, Lois Capps (CA), Kathy Dahlkemper (PA), Susan Davis (CA), Donna Edwards (MD), Virginia Foxx (NC), Lynn Jenkins (KS), Carolyn Maloney (NY), Gwen Moore (WI), Chellie Pingree (ME), Jan Schakowsky (IL), Jean Schmidt (OH), Allyson Schwartz (PA), and Lynn Woolsey (CA), as well as prominent leaders from the nonprofit and advocacy communities. **This was an inspiring and exciting event to be a part of and it was energizing to hear so many elected officials praise the League and its work. Several of the members noted that they got their start in public service through the League of Women Voters.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE *By: Bonnie Swadling*

The Criminal Justice Committee meets one half hour prior to our regular monthly meeting on the third Saturday of every month. We cover a wide range of topics as they relate to the prison system and the return of offenders back into the community.

For the month of February our guest speaker will be Attorney General Catherine Cortez-Masto one of the members on the State's Board of Prison Commissioners.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING * EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE * ENVIRONMENT
JUVENILE JUSTICE * VOTER SERVICES
COMMITTEES**

No articles this month, however are active and meeting regularly (see back page for times and places).

Come to Carson City and add your voice to others as an advocate for women and families at the 2009 legislature. Individuals and organizations will unite at **Grassroots Lobby Days, March 8-10** for training, inspiration, and promoting their concerns with legislators. Since 1991, Lobby Days has been organized by the Nevada Women's Lobby to provide a forum for hundreds of grassroots lobbyists from throughout Nevada to gather and demonstrate their widespread support. Most legislators make time to meet with constituents during the afternoon, an excellent time to talk to them about your legislative issues. Legislators will be invited to join us for a reception at the Carson Nugget on Monday afternoon, with a program focus on one of our major issues presented by a national speaker.



GRASSROOTS LOBBY DAYS

Coordinated by the Nevada Women's Lobby

Sunday, March 8, Monday, March 9, Tuesday, March 10, 2009 - Carson City

- Learn about important issues
- Take a close look at the lawmaking process
- Join others to make a difference
- Interact with and influence your legislators

SUNDAY: GOLD DUST WEST	MONDAY: LEGISLATIVE BLDG.	TUESDAY: LEGISLATIVE BLDG.
8:15 • Registration Opens 8:45 • Opening Session 9:00 • Grassroots Lobbying 101 10:00 • Surfing Nevada's Website 10:45 • "Ready for Life" – Impact of High School Dropouts on Nevada 12:30 • Networking Lunch 1:45 • Hot Issues / Cool Topics Legislative Strategy 4:00 • What Legislators Need from Us - Discussion with Legislators 5:30 • Hospitality Suite 6:30 • International Women's Day Dinner, AAUW Nevada	7:00 • Registration in Room 3100 7:00 • Breakfast Meeting arranged by AAUW Nevada 8:00 • Today's Lobbying Overview 8:00 • Orientation for First Timers • Senate/Assembly Hearings Attend Committees of Your Choice 10:30 • Senate and Assembly General Sessions 12:00 • Lunch in Room 3100 1:30 • Senate/Assembly Hearings Attend Committees of Your Choice 5:00 • Reception with Legislators Nevada State Library	8:00 • Registration in Room 3100 10:30 • Senate/Assembly Hearings Attend Committees of Your Choice 12:00 • Lunch in room 3100 Arranged by National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter 1:30 • Senate/Assembly Hearings Attend Committees of Your Choice

For details and to register online, see NWL's website (www.nevadawomenslobby.org) or call Byllie Andrews at (775)327-4856

HOTEL/MOTEL INFORMATION

Gold Dust West, 2171 Hwy 50, Carson City, (775)885-9000 City Center Motel, 800 N. Carson, (775)882-5535
 To assure a Gold Dust West room call by Feb. 23

STUDENT DISCOUNT: 20%

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - Apply early

See NWL's website (above) for details, and contact Doris Dowden: dsquared2@sbcglobal.net, (775)827-2481 to apply

REGISTRATION: Register online using a credit card or PayPal: www.nevadawomenslobby.org or complete the registration form below and mail it to NWL, P.O. Box 285, Verdi, NV 89439

Name _____ Organization (optional) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Physical Address if Different _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ Email _____

Your information will be included in a participant list emailed to all attendees unless you request that it not be listed : _____

REGISTRATION FEE IS REQUIRED; Meals are Optional	Fees
Registration Fee	✓ \$35.00
Optional Meals I prefer vegetarian meals <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sunday Lunch	\$13.00
Monday Breakfast	\$ 7.50
Monday Box Lunch	\$10.50
Monday Reception (no fee, but ✓ if you will attend)	\$ 0
Tuesday Lunch	\$12.00
Optional Scholarship Donation to Help Others Attend	\$ _____
Student Discount: Less 20%	- \$ _____
Sunday International Women's Day Dinner (sorry, no discounts)	\$35.00
Late Fee (after March 1) (meals are subject to availability)	\$10.00
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

Make checks payable to NWL Grassroots Lobby Days. Mail to NWL, P.O. Box 285, Verdi, NV 89439 (or register & pay online; see above)

Your legislators will be informed of your attendance at Grassroots Lobby Days. Please include your physical address above so we can find your legislators. We will arrange group appointments with them. If you want an individual visit, make an appointment in advance, 775-684-6789.

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By: Sam King*

On January 15, 2009, Nevadans listened as Governor Gibbons outlined his two year budget proposal. Our governor's priorities, his agenda and vision as proposed in his State of the State address caused collective indignation from concerned citizens and advocacy groups. The Nevada state budget outlined on January 15, thankfully is by no means final. Constitutionally, the purse strings are held by the legislature.

The League of Women Voters of Nevada opposes policy which harms the quality of life in communities based upon the effects policy imposes upon elections, education, the environment, the economy, health, and good government. Reviewing the Governor's vision for Nevada, quality of life will suffer.

The Gibbon's Budget leaves education and the citizens of Nevada behind. The window of opportunity during the 120 day legislative session to provide a counter vision, will require all stakeholders to speak in support of a concrete alternative for Nevadans.

In Nevada we currently do not have the luxury of annual legislative sessions which makes timing crucial for our 2009 Legislature to successfully amend the Governor's proposals. With the 120 day clock ticking, this will not be easy. Perhaps the time is right for our legislators to meet annually. This does not mean we abandon the principle of a citizen legislature. Given the number of special sessions, the principles of good government and our system of checks and balances, support an annual schedule.

The Nevada League of Women Voters studied the Nevada tax system in 2003. Subsequent studies of the tax system by other groups have been published. The 2009 revenue realities for Nevada, prove without a doubt, that the time for studies and commissions has sunset. The time to act and pass a sustainable revenue source to weather economic good times and times of economic challenges must be the focus and product of the 2009 Legislature given our present economic climate.

As stakeholders, we have the opportunity to come to the table. Once at the table, table etiquette ground rules must be followed. Table etiquette must include honestly reporting facts, impeccably defining fiscal requirements, defending existing programs which are effective and efficient, offering to discontinue programs which are ineffective and inefficient, honoring commitments, and agreeing to rational accountability and oversight. Unacceptable table manners include pitting groups against each other and taking from Peter's plate to put on Paul's plate.

Education is a proven factor in creating a strong workforce opening the door to jobs and economic diversity. Improving the Nevada economy depends on an educated skilled workforce able to fill new jobs as they come on line. Now is not the time to compromise education services for the citizens of Nevada when the economic future for our state is at stake. Nor is this the time, as the Governor suggests, to cut education funding today and promise to make up support for education some time in the future.

There is much discussion about energy independence and new industry. Let's not let the window of opportunity to diversify our local economy and utilize our natural resources close. Health care services are a defining quality of a community. The direction our state follows in delivering a quality health care system for our citizens will be a defining factor as to our future. The Nevada League, will join with like-minded groups during the 2009 Legislative Sessions to advocate for policy which improves the quality of life in Nevada. Our success depends on a collective voice.

Are you receiving your e-newsletter, legislative alerts and updates from the League of Women Voters of the United States? If not, sign up now - it's easy!

Log onto our local website at

<http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org/>

Click on Membership in the left hand red margin. Scroll down and click on LWVUS and sign up to receive information from your National League.

And...if you have not updated or completed a Membership Survey for the Las Vegas Valley League, it can be completed and submitted online. The Survey form is at the bottom of the Membership page on our website.

FUNDRAISING *By: Kathleen Bienenstein*

Our fundraising efforts have fallen behind what they were last year at this time, but it is to be expected with the economy. The important thing is that we are still bringing in a few dollars each month with the sales of our logo merchandise. I want to thank all of you for supporting the League by purchasing raffle tickets and merchandise.



A full house at January's meeting



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

March 6-7, 2009 League State Convention, Carson City

March 8-10, 2009 Grassroots Lobby Days, Carson City

March 21, 2009 “Affordable Housing: Visions from the Hill to the Valley”

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

Estimated tax burden for hypothetical family of 3, 2007— with income of \$50,000

1. Philadelphia	\$8,629.00	17.3%
25 Memphis	\$4,406.00	8.8%
47. Las Vegas	\$2,957.00	5.9%
51. Manchester	\$2,149.00	4.3%

Clark County Assessor, 12/08

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

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 371332, Las Vegas, NV 89137-1332**