THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL YAVAPAI COUNTY

LWVCYC.org ♦ LWVCYC@gmail.com ♦ P. O. Box 11538, Prescott, AZ 86304 ♦ May 2017

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533-5297

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583-2800

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273-9246

Nominating Committee
Susan Fleming
Tina Blake
Linda Greenberg

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 6, 2017
11:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Casa Bonita Restaurant
1317 E. Gurley Street, Prescott

Guest Speaker:
Prescott Chief of Police
Debora Black

RSVP by April 14
with menu selection

Menu Choices:

Chicken Enchiladas with rice & beans
Deluxe Beef Burrito with rice & beans
Chicken Taco salad

$18.00
Includes chips, salsa, soft drink, tip
A Note from the President

At the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 6th, I will be stepping down after 3 years as President of our League. I will not, however, be stepping off the board. Since joining the League in 2002, I have served as Voter Services Chair, PR Committee, VP Membership twice, Treasurer, and President twice. I have served on study committees – Affordable Housing, Public Transit – and on a couple National position study groups. As you can imagine, the composition of the board changes over 15 years – and I have enjoyed working with many of our members as they have served, and this board was no different. Several board members are stepping down after serving impressively in their roles. Nancy Shugrue joined our League after moving here from Omaha, Nebraska – and quickly was nominated as President – and has been our Communications Director for I can’t remember how long. I’m sure she knows how long. I’ll be taking on her position as Communications Director. Ellie Laumark has served the last three years as our VP Program. Her skills in leading the discussion panels for our meetings have been remarkable. Of course, we work together as a team to come up with ideas for meeting topics (based on input from members, and current trends) and speakers. The board retreat is exciting in that the board plans the next year’s meetings, events and ways to engage members. Muriel Haverland has served the past year as Secretary – and is a volunteer extraordinaire having served on so many boards in the Prescott area since she moved here in the early 2000’s...and not just volunteer – jumping in as President in many cases! I have appreciated her time spent on our board, with her ideas and enthusiasm.

The evolution of our League is dependent on member involvement, so as you see the volunteers who have stepped up to serve this year – please feel free to let them know how you can help them in their roles by volunteering!! We hear members say they need to know what they can do...well, helping with Membership by serving as a greeter, signing in guests, attending new member orientations, assisting with event planning, encouraging guests to join; helping with Program by assisting with a topic you are jazzed about, arranging the refreshments for a meeting, offering to write thank you letters to speakers; Secretary can be helped by offering to assist with the Bylaws Committee, revision of Member Handbook; Treasurer can be helped by volunteering for the Auditing of the books, serving on the Budget Committee for the next year’s budget; Communications – you could volunteer to take photos at meetings, help gather new member bios for the Voter, create flyers to promote meetings or events, be a contributor for our Facebook page, learn how to update our website - AND you could attend city and town council meetings, board of Supervisor meetings, transportation meetings – and reporting back to the board – and with articles for the Voter. So how’s that for a few things you could do to be more involved and engaged in our League? One last thing you could do...volunteer to be Nominating Committee Chair – or to serve on the committee.

Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting...and beyond. Oh! And five of us are attending State Convention April 28-30! Psyched to tell you all about it...

Make sure to RSVP for the Annual Meeting! Cmshaw0430@aol.com
The Nominating Committee recommends the following members for the Board of Directors:

- **President**
- **1st Vice President (Program)**
- **2nd Vice President (Membership)**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Director PR Communications**
- **Director Voter Service**
- **Director**

- Suzann Polk
- Tina Blake
- Cory Shaw
- Linda Greenberg
- Terri Farneti
- Mary Meade-Olberding
- (to be determined)

The Committee recommends the following members for the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee:

- Muriel Haverland, Chair
- Dottie Morris

(Board member to be determined)

Thank you from the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee:

- Susan Fleming, Chair
- Tina Blake
- Muriel Haverland

The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Collect and review job responsibilities of all vacant positions and provide same to committee.
2. Organize nominating committee meetings and assign recruitment work by December 31.
3. Set guidelines with the committee members for the operation of the committee.
4. Conduct exit interviews with outgoing Board members and ascertain if they were performing the stated job responsibilities and ask for ideas, opinions and duty related recommendations.
5. Inform Board of information collected in exit interviews for inclusion in annual review of organization's structure and function.
6. Discuss potential candidates with president and other Board and general members as relevant.
7. Contact agreed on potential candidates and discuss Board responsibilities, job responsibilities and the non-partisan policy.
8. Assure nominations for officers, directors and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee is sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting where voting occurs.
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS
League of Women Voters* of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive (page 8).

Voting Rights
Citizen’s Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote (page 11).


Election Process
Apportionment - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population (page 19).

Redistricting - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation (page 20).

Money in Politics - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency (page 22).

Selection of the President - Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates (page 27).

CITIZEN RIGHTS
Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation - Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making (page 28).

Individual Liberties - Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights (page 30).

Constitutional Amendment Proposals - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach (page 31).

Constitutional Conventions - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state (page 32).

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices (page 32).

Congress and the Presidency
Congress - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance (page 35).

The Presidency - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution (page 36).
Articles of interest from the Courier:

**Big changes for Prescott’s group homes**

**Industry shrinks as it responds to new rules, more investigations**
By Cindy Barks, April 17, 2017, Daily Courier

Locations of sober-living homes in Prescott. Blue dots are still active, but the orange dots have gone out of business. Use this link to enlarge map: http://prescottads.com/images/group_homes_map

Click here to view enlarged map

The group home landscape in Prescott continues to shift, city officials say, as more and more homes shut down, consolidate and change hands.

The predicted end result: The total homes in Prescott will drop to as low as one-third the number at the 2015/2016 peak.

Prescott Planning Manager George Worley reported to the Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee on Structured Sober Living Homes this past week that the city expects the number of group homes to stabilize at about 55 to 65.

That would be a dramatic drop from the 170 total that the city reported to the committee about a year ago. Some estimates at the time were as high as 200.

**New regulations**

Since then, a number of things have happened to affect the industry. First, the Arizona State Legislature approved a bill in early 2016 that allowed local governments to more strictly regulate the homes.

The new state law went into effect in August 2016 and led to approval of a new city ordinance in the fall of 2016. The ordinance, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2017, included new requirements on everything from registration to training to staffing levels.

Meanwhile, the health-insurance industry had also launched investigations into the claims coming from Prescott’s sober-living homes.

In August 2016, Dan Kreitman, director of a special investigative unit for the Centene Corporation, appeared before the ad hoc committee and reported that a team of investigators was looking into allegedly fraudulent practices of many of Prescott’s sober living homes.

Kreitman estimated at that time that as many as 100 homes in the Prescott area had closed their doors as a result of the company’s actions.

Susan Padilla, director at Prescott Sober Living, said the increased scrutiny has helped her industry.

“I do think it’s helped quite a bit, it brought the recovery community together, more than it was.”

**Declining numbers**

By summer of 2016, the city estimated that the number of sober-living homes in Prescott had dropped to about 110 — a combined result of the changes in the insurance industry, and the pending city regulations.

Then, with the Jan. 1 implementation of the city’s business license and structured sober living regulations, the numbers dropped again, according to the city.

“In the three months since the initiation of those new regulations, another 44 homes have closed or will close soon, or are no longer structured sober living homes,” Worley’s presentation stated.
He noted that city inspectors had confirmed that the homes were no longer being used as group homes, and he presented a map showing which of the homes had closed.

Overall, Worley said, 38 homes have so far submitted applications for a city license, while another seven homes have started the registration process. Another four homes are suspected of being group homes but have not been verified.

Also of the total, Worley said 15 homes have been licensed through the state and are not subject to the city’s inspections, while nine have been determined to be group homes of another type, and not structured sober-living homes.

“In all, we know of 64 structured sober living homes, with 49 being subject to city regulation,” Worley’s presentation stated. He told the committee: “We expect it to level out somewhere between 55 and 65.”

With the homes averaging between six and eight residents, Worley said the total sober-living residents in Prescott at any time would be about 450. “That is just over 1 percent of Prescott’s population of 42,000,” he added.

**Industry shifts**

Central to the changes in Prescott’s group home industry were a number of consolidations and changes in ownership.

For instance, Worley said the Royal Life Services company had recently purchased several of Prescott’s major group home companies, including Chapter 5 and Solutions.

Peter Thomas, the former executive director of Chapter 5, told the committee that new owner Royal Life Services had taken over management of the facilities, and that his last day on the job was March 31.

Thomas, who served as an industry liaison to the ad hoc committee, commended the city for its handling of the group home situation.

Worley told the committee that Royal Life Services has been in contact with the city about moving much of its operation to a medical-office complex at 1040 Whipple Street, near the Miller Valley School building.

As that occurs, he said he expects the former homes used by Chapter 5 to be “repurposed as residential homes.”

The presentation stated: “Two of the larger structured sober-living home operators in Prescott have begun, or expressed a desire to, eliminate the use of single-family homes from their treatment models in favor of consolidating their clients in multifamily settings. If this trend continues, the number of structured sober living homes in residential neighborhoods will further decline.”

In conclusion, Worley called the ongoing changes in the industry “a fairly significant trend.” While the city’s new regulations played a major role in that trend, he added, “A big part of it was the change in the insurance industry.”

*Follow Cindy Barks on Twitter @Cindy_Barks. Reach her at 928-445-3333, ext. 2034, or cbarks@prescottaz.com.*
Legislators face restrained audience at April 1 LWV forum

By Sue Tone, April 8, 2017, Daily Courier

For the most part, the three state legislators who spoke at the Legislators Forum at Yavapai College on April 1 were able to answer questions without receiving the type of disparaging response from the audience that some have faced across the country.

The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County and the Association of American University Women sponsored the forum. Members and the public submitted questions prior to the forum, which did not include audience participation. Legislators did not know the questions in advance, but were aware of the topics.

Moderator Ellie Laumark said, even with duplication in questions, she generated 22 topics, too many for the 1.5-hour forum. Some topics that did not reach the floor were background checks for gun sales, sanctuary cities, Medicaid expansion, funding for community colleges, and the Arizona Corporation Commission and dark money.

The theme running throughout one was frustration with the state for sweeping money that is supposed to go towards roads and schools, and how the budget can cover services and programs.


**State v local control**

A few answers elicited rumblings from the audience and, at one point, a couple of boos.

A question about state versus local control included examples of Prescott’s ordinance on sober living homes, Tucson’s desire to destroy confiscated guns, and Flagstaff’s attempt at banning plastic bags.

Rep. David Stringer replied that he didn’t like overregulation, and he explained the relationship between cities and state and between states and the federal government. With regard to plastic bags, he said there needs to be consistent policies across the state, and then quickly reacted to boos from the back of the room.

“You people are the most rude people. You don’t want to listen,” he said, passing the microphone to Campbell, who reminded the audience that he, Stringer and Fann were there participating “in good faith.”

Campbell said he believes in local control as a general rule, but if state statutes require cities to sell confiscated guns, then state statute controls that issue.

Fann said she was a huge supporter of local control. She also talked about her six-year effort to ban texting while driving for Class G driver’s license holders. Some municipalities have a texting ban, but it is not statewide, which can confuse drivers traveling from one municipality to another.

**Planned Parenthood**

All three legislators said they support the health services Planned Parenthood offers to women and men. However, Campbell said he believes, especially after watching videos, the organization can get along without federal money. “I believe Planned Parenthood should stand on its own merit and not take federal money.”

Fann and Stringer both said they oppose abortion.
“I applaud birth control and support Planned Parenthood for the good they do. The issue I have is I do not believe our taxpayer money should fund abortion,” Fann said to which several members of the audience shouted, “They don’t.”

Tayler Tucker, public relations for Planned Parenthood Arizona, clarified the funding question by telephone on April 6. The Hyde Amendment of 1976 does not allow federal funds to cover abortion except to save the life of the woman or in extreme circumstances such as rape or incest.

Also, it is Medicaid that reimburses the organization; it is not a budget line item and cannot be “defunded.”

“People are covered under Medicaid. They choose a provider, come here, get billed for services, we bill Medicaid and get reimbursed up to 90 percent,” Tucker said.

Education funding

Fann would like to see a solution to low teacher pay that isn’t a “Band-Aid.” She supports a continuation of Prop 301 money (and increasing it from 0.6 to 1 percent) to pay for full-day kindergarten.

Campbell said stronger school policies with discipline problems would make it easier for teachers to teach, and that school boards determine where funds are spent, not legislators.

“We need people without kids in school to keep an eye how districts spend their money,” he said.

Stringer, a strong proponent for school choice, supports higher teacher pay and Prop. 301 at 0.6 percent, not 1 percent, although he may end up supporting the full 1 percent, he said. He does not, however, equate student achievement with dollars. He supports the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) voucher system, calling it an efficient way to educate students. “It’s good for some students, but not for every kid. It takes parental involvement.”

Fann said students with special needs remove between $14,000 and $19,000 per student when they choose ESA over local public school districts.

Following the meeting, Stringer said he was glad the audience was able to resume listening, and that he was not offended by the response to some of his answers.

Nearly 500 new apartments planned in Prescott

Prescott P&Z recommends OK of new complex on White Spar Road

By Cindy Barks, April 16, 2017, Daily Courier

Editor’s Note - This is the first in an ongoing series of articles highlighting “Trends: Living Spaces” in the greater Prescott area.

Apartment hunting in Prescott could become dramatically easier in coming months and years, as a total of nearly 500 new rental units continue to move through the design and development process.

This past week, the Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the latest apartment project: A 42-unit complex at 1257 White Spar Road, which would take the place of the former Pine Haven Mobile Home Park.

The project still needs water-allocation approval from the Prescott City Council, but property owner Randy Goodman said he hopes to have all of the necessary approvals in place by the end of the summer.
“I want to push forward on this project,” Goodman said after the April 13 meeting, pointing out that the 2.8-acre parcel on White Spar has been vacant for more than a year – ever since the old mobile homes were moved out of the area, and the residents relocated.

If approved, the Pine Haven project (possibly under a new name) would join three other major apartment complexes that have received recent city approval: A 160-unit project on Willow Creek Road; a 200-unit complex off Willow Lake Road; and a 70-unit workforce housing project on Miller Valley Road.

City Planning Manager George Worley pointed out that two other projects, which could add a total of about 225 more units, are currently in the pre-application process as well, although formal applications have yet to be filed.

**Shifting trends**

The influx of new apartment projects is a shift from the previous housing market in Prescott, which had long been focused more on single-family homes.

Development of apartments “was very quiet for a long time,” Prescott Water Resources Manager Leslie Graser said.

That reportedly led to a tight apartment market.

While Graser attributes the influx in new apartment project applications largely to market forces, a previous clarification of the city’s water policy on workforce housing likely played a part as well.

In 2016, the Prescott City Council clarified that the water it had set aside for workforce housing could be allocated to apartment complexes.

At around the same time, the number of inquiries about new multi-family projects swelled. Graser told the Planning and Zoning Commission in December 2016 that nearly 1,000 new apartment units were then on the books.

“It is kind of what the market was doing,” she said this past week, while noting as well that the city’s 2016 water policy had “opened up the opportunity for multi-family.”

**Analysis sought**

That situation ended this year, however, when the workforce-housing category was eliminated in the city’s 2017 water policy.

“There were so many apartments on the books,” Graser said. And with the city’s limited supplies of water, the questions arose: “Should all the water be going to apartments? Does that make sense?”

Those questions led the council to seek a housing study to be conducted within the year.

The 2017 water policy states: “The city shall prepare a report assessing inventories and demands for apartments and other housing types within the city limits.”

The findings of that study are expected to be reported to the council “as input for the calendar-year 2018 alternative water policy and budget.”

Noting that discussions about the housing study have taken place mostly at the staff level to date, Graser was uncertain when the matter would go to the council for further discussion.

But, she said, the study is expected to take place in 2017, and it likely would require the use of a consultant.

**Current projects**

Worley pointed out that the four recently approved apartment projects are in various stages of the
approval and development process.

The new project at 3149 Willow Creek Road, for instance, is in the final building stages. Worley said the project is about one month away from final city inspections, after which the complex could open for business.

The other projects include:

• A 200-unit Prescott Lakes Village complex at 2051 Willow Lake Road – recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission in September 2016. The project is planned to be located near the Willow Lake Road/Prescott Lakes Parkway intersection, in place of the Dells View Mobile Home Park.

• The 70-unit workforce Creek View Village planned at 510 Miller Valley Road, next to the McDonald’s restaurant, which was approved by the Prescott City Council in December 2016.

Worley said the project is still awaiting word on its application to the state for a tax credit for a workforce-housing status. At a 2016 meeting, a spokesman for the developer said the apartments – with the tax-credit designation – are expected to rent in the $450-to-$600-per-month-range.

• The 42-unit Pine Haven project on White Spar Road, which is being planned as 12 two-bedroom units with no garage, and 30 two-bedroom units with garage.

The project requires a total allocation of 10.5 acre-feet of water. It already has a historical right to 7.5 acre-feet from the previous mobile-home park, and would require an additional 3 acre-feet from the city.

Once the project gets the necessary approvals, Goodman said the complex likely would take about a year and a half to complete.

Also of interest:

**Constitutional Rights and Public Interest Groups Oppose Calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention**

April 14, 2017

Calling a new constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution is a threat to every American’s constitutional rights and civil liberties.

Article V convention proponents and wealthy special interest groups are dangerously close to forcing the calling of a constitutional convention to enact a federal balanced budget amendment (BBA). This would be the first constitutional convention since the original convention in 1787 — all constitutional amendments since then have been passed first by Congress and then approved by three-fourths of the state legislatures. There are no rules and guidelines in the U.S. Constitution on how a convention would work, which creates an opportunity for a runaway convention that could rewrite any constitutional right or protection currently available to American citizens.

Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the states (34) petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. States can also rescind their calls by voting to rescind in the state legislature. Just a few states short of reaching the constitutionally-required 34 states to
call a convention, Article V and BBA advocates have recently increased their efforts to call a new convention.

An Article V convention is a dangerous threat to the U.S. Constitution, our democracy, and our civil rights and liberties. There is no language in the U.S. Constitution to limit a convention to one issue and there is reason to fear that a convention once called will be able to consider any amendments to the constitution that the delegates want to consider. There are also no guidelines or rules to govern a convention. Due to the lack of provisions in the Constitution and lack of historical precedent, it is unknown how delegates to a convention would be picked, what rules would be in place, what would happen in the case of legal disputes, what issues would be raised, how the American people would be represented, and how to limit the influence of special interests in a convention.

Because there is no way to limit a convention’s focus, any constitutional issue could be brought up for revision by a convention. This includes civil rights and civil liberties, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, privacy rights, the guarantee of equal protection under law, the right to vote, immigration issues, and the right to counsel and a jury trial, among others. Basic separation of executive, legislative, and judicial powers would be subject to revision as well. A convention might not preserve the role of the courts in protecting our constitutional rights. Even the supremacy of federal law and the Constitution over state laws could be called into doubt.

A 2016 USA Today editorial correctly stated that calling for a constitutional convention is “an invitation to constitutional mayhem” and “could further poison our politics and hobble American leaders at moments of crisis.” Notable legal scholars across the political spectrum agree. One of the nation’s most esteemed constitutional law scholars, Professor Laurence Tribe of Harvard Law School, has said a constitutional convention would put “the whole Constitution up for grabs.”

Georgetown University Law professor David Super wrote “a constitutional convention would circumvent one of the proudest democratic advances of the last century in America: one-person, one-vote. Without a precedent, no one really knows how a convention would unfold, but proponents predict that each state would have an equal vote in whatever they got up to.”

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger shared similar concerns, writing, “[T]here is no way to effectively limit or muzzle the actions of a constitutional convention. The convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the convention to one amendment or one issue, but there is no way to assure that the convention would obey.”


The League of Women Voters is just one of a number of organizations that strongly urges state legislatures to oppose efforts to pass a resolution to call for a constitutional convention. We also strongly urge state legislatures to rescind any application for an Article V constitutional convention in order to protect all Americans’ constitutional rights and privileges from being put at risk and up for grabs.
Membership in the LWV is open to any person 18 and over who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the LWVUS. Dues for 2017-2018 cover payment for local ($16.00), state ($13), and national ($31.00) memberships.

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
City/Zip: ___________________________________________
Phone: ____________________ Fax: _____________________
Email: _____________________________________________

Note type of membership, and make check to “LWVCYC”:
$60/Yr Individual Membership
$90/Yr Household Membership

Plus suggested donation:
$_________ Contribution to League (not tax deductible)
$_________ *Contribution to Education Fund (tax deductible)
*Donations to the LWVAZ Education Fund must be made by separate check, to preserve tax deductibility. This supports our Webpage and Voter Service activities. Thank you!

Both new and renewal members, please include this form with your check.
New: _________ Renewal: ________

OR

Be a “Friend” of LWVCYC (non-voting):
$50/Yr Individual or $75/Yr Household
(open to businesses and individuals)

Please mail this form and all checks to:

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