

LWVCYC --- The League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County

Our League Charter was established on September 30, 1994, by fifteen individuals interested in focusing on non-partisan political engagement. Charter members: Audrey Gilbreath, President; Lori Connelly, Sandy Cousins, Donna Davis, Emily Ellis, Judy Gillings, Nancy Hinson, Layne Longfellow, Catherine Nelson, Edward Nelson, Mabel Spear, Rossi Voss, Sharon Wadsworth, Dorothy Williams, and Sue Lynch who served in the Arizona State Legislature.

Upon becoming an Arizona provisional League on May 19, 1995, we immediately began work on fulfilling the requirements to become an official league. During this provisional period, we were required to adopt a budget, policies and procedures, recruited new members and established ourselves as a functioning league. On May 19, 1998, we formally became the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County.

*The LWVCYC is proud to continue the work started by Suffragettes Pauline O'Neil and Frances Munds. The city of Prescott is well aware of the historical impact of Bucky O'Neil to our town and the state of Arizona. What is not well know it that his wife, Pauline O'Neil, was a leader in the suffrage movement as the first president of the Arizona Suffrage Association in 1899. **

*Frances Munds came to Prescott in 1893 when her husband was appointed deputy sheriff to George Ruffner. Frances became involved in the Arizona Equal Suffrage Association in 1903, where she served as president from 1909 to 1912. During her tenure, the women on Arizona won the right to vote in 1912. In 1913, she was appointed the representative to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance in Budapest, Hungary. **

Elisabeth Ruffner came to Prescott in 1940 at the age of 20 as the bride of Lester "Budge" Ruffner. She immediately became involved in the Prescott community. Elisabeth founded the Yavapai Regional Medical Center. She believed in strong civic engagement and helped establish Prescott Good Governance in the 1970s. In 2015, Elisabeth Ruffner and Sandra Day O'Connor were inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. Elisabeth was a member of the League of Women Voters of Central Yavapai County from July 1996, until her passing in 2019.

Our League has a history of community involvement. Our members have been leaders in helping homeless, veterans, hungry children, the juvenile justice center, the Boys and Girls Club, as well as other prominent leadership programs. In 2017, we partnered with Yavapai College Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) to expand our community involvement. We co-sponsor several presentations with Arizona Association of University Women (AAUW), Save Our Schools (SOS), and Prescott Good Governance to name a few. Our league has conducted candidate forums for Mayoral and Town Council elections for Prescott, Chino Valley, and Dewey-Humboldt. Our Communications Director produce a monthly newsletter, *The Voter*, to keep our members and our community informed. We have utilized community events on the Prescott Courthouse Square to highlight our League's activities. Our Directors of Voter Services ensures we have a presence at these and other organizations' events in addition to the local farmers market, libraries, and schools. All members of our Board of Directors continue the tradition of being active in the communities we serve by highlighting issues important to our local populations. Our League continues the critical focus of registering and informing voters to advance our mission of *Making Democracy Work*.

The communities included in our League are: Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, and Mayer.

**Obtained from archival records at Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott, AZ*