

*I weep for the liberty of my country when I see at this early day of its successful experiment that corruption has been imputed to many members of the House of Representatives, and the rights of the people have been bartered for promises of office.*

**Andrew Jackson**

## Betty Stauffer, Executive Director, Speaks on Literacy Connects

Betty has been the Executive Director of Literacy Connects since it was formed on July 1, 2011. Before that she was the Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Tucson since June 2002. Literacy Connects was formed when five well-established literacy organizations in Southern Arizona merged to create one innovative organization. The overarching mission of Literacy Connects is to open a world of possibilities to people of all ages through literacy and creative arts programs. Together these programs have 97 years of experience and annually serve more than 46,000 people in Tucson, Pima County and Southern Arizona.

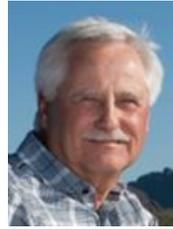
Betty has lived in Tucson since 2000 having moved here from Cleveland, Ohio. She is a social worker and was the Executive Director of a transitional housing program for homeless families for 10 years in Cleveland. She loves working in literacy because it is addressing one of the root causes of homelessness and poverty both of which have been her professional focus for 25 years.

Betty is the mother of 2 grown children and the grandmother of 3 delightful, precocious and adorable little boys.

## SAVE THE DATE: Upcoming DOV Holiday Party

Each year DOV sponsors a "Holiday Party." Please plan to reserve Monday, December 11th on your calendars for our DOV Holiday Party. The party will be at El Charro Café, 7725 N. Oracle Road, from 5 PM to 7 PM. The cost will be \$20.00 for the plated meal of your choice plus the delicious holiday cake. We will also have a fun holiday raffle so bring your extra dollars. The DOV Holiday party flyer will be in the November DOV Newsletter. Keep an eye out for it.

## Ralph's Race



The Atchue for Senate campaign team and PCs across LD11 have been extremely busy in 2017. We are committed to putting Pima County Democratic Chair, Jo Holt's plan into action: GROW THE GRASS ROOTS! Thanks so much to everyone who took part and continue to work on this vital project!

Since January 2017 we have knocked on the doors of thousands of LD11 Democrats. We've spoken at many LD11 Democratic Club meetings, written Letters to the Editor in several newspapers and worked with PC Committees to help make their local projects successful. The results have made all the hard work worth while! Club attendance and Democratic energy continue to build!

Now that we've launched our Pinal and Pima County Atchue for Senate Campaign - we'll be working to get petition signatures and collect \$5 Clean Elections contributions. We will also continue to focus on building LD11 clubs and Growing the Grass Roots throughout 2017.

I want to give a special shout-out to the work led by John Trainor and Debbie Broome in Arizona City/Casa Grande. They are publishing a PC newsletter with a distribution of 1200 - 1400 Democrats in Pinal County LD11 each month (hand delivered to doors). This project alone should drive voter turnout beyond previous historic levels. They are truly committed to: #ElectDemocrats!

Thanks for your continued support! The work we do now will pay off in 2018!!

Ralph Atchue

P.S. Since I'm running as a Clean Elections candidate, I'm asking you to consider contributing to the Hollace Lyon for AZ House campaign after you've given me a \$5!. We must do all we can to elect LD11 Democrats!!

## Don't judge schools on AzMERIT scores alone

I think we can all agree that assessing our students is very important to measure the achievement and progress students are making. But there are some strong attributes we must understand when comparing and contrasting student and school districts assessment data. First and foremost we must respect the fact that a letter grade does not symbolize the character of a student nor portray the entire picture of a school. When comparing different schools, the socio-economic aspects and demographics of each must be taken into consideration. It is unfair to judge them otherwise. Even though the AzMERIT assessment is a major component of the letter grade system, it is not the most important. The most important qualities of a school are its culture and climate, in conjunction with leadership, staff and students.

**Dustin Williams**

*Pima County Schools Superintendent*

*Letter to the Editor Arizona Daily Star*

**It's not too late to pay your DOV dues, still only \$20!**

## Let's Talk Fiscal Responsibility!

By Hollace Lyon, Colonel, USAF (ret.)



It's about getting what we pay for, and we haven't been.

The longer the austerity charade by the Legislature goes on, the more comes out about how the past eight budgets passed by the Legislature have given away our tax dollars.

First, we all know that the Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) were "swept" (a euphemism for robbed) during the recession. However, that recession has been over for several years now, and yet, the Legislature has only restored 60 percent of them to most of the counties in Arizona. If you think Thornydale is bad (and it is), you should go up to Mammoth on Hwy 77!

In Pinal County, we're being asked to vote on two propositions to fund highway maintenance and construction but "I already paid for those roads with my gas taxes and other fees that are being spent on 'trickle down' magic that never worked."

Did you know that while the Legislature was taking school funding away to offset the 1 cent sales tax we voted to give public schools, it was also taking money out of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement Fund? That one didn't make as big of a splash in the papers, but it was there. Our firefighters and peace officers were deprived of \$400 million from their retirement fund!

A couple of weeks ago, another historical transgression was revealed by the *AZ Capitol Times*. Gov. Brewer began, and Gov. Ducey continued, taking funds, almost \$275 million, out of the state employees' Health Insurance Trust Fund--their health care insurance pool of monies. Now, the state told employees they were going to have to pay a higher premium for their health insurance because the fund needs to be recharged. Where did those hard-earned dollars go, that were supposed to be available for employees' health care costs?

That's the real rub. Arizona has an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion, yet our Legislature has more than \$13 billion in tax giveaways to corporations, with no expiration date on them! Some of those "loopholes" are really old, and we aren't getting our return on investment anymore. Let's investigate that! Let's take some of these companies off their gravy train and start demanding we get what we pay for!

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### Letter: Public education is under siege

Re: the Sept. 12 article "Regents' chief fires back in tiff on tuition."

It is absolutely insane to think that the Board of Regents has any control over how much the Legislature gives them to fund education. Sue the governor and state legislature NOT the Board of Regents. The governor and legislators have no respect for teachers or education in Arizona and as a retired educator, I am appalled that we allow this debacle to continue.

Our governor is giving huge tax cuts to corporations and gives nothing to education. We are at the mercy of Betsy DeVos and the Koch brothers. We the tax payers do not want vouchers that will fund private schools and for-profit charter schools at the expense of public schools. We do not want the Koch brothers funding a University of Arizona and ASU program that we the tax payers must also fund. Save our schools!

**Rachel Rulmyr**

*Oro Valley*

*Letter to the Editor Arizona Daily Star*

#### OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

##### HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food to our monthly meetings.

*If everyone brings only one or two items it will add up to a significant contribution!*

The Dems of Oro Valley care about the well-being of our less fortunate friends.

##### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Thanks to all of you who support our brave troops.

***Please bring any of these items to DOV for distribution to disabled veterans: deodorant, shaving items, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pocket novels and paper back puzzle books.***

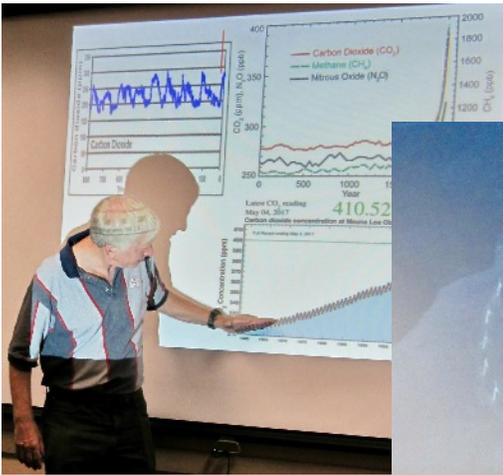
*Please – no candy.*

#### November meeting

Monday  
November 13, 2017  
7 pm • OV Library

**Greer Warren on  
Arizona Civics**

Come early at 6:45 and socialize! Meet new friends!



# Climate Change and Weird Weather

Democrats of Oro Valley  
Sep. 11, 2017

Jeffrey S. Kargel  
Department of Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Arizona



Photos Courtesy of Kay Carlson & Bob Samuels