

"If American women would increase their voting turnout by ten percent, I think we would see an end to all of the budget cuts in programs benefitting women and children."

Coretta Scott King

Serving Democrats in Oro Valley and Greater Northwest Tucson

WELCOME

Regina Suitt will speak on basic adult education and literacy's effect on the economy.

Regina Suitt has been an educator for over 20 years in both secondary and adult education. Inspired by her mother, an immigrant to the U.S., Regina was the first in her family to finish college.

With a Bachelor Degree in English from Iowa State University and a Master of Education from Northern Arizona University, Regina started her career working and living on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, teaching English to high school students. She then moved on to teach GED in the Pima County Jail for 8 years.

She is now the Advanced Program Manager of Pima College Adult Education's Community Programs which serves over 3,000 students yearly and include Community Classes, the Civics and Citizenship Program, the Volunteer Program, and the Workplace Education Program. The Workplace Education Program has been recognized by the State of Arizona as a model program and is one of six exemplary Workplace Education programs nationwide.

Greetings from Representative Nancy Young Wright

March finds the pace picking up at the Legislature. We are almost ready to "switch" bills with the Senate, and the number of bills heading to the floor for a vote is steadily increasing. The level of debate on bills is increasing, and the email arrives in a steady flow from all directions. Meetings continue daily on the budget and I remain hopeful that a reasonable compromise will come from these meetings.



I'm learning what it feels like to experience the excitement that comes with the promise of a hearing, and the reality that accompanies the withdrawal of that promised hearing. It simply "goes with the territory." I'm learning what it's like to live in two towns but remain focused on the needs of our district, which has been my home for 24 years. One needs to adjust to the noise level of Phoenix, for example, and the presence of so much green grass and concrete, which is different from the Sonoran Desert setting we are so fortunate to enjoy in Tucson.

One issue I'm following closely is the Arroyo Grande proposal for the 9,000 acres of State Land north of Oro Valley. I have serious concerns about the proposal as it stands due to unanswered questions about the availability of water, the impact on the wildlife corridor, and the effect on our transportation system. I want to be sure that we get what we see in the planning process, that the water supply is sustainable, and that we have a concurrency policy that would provide for the schools, parks, and law enforcement needs that would result from the new development. We as a community need to fully understand the costs associated with the proposal in order to evaluate it. There is certainly no need to rush this plan through.

Other issues I'm following relate to the needs of our children, our schools, our disabled population, our seniors, and our environment. I'll be working hard to ensure that the 10 million dollars appropriated in 2004 to help build a veteran's home in Tucson is safe.

Thanks again to the Democrats of Oro Valley for providing this forum, and for the excellent work that you are all doing to make our community a better place.

I'll close by reflecting on the great honor that it is to serve my district and the people of Arizona, and on the excellent service of former Representative Saradnik which provides a foundation for my work today. I appreciate all of you who have taken the time to contact me and encourage you to continue.

Due to the volume of email, please indicate in the message line that it relates to Legislative District 26, or just call 1-800-352-8404 and leave a message.

DOV 2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Renew or join at Monday's March 10th general meeting and get a FREE raffle ticket for a beautiful blue Daisy-Diamond Glass Flask, a reproduction from the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.



See Chris Dayton at our general meeting or mail your check for \$12 to: Democrats of Oro Valley, P.O. Box 68186, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

The Time to Renew is Now...

...for only \$12, DOV provides excellent guest speakers, candidate forums on topical issues, a newsletter and timely email info.

Members can register to vote, become a precinct committeeperson, or just enjoy the company of like minded individuals.

We comprise 25% of the precincts in LD 26. Help get Democrats elected in our district. We were nominated for AZ Democratic Club of the year. Our newsletter was called "one of the best Democrats' newsletter in Arizona." Our officers were recognized by the Pima County Democrats as outstanding volunteers.

DOV has 130 members. In this election year, we need you to renew and to encourage others to join. To tackle local, state and national issues we need your help .

VA VOLUNTEERS, ON-CALL

The Veteran's Hospital gets more requests for short-term volunteers for special projects than it can fulfill since the regular volunteers are already allocated. Volunteer Service is starting an On-Call Volunteer Program for people who cannot do regular volunteering, but could be called upon occasionally when there is a need. If you are interested in being added to the on-call list please call Betty Hughes at 818-0177.

THANKS FROM OUR VETS!

Donations from DOV members enabled us to purchase 15 winter jackets to add to the ones donated for needy vets. DOV received a letter of thanks from the VA in Tucson.

Thanks also to all of you who continue to support our troops. Keep up the good work and continue to bring donations of tooth-paste, hand soap, envelopes and pocket novels to our meetings.

Call Pat Kinsman, 544-7886

HELP LOCALLY

Catalina Food Bank needs non-perishable foods: bring at least a can or two. Clean out your closets and bring along any used clothing and/or blankets that you can give away to the Clothing Bank. DOV delivers them!

DOV General Meetings

2nd MONDAY of the month at the
Oro Valley Public Library
(Naranja & La Cañada).

Socialize 6:45, meeting 7:00.

April meeting, Monday, April 14

Ken Lamberton, Author of *Time of Grace: Thoughts on Nature, Family, and the Politics of Crime and Punishment*, and *Wilderness and Razor Wire: A Naturalist's Observations from Prison*.

Double Our Population? But Not Our Water!

ORO VALLEY is a beautiful southwestern town, so wouldn't doubling our population make us twice as lovely?

Many think we would rather keep our open spaces, our clean air, our desert plants and wildlife — even our inadequate water supply that we know will not last forever!

Yet the OV Council wants to invite 30,000 people — or more — to join us at the same dwindling well. How can anyone overlook the fact that our aquifer is not growing and our dry climate is probably going to get drier?

Apparently Oro Valley's Council can. They passed a motion on Wednesday evening, 3-5-08, to initiate an amendment to our General Plan that would make way for the annexation of 9,000 acres of State Land. This new part of town, known as "Arroyo Grande," is mapped to extend from north of Sun City to the border of Pinal County. It will likely spill over into Pinal County following a subsequent amendment. There is no evidence that OV will provide for the protection of open-space, wildlife corridors or riparian areas. OV gives lip-service "sound-bites" to these issues but thus far does nothing to protect these areas.

Representatives from the AZ State Lands Department have introduced their "Conceptual Plan" to residents and interested neighbors. Most citizens we know report that the State Land Department "overview" has been long on self-praise and short on detail, except on the subject of housing with which they seem particularly well-versed. The exact number of new dwelling units to be built in Arroyo Grande trips from their tongues as smooth as silk: 15,964. Ask where the water is going to come from and you hit a wall of silence and prevarication. Ask about schools or how Oracle Road is going to handle double the number of cars and the SLD reps become tongue-tied.

Audience members felt that they were being deliberately lulled by non-answers and assurances that

this is too far in the future for any of us to be really concerned. This method, which we've experienced before, demonstrates how a fuzzy, vague idea is deliberately kept vague until it rather suddenly becomes a "done deal." Then we are told there's nothing we can do.

We can't let it happen again. We must stand our ground and get real answers. For one thing, we can pass some initiatives holding Oro Valley's Mayor and Council accountable for providing full disclosure. A newly formed group known as OVCRG or "Oro Valley Citizens for Responsible Growth" has initiatives in the works and is being vetted by a law firm. Look for the initiatives' binding petitions to appear in the near future and sign them, helping Oro Valley to serve the people instead of the special interests.

You can begin to help by circulating petitions. We will need 1,200 registered Oro Valley voters to sign each petition and the initiatives will become law, a law that will compel the town to provide the water and the roads and the clean air and the wildlife corridors and open space that we need to keep our home a place to be proud of.

We all need to talk to our friends and neighbors. We all need to write letters. We all need to make ourselves known and we can form a coalition to prove that the power lies in the hands of the people. If you haven't yet voted, vote for Salette Latas for Council.

We need a better Council for a better Oro Valley.

We must force certain issues if we are going to have full transparency and disclosure, both very democratic ideals.

We all need to insist we will be heard. Oro Valley Council's track record for evasion and obscuring important issues is too well known to be ignored.

Please call Kathy Pastryk at 878-0256 for more information on what else you can do or email her at kathypastryk@comcast.net.