

February's Hot Topic PROJECT VOTE SMART

Vicky Kleinman has visited and will talk about this nationwide non-partisan organization.

At a unique research center located high in the Montana Rockies and far from the partisan influences of Washington, the staff, interns, and volunteers are working hard to strengthen the most essential component of democracy – access to information. Project Vote Smart is a non-partisan, nonprofit educational organization funded exclusively through individual contributions and philanthropic foundations.

This project is an historic undertaking. Citizens come together, not in selfish interest or to support one candidate over another, but to defend democracy. It is an extraordinary gathering of people committed to one purpose: to strengthen the most essential component of democracy -- access to information -- even as it suffers grave attacks from candidates and political parties, many who are now willing to manipulate information and deceive voters.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 17TH

FUN LUNCH WITH VICKY KLEINMAN at Michael's Restaurant, Christiana PROJECT VOTE SMART



Following the buffet lunch, our speaker was Vicky Kleinman, a member of the LWNCC Board and a member of Project Vote Smart. Several diners knew nothing about this amazing source of information for voters, and all found the pictures and first-hand information fascinating and helpful.

Vicky, along with former LWV member Mary Herr, has Volunteered to gathering political research out at the beautiful Montana ranch, the headquarters of Vote Smart, where student interns and volunteers work for periods ranging from a couple of weeks to months at a time.

Vote Smart was started in 1986 by Richard Kimble, as a source of information to help voters.

Goldwater, Carter, Ford, and McGovern, as “founding board members” and political opposites helped establish the idea that this is a determinedly non-partisan organization. Politically identified Board members must join with a political “opposite”. Project Vote Smart [The staff, interns and volunteers] refuse support from special interest groups or from any group either supporting or opposing a specific candidate.

Facts on Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial and State Legislative candidates [Legislatures] are available prior to any national or state election. Call 888 Vote Smart or click on www.votesmart.org to find information on a candidate, including biographies, campaign financial facts, voting records, issue and interest positions, and public statements, as well as interest groups assessments of those running for office.

Helen Hales Hoffmann, Voter Service Coordinator