City takes the prize at first civics challenge

Residents elected the right people, or the experience of being elected paid off.

Either way, the city of Sedona team was crowned the winner of the Sedona Civics Challenge held Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Yavapai College Sedona Campus.

Four teams came to the tables for the final two rounds of the challenge which began the week before.

The city first had to defeat Rotary Club of Sedona. The city had changed out a couple team members, keeping Vice Mayor Mark DiNunzio and adding Councilwoman Jessica Williamson and Mayor Sandy Moriarity. After a heated first few rounds, the city pulled ahead of its opponent, which was led by former city manager Tim Ernster.

Each round consisted of 15 questions, divided evenly among city, state and federal groups. Both teams held up a card to correspond with what they thought to be the correct multiple choice answer. Points were then distributed, with more points going out later in the round.

As well as Rotary clubs did the week prior, they lost out on Feb. 18. Rotary Club of Sedona Red Rocks fell to the Sedona Red Rock High School team, leaving the school and the city to face off.

The final round proved to be no runaway for the city, though, and each of the three matches had tense moments of close scores.

The event was put on by the League of Women Voters, Verde Valley chapter, the Other Lifelong Learning Institute and the Northern Arizona University Philosophy in the Public Interest program.

At such, the league took the opportunity point out it timed 96. Member Barbara Littell again emphasized the importance of voting — the registration deadline for the primary had yet to pass — and had been the night's scorekeeper. The goal of the night was to increase education on matters of local to U.S. politics and legal processes.

It was also time to celebrate another birthday. Ernster's, who said he wouldn't rather be doing anything else or almost anything, he added.

Check each group's website for more information on it.

— Andrew Paradis
Lincoln Newspapers

ROTARY CLUB OF SEDONA RED ROCKS faced off against Sedona Red Rock High School before losing in the first Sedona Civics Challenge Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Yavapai College Sedona Center. Both Rotary teams would lose after advancing from the first round the week before.

THE CITY OF SEDONA TEAM, made up of Councilwoman Jessica Williamson, Mayor Sandy Moriarity and Vice Mayor Mark DiNunzio, from left, defeated SRHS to take the crown as the Sedona Civics Challenge first victor.