



LWV/LACounty

An Interleague Organization

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Interleague Organization — Antelope Valley • Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area • Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula-San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org

LWVLACounty@msn.com

August/September/October 2015

Calendar 2015

Sat. Sept 26	Fall League Day	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 N Lake Ave. Pasadena
Oct 7	LWV LACounty Board meeting		
November 3	Election Day – local election	All Day	At Your Polling Place
Nov 4	LWV LACounty Board meeting		
December 2	LWV LACounty Board meeting		
January 30	Winter League Day		

Inside this issue...

President's Message	-----	Page 2
Popovers Write-Up	-----	Page 3,4
Fall League Day Flyer	-----	Page 5
Human Trafficking Report	-----	Page 6
Tri-League Program Flyer	-----	Page 7
LA County Facts	-----	Page 8
Robotics	-----	Page 9
Our Leagues on Social Media	-----	Page 9
Make It Fair Flyer	-----	Page 10

From the President's Desk...

We had a great Summer League Day in Pasadena.. Evaluation forms showed high ratings for the day. People liked their workshops, thought lunch was tasty – including the traditional popovers, of course - and very much enjoyed our speaker. Thanks to our excellent workshop presenters, to Sandra Trutt and Dorothy Stewart for organizing the venue and registration, and to Lola Ungar for chairing the day. And, of course, special thanks to Supervisor Kuehl for joining us.

Local Leagues are now busy with local elections in November. Some Leagues will face several races. Our Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) activities are especially important in this election . These are the offices and measure that most directly affect our communities and the lives of the voters. Don't forget to encourage League and community members to use SmartVoter.org for election information. The County's Fall League Day on September 26 will be helpful in organizing elections activities for November – especially GOTV. (Flyer in this Voter)

We have studies coming up: the County League study on Vote by Mail, the LWVC study on Higher Education, and the LWVUS study on Money in Politics.. Keep checking the LWV websites for information on these studies

As you plan for the coming months, please save time for program planning. We will be doing national, county and local planning this year. County results will be due in February and state results will be close to that time frame.

Don't forget to send in articles for the County Voter on activities your LLs have undertaken. Sharing our successes is important.

Nancy

Nancy Mahr
nlmahr@verizon.net



POPOVERS in PASADENA

by Joan Arias, Harriet Chase, Jan Nathanson, *Beach Cities LWV*

On Saturday, July 18, 2015, more than a hundred members of the League of Women Voters gathered in the Women's City Club in Pasadena for the annual Popovers in Pasadena. After a brief welcome, introductions and announcements, including the announcement of September 26, 2015 as the fall County meeting, the group attended workshops on Studies, Action/Advocacy and Voting Basics.

The Studies workshop covered a great deal of information. Pat Colby, Education Chair, LWV Palos Verdes/San Pedro, moderated and participated on the panel that included Ellen Taylor (LWV Claremont), Joanne Leavitt (LWVC), and Harriet Chase (LWVBC). Ellen Taylor explained how to conduct a Local LWV Study. Joanne Leavitt told about the two new LWVUS studies: Constitutional Amendment Study and a Review & Update of the Campaign Finance Position. She also covered how the Higher Education Study evolved and explained the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. Pat Colby gave background information about the members on the State Higher Education Planning Committee and talked about what has changed since the inception of the Master Plan. Harriet Chase explained the formation of a Tri-League Local Study Committee (Beach Cities, Torrance Area and Palos Verdes). The session ended with a lively group discussion about the challenges to the Master Plan today.

The Action/Advocacy session was a shortened repeat of an April Advocacy meeting, with 3 of the 6 groups who participated in the April meeting. Barbara Inatsugu, LWV Santa Monica talked about the Santa Monica Airport actions taken by that League; Sally Seven, LWV Claremont, related the Claremont water bond and local water

ownership issue and Joan Arias and Kathy Berlin revisited the Measure O anti-oil measure that successfully prevented the E&B Oil Company from drilling in Hermosa Beach.

Roz Tyson led a Los Angeles League committee at the voting basics workshop, the purpose of which was to acquaint other Leagues with a League education fund project to teach permanent residents and citizenship classes how to vote. Citizenship classes did not previously cover election procedures nor voting specifics. The speakers emphasized that voting workshops or classes do not tell participants whom or what to vote for, just how to go about voting, from registration to using ballots including the ink-a-vote system and the various means of submitting votes. In an election cycle, workshops may also feature ballot measure pros and cons. The presentation used at this workshop may be given in literacy classes, at the library, a job corps center and high schools. For copies of the PowerPoint and evaluation sheet, contact Jan Nathanson or Susan Grebe, LWVBC.

Following the popover luncheon, the Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District treated us to a terrific presentation. Supervisor Kuehl described her large district that encompasses the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas. She described Los Angeles County as the 8th largest state in the United States and the 14th largest economy in the world. The county government has the same responsibilities as the State and includes execution of the budget plan, public transportation, 30,000 foster children, up to 20,000 families with children at risk and the largest local jail in the country. The county also

Popovers - from page 3

contains the largest juvenile justice system, libraries, parks, beaches, parks, waste and storm water, homeless services, affordable housing issues and performance and art venues! Ms. Kuehl astonished us with those statistics and talked about the immediacy of their proposals and legislation they pass.

When asked about the change from a strong CEO that had recently taken place, she noted that “we took back the power” because “when you are elected, you should be where the buck stops!” She praised the supervisors and their collegiality and noted that despite vast differences in viewpoint, the tone of their operations is friendly. “I have never had such a wonderful job....and never worked so hard!” she commented. Having been in the Legislature as both an Assembly member and a Senator, she made a special point of nothing that she had never been so happy to be free of checks and balances!

She commented that the Supervisors’ staff members had to be people who understand the issues. There really are no priorities; all the issues are big issues such as minimum wage, oversight of the Sheriff and other key areas.

When it came to questions and answers, Supervisor Kuehl was particularly expansive, responding thoughtfully to questions about crime, low-cost housing, homelessness, safety on public transportation and the changing downtown demographics. When asked about the need for additional supervisors, she commented that more supervisors would not accomplish anything. “We

need more district offices, more operational efficiencies,” she commented. She is very enthusiastic about public transportation and described efforts to put in more north-south lines and the airport lines.

When she concluded, her audience gave her a standing ovation – well deserved!



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

2015 Fall League Day Voter Outreach

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10 AM to 1 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1757 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA
626-794-7141



Luncheon at Morrison Hall
w/Scrumptious Array of Sandwich Choices
*Including vegetarian choices
from the Heirloom Café in Pasadena*



- Get Out the Vote
- Resources for Local Leagues
- Reaching Non-Voters



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC** Call 310-479-7482 for info
Mail to **LWV/LACounty Arrangements, Sandra Trutt, 1508 Greenfield Ave., #207, LA 90025**
Sign up online using PayPal at lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org.

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Reservation(s) postmarked before Sept. 18th # _____ @\$20.00 Total Enclosed \$ _____

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - An Inter-League Organization
Antelope Valley • Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier



Jean Thomson, Chair LWVLA Human Trafficking Committee

Yes, we did it again! This topic has reached many groups now and we are proud of the fact that many of those we reached have begun their own community outreach events to spread the word even further.

This series of public forums began last fall, and were co-sponsored in downtown at the LAPD Headquarters, the San Fernando Valley at the CSUN campus, the Korean American Federation, and on Saturday morning, August 29, 2015, we presented leading panelists at the Normandie Church of Christ in South LA.

We, and the various communities, have learned so much from our variety of panelists, and we are very thankful for the great cooperation we have had by those heavily involved in trying to resolve the scourge of human trafficking. The panelists have addressed what trafficking really is, as well as ideas for prevention, for recognizing the signs of someone being trafficked, for reaching out to rescue the victims of the nightmare, and for what is being done to restore victims to a more normal life. There are many people anxious to help, but we have found that the demand is so much larger than we had known, that we must all get involved to help repair the damage to our communities, and provide the rehabilitation needed by these victims.

The most recent forum included:

Cynthia Heard, Moderator, YWCA Greater LA, VP Bus Dev and Communications, who has established many outreach programs for those being trafficked

Officer Andrew Gonzalez, LAPD Detective Support & Vice Division, South Bureau, 77th Station, working daily with the human trafficking problems within the area

Emily Williams, Asst Senior Deputy, Office of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, with a primary responsibility to implement the Supervisor's approach to end sexual exploitation of children

Shari Farmer, Field Deputy, Victim/Witness Assistance, LA District Attorney office, assists victims of violent crime and trafficking, and presents programs throughout the county

Ken Morris, Co-Founder of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, whose career and life path are driven by a mission to end human trafficking and all servitude

Aquil Basheer, Founder of Maximum Force Enterprises, is a worldwide specialist in community and gang violence intercession and intervention.

Los Angeles County Facts

Compiled by Pay Colby, LWVPVP

ALLOCATIONS IN THE 2015-16 SUPERVISORS' BUDGET

Public Safety

\$99.2 million for criminal justice system improvements:

- \$23.5 million to address inmate mental health needs
- \$64.5 million to curb excessive use-of-force in the jails
- \$10 million for diversion inmate treatment programs
- \$1.2 million for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in County jails

Child Protection

\$66.9 million and 542 positions to reduce caseloads & improve safety in the child protection system:

- \$56.1 million for 444 social workers & support staff to reduce caseload in child welfare services
- \$7.4 million for 58 positions for specialized child safety programs
- \$1 million for 22 positions to develop employment training programs for foster youth



Health Services

To help it succeed under the Affordable Care Act, the Department is making progress on an integrated healthcare delivery model by adding:

- \$22.3 million & 351 positions to provide additional nursing services
- \$1.7 million for 30 positions for improved medical care for high-risk, high-need patients
- \$3.5 million for 27 positions to establish additional primary care medical homes
- \$42.3 million to support patient care at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital that opened in May 2015.

COUNTY-WIDE DATA SYSTEM

The board has approved \$3.1 million for the initial stage of development of a county-wide data system. The project will start by linking the departments of Health Services, Mental Health and Children and Family Services. More departments will be added at a later date. The new system will allow a social worker, for instance, to check the data base to find out if a foster child has received mental health or medical services from other county departments.

LESS LIME LIGHT

Interestingly, the public and media pay less attention to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors than to City Hall leaders two blocks away in the civic center. This is partly because of the dizzyingly complex array of state and federally mandated social programs that county officials spend so much of their time managing.

GOOD NEWS—BAD NEWS: Robotics
by Vi Iungerich, LWV PVP

If you have been looking at the news lately, you may have noticed several stories about robotics. These stories are being ignored by our politicians; they are not talking about robotics nor even thinking about it!

It appears that very soon (according to the *Foreign Affairs Journal*—see their Robotics August 2015 issue), we will have an explosion of robots and artificial intelligence which could wipe out the jobs of most people. We have no laws addressing either the replacement of people or the limits/control of artificial intelligence. Our legislators not only need to increase the safety net for most people but we also need to rethink how we tax. We need to have a public debate on these issues and I would like to suggest that the League think about a national study on this issue. For example, one way to support and fund an increased safety net would be to consider taxing the “labor “ of all robots as if they were people, to support our tax base. Otherwise, those companies (using robots and artificial intelligence) will just increase their profits from this pool of labor and continue to fight higher corporate taxes causing an even bigger divide between the rich and the poor.

This is likely to be a very tricky issue since farm labor is already very mechanized and car manufactures etc. already use a lot of robots where this labor is untaxed. However, as this trend increases—we need to rethink how and what we tax and if most people are being replaced—then there should be a way to recover this labor portion of our taxes. We will also need to expand our support of the populations that are displaced by these advances. If most “work” is not needed to be done by people - how should the general population spend their time in meaningful ways? How will they support themselves? This could be the subject of a “think tank” but our politicians should start now to discuss how to handle these issues including needful changes to our policies.

LA County Leagues On Social Media

Antelope Valley: Facebook: League of Women Voters Antelope Valley
Twitter: @LWVAV

Beach Cities: Facebook: League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities
Twitter: @LWVBC

Claremont Area: Facebook: League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area.

Glendale-Burbank: Facebook: League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank

Long Beach Area: Facebook: League of Women Voters – Long Beach Area

Los Angeles: Facebook: League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

Palos Verdes Peninsula: Facebook: League of Women Voters of Palos Verdes Peninsula

Pasadena Area: Facebook: League of Women Voters Pasadena Area
Twitter: @LWV_PA

Santa Monica: Facebook: League of Women Voters of Santa Monica
Twitter: @LWVSM

Torrance Area: Facebook: League of Women Voters of Torrance
Twitter: @LWVTA

If you are not listed here and have a Facebook Page, a Twitter feed or Instagram that I missed, or something we should all see, please email me and I will include it in the next issue of the Voter.

Mary Ellen Barnes

Editor, mebarnes@aol.com

◀ MAKE IT FAIR ▶

Close the Corporate Loopholes and
Rebuild California

www.MakeItFairCA.com

When Proposition 13 was first approved by voters in 1978

it was sold as a protection for single-family homeowners. That was, and is, a very good idea. But what voters were not told is that Prop. 13 contained giant loopholes that allow big corporations and wealthy commercial property owners to avoid paying their fair share



California ranks **50th**
in the nation for
number of students per teacher.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2012-13

of local property taxes. This gives tax avoiders an unfair advantage over smaller, competing businesses that are paying their share and deprives our communities of much-needed revenue. As a result, California has made deep cuts to public safety, fallen behind in student funding and been forced to close parks and libraries—and income inequality has soared.

It's time to close the loopholes that allow some commercial property owners to avoid paying their fair share and reinvest these lost funds in California's future. This would result in \$9 billion of additional revenue each year that could be invested in schools, colleges, roads, health care, public safety, small business relief and more. This solution adds tough accountability provisions to ensure funds are spent appropriately, and **it does not touch residential properties covered by Prop. 13**—in fact, it protects them.

It's time to close the loopholes and make it fair.

**Steep budget cuts mean
FEWER FIREFIGHTERS
to respond to
emergencies.**



KQED California Report, May 6, 2012

Make it fair.

*When everyone pays their fair share,
all Californians benefit.*



**LWV Los Angeles County
Board of Directors 2015- 2017**

President

Nancy Mahr

First Vice President

Lola Ungar

Second Vice President

Margo Reeg

Secretary

Betsey Coffman

Treasurer

Dorothy Stewart

Directors

Linda Herman

Vi Iungerich

Fatima Malik

Marge Nichols

Phyllis O'Connor

Linda Paquette

Sally Seven

Sandra Trutt

Pat Kromka

(Chair, Nominating Committee)

LWV/LA County VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity, pluralism and affirmative action.

SUBSCRIBE to the VOTER

Send your email address to the Voter editor to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org and to be included on the email distribution list.

Send to: mebarnes@aol.com

Join Us

The League of Women Voters welcomes new members, both men and women, who are citizens of voting age. Associate membership is open to all others. **Find a local League below :**

Antelope Valley - lwvav.org

Beach Cities - beachcities.ca.lwvnet.org

Claremont Area- claremont.ca.lwvnet.org

East San Gabriel Valley- esgv.ca.lwvnet.org

Glendale-Burbank - gb.ca.lwvnet.org

Long Beach Area - lba.ca.lwvnet.org

Los Angeles - lwvlosangeles.org

Palos Verdes Peninsula - lwvpalosverdes.org

Pasadena Area - lwv-pa.org

Santa Monica - lwvsantamonica.org

Torrance Area - lwvtorrancearea.org

Whittier - whittier.ca.lwvnet.org

August/September/October 2015

Internet Election Resources

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org

Statewide propositions plus local candidates & issues on your ballot, with extensive Background materials and media links from LWV California Ed Fund

LA County Registrar-Recorder www.lavote.net

Election calendar, polling place look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials, Locations for Touchscreen early voting

Easy Voter Guide www.easyvoter.org

Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

Secretary of State www.ss.ca.gov

Official text of ballot measures

CA Legislative Analyst www.lao.ca.gov Analysis of all ballot measures

CA Voter Foundation www.calvoter.org

Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

CA Budget Project www.cbp.org

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

This **VOTER** is ready for viewing

On our website: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org



Nancy Mahr, LWV/LA County President
28028 Ella Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275