



# The Voter

" . . . to promote informed citizen participation in government."

Membership: (949) 718-9626, League Phone: (949) 451-2212, Website: <http://orangecoast.ca.lwvnet.org>

## February-March, 2016

### Calendar of Events

*Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>,*

**LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting 9:00-10:00am**

**CALL TO ACTION: 10:00am-1:00pm**

*St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*

*2200 San Joaquin Road, Fireside Room, Newport Beach 92660*

*Park in the main parking lot and follow the signs to the Fireside Room.*

Brunch: fruit, hot and cold beverages and treats

**Required RSVP:** call 949-786-1669 or email [beckynewman2222@gmail.com](mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com)

*Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-2:30pm*

**Voters Service Workshop**

Sisters of St. Joseph, 480 Batavia St, Orange

Speaker: Mony Flores-Bauer, LWVC Voters Service Committee.

Topics: Partnering with other organizations, LWV resources, and mobilizing members for impact.

**Open to all league members. Please RSVP:** [vchenevey@yahoo.com](mailto:vchenevey@yahoo.com) or 714-475-9772.

*Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am-Noon*

**LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting**

*St. Mark's Presbyterian Church*

*2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Bonhoeffer Room, Newport Beach, CA 92660*

*All members welcome. Call 208-284-9167 for more information*

*Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-1:30pm*

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Great American Write-In**

**Delhi Center**, 505 East Central Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92707

For information: 949-733-0850 or [felicitynf@aol.com](mailto:felicitynf@aol.com).

*Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 1:30*

Topic: The Future of Public Higher Education in California

RE: The CA public higher education need for reform in terms of funding, accessibility, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities & barriers for success.

Where, Menu and Cost **TBA**, **please watch your email or snail mail for further information.**

RSVP: Required, call 949-786-1669, or [beckynewman2222@gmail.com](mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com)

*All members or guests are welcome at any of the meetings in this calendar*

## Presidents' Message

In January 2016, President Obama presented the State of the Union address, Governor Brown presented his State of the State message, and the Mayor of Irvine addressed the State of the City.

So it is appropriate for the Orange Coast League to also recognize our 2015 accomplishments. Thank you to Vickie Chenevey for compiling this list, and **thank you** to all the wonderful League members that made it possible.

- 1) Co-sponsored with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Costa Mesa, and the UNA of Orange County. In 2016 we hope to expand the film series and include additional co-sponsors.
- 2) We conducted studies, held discussions and came to consensus on each of the following issues:
  - a) ILO Study "Money in Politics in Orange County"
  - b) LWVUS "Constitutional Amendment" Study
  - c) "Money In Politics" (Consensus January 2016)
  - d) LWVC "Higher Education" Study (Consensus April 2016)
- 3) Co-sponsored Women & Mass Incarceration at UCI
- 4) Lunch with League throughout the year.
- 5) Pros and Cons presentations, worked the Polls
- 6) National Voter Registration Day – September 22, 2015
- 7) Voter Newsletters, Facebook, Website
- 8) Great American Write-in
- 9) With Registrar of Voters, developed a voting information pamphlet for college students
- 10) Members Toured OC Registrar of Voters
- 11) Our new Speakers bureau presented to the Junior League of Orange County



In addition, we have welcomed new members, are financially solid, and contacted public officials in advocacy efforts in support of League principles. Our League is busy. There are many opportunities to be involved. We welcome you to be fully engaged or only as time allows. While it is good to celebrate our successes, we must also look ahead and plan for 2016. **Add LWVUS and local Orange Coast Program Planning on February 19, 2016, to your calendar. Bring your ideas and support your League.**

*In League,  
Barbara Wood, Diane Nied, Grace Winchell  
Co-Presidents, LWVOC*

### [Orange Coast League Cities:](#)

[Aliso Viejo](#), [Costa Mesa](#), [Huntington Beach](#), [Irvine](#), [Laguna Beach](#), [Laguna Hills](#), [Sunset Beach](#), [Laguna Woods](#), [Lake Forest](#), [Mission Viejo](#), [Newport Beach](#), [Rancho Santa Margarita](#), [Seal Beach](#)

# CALL TO ACTION: "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK"

## LWVUS & LWV Orange Coast Program Planning

*When:* Friday, February 19th, 10:00 to 1:00, following the Board Meeting, 9:00-10:00am

*Where:* St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Fireside Room, 2200 San Joaquin Road, Newport Beach 92660.

Brunch with fruit, hot and cold beverages and treats!

**“Taking the power from the few and returning it to the many, as the single focus for LWVUS and LWVOC education and advocacy work in the 2016-17 biennium”. Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President**

We will focus on what ACTIONS, ACTIVITIES we want to complete in the coming year in an open group discussion. Bring your concerns. Bring your ideas.

We will ask ourselves:

1. How can the League best empower citizens to shape a better nation and communities during the next two years?
2. What do our communities and nation need from the League right now?
3. Where can the League's strengths have the greatest impact?
4. What should we do to enhance the League's influence, credibility, visibility, and membership?
5. Should we focus on the nationwide League campaign proposed by LWVUS-'Making Democracy Work' as the single focus for LWVUS education and advocacy work in the 2016-2018 biennium?
6. Are there other pressing issues which demand our attention and action now?
7. What is realistic to do locally?

In recommending a program item for 2016-2018, **please** be mindful of the resource commitments required for our League, as well as for LWVUS. A recommendation is a request to make that item a high priority for the biennium at all the levels of League. If a recommendation is adopted, Leagues with limited resources—financial and volunteer—may find it necessary to drop other activities in order to participate.

The LWVUS Program, Impact on Issues, can be accessed at: [Impact on Issues, 2014-2016](#)

**If you can't attend the meeting, you can fill out the survey at: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/guide-program-planning-2016-2018>. As part of the survey you will be asked for your local League's identification number. The LWV Orange Coast's id #: CA071.**

**Or send your ideas to: [barbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbj@sbcglobal.net) or Barb Wood, 1684 Whittier Ave., #47, Costa Mesa, 92627 by February 20th. For more information call Barb at 208-284-9167**

[The League needs your help and direction](#)

**THE LEAGUE NEEDS TO HEAR EVERY VOICE**

**THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA  
PANEL DISCUSSION**

LWV of California Study of Public Higher Education

Almost daily, there are media reports about the need for reform in California public higher education systems in terms of access, adequate funding, and affordability for students. The study also includes the preparedness of students, opportunities for students, and equity in the participation of different racial, ethnic, gender and economic groups.

On the panel will be representatives of the three systems of higher education in California-- Community Colleges, California State Universities and Universities of California.

Because the Marie Callenders in Irvine recently closed, we are seeking an appropriate venue. Members and others will be notified by email and regular mail about the place, menu and cost in ample time to make plans to attend.

When: Friday, March 18th, 10:00 to 1:30  
Topic: The Future of Public Higher Education in California  
Where and cost: TBA

For more information on the panel discussion: call Barb Wood, 208-284-9167 or email, [barbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbj@sbcglobal.net).  
RSVP is required Becky 949-786-1669, [beckynewman2222@gmail.com](mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com)

Coast League has formed a committee of interested members to meet and discuss the LWVC Public Higher Education system study. The scope of the study includes the need for reform in terms of funding, accessibility, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities & barriers for success. What aspect of the study most interests you? How would you like to help with the process? We need your suggestions on how to best process and disseminate the materials to all our members.

Come and meet other League members interested in CA's Higher Education system. Learn more about the study. Share your ideas and suggestions. Please contact Chris Collins, [collins3306@yahoo.com](mailto:collins3306@yahoo.com), 626-224-2923, who is chairing the committee and let her know of your interest in attending the preliminary meeting.

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**Announcement**

Orange Coast League extends a very special thank you to several members of our Board who have resigned to devote more time to other special interests.

Rebecca Newman, Susan Sayre, Carolyn Martin and Judy Gielow have been invaluable to our League advocacy and education efforts. We look forward to their continued support as time and interest permits.



**LWV Orange Coast Welcomes a New Members**

Say a big League hello to Patricia Watson and Elisabeth and Dave Cook of Newport Beach.

## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Every year each local league reviews its local program to see if all the topics are still relevant or if there is a need to delete, review or to do a new study. At our Annual Meeting in 2013, we voted to drop our position on Redevelopment Agency due to the fact that the state of California had defunded this agency.

In the past weeks, your board has written a letter regarding the development of the Banning Ranch. Is development in the Newport Beach/Costa Mesa area due for a review or possibly a new study? If one is proposed, it requires that the presenter have a study group ready to undertake this task. Other studies or reviews would require the same.

We will be spending a few minutes reviewing our local program on Saturday, February 19, at the beginning of the LWVUS Program Planning meeting.

The board invites your input and ideas on all levels of League Program. Program enables us to take action and lobby for issues. I hope many of you take the time to give the board your ideas. League is one of the few groups that is **truly a grassroots organization** but we depend on you for direction.

Christina Lucey

### **PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR LWVOC 2016-2017** PROGRAM IN BRIEF

#### **GOVERNMENT**

##### **GENERAL PLANS**

Support of local general plans as a long-range planning tool with effective implementation and adequate citizen participation.

##### **CITY CHARTER**

Support of a city charter that is clear, allows for broad community representation, establishes accountability, enables the city to function efficiently and economically, encourages citizen participation and is flexible enough to meet present and future needs.

##### **CABLE TELEVISION**

Support of measures to insure effective local governmental regulation of cable television. The League of Women Voters of Orange Coast supports and encourages (1) the appointment of citizens' advisory groups to participate in all phases of the franchising entity on the formulation, renewal, and review of the cable franchise, on local programming and on overall policy, and (2) the development of community-approved guidelines for use of the cable television public access channels.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

##### **UPPER NEWPORT BAY**

Support of estuarine preservation of Upper Newport Bay.

##### **SHORELINE ACQUISITION**

Support of shoreline acquisition and preservation for public use.

##### **BOLSA CHICA**

Support of the preservation of the Bolsa Chica as an ecological preserve surrounded by space to prevent further degradation of a unique coastal regional resource.

**LAND USE**

To protect against urban sprawl, the extension of roads and utilities into identified Environmentally Sensitive Areas and unincorporated county lands should be avoided. Support of the preservation of low and moderate income housing in all new housing developments.  
Support of open space dedication instead of “in lieu” payments.

**LAGUNA BEACH**

**GENERAL PLAN**

Support for a Laguna Beach General Plan that preserves and protects the unique human and natural resources of the city.

**CENTRAL DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AREA**

Support of the preservation of the village atmosphere of Laguna Beach, physically, functionally, and socially to encourage community interaction,

**VILLAGE ENTRANCE PROJECT**

Support of appropriate development and funding of the Village Entrance Project as an attractive center of community activities.

**SEAL BEACH**

**GROWTH**

Support the adoption of policies that enhance and preserve the unique identity of the community and its human and natural resources.



**NATURAL RESOURCES: Climate Change**

*By Grace Winchell, Co-President, Natural Resources Chair*

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Paris from November 30 to December 12, 2015. For a very complete and informative article covering the intent, negotiations and outcome of this conference, refer to:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_United\\_Nations\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

There is an extensive bibliography at the end of the article that provides additional information.

OR you can check out the LWVUS blog post on the Paris agreement at: <http://lwv.org/blog/climate-agreement-paris-puts-people-polluters>.

We are forming an interest group on environmental issues to explore what areas we think need study, education, or action. If you are passionate about problems in a particular environmental area, please indicate which one to [winchellg@yahoo.com](mailto:winchellg@yahoo.com). Let’s get some email communication started among us. We will grow from there!

## Report on the Orange County Board of Supervisors

By: Wanda Shaffer, LWVNOC & ILO

Another departure of a department head! This time it's the Public Defender Frank Ospino, who served in this office for 30 years. The Interim Public Defender is Sharon Petsino.

Governor Brown appointed three new Orange County Superior Court Judges: Frank Ospino (previously the Public Defender), Mary Varipapa (previously served for twenty-seven years as Deputy Public Defender) and Kathleen Roberts (previously served for twelve years as Deputy District Attorney).

Remember John Williams and his fiery dismissal as Public Administrator and Public Guardian in 2014? In 2015 the Board once again separated the two departments. The District Attorney was given charge of the Public Administrator and the Health Care Agency was assigned the Public Guardian duties. Now this month the Board appointed as Public Guardian Nedenia Lane, MA. She has nineteen years of experience, currently in the Orange County Child Support Services. The Board waived the requirement that appointed Orange County officers be a resident of the County of Orange.

There will be a brand new Orange County Animal Shelter built on 10 acres of land at the former Tustin Marine Base. The land was earmarked for South Orange County Community College District; the District and County swapped lands. The cost will be approximately \$25 million, most coming from the 18 cities that contract with the County for animal care. The County will contribute land and \$4.4 million.



### Exciting Opportunities to Help LWVC Gear Up for the 2016 Elections!

1. Pros & Cons Ballot-Measure Writer/Researchers are wanted for the November 2016 edition. This is perfect for those who like to dig into the meat of ballot initiatives. Our writers and researchers draft the *Pros & Cons* according to a set format, based on the material in the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide. Next comes the drafting of the *In-Depth* by researching additional background information for use by our speakers. In this phase, additional research of information that is not in the Legislative Analyst's material, including such things as: lists of supporters and opponents, additional arguments, and information on how much money is being spent on the campaign by both sides. The editor and other reviewers provide guidance to the writer. *The work is done in the months prior to the November election and writers must be available to begin work in July.* If interested, contact [Sandy Wolber](#), Editor.
2. Writer/Editor is needed to manage updating a small section of the Voter Service Manual, the [section on candidate forum formats](#). (Click on "Recommendations" under "Evergreen".) This is a short-term project to begin now and to be finished by mid-February 2016 so that our Leagues can use it. Contact [Carol Moon Goldberg](#) for more information.

## **LWV of California Update:**

**Call to Action!!** LWVC is asking members to send an email to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Full directions and an email template is accessible at: <https://lwvc.org/act-now/alert/2015/dec/oppose-new-flawed-proposals-killing-prisoners>. **Please note deadline to comment is February 22, 2016.**

### **California Gets a C-!**

Did you see the [report](#) from the Center for Public Integrity on state government integrity? While California ranked highly compared to other states, an overall grade of C- is nothing to be proud of. In particular, California earned an F for Public Access to Information. The LWVC is following several bills that address this problem. If you are interested in working more on this issue, contact Lee Lawrence at [llawrence@lwvc.org](mailto:llawrence@lwvc.org).

### **How Will the New Motor Voter Law (AB 1461) Work?**

In October, the Governor signed the New Motor Voter law (AB 1461) to reduce barriers to civic participation by automating voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles. [Our new FAQs](#) (for [Spanish](#) version) explain the work to implement it and how it is different from the automatic registration law Oregon passed in the spring. We hope the automated system will be in place by the 2016 elections and will continue to monitor the implementation.

### **Recent League Policy Work in Registration, Voting, and Campaign Disclosure**

The League supported a number of bills that moved our system of registration and voting forward this past year. We were also involved in improvements in the disclosure of money in politics. Other activities of interest to League members and notice of a few disappointments are included in [this excellent report](#) from Lee Lawrence, off-board Government Director. Download the report in [PDF](#) or [Word](#).

### **Keeping Up on League Water Issues**

For some time, the LWVC Water Committee has followed the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix, the Administration's plan to build twin tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We have submitted comments stating that the League cannot support the California WaterFix because the environmental impact report/statement "fails not only to meet the League's criteria for supporting new conveyance infrastructure in the Delta but also to conform to established law." [Read and share our letter.](#)

In 2015 the LWVC took positions on a number of bills with statewide impact in water conservation; water availability and quality, especially for low-income or disadvantaged users; environmental protection; and sustainable management of groundwater. Learn more about [these bills and their status](#).

## LWVUS Making News

Dear Leaguers,

The [League of Women Voters](#) is the only living legacy of the movement that got women in this country the right to vote. We are that legacy because our founders understood that in order to succeed in the long run, the energy of a movement must be translated into sustained civic engagement by those involved in the movement. Nearly one hundred years ago, the strategies and tactics that the National American Woman's Suffrage Association employed to achieve the vote were well adapted to the political process. Today, that political process remains largely unchanged while the ability of activists to organize across distance and time has evolved to be unrecognizable even to those of us who have lived through the change.

That is the challenge facing the League and every other traditional political organization in this election. To effect real change through the political process every voice must be heard, not just through new media, but at the ballot box. Working together, we can and must meet this challenge.

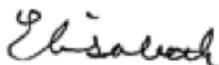
### [First Call: The League of Women Voters' 52nd National Convention 2016](#)

The 2016 LWVUS Convention will be held June 16-19, 2016 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC, 20008. The registration fee is \$395 per attendee and the room rate is \$209 per night. We invite you to save these dates and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for this vibrant national gathering in our Nation's Capital next June. More Convention details will be added to this page in 2016. Watch this "[Welcome to Washington](#)" video for an insider's view of the Capital City.

### **"Electing the President" 2016 Supplement Now Available**

The LWVEF has once again teamed up with the Newspaper in Education Institute (NIE) to produce "[Electing the President](#)," a comprehensive supplement designed to help voters, especially young and first-time voters, understand the presidential election process. Leagues are encouraged to reach out to [participating local newspapers](#) (Excel file) and request that they run the insert and/or make copies available to local schools. In order to cover costs associated with printing the insert, the local newspaper may want you to collaborate with them in fundraising from local businesses or foundations. You may also [download the PDF](#) here and print copies for use at voter service events.

In League,





MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



League of Women Voters of Orange Coast Board of Directors

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The League of Women Voters a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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