



The Voter

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

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

June-July, 2016

Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 2nd, 3-5pm

Capo Bay Unit: Clip & Come

Marie Callender's 31791 Del Obispo St San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Monday, June 6th, 9:45am

LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting

24452 Ladera Dr., Mission Viejo 92691

All members welcome. Call 949-305-2909 for directions.

Friday, June 17th, Noon to 2:30pm, Lunch with League

Topic: "Black Lives Matter"

Speaker: Siobhan Brooks, Asst. Professor of African Studies, Cal State University Fullerton

Where: Mimi's Cafe, 1835 Newport Avenue, Costa Mesa

RSVP: Required, 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com. See page 4 for menu.

Monday, July 11th, 2016, 9:45am

LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting

24452 Ladera Dr., Mission Viejo 92691

All members welcome. Call 949-305-2909 for directions.

Friday July 15th, 2016, Noon-2:30pm, Lunch with League

Topic: Civility in Public Discourse

Speaker: Jan Wagner, Past President of LWV of North Orange County

Where: Mimi's Cafe, 1835 Newport Avenue, Costa Mesa

RSVP: Required, 949-874-6166 or <mailto:beckynewman2222@gmail.com>. See page 4 for menu.

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

Presidents' Message

We have had a busy year. Our League has participated in four studies, all of which were designed to provide League with consensus positions on today's pressing public policy issues. By developing a national consensus position on money in politics and on any proposed constitutional amendment, League will be ready to advocate in these areas, using our positions. Likewise, at the state level, League will be able to advocate for our positions and influence public policy in the area of public higher education. Lastly, at the county level, the four Leagues of Orange County (ILO) reached consensus supporting the development of some mechanism designed to monitor ethics in our county government. We are supporting Orange County Measure A that is on the June 7th primary ballot based on our consensus position.



On May 21, 2016, at our Annual Meeting, we voted on the merger of Capistrano Bay League into our League (**see page 3**). This merger vote was the culmination of a year's work that involved exploring the possibility and then developing a combined budget, bylaws, slate of officers, and member lists. Your Board, after research and discussion, happily recommended this merger. We will benefit from the inclusion of about sixty additional League members, all contributing their knowledge and interest to the League. Our name will remain the same, League of Women Voters of Orange Coast.



We are pleased to report that this summer we will have three very interesting Lunch with League meetings at Mimi's in Costa Mesa on June 17th, July 15th and August 19th. Mimi's location is very accessible just one block beyond the south end of the 55 freeway or by surface streets. Please join us for a nice lunch, conversation among members, and stimulating talks. There is a separate article with further information on these lunches.

This is an election year. Our Voters Service Director, Vickie Chenevey has been, and is preparing for pro/con presentations on the ballot measures in the primary and general elections, for registering voters, and for candidate forums in the fall. The Board has been calling you to ask if you are interested in helping with any of these functions. If you have not had the opportunity to talk to one of us, please give a call to Grace Winchell at 714.846.4003.

We look forward to seeing you at our Lunch with League meetings.

In League,

Diane Nied & Grace Winchell, Presidents

Orange Coast League Cities:

Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Sunset Beach, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Seal Beach

Annual Meeting!!



We did a lot of business:

Honored Workers,
Passed a Budget,
Adopted Program,
Elected officers,

AND THEN

We sang
We lunched
We merged

Amid flowers, hats and BUBBLES!!!



Lunch with League

Friday, June 17, noon

Topic: “Black Lives Matter”

Speaker: Dr. Siobhan Brooks,

Assistant Professor of African American Studies CSU Fullerton.



Professor Brooks will give us a Power Point presentation on the major issues confronting the Black Lives Matter movement. “Studying African American history and culture is important because not only is it part of a larger narrative of United States history, but it also helps us understand trends with other ethnic groups,” Brooks said. “For example, when studying slavery, one can see how the citizenship status of blacks was contested, which presents a framework for understanding the current immigration debate.” She has a BA in Women's Studies from San Francisco State and a Ph.D. in sociology from New School University. Don't miss this outstanding presentation. Q and A will follow.

Friday, July 15, noon

Topic: “Civility in Public Discourse”

Speaker: Jan Wagner, Past President LWV of North Orange County

Jan Wagner is currently serving her fourth year as president of LWVNOC, and her third year as Legislative Analyst for K-12 Education for LWVC. She served as LWVNOC Voters Service Director before serving as president. She served as a Trustee of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District for 12 years. She has been the Executive Director of three non-profit organizations, and a Planning Commissioner for the City of Vallejo.

Where: Mimi's Café, 1835 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa

Menu: Quiche Lorraine or Florentine; Grilled Chicken & Guacamole or Roasted Turkey Sandwich; OR Chicken Chop Salad (comes with French Onion Soup), all with fruit. Includes choice of Caesar or House Salad, or French Onion Soup and choice of beverage.

Cost: \$20, for Lunch and Speaker, \$5 for Speaker only

Lunch with League requires an RSVP, please check the calendar on page 1, for information on how to reserve a space and select your luncheon menu

**LUNCH WITH LEAGUE IS OPEN TO LEAGUE
MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

↵ IN MEMORIAM ↶

Dorothea Robinson passed away peacefully on January 31, 2016. She had been a member of the League for many years, active in the Costa Mesa Unit meetings and attended many of our Lunch with League meetings, often with her daughter, Vivian Henry. She was born in Missouri in 1922, and was a teacher's aide in a one room school house while she finished her last two years of college. She became an airline stewardess and then taught in California. She married a trombone player and went on the road with him as he played with the Billy May, Spike Jones and other bands. Returning to Orange County she taught again and raised three children. Her daughter, Vivian, said Dorothea "enjoyed the friendships and knowledge she gained from the League through the years and appreciated the importance of what the League stood for and was able to accomplish".

Frank Wood, Barbara Wood's husband, passed away quietly in his home on April 10, 2016. He was born in Orange, California, in 1941 and worked in many occupations in California and Detroit. He coached his 4 sons in soccer and shared with them his interest in ice hockey. His last and favorite job was at the race tracks in Southern California. He loved sports, music, his garden, his family, and life. He supported Barb's work in the League for the last 16 years. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Future of California Elections
Building Partnerships for a Stronger Economy
2016 Conference February 25 & 26
By Kathy Hartman

Future of California Elections (FoCE) is 5-year-old collaboration of election administrators, election reform advocates, and civil rights organizations who are sharing ideas and working together to modernize CA elections and to expand participation. Website is www.futureofcaelections.org.
Opening Plenary:

Modernizing Elections: Strategies from CA, OR and CO.

- CA: Hon. Alex Padilla discussed concern that in January 2012, 72% Californians were registered to vote and in 2016 only 70% were registered. The “motor voter” law passed in 2015 but there is a lag time before automatic registration system reaches all potential voters who drive. The pending CA SB 450 would send a mail-in ballot to all registered voters and setup centralized voting centers and ballot drop-off spots that would be open several days before election day. Similar improvements in CO have increased voter participation in that state. CA continuing to work on state wide voter registration data so that all data is in one place. This will enable CA to join ERIC (The Electronic Registration Information Center), a no-profit organization with the sole mission of assisting states to improve the accuracy of America’s voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible voters. ERIC is governed and managed by states who choose to join, and was formed in 2012, with assistance from the Pew Charitable trust.

Current members are: Washington DC, Oregon, Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, Alabama, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

- Oregon: Hon Jeanne Atkins: new motor voter law effective 1/1/15. (Mail-in voting started in 1981). Able to remind voters who are not yet registered via post card...evaluating how effective this is. Change of address info improved.
- Colorado: Hon Wayne Williams: Permanent Voter mail-in in place. Can register and vote on same day and voter service and polling centers allow voters to go to any site but must have internet connectivity. Voter turnout increased to 57% since changes made.

Breakout sessions covered a variety of topics:

- Funding Democracy. The future of sustainable election funding and governance.
- Voting for Revolution: The role civic engagement plays in modern day movements
- Designing for the voter experience...MapLight, LWV participants
- The Youth Vote; engaging our future voters. Participants included United Way, Rock the Vote, 18 Million Rising, CALPRIG
- New Research by FoCE members and partners
- Voter Registration Modernization
- Moving the Electorate: Reflections and Insights on Civic Engagement
- Accessible Voter Information for Everyone...people with disabilities, limited English proficient voters
- Districting What? Understanding the importance of line drawing in your community...more and more local governments are moving from at-large elections to district-based elections, and we are halfway to the 2021 redistricting.
- Fostering state and local government collaboration
- Reducing barriers to the voting booth
- Making information for voters easy to understand
- Moving to the future. Legislative policies and practices to support voter turnout including increasing civics classes in schools: expanding on-line registration working with Covered Cal, UC system, Cal State system and new funding for new voter systems SB 415..consolidate election calendar



2020 Suffrage Centennial Slogo Contest

The **2020 Suffrage Centennial** is just around the corner, and the Sewell-Belmont House is already gearing up for it. They're looking for creative folks to come up with a great slogan and/or logo for this important celebration. Simplicity counts and anyone can enter. Contact [the Sewell-Belmont House](#). **Contest deadline is June 30, 2016.**

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT: *Climate Change Agreement*

By Grace Winchell

The April 22, 2016 Earth Day signing of the 2015 Paris Agreement to address climate change witnessed the greatest show of unity among nations that has ever been seen in the decades-old effort to reduce greenhouse gases. The Paris Agreement, gained preliminary approval by nearly 200 nations in December 2015. This Agreement was the culmination of work done after the failed attempt at achieving a previous global agreement at the 2009 climate conference in Copenhagen.

Over one hundred and sixty nations signed the agreement at U.N. Headquarters in New York. Thirty days after at least 55 nations that account for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, ratify the Agreement, it will go into effect. Nations have been asked to submit their implementation plans and an estimated timeline as to when they expect ratification.

The Agreement requires ratifying nations to take actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this century, with the goal of temperatures rising less than 2°C (3.6°F) by 2100. Nations will be required not only to report on their efforts in reducing emissions, but also to assess their progress every five years. Developed countries will be required to assist developing nations monetarily. Investment in infrastructure, like sea walls, to help nations adapt to the effects of climate change will be encouraged.

While the reporting requirements of the Agreement are binding, the setting of an emissions target for any given nation is non-binding. “Leadership from the top is crucial. But each of us has a role to play. We can make energy-efficient choices, stop wasting food, reduce our carbon footprints and increase our sustainable investments,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “Now we must unleash the full force of human ingenuity and ensure low-emission growth and improved climate resilience.”



TAKE ACTION WITH LWVUS!

May 20, 2016 was the 23rd anniversary of one of the League’s greatest victories ever—the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), or the so-called “Motor Voter” law. The NVRA requires that voter registration be made available whenever citizens interact with a wide variety of government programs—including federal-run health insurance exchanges set up under the Affordable Care Act.

Most state-run exchanges are complying with the law, but, inexplicably, Americans applying for health insurance in the more than 30 states that use *federal*-run exchanges are **NOT** given an opportunity to register. **By some estimates, this failure has already cost 1.7 million lost voter registrations.** And that’s something our democracy cannot afford ... especially when voters’ rights are already under pressure from onerous new laws making it tougher to register and vote in some states.

[Tell President Obama it’s time to act—sign our petition today!](#)

LWV of California Update:

Vote with the League - Yes on Prop 50, on the June 7, 2016 ballot!

This constitutional amendment would give each house of the Legislature clear authority to suspend, with a two-thirds vote, a member *and* withhold pay and benefits.

- Prop. 50 is a straightforward way for lawmakers to hold their own colleagues accountable for breaching the public's trust.
- Such actions are highly unusual. Over the years, five senators have been expelled, and several senators accused of corruption resigned in 1985. The Assembly has never suspended or expelled a member.

Read more about [how the League takes a position on a ballot measure](#).

No Party Preference Voter? Who Can You Vote for in June?

Each political party has the option of allowing people who register to vote without stating a political party preference ("no party preference" voters, formerly "decline-to-state" voters) to vote in their presidential primary election.

If you checked "I do not want to disclose a political party preference" on the voter registration form, you will **not** get a ballot containing the names of candidates running for president, but it will contain all other races and ballot measures.

- You can request the ballot of the American Independent Party, Democratic Party or Libertarian Party when you are at the polling place or in your request for a vote-by-mail ballot from your county elections office. Contact the Orange County Registrar of Voters at <http://www.ocvote.com/>.
- To vote for the Green, Peace and Freedom, or Republican presidential candidates you must be registered with their parties. [More info on no party preference](#).

[Get ready for the June 7 election: use our voter guides and key election info.](#)

Check out the Easy Voter Guide! www.easyvoterguide.org

Check out these websites for information on candidates:

<http://www.votersedge.org> or <http://www.vote411.org>

LWVUS Making News

Take Action: Fix the Federal Election Commission

Based on our [new position on Money in Politics](#), the League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D- NM) that would create a new independent agency to replace the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Administration Act of 2016, would restructure the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as a five-member commission. The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. Senate in support of this bill and members of the Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices throughout May. League members can also [contact their members of Congress](#) to address this issue using our latest action alert.

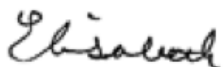
Clean Power Plan Moving Forward in Many States Many states are still moving forward with complying with the Clean Power Plan at the state level despite a stay of the regulation by the U.S. Supreme Court. It's important for Leagues to have a voice in the development of the state implementation plans of this important regulation. **The Climate Action Toolkit** now includes a [section](#) outlining what Leagues and League members can do to help build support for, and promote compliance with, the Clean Power Plan. Included are suggestions of state and local organizations that could be good partners for League action efforts as well as ideas for education and advocacy initiatives. The toolkit also includes basic background information about the [Clean Power Plan](#) itself.

League Opposes the FY2017 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The League joined [a letter](#) opposing FY2017 for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, H.R. 5055, because of bad environmental riders. This legislation would cut funding for energy innovation, promote irresponsible use of water and ocean resources and undermine safe nuclear waste storage.

League Opposes Riders to 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations The League joined [a letter](#) with coalition partners calling for members of the House and Senate to oppose riders, especially campaign finance riders, to the 2017 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill.

Last Call to Register for Convention Online! Save yourself and your League an extra \$50, register **by May 31**. Registrations received **after May 31** will be charged a late fee of \$50. Online registration closes on **June 6**, and any registrations after that date must be done on a walk-in basis at Convention. Online registration is available here: [Convention Registration](#). And be sure to make your [hotel reservations](#) while rooms at the special League rate are still available.

In League,





**League of Women Voters
of Orange Coast
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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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