

The Voter

September 2015

** Opening Meeting **

** Saturday, September 26, 2015 ** 10:00 AM-noon **

Hear about *Rail to the Future: California's High Speed Rail* with Valerie Martinez
Light refreshments.

Hughes Center - Padua Room, 1700 Danbury Rd. , Claremont, CA

LWVC Joins Make It Fair Coalition

The LWV of California has joined the *Make It Fair Coalition*, a group of organizations working on righting some wrongs brought on by the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978. Their efforts have been bolstered by the July 2015 introduction of bill SCA 5 in the California Legislature, authored by State Senators Lori Hancock and Holly Mitchell. According to Senator Hancock's website, "This legislation will address flaws in Prop. 13 that have allowed a minority group of wealthy corporation and commercial property owners to dramatically lower their tax bills and shift that responsibility onto homeowners and renters". Commercial property owners now pay 28% of property taxes while residential property owners pay 72%. This ratio was 45% to 55% in 1978.

Proposition 13 provided for reassessment of property for tax purposes to be done when a property was sold, but did not differentiate between residential and commercial properties. Because residential properties have registered a much higher turnover rate than commercial ones, the residential

tax burden has increased. Contributing to this inequity, according to the Legislative Counsel's bill analysis, is the fact that "many large corporations and wealthy individuals are able to take advantage of loopholes and complex stock manipulations to avoid reassessment when a commercial or industrial property changes hands". SCA 5 would require all commercial and industrial properties to be reassessed at fair market value. It would also exempt the first \$500,000 in equipment and fixtures subject to business personal property taxes, thus benefitting small business owners. According to Senator Hancock, this would "eliminate the tax for more than 90% of small businesses, whether they rent or own the facilities which their business operates".

Bill SCA 5 was introduced in the Senate in June, 2015, and is now in the Committee on Government and Finance. Although the current Legislative session has ended, SCA 5 is a Constitutional Amendment bill, and will not need to be reintroduced in the next session.

~~Betsey Coffman

What does the **Development Committee** do? We try to come up with creative and informative ways to raise funds for our League **to support the services and information we provide**. Food for Thought is one of those ways.

Volunteers are always appreciated. Everything from helping plan events to helping with the set up of coffee and snacks. You don't have to be a chairman/woman to be valued.

Contact Sarah Smizer by email sarahsmizer@gmail.com or phone (909) 625-4307. A job will be found for you.

President's Message

As summer draws to a close, we have entered the political system full-swing. For me, voter engagement is the major political issue of our time. Particularly in local elections, fewer and fewer of us are voting. A major focus for our local League is voter registration of college and high school students. Our goal is to motivate and train student ambassadors who will encourage and help their peers register to vote. We also will work with teachers to present voter education programs to students. We need as many members as possible to help with both projects. There will be many different ways to help. Please contact Cindy Reul, Voter Services Chair, at cynthiacreul@gmail.com.

Several interesting and informative programs are planned for the year. Keep informed by the calendar on the League Website: www.claremont.ca.lwvnet.org

The League also needs your financial assistance. Only about \$10 of dues is retained by the local League. We need financial support from attendance at fundraising events and donations in order to continue our programs. Please help in any way you can, however small.

Our next event is the opening meeting on September 26, 10 AM - noon at the Hughes Center, Padua Room, 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont, CA. Our keynote speaker, Valerie Martinez, will be telling us about California's High Speed Rail. Her presentation is informative and interesting. I hope to see everyone there.

~~Tressa Kentner, President

*In keeping with the LWV-US strong position
in support of the United Nations:*

Celebrate the 70th Anniversary
of the
Founding of the UN

Thursday, October 29, 6 PM-8 PM
Dinner – Music – Speaker
\$12.00/ RSVP/ 909-607-4571

Smith Campus Center,
170 E. 6th St.,
Pomona College

Sponsored by
International Place of The Claremont Colleges
Office of International Initiatives, Pomona College
United Nations Association of Pomona Valley

The Impact of Social Media on Politics

This is the timely topic of our first **Food for Thought** event. The world of campaigning is changing rapidly. You think you know what social media is, but do you really? Here is an opportunity to hear an acknowledged expert explain its uses and what this does to political life.

Rose Kapolczynski will speak about her experiences in this fascinating field on **November 15th**, from 4-6 p.m. Put this on your calendar now!

Ms. Kapolczynski is a nationally recognized campaign strategist with three decades of experience in this field. Her consulting firm, ROSEK CONSULTING, provides general consulting, strategic planning, communication and coalition building services. She managed all four of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer's Senate campaigns.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity ! Look for more information, soon.



THE CAROLINE BEATTY AWARD FOR 2015

The League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area presents the Caroline Beatty Award each year to a League member who has given distinguished service to our League. Our 2015 recipient, Barbara Rugeley, is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, born and educated in that far-away state. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and her Master's in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma, she and her librarian husband moved west – to Pomona, California. He became Pomona's city librarian, while she undertook librarian duties in Riverside and later at Citrus Community College in Glendora. Luckily for our local LWV, the Rugeleys subsequently moved to Claremont, where they raised their two daughters, commuted to their respective libraries, and Barbara joined our League!

After her retirement from Citrus College, the Claremont Area LWV became a major beneficiary of Barbara's talents and energy. She served as Secretary from 2006 to 2009, and her ability to get the Minutes written up so soon after Board meetings astounded us all. She then switched to being a Director, with "Units" as her portfolio, but soon found her true League calling when she took on the leadership of our Observer Corps. LWV observers are "the eyes and ears" of the League. They observe meetings of local public Boards and Agencies and inform League leadership on issues that relate to LWV interests – which may lead to League action. Barbara has breathed "new life" into our Observer group. She recruits people to observe, coaches them on League "do's" and "don'ts" for Observers, provides them with League buttons, serves as a liaison between them and the organizations they watch, prepares and hosts an annual luncheon and talk-fest for her crew, and organizes a yearly presentation of their observations. And Barbara does many other jobs for our organization. In May she served as one of our delegates to the state LWV Convention in San Diego, a three-day experience of intense League activity. She has served on numerous local LWV committees, she headed the Nominating Committee in a year of many turn-downs, she's a regular attender of meetings, and she takes the Board Minutes when the Secretary is absent. She brings scrumptious cookies to meetings where refreshments are served, and she's a faithful participant in events – booths, fundraisers, etc. And her story-telling skills were highlighted at our Opening Meeting a couple years ago, when we celebrated our local League's 75th Birthday with a historical review narrated by Barbara.

Another Barbara Rugeley specialty is praise. She always thanks us for even our smallest efforts for League, and gives us encouragement when we need it the most.

We thank Barbara for her creativity, her talents, her thoughtfulness, and all the hard work that she does for the League. We loved giving her the Beatty Award.

The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP) Draft Master Plan (DMW)

In mid-July the city of Claremont released its Draft Master Plan (DMP) for the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP). This long-awaited document is important to many, for a number of different reasons. Underlying the many interests in the Plan is the fact that the CHWP has become incredibly popular, with visits estimated to number 500,000 annually. The DWP is a draft document that, in its revised form, is intended to guide the city in the management, operations, and funding of CHWP. The Park is located in the foothills and mountains above Claremont and can be accessed at the north end of Mills Ave., through Johnson's Pasture, along Thompson's Creek Trail, and at various other points.

Our local LWV has been active for decades in following the acquisitions of and planning for the CHWP. Our main interest has paralleled the first of the primary goals of the Draft Master Plan – "Preserve the park as an environmental resource." Upon release of the DMP, current President Tressa Kentner appointed a Committee headed by Natural Resources Director Beth Smith to review the document. Committee members included Marilee Scaff, Sally Seven, Lissa Petersen, Katie Gerecke, Betsey Coffman, and Freeman Allen.

The LWV Committee concluded that the DMP did not emphasize enough the importance of the Park area as a watershed, which channels water from melting snow and rain through Thompson and other Creeks and eventually to the San Gabriel River, as well contributing to our local aquifers (groundwater reserves). [LWV members will probably remember our 2010-2011 local study on the Thompson Creek Spreading Grounds, which is included on our website --www.claremont.ca.lwvnet.org] Conservation and protection of this watershed should be a very high priority concern.

The two other primary goals listed in the DMP are – "Manage the park as a passive recreational opportunity" and "Minimize the impact park

attendance has on surrounding residential neighborhoods". Passive recreation is defined as "low-impact activities such as walking, running, hiking, cycling and equestrian, etc." The impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods include increased traffic, noise, and litter.

Much attention in the DMP was given to problems concerned with vehicle parking in the CHWP vicinity. Two parking lots have been established near the Mills Avenue entrance, and parking fees are charged. Currently, to ease the effects of parking on neighborhood streets, only Residential Permit Parking (RPP) is allowed on a number of these streets – with permits being issued to residents of a designated area after 51% or more sign a petition of request and receive approval from the City of Claremont. The Draft Master Plan specifies that future seven-day a week, 5:30 AM to 8:30 PM, RRP arrangements be available only for streets within 1 mile walking distance from the CHWP main entrance, and that available RRP arrangements for streets from 1 to 1.5 miles from this entrance be granted only for Saturday and Sunday, 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The LWV Committee that reviewed the DMP recommended against parking permits for public streets and suggested charging for admission to the park instead of requiring parking lot fees – thus encouraging parking in available lots rather than on the streets.

At a meeting on September 10, 2015, the DMP was discussed by a citizen's Technical Advisory Committee and the city staff and consultants who composed the Plan. This was followed by "public comment", during which LWV President Tressa Kentner and several LWV Committee members offered their thoughts and observations.

The League also sent a letter commenting on the Plan to members of the Claremont City Council which was printed in the *Claremont Courier* on September 4, 2015.

~~Betsey Coffman

Voting Rights Restored for 60,000 Californians

(This article is reprinted from the PWV of the Pasadena Area Voter, October 2015)

In 2011, then-California Secretary of State Debra Bowen disenfranchised tens of thousands of voters on the basis of criminal convictions. Although state election laws state that only people imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony are ineligible to vote, people on other forms of supervision, such as felony probation or drug-diversion, were also prevented from voting. In 2014, LWVC joined the lawsuit Scott v. Bowen challenging the Secretary of State and won in Alameda County Superior Court. Secretary of State Bowen then appealed the ruling. On August 5, 2015, current Secretary of State Alex Padilla withdrew the appeal, and the voting rights of an estimated 60,000 Californians were restored.

Responding to this important voting rights victory LWVC President Helen Hutchison declared, "Formerly incarcerated people should not be disenfranchised and have to fight for their voting rights. Restoration of these voting rights is long overdue and the League is pleased that California is leading the way to protect voting rights for all."

NEEDED: CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD OBSERVERS!

Contact Barbara Rugeley b.rugeley@verizon.net 909-626-9833

City	Councils	School Boards	
Chino Hills	2 nd & 4 th Tues 7:00 pm	Chino Valley USD K-12 1 st & 3 rd Thurs. 7 pm	
Glendora	Filled! Helen Storland	Glendora USD 2 nd & 4 th Mon. 7 pm	
San Dimas	2 nd & 4 th Tues 7:00 pm		
Montclair	1 st & 3 rd Mon 7:00 pm	Ontario Montclair SD K-8 1 st & 3 rd Thurs. 7:00 pm	Chaffey JUHSD 9-12 2 nd or 3 rd Tues. 6:30 pm
Ontario	1 st & 3 rd Tues 6:00 pm		

Update from Voter Services

Our committee has been hard at work this new elections season.

We have been invited by the Glendora PTA to conduct a candidate forum on Tuesday, October 20th at Glendora High School from 6pm to 8:30. We will moderate and have League members on hand to help the PTA collect and sort the questions for the 4 candidates. There are two School Board openings and the two current incumbents are not seeking reelection.

Claremont High School will be participating in National Voters Registration Day on September 22nd . The Voter Service Committee will be on site to help student volunteers explain the election process and help register new voters.

Upcoming voter engagement events are being planned for Citrus College with the involvement of the Student Government.

We have many "irons in the fire" and hope many more events will planned throughout the year

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US.

~~Cindy Reul
VP Voters Services

SHEILA KUEHL, LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, SPEAKS AT POPOVERS

Sheila Kuehl, newly elected L.A. County Supervisor, was the keynote speaker at the LWV/LA County annual Popovers luncheon in Pasadena on July 18, 2015. People often ask of her new job, “How’s it going?” “What’s the county of L.A. really like?”

If the county were a state, it would be the 8th largest in the USA. Each County Supervisor represents a constituency of about 2 million people and together they oversee America’s largest local government agency, with a \$28 billion budget and 100,000 employees. An L.A. County Supervisor has the same responsibilities as the state: mental health, public health, transportation/highways, foster children, juvenile justice, the largest local jail (Men’s Central Jail in downtown L.A.), libraries, parks, beaches, the L.A. River, reasonable housing and environmental issues. The Board sets policy, passes laws and provides oversight. The Board is like five people running the state of Ohio with no legislature.

Kuehl’s Third Supervisorial District alone encompasses most of the San Fernando Valley, Conejo Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains all the way to the Ventura County Line. Cities in the diverse area include Santa Monica, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Westlake and Hidden Hills. Many of the city’s most prominent cultural institutions are located in this district, the Hollywood Bowl and the L.A. County Museum of Art, for instance.

With the retirement of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors CEO, William Fujioka, the Board has voted to reduce the powers of the incoming CEO so that Board members can consolidate power by directly managing departments. Kuehl says the Board has been elected to lead and that is what they intend to do. This new authority also gives the five board members the authority to hire and fire department heads and work more directly within county government’s myriad agencies. However, this cannot be done by a single individual. Kuehl has a staff of 30 deputies, each assigned to a specific area, to monitor and report on her districts’ wide-spread, complex responsibilities.

“Even before I ran for State Assembly in 1994”, Kuehl told her audience, “I was an attorney, law professor, domestic violence victims’ advocate and managing attorney of the California Women’s Law Center working on issues about which I cared passionately. Every day, throughout all those years, I was struck by the incredible impact that government policy has on the lives of real people—how governmental decisions could make people safe or not, treat them fairly or not, give them a helping hand or not, open education, training or job opportunities, or not. I’ve put all I’ve learned into each of the elected positions I have held. In addition, as the first openly gay or lesbian elected to the California legislature, I learned one person can make a difference, by speaking for those who have no voice.”

So what is the day to day for Sheila Kuehl like? She has never been so busy or so happy in a job where at each Tuesday's meeting, the Supervisors review some 80 items on the agenda ranging from raising the wage level in unincorporated areas of L.A. County to recommendations made by the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence to the consolidation of three separate health departments into one. To understand the complexity of just one of these items, consider the health consolidation proposal. The move would integrate the departments of public health, responsible for controlling disease outbreaks, managing substance abuse programs and conducting health inspections and mental health with the Department of Health Services, which runs county hospitals and clinics—all under one director. Such an undertaking involves hundreds of employees, the ever-expanding needs of a growing population and compliance with state and federal mandates as they apply to public services.

And the agenda goes on: a review of the 60 reforms recommended by the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence after 20 sheriff's deputies were placed under indictment on corruption and civil rights charges; discussion on plans to replace Men's Central Jail with a correction facility designed to offer integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment (Kuehl questions whether individuals could be treated in community-based facilities rather than jail); concerns about 30,000 foster children in her district; issues of homelessness and hope for changed lives through the Skid Row Housing Trust which provides permanent supportive housing; increased crime in the Northeast Valley that some link to Proposition 47(certain low-level, non-violent crimes now charged as misdemeanors) which Kuehl suggests is co-existent—I cross the street and the sun comes up—one action does not necessarily create another; policies to help the formerly incarcerated to find jobs; MTA expansion and security; increasing traffic, zoning and water.

Amid all the agenda demands, Kuehl's primary concerns as a new supervisor include additional funding and resources for three major areas: reforming the jails and improving mental health services in the criminal justice system, greater protections and services for kids in the county's child welfare system and improving delivery of services.

She has a congenial relationship with her fellow supervisors and recommends patience and understanding in a job of this magnitude. While in the California Senate, a particularly homophobic senator publicly referred to her sexuality in a crude manner. Shortly afterward, Kuehl walked up to this senator and put her hand on his shoulder. He looked up at her as she said with a smile, "It's catching!" Yet, she and this individual found common ground on certain legislative bills and as he got to work with Kuehl and know her as a champion for those less empowered, he became a supporter. The morale of the story, she says, is to listen; to understand the other guy and perhaps make him your ally.

~~Pat Colby, Palos Verdes Peninsula LWV

Don't forget to follow LWV of the Claremont Area on [Facebook!](#)

Check out [the online calendar](#) for the latest information about programs.



Claremont Area
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September 2015

Return Service Requested

LWV Claremont Area Fall 2015 Program/Events

Date/Time	Location	Topic/Theme	Other
Sat., Sept. 26 10 a.m. - noon	Hughes Center, Padua Rm. 1700 Danbury Rd. Claremont, CA	<i>Rail to the Future: California's High Speed Rail with Valerie Martinez</i>	Opening meeting, which will include the announcement of the Ordway Award
Thurs., Oct. 15 9:30-11 a.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona Building D, 4 th floor lounge	Unit Meeting Claremont Energy Challenge and Cool California Challenge	
Tues., Oct. 20 7 – 8:30 p.m.	Glendora High School Little Theatre 1600 Foothill Blvd, Glendora	School Board Candidate Forum with the Glendora PTA	Four candidates competing for two school board openings
Sun., Nov. 15 4 -6 p.m.	Hughes Center, Padua Rm. 1700 Danbury Rd. Claremont, CA	<i>The Impact of Social Media on Elections</i> Rose Kapolczynski, political campaign consultant	<i>Food for Thought</i> Wine and cheese. Reservations, \$35