

The Voter

December 2015

League Observers, We Thank you!

Because of the commitment of our 27 League Observers, we have coverage for 6 City Councils, 3 School Boards, and 2 Regional Boards. I recently trained new observer **Carol Kusleika** for the Rancho Cucamonga City Council, to provide relief for **June Wood** who has served for 3 years. A new member, **Pauline Corse**, has offered to cover our Chino Hills City Council and / or School District. I'd love to find a co-observer to help her. Anyone interested? I provide training, introduce you to the Board you will be observing, and offer to attend your first meeting with you, then I stand back and watch you get hooked. It's happened time and again. We are the "eyes and ears" of the League in our local communities. No assertive voice needed, just observation skills. Please consider this service. It's rewarding.

Still needed are:

City Councils and Commissions:

- Montclair City Council (1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm)
- Chino Hills (2nd & 4th Tues 7:00 pm) (to help Pauline)
- Ontario (1st & 3rd Tues 6:00 pm)
- San Dimas (2nd & 4th Tues 7:00 pm)
- Claremont Architectural Commission (2nd & 4th Wed 7:00 pm)



School District Boards:

- Chino Valley USD K-12 (1st & 3rd Thurs. 7 pm) (to help Pauline)
- Glendora USD (2nd & 4th Mon. 7 pm)
- Ontario Montclair SD K-8 (1st & 3rd Thurs. 7:00 pm)
- Chaffey JUHSD 9-12 (2nd or 3rd Tues. 6:30 pm)
- Citrus College (1st & 3rd Tues 4:15 pm)
- Chaffey College (4th Thurs 4:00 pm)
- Mt. San Antonio College (2nd Wed)

We also hope all members will attend our **observer presentations during League Unit meetings, May 19, 2016, at 9:30am**. If you think you might be interested in being an observer, contact Barbara Rugeley 909-626-9833, b.rugeley@verizon.net.

~~~Barbara Rugeley, Observer Director

## President's Message

As we approach the holiday season, I realize that my year as President is almost half over. As they say, how time flies, when you're having fun.

A big thank you to Cindy Reul for the excellent "Food for Thought" in November. The impact of social media on elections will only increase in the future. If the League is to remain a trusted source of information, we need to understand how to use the various social media platforms. Sue Schenk and Ginger Elliott and their many helpers did a great job with the set-up, food and drink. We netted about \$1,500.

We have two upcoming events still in the planning stages. On February 27, we will have an event with three experts in public education in California. On April 21, the Chief Justice will be speaking at a league-sponsored luncheon in Claremont. More details will follow. Save the date for both of these events.

We need to consider fund raising. For the past three years, our local league has received between \$2,000-3,000 in donations and about \$4,000 from "Food for Thought" fund raising events. This has left a deficit of approximately \$6,000 which has been taken from savings. The development committee is looking at various ways to close this gap. Please consider the league in year-end giving that you might be considering.

I hope to see everyone at the holiday party on December 19.

~~Tressa Kentner, President

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### *In Memoriam*

Jocelyn Lyon, long-time LWV member, past local League co-president (1999-2001 with Carole Harter), and past principal of Mountain View Elementary School, among many notable contributions during a long and active life, died Monday, 7 December 2015, at the health center of Mt. San Antonio Gardens. A transplant from Illinois via Pennsylvania to California more than half a century ago with her first husband Bill and their four sons, Jocelyn lived and worked in Claremont for many years before retiring and moving to the Gardens more than a decade ago. Jocelyn, 88 last October, is survived by her sons, two of whom, Doug and Don, still live in the local area; Don is a local League member and teacher. Jocelyn will be missed and remembered.

### *Consensus Meeting 21 January 2016*

The June 2014 LWVUS Convention adopted a review and update of the League position on campaign finance "in light of 40 years of changes since the Watergate reforms." This Money in Politics (MIP) study will be the subject of our 21 January 2016 unit meetings. We will address some fundamental issues, such as how to define corruption, what speech and spending should be limited, and how campaign financing should be regulated.

There are background readings on the LWVUS website, [lww.org/content/money-politics-developing-common-understanding-issues](http://lww.org/content/money-politics-developing-common-understanding-issues), but whether or not you read them, join your fellow League members in discussing the questions and seeking consensus on issues that impact the way our democracy functions and the way we live. Put Thursday, 21 January, on your calendar.

## Public Higher Education

*"California's economic strength and current position as the 8th largest economy in the world is directly linked to the state's public higher education system, from our community colleges through our elite and world-class research universities." The Campaign for College Opportunity*

*"The long history of California's economic progress is closely tied to its colleges and universities. The state's higher education institutions have not only been centers of innovation and research, but have also enabled generations of Californians to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in an ever changing economy." Public Policy Institute of California*

*"Insufficient investment in higher education will entail major costs to the state and its economy." Bay Area Council Economic Institute*

Google the importance of public higher education in California and you will find numerous reports by coalitions of California organizations and businesses that proclaim public higher education as extraordinarily important for the welfare of our state and its citizens.

We, as local League members, have an opportunity to help develop a statewide position on public higher education that will enable the League to act on relevant initiatives.

As chair of our League's study, I invite you to attend and participate in activities that will enable you to help set a positive agenda for public higher education in the state of California.

Our study begins on Saturday, February 27 when three decision-makers will focus on the challenges each system of public higher education is facing, how they are meeting the challenges with innovation, and their financial constraints.

Dr. Geraldine Perri, Superintendent/President of Citrus Community College District and Dr. Sylvia Alva, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cal Poly Pomona, have accepted our invitation to serve on the panel. We are in the process of securing another top level representative from the University of California system. We are excited about this special panel discussion. Hearing directly from those who are on the front lines of developing policy for their systems will infuse relevance into the study.

To add to this important event, Assembly member Chris Holden will kick off the panel with comments about the importance of higher education to California. Mr. Holden just succeeded in passing a dual enrollment bill that gives young people in high school more opportunity to work towards a college degree at the same time. This will get them closer to academic success at a reduced cost.

On behalf of the Public Higher Education study committee members Marjorie Bray, Barbara Nicoll, Art Parker, Marilee Scaff, Ellen Taylor and myself, we look forward to your active participation in learning more about the issues and helping us to arrive at informed consensus that will guide the League's constructive influence on initiatives in public higher education in California.

~~~Sue Keith



Food for Thought

Thanks to the people who brought us *The Impact of Social Media on Elections* with speaker Rose Kapolczynski. It was great to laugh and learn together!



- Sue Keith
- Tressa Kentner
- Jerry Klasick
- Barbara Nicoll
- Cindy Reul
- Diann Ring
- Karen Rosenthal
- Barbara Rugeley,
- Sarah Smizer

News from LWV US

The LWV of the U.S. works for a range of issues relating to good government, based on its policy positions ([Impact on Issues](http://lww.org/content/impact-issues), lww.org/content/impact-issues). Currently, many of its efforts are in the areas of Campaign Finance and Voting Rights Protection.

Campaign Finance: LWVUS is currently conducting a study of our Campaign Finance Position. Sally Seven will be holding consensus Unit Meetings on Thursday, January 21, 2016, in the morning at 9:30AM at Mount San Antonio Gardens (4th Floor Lounge) and in the evening at 8:00 PM at the Garner House Exhibition Center. Since 2010, when the Supreme Court decided in the *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission (FEC)* case that the federal government could not set limits on the political spending of corporations, unions, and other associations, the amount of money so spent has risen dramatically. In February of 2015 LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara testified to the FEC on the work of the League to stop the influence of money in politics. In a current Supreme Court case, *Williams-Yulee v The Florida Bar*, which focuses on the constitutionality of prohibitions on direct solicitation by judicial office candidates, the LWV/US has joined an *amicus brief* in favor of the prohibitions. And national League continues to urge Congress to take up consideration of the national DISCLOSE Act, which would require stricter disclosures on the sources of campaign funding.

Voting Rights: In 2013 a Supreme Court decision (*Shelby County, Alabama v Holder*) ruled unconstitutional the method of determining which states and counties were required to receive federal approval for voting changes (Section V of the Voting Rights Act). No longer did local jurisdictions with histories of discrimination have to submit new voting laws to the federal government to weed out discriminatory practices. Since then a number of new state and local laws have been passed that limit who gets to vote. These include new requirements for Voter ID, regulations that interfere with voter registration drives, and elimination of early voter programs. In March of 2015 LWV/US joined the many civil rights organizations who issued the *People's Voting Rights Manifesto* which reaffirmed the necessity of "fixing" the Voting Rights Act. More recently national LWV filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court Case of *Frank v. Walker*, requesting combining two voter ID cases in order to address a fuller range of ID issues in a precedent-setting case.

Redistricting can be another source of interference with voter rights, as legislators in many states think up new ways to gerrymander the drawing of voting district lines to favor a political party or group. Redistricting occurs every ten years in U. S. states, after the national census. Last year in Florida the state League of Women Voters was the lead organizational plaintiff in a lawsuit that determined partisan influence in Florida's redistricting plan, and earlier the LWV of California was a leader in reforming our state's redistricting process. In acknowledging these efforts, the LWV/US President commented "We now have a track record in Florida and California of successful, citizen-led initiatives by the League of Women Voters that have used both redistricting criteria and independent commissions to fight partisan gerrymandering." (lww.org website). And, from Texas comes the latest variation on drawing legislative districts, the Supreme Court case of *Evenwel v Abbott*. Recently, the Court heard arguments, pro and con, on basing the drawing of state legislative districts on the total number of voters rather than the total population. The case affects only state districts, since drawing of Congressional districts is covered in another part of the Texas Constitution. The LWV submitted an *amicus brief* in this case supporting the use of total population in drawing the lines.

~~~Betsey Coffman





December, 2015

To all members of the Los Angeles and Orange County Leagues,

You are invited to attend a Smart Voter/Voter’s Edge California training with LWVC Senior Director of Civic Engagement **Dora Rose**, LWVC Membership and Technology Manager, **Sharon Stone**, and Smart Voter co-founder, **Roberta Hollimon**. The upcoming 2016 Presidential election promises to be a very busy time for Leagues across the state, so whether you’re “getting it in gear” or still trying to figure out “how the pieces align,” you don’t want to miss this opportunity to receive in-person training for how to use the new Voter’s Edge platform.

Whether you’re already part of the Smart Voter/Voter’s Edge California team, or you are interested in joining, we recommend attending this very important training that is crucial to your participation!

When: Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2015



Time: 9:30 a.m.. Coffee and rolls

Training: 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

LWVC

Where: Western Justice Center  
55 S. Grand Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91105

VOTER’S EDGE

SERVING VOTERS

***Voter’s Edge California Training***

Join us and learn how to work on the next generation of Smart Voter. Voter’s Edge California (VEC) a joint project with MapLight, is our new one-stop online source for a personalized ballot, candidate, ballot measure, and elections information.

Please let us know of your attendance by emailing Linda Herman at [lhermanpg@cox.net](mailto:lhermanpg@cox.net), calling 310-541-3373, or completing the form below and mailing it to her at 28070 Ella Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 **by Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016.**

------(box around this)-----

Name

League

Position

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## Unit Meeting Constitutional Amendments

At the December 3 unit meeting, about a dozen of us participated in a national study aimed at developing a League position on constitutional amendments. The first part of the study involved discussion of the characteristics that should be part of a well-crafted amendment proposal. The second part of the study involved what conditions should be in place for an Article V convention, that is, one at which the states meet to propose an amendment rather than Congress doing so. This method of proposing constitutional amendments has not been used and no details of how it would be conducted have yet been determined. The League should have a position on both of these in about six months.

~~~Sue Schenk

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. We are rather informal, everyone does a part and has a good time. Join us !

Now you can join and donate online!

Follow this link and use PayPal to support the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area

[Join/Donate](#)

claremont.ca.lwvnet.org/join_form.html

**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK®**

LWV Help with Special Election

The League has been asked to assist with a special election in the City of Carson. This is a recall election regarding the City Clerk, Jim Dear. The election is on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

Sue Herbers, retired City Clerk in Torrance, has been hired to run the election. She has confidence in the integrity of the League and its members and would like to have LWV people serve as Inspectors at the 30 polling places. In addition to performing a civic service in the name of good government, Inspectors would receive the same pay as the normal County election payment - \$175 (base pay + training class + pick up and return of materials). Anyone volunteering to be a clerk would also be paid (\$105). There will be training classes in Carson in January.

Sue is also looking for someone to fill a temporary job with this project to handle the VMB ballots. This would be M-F for 2 to 3 hours, once the ballots begin to come in.

Sue is seeking interest at this time - hopefully leading to commitment. She is trying to get an idea of how many League people would be willing to help so she will know how many additional people she will have to find. Please check with your boards and members - especially those LLs within easy driving distance from Carson. If interested please contact the office at (909) 624-9457 or write lwvclaremont@verizon.net



Claremont Area
 PO Box 1532
 Claremont, CA 91711

President: Tressa Kentner
 VP of Administration: Jerry Klasik
Voter Editor: Judith Tanenbaum
 Tech Consultant: Robin Tanenbaum
December 2015

Return Service Requested

LWV Claremont Area Early 2016 Program/Events

| Date/Time | Location | Topic/Theme | Other |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Thurs., Jan. 21
9:30-11 a.m. | Mt San Antonio Gardens
875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona
Building D, 4 th floor lounge | <i>Money in Politics</i>
Study | |
| Sat., Jan. 30
9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Sportsmen's Lodge
Event Center
12833 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604 | LWV LA County
Winter League Day:
Civic Engagement
and
Voter Service | Dora Rose, LWVCA's
Director of Civic
Engagement and a
representative from the
county registrar's office,
will speak. |
| Sat., Feb. 27 | To be announced | Public Higher Education
Roundtable | Assemb. Chris Holden,
Citrus President Dr. Perri,
and Cal Poly
Provost and VP Dr. Alva
will be present |
| Thurs., March 17
9:30-11 a.m. | Mt San Antonio Gardens
875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona
Building D, 4 th floor lounge | <i>State Higher Education</i>
Study | |