

LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

March 2016



The Struggle to Gain Legal Status in the United States

The March luncheon highlights the timely issue of refugees and asylum seekers in the United States. Our speakers include Carmen Chavez, Esq.,

Executive Director, Casa Cornelia; Robert Moser, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Catholic Charities; and Ev Meade, Esq., Executive Director, Trans-Border Institute. Refugee May Hasan from Iraq will share her story with us, too. Anne Hoiberg will serve as moderator.

These experts will discuss the legal and humanitarian facets of the refugee issue. Worldwide, people are on the move. During 2014 the United Nations reported that almost 60 million individuals had been forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. Under such harrowing circumstances, what is the status of these individuals upon arriving in the U.S.: refugees or asylum seekers?

The key difference between those applying for asylum or refugee status is that refugees must apply from outside the U.S., while people requesting asylum must apply either at a United States border (including airports or seaports) or from within the U.S. The process of gaining refugee status begins in another country through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.S. embassy, or a designated nongovernmental organization.

At the border, asylum seekers must explain that they fear returning to their country after which they may be placed in a detention facility where they wait to be sent to a "credible fear" hearing with a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asylum officer. We had an opportunity in early 2015 to visit the detention facility in Otay Mesa. For those asylum seekers who make it past the border, they have up to

a year to fill out USCIS Form I-589 to submit with documents in a detailed affidavit.

What are the current immigration issues related to unaccompanied minors, since the huge influx experienced in 2014? In October and November 2015, more than 10,500 children crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, the vast majority from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The unaccompanied minors from Central America have been referred to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement and placed in temporary shelters while their deportation proceedings were initiated. Two shelters in Texas and one in California have been opened, for a total of 1,400 beds. Children coming from Mexico were taken straight back across the border.

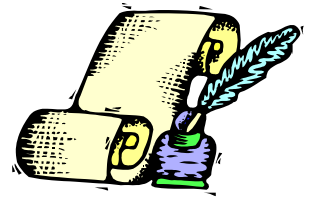
And what is the obligation to non-citizen veterans who served in the U.S. military and have been deported? As many as 100,000 of these U.S. veterans have been deported since 2009.

Another challenge to U.S. authorities is the housing of "illegal re-entries," individuals who have been deported, arrested upon returning to the U.S., and sentenced to federal prison. A total of 23,000 of these inmates are housed in 11 immigrant-only, privatized prisons, all providing inadequate medical care, according to an investigation by [The Nation](#).

To adjudicate immigration cases is the job of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR); currently a total of 258 judges are tasked with hearing a backlog of 469,000 cases. Yes, the immigration and deportation issue is complicated, which we hope will become less so after hearing from our luncheon experts on March 24, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Please join us for a truly educational experience.

Anne Hoiberg, Director, International Relations

President's Message



The political campaigns of 2016 are here! It seems as though I've seen enough debates for an entire campaign season yet we are just beginning. However, our League is ready. We have a Voter Service Director this year and she and her committee are ready for it all. They have already planned a "Meet the Candidates" event, similar to the two we had in 2014, but this will be at the Downtown Library instead of the Hall of Champions. Be sure to mark 6 pm, May 25th on your calendar and don't send in your ballot until you've attended this and met them all. This is the one event where candidates for judicial races will be invited along with candidates for many other local races. Candidates will have tables with their information and time to talk to the voters personally.

We will also be busy with candidate forums and will need some volunteers to help as timekeepers, pages, and sorters/screeners for these forums. We want our communities to know that if they want to put on a forum, the League is the organization that knows how to run it for them.

League of Women Voters

San Diego 2015-2016

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For information, use address above.

Although there may only be one State measure on the June ballot, there should be a number of them concerning San Diego City's Charter Review and the Infrastructure initiative. We also need help identifying issues that are of concern in Chula Vista, El Cajon, La Mesa and other cities that our League covers. Those are often missed due to the emphasis on San Diego. If you know of issues that the League should be aware of, please let us know.

Our SmartVoter website has now merged with MapLight to produce a hybrid called Voter's Edge California that has online, trusted information on candidates and ballot issues along with the needed financial information voters can use to make informed decisions. We may need more people to help input all the local information for voters to access.

So if you have a little time to get involved, please email the office at lwvsandiego@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with the correct person. Let's make this campaign season one where the League is the "Go To" organization when people want balanced, ballot information.

Yours In League,

Jeanne

LWV San Diego wishes to sincerely thank more of our donors for contributing to non-partisan educational activities during this coming election



Jody Tadder Pat Coffey Patricia Osuna

Colleen Michell Michael Jenkins



Jody Tadder, Director, Finance

Higher Education Consensus Meeting

The Higher Education Consensus meeting promises a lively discussion. Who doesn't think they have all the answers about education and higher education specifically? After all, didn't we attend or have children to attend one or more institutions? If not that, we have helped fund them with our tax dollars.



We hope you have marked your calendars and are planning to attend the Consensus Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 1:30-5:00 pm at the Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego. Snacks and drinks will be provided and there will be a break. We expect to keep the discussion moving and even finish early. This meeting will mark the end of a three year study.

Committee members have done a major amount of reading provided by the statewide committee along with local interviews and individual research. You may access all the documents provided by the state

at lwvc.org/study/education-0. Scroll down the page to access the study materials. We encourage you to choose one or two of the articles to read in preparation for the consensus discussion. The consensus questions will help inform what you may choose to read. Additional information can be found almost daily in print and electronic news about the UC and CSU campuses and Community Colleges.

Below and on the following page are the general questions which will be discussed and then voted on. The detailed consensus questions are included with the email Voter. If you receive a paper copy, you can download and print the full set of questions from the League website. Members may also call the office at 858-483-8696 or Beryl Flom at 858-459-4406 to have a copy of the consensus questions to be mailed to you. Please bring these questions to the meeting.

Kay Ragan, Chair, Higher Ed Study Committee

Study of Public Higher Education in California Consensus Questions

Approved by the LWVC Board of Directors August 8, 2015

Purpose

What is the purpose of California's system of public higher education? Is it to supply an educated, competitive workforce for the state? Is it to offer the benefits of postsecondary school education to everyone capable of learning? Is it to ensure that the state will have a sufficiently large segment of well-educated citizens? Is it to develop future leaders? Is the purpose to increase opportunities for economic mobility otherwise lacking for first-generation and/or minority youngsters? Is it to continue emphasis on access and excellence as core values?

Equitable Access

Should everyone, regardless of preparation for college, have access to higher education? To what ex-

tent should access be apportioned proportionally according to the state population, i.e., should there be a distinctive focus on such issues as gender, race, ethnicity, and age? In admissions? Enrollments? Completion of degrees? With the elimination of affirmative action policies, there are no longer statutory requirements regarding university admission. The Master Plan's specified criteria for eligibility still hold sway and restrict enrollment at CSU and UC. Do these criteria meet the needs of California's changing demographics? Do they facilitate a seamless transition path from the California Community Colleges (CCC's) to four-year colleges? Do they address the need for many more graduates of four-year universities?



Units ~ March ~ No Meetings Scheduled

Units ~ April ~ Pros and Cons

Update on LWVSD Units



Unit meetings are a longstanding tradition in many, but not all, local Leagues. However, as you may have heard, we have decided to no longer have the same Unit structure and to discontinue Unit Council meetings, mostly because of declining attendance. Members who enjoy getting together in neighborhood Units are welcome to continue doing so. They may discuss what League is currently studying, another topic of their choosing, a book, a film, or whatever they decide.

In the meantime we are encouraging members to continue to attend general meetings and luncheons and to join one of our thriving committees. They are open to all. It could be one of our study committees, which are established to coordinate local, county, state or national studies. Recently these studies have been on topics as diverse as campus justice and sexual assault, local agriculture, higher education in California, the Constitution, and money in politics. Ongoing committees also welcome new members; these include Public Policy, Voters' Service, Program, Education, and Membership. If you haven't recently served on a LWVSD committee you might want to consider doing so. It's where the action is!

Mary Hanson, Treasurer and Member of Nominating Committee

LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ March

Tues	Mar 1	4 pm	Public Policy Committee, Board Room, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave,
Tues	Mar 1	5:30 pm	LWVSD Board, Board Room, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Mon	Mar 7	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Fri	Mar 11	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Sat	Mar 12	12 noon	Voter Service Committee, Margaret Stevenson's home
Wed	Mar 16	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Office of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd, SD 92111, 301
Fri	Mar 18	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Tues	Apr 1	5:30 pm	LWVSD Board, Board Room, League Office, Ste. 224A, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111

LWVSD Activities ~ March, April, May

Thurs	Mar 3	10 am	Future of the ILO, Beryl Flom's home, 1577 Vista Claridad, La Jolla, 92037, p 7
Sun	Mar 6	2:30-5:30	Women's Museum: Women's Hall of Fame Induction and Reception, p 6
Tues	Mar 8	10 am	Future of the ILO (North County), Leucadia Water District Offices, p 7
Sat	Mar 19	1:30-5 pm	Higher Ed Consensus, Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego, p 4
Thurs	Mar 24	11:30 am	Lunch with League: "The Struggle to Gain Legal Status in the U.S.," Tom Ham's, p 9
Tues	Apr 12	6 pm	Sips & Civility: Money in Politics, details in April Voter
Sun	Apr 17	10 am-4pm	Earth Day, Balboa Park, details in April Voter
Mon	Apr 18	5:30 pm	Ethics Commission Forum on Money in Politics, Downtown Library, p 8
Sat	May 21		LWVSDC (ILO) County Convention
Wed	May 25		Meet the Candidates

Also see <http://lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html> for updates

Funding and Affordability

Should tuition for public higher education be free? Currently, only the CCCs do not charge tuition although they do charge “fees” per credit. The State Universities and the University of California charge both tuition and fees with exact amounts varying from year to year due to dependence on changing allocations from the state budget. In addition to this lack of stability, there are issues of affordability for students and families, especially for those with special needs, e.g., for remediation, for assistance due to disabilities, and for those who have to interrupt their studies to seek gainful employment. Assistance through financial aid is available to those qualified, but is it sufficient? Are the tuition and fees charged an obstacle for students and families? How can students cover the full cost of attending college, which is much more than just tuition and fees? What is the state’s responsibility for assisting students for whom affordability is an issue?



ability of financial aid? Will the implementation of current K-12 school reforms be sufficient to prepare students to meet college-readiness criteria? Other reforms and opportunities available to assist students in mastering the requirements have been suggested. Which of these seem appropriate or useful? How essential is K-12 preparedness?

Opportunities/Barriers to Success

Limited capacity and strict adherence to the 1960 eligibility requirements for four-year colleges have contributed to California’s low baccalaureate attainment. Lack of articulation and coordination among the three sectors has also created barriers to student access and success. Many students experience barriers to enrollment and successful completion of their degrees in post-secondary education, while others lack opportunities for lifelong learning as well as training or retraining. Some reforms and opportunities have been made available or proposed to assist students in meeting eligibility requirements, such as: the use of multiple measures of assessment for entry placement status, the development of a variety of innovative curricula and instructional strategies, development of satellite locations offering B.A. degrees, and the use of new and expanding technologies. Are they enough? Are they effective?

Preparedness

How well are K-12 students prepared for higher education? Is there adequate counseling? Should students be able to start earning college credits while still in high school? Do students and families have sufficient knowledge about enrollment procedures and the avail-



The **Education Committee** concentrates on issues surrounding early childhood education (infant through third grade). There is always an interesting speaker at their meetings on the third Wednesday at 9:30 am in building 3 of the San Diego County Board of Education center at 4901 Linda Vista Road. The March 16 meeting with Sarina Lynn and Ashley Fifield will discuss the Linda Vista Kindergarten Readiness Network - SDCOE rm 301. For the April 20 meeting, Lucia Garay, Executive Director, Early Education Programs and Services, SDCOE, will update us on QPI and other programs the county oversees - SDCOE rm 209.

The last speaker was Dr. Daniel Singley, Consultant and Psychologist with the Center for Men's Excel-

lence. He emphasized the important role that dads play in a small child's life and discussed some of the issues connected with getting men more involved.

Chair: Penny Adler, dadler@ucsd.edu, 619-995-2861.

The **Membership Committee** meets most months on the first Monday of the month at 10 am in the LWVSD office. Beryl reports on the count, new members, and efforts to meet with every new member. The committee also updates publications regularly. Chair: Beryl Flom, edflom@sbcglobal.net, 858-459-4406.

(continued on page 6)

LWVSD Committees



(continued from page 5)

The **Immigration and Deportation Committee** is planning to interview members of Congress regarding immigration court issues. They also are planning big events focusing on non-citizen veterans' rights to remain in the U.S. This coalition of organizations meets in the third floor Conference Room of 7710 Balboa Ave. where the League office is located. Chair: Beryl Flom, edflom@sbcglobal.net, 858-459-4406.

The **Program Committee** is working on the March and April luncheons, Unit meetings for April, consensus meetings for Higher Education and Campus Justice, and the Earth Day booth. Next meeting will be on March 11 (rather than our usual 3rd Friday) at 10 am in the League office. Chair: Jeanne Brown, jhs-ten.brown@gmail.com or 619-857-1807.

The **Public Policy Committee** in March will be reviewing the possible ballot initiative for the November ballot to increase the minimum wage in the City of San Diego. Also in March, we will begin a review of the infrastructure funding proposal approved by the City Council in February for the June ballot. The regular March Public Policy meeting will be on Friday, March 18 (rather than the usual March 11) at 9:30 am, probably in the 3rd floor conference room. Additionally, a special meeting of the Public Policy Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 1 at 4 pm just before the Board meeting to begin review of the infrastructure funding proposal. Chair: Myles Pomeroy, mpomeroy@san.rr.com.

The **Voter Service Committee** is actively planning our Next Sips & Civility event (April 12) on the topic of Money in Politics. This event series is designed to engage younger voters in civil discourse. We are also planning a Meet the Candidates night at the Downtown Library (May 25) and coordinating outreach to community organizations who may wish to host a Candidate Forum. The committee is also gearing up for a busy election season and is looking for members who want to learn how to do "Prop Talks" to be trained in the primary season. Our meetings are held at the home of

Margaret Stevenson and the next meetings will be: Saturday, March 12, 12 noon and Saturday, April 2, 12 noon. Contact Chair Amanda Berg for more information: amandalberg@gmail.com. 858-603-3733.

The committee studying **Campus Justice & Sexual Assault** will be holding a consensus meeting before the end of the League's fiscal year. We encourage interested League members to review the resource list already posted on the League website. Among the posted materials you will find the notes from interviews conducted by the committee with administrators from UCSD, SDSU, and USD. You will also find many news articles documenting the current climate both locally and nationally on the topic of sexual assault on campuses. You can find the list of study materials at: <http://lwvsandiego.org/StudyMaterials.html#s03>. Chair: Amanda Berg: amandalberg@gmail.com, 858-603-3733.

The **Charter Review Committee** works side-by-side with San Diego's Charter Review Committee. The League committee testifies on recommended changes and updates. Meetings are held in the League office just prior to the City's Charter Review Committee meetings. Chair: Beryl Flom, edflom@sbcglobal.net, 858-459-4406.

**The Women's Museum of California
15th Annual San Diego County
Women's Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony and Reception**

Sunday, March 6, 2:30-5:30 pm, \$25-\$45
Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA

This year's inductees being recognized

- * Historian: Maria Garcia
- * Trailblazer: Christine Kehoe
- * Activist: Evonne Seron Schulze
- * Empowerer of Women: Elizabeth Lou
- * Bridge Builder: Sally Wong Avery, J.D.

Register at womenshalloffamesd.org or 619-233-



The InterLeague Organization (ILO) – Is it the Best Way to Cover Regional Issues?



Now is the time for every League member to study and think about the issue of League monitoring and response to regional government. For 40 years the League of Women Voters, also known as the ILO, has served as our regional issues, or umbrella League. It has a Board of Directors that meets regularly, County Convention which meets in even years and County Council which meets in odd years. The ILO has By-laws and a Budget supported by Per Member Payments from our two local Leagues. It is a 501 (c)3 non-profit educational organization. ILO Board members have carried portfolios for specific areas of interest and attended innumerable meetings, written letters to government officials commenting on proposed governmental actions, attended meetings to testify in support or opposition to government proposals or decisions. Now some have called for dissolution of the ILO and a replace it with a more informal structure to cover such regional issues as Mental Health, Health, Transportation, Land Use, Social Policy, Water and Environmental issues, etc.

A committee composed of Jeanne Brown, Sylvia Hampton, and Mary Hanson from the San Diego League, and Roni Seay, Barbara Lorenzen and Anne Omsted from the North County League has studied how regional government monitoring is done by other Leagues in other urban California counties. The committee has prepared a report outlining the various

structures that these other Leagues are using and has also reviewed what the current ILO is doing. The report will be presented to the ILO Board for acceptance at the 5/21/16 County Convention. But the committee would like to hear from the members before that time to make sure that all concerns about the ILO have been addressed and to learn what ideas the members have about tracking regional government issues.

Please plan to attend one of the two special meetings which have been set up to only talk about the future of the ILO. For San Diego League members, it will be on March 3, Thursday, from 10-12 at Beryl Flom's home. For North San Diego County members, it will be March 8 from 10-12 at the Leucadia Wastewater Board Room, 1960 La Costa Avenue (northeast corner of El Camino Real and La Costa Avenue, on the far east side of the shopping center). You can read the report that has been prepared by the committee by clicking on any of the links below. The committee members look forward to your active participation in arriving at a good decision for our Leagues. Come and comment!

Anne Omsted, Committee Chair

LWVSD lwvsandiego.org

LWVSDC sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org

LWVSD (North County) lwvncsd.org

Silence is Not Golden

Did you miss this play reading co-sponsored by the LWVSD at the Women's Museum a couple of years ago? It is so powerful that the First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio, South, San Diego 92108 (w. of Texas St. and s. of Hwy. 8) is repeating it for the second time and you are welcome to come. The date is Wednesday, March 30 and the play will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Cove. There is a dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Linder Hall for a small fee. A discussion will follow. The play concerns abuse of a woman and how she goes through denial and then reaches out for help.

For more information, contact *Beryl Flom*, edflom@sbcglobal.net, 858-459-4406.

Membership

We have two more members this month and want to welcome them into our League:

Bonnie Bishop 92037

Emily Dresslar 92131



A couple of special people have died this month:

- **Estelle Rosten** was one of the founding members of LWVSD.
- **Margaret Schlesinger** worked tirelessly with Leaguers many years ago on San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and land use in Solana Beach.

It is time to figure out how many contiguous years you have been a member in the LWV (San Diego or elsewhere). Please let me know if it is 50 years or more so we can honor you at the Annual Meeting in early June. Fifty-year members no longer pay dues.

LWVSD is sponsoring some impressive programs and we don't want you to miss out on them. Feel free to bring friends or relatives to them; they may get excited about joining the League, especially as we approach two big elections.

Beryl Flom, Membership Chair, 858-459-4406, edflom@sbcglobal.net



MONEY IN POLITICS FORUM

Hosted by the San Diego Ethics Commission

APRIL 18, 2016 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

San Diego Central Library 330 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
Limited free parking available at the library.
The use of public transportation is encouraged.

Space is limited for this free event.
Registration begins on February 18
through Eventbrite.

Questions? Please call 619-533-3476 or
email ethicscommission@sandiego.gov.

Keynote Speaker



Honorable Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

Six years after the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the *Citizens United* case, the nationally-recognized experts at this forum will cover a range of topics associated with big money in politics and government efforts to ensure transparency and prevent the appearance of corruption.

Following a keynote address by Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Ann M. Ravel, Commissioner, Federal Election Commission, will talk about the regulation of “dark money” and advancements in the disclosure of campaign spending. Paul S. Ryan, Deputy Executive Director Campaign Legal Center, will report on significant developments in campaign finance litigation. Gary S. Winuk, Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld LLP (former FPPC Enforcement Director), will address the regulation of Super PACs in California. Stephen J. Kaufman, Kaufman Law Group, and Jason Roe, Revolis Consulting San Diego, will provide perspective from those endeavoring to comply with government regulations and will also talk about emerging trends in the 2016 election cycle.

LWV



Lunch with League

The Struggle to Get Legal Status in the United States

Thursday, March 24, 2016
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant
2150 Harbor Drive, San Diego
\$30 by Mar 21 or \$35 after

Moderator: Anne Hoiberg, Director, International Relations, LWVSD

Speakers: Carmen Chavez, Esq., Executive Director, Casa Cornelia
Robert Moser, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Catholic Charities
Ev Meade, Esq., Executive Director, Trans-Border Institute
May Hasan, Refugee from Iraq

co-sponsors



Lunch with League: Struggle for Legal Status, March 24, 2016

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

Guest(s) _____

Amount enclosed (\$30 per person) _____ by Mar 21. Make checks payable to LWVSD and mail to 7710 Balboa Ave. 224A, San Diego CA 92117, 858-483-8696, or register on our website with Paypal www.lwvsandiego.org Click on 'donate' button, 'amount' \$30, 'purpose' March Luncheon.



**League of Women Voters
of San Diego**

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San Diego CA 92111
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Return Service Requested

LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff, and programs.

Join the League

Individual Membership \$65 Additional Household Memberships \$35 Student Membership \$25

Those on limited incomes can pay any amount. Please contact me with more information

Name(s) _____ Phone(s) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

How did you hear about LWV? _____

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego

7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A San Diego CA 92111

Phone: 858-483-8696