

# LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SAN DIEGO  
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

# VOTER

August 2016



An official tour director  
flag for Beryl Flom from  
President Jeanne Brown



Convention Reports



Luncheon September 22



Volunteers Needed for



High School  
Presentations



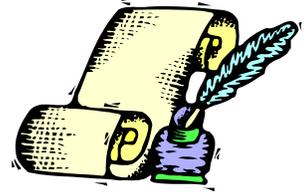
Candidate  
Forums



## President's Message

I hope you are all having a wonderful, relaxing summer. I've been trying to slow down, preparing for what looks to be an exciting and very busy fall.

We are hoping to prepare our Speakers' Bureau by adding new speakers; we expect to have a surge in all of our election activities so we could use all the help that we can get.



Our committees are busy:

- Voter Service put on another "Sips +Civility" in July and is increasing the Speakers' Bureau to accommodate the increase in requests for "Pros and Cons" presentations and Candidate Forums.
- Membership is working on membership renewals. If you haven't sent yours in yet, please do, so we don't have to send out a reminder.

### League of Women Voters San Diego 2016-2017

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For information, use address above.

- Program is planning luncheons, general meetings, and tours to keep us informed on local issues.
- Public Policy is analyzing ballot issues and educating themselves on all of the current city issues, including the City Charter Review. They will be planning a couple of the luncheons that will give us a deeper understanding of certain ballot issues.
- Our new Natural Resources Committee has had its first meeting and is hoping to oversee a luncheon on Coastal Erosion.
- Education Committee is still doing its wonderful work to encourage universal preschool. We have also added two new co-chairs for Secondary Education, Ann McDonald and Eileen Coblens, who will be looking for ways to use our new Higher Education position and also help with Mock Elections.

In June I was proud to accept two awards given to the League. The first one was from the Sierra Club for "exemplary leadership in engaging the

public to act for social change and improve public policies through education and participation in the democratic process." The second one was from the Islamic Center of San Diego for our work "In Grateful Appreciation of Outstanding Service and Dedication Furthering Solidarity with the Muslim Community".

I know that this year we will further demonstrate that the League is the organization for trusted leadership and information.

Yours in League,

*Jeanne*



Stacey Fulhorst at our  
Annual Meeting

## LWVSD Unit Meetings

Unit Meetings are not held during the summer months nor in December. Some Units have disbanded; some will resume in September. Please check the September Voter for updates.

### LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ August

Mon	Aug 1	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD, Suite 224A
Tues	Aug 2	5:30 pm	LWVSD Board, 3rd floor Board room, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD
Fri	Aug 12	12:30 pm	Natural Resources Committee. League Office, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD, Suite 224A
Sat	Aug 13	12 noon	Voter Service Committee, Margaret Stevenson's Home
Fri	Aug 19	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD, Suite 224A
Tues	Aug 23	1:30 pm	Public Policy Committee, 3rd floor Board room, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD
Mon	Aug 29	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD, Suite 224A

### LWVSD Activities ~ August-September ~ Mark your Calendars!

Tues	Aug 2	8:30 am	Border Crossing Tour and Luncheon with Speakers
Thurs	Sept 22	11:30 am	LWVSD Luncheon, Tom Ham's, 2150 Harbor Island Dr San Diego CA 92101 watch for email blasts and the September Voter

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

## LWVUS Convention 2016 MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Your president Jeanne Brown and I (Mary Hanson) were honored to serve as delegates from LWVSD to the national convention in Washington D.C. from June 16 to 19. As any of you who've ever attended a state or national convention know, there wasn't much time to eat or sleep; caucuses and workshops began as early as 7:15 a.m. and lasted until 9:30 in the evening or later. So at the end we may have been a little exhausted, but also energized by the people we met, the ideas presented, and the opportunities to learn and to share.

The Making Democracy Work theme was woven throughout the convention. It was approved as the board-recommended program priority, and the excellent speakers touched on aspects of this theme. On the one hand, we learned about opportunities for making our democracy work better, such as successes in redistricting reform, online and/or automatic ("opt/out") and same-day registration, engaging voters via



social media, and new ways to think about registering voters at naturalization ceremonies.

On the other hand, there was sobering discussion about what isn't working so well, such as the gerrymandering of districts that can make them uncompetitive, increasing

lack of trust in our democratic institutions, the disenchantment among young people in the political process and their lack of interest in running for office, the role of money in politics, and the disturbing rise of American authoritarianism.

And, of course, there are the restrictive voting laws passed in several states that limit early voting, voting hours and the number of polling places. Add to that the sometimes onerous requirements for proof of citizenship in order to register, and/or burdensome voter I.D. laws, and you've put in place obstacles to voting

*continued on following page*

that disproportionately affect poorer, non-white voters.

A few other highlights:

Jeanne participated in Lobby Day, along with other members of the California delegation, and enjoyed meeting with staff from Congressman Scott Peters office to discuss League priorities.

Outgoing president Elisabeth MacNamara will be missed; however we are pleased that the new LWVUS President, Chris Carson, is from California (LWV Glendale/Burbank.)

As your treasurer, I'm happy to report that there will be no increase in our Per Member Payment (PMP) to the LWVUS at least for the next two years.

A significant bylaws change was passed which requires us to change our own local bylaws. It deals with membership requirements, and deletes "citizen" from that section, replacing it with "person." After much discussion about what the age requirement should be, if any, it was lowered to age 16.

In addition to our focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, the convention approved the board-recommended concurrences on Behavioral Health Care, and on Redistricting (not to supersede any existing state league positions.)

We were able to attend workshops on other areas of interest as well, including immigration, climate change and water policy, and criminal justice.

### **The delegates from San Diego County:**

Suzanne Carneiro,  
Mary Hanson,  
Jeanne Brown,  
Norelynn Pino-Goureau, and  
Martha Cox  
(courtesy of Suzanne Carneiro)



As a little break from the heavy agenda, we enjoyed the comedy sketch group The Capitol Steps on Friday evening. They spoofed folks from the Clintons to Trump, Bernie, Palin, Pelosi and President Obama, and kept us all in stitches.

As most of you know, Jeanne was a member of the LWVUS committee for the Money in Politics study. Their hard work was acknowledged and we all cheered when Jeanne presented the chair, Barbara Zia, with a black piggy bank symbolizing "dark money."

One of the last orders of business was passing resolutions. There was one on D.C. statehood (we don't give up,) three on climate change, and two on gun safety.

I highly recommend going to LeagueofWomenVoters - YouTube to hear the speeches for yourself. My personal favorites were Amanda Taul "Understanding American Authoritarianism," Joe Goldman, "Our Democracy -- Complex Systems and Major Forces at Play in 2016," and Celinda Lake, "Messaging for Impact -- What Resonates with Voters in 2016."

The 2018 LWVUS Convention will be in Chicago, so watch for the call!

*Mary Hanson*, Treasurer





## 2016 LWVUS Convention: Lobbying Day in DC

### Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) (H.R. 2867 and S. 1659)

This year the LWVUS brought back Lobbying Day as a pre-Convention activity. Our goal was to lobby our local Congressional representatives, in their DC offices, regarding the support of the VRAA. As most of you know, voter suppression in the states has increased since Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was overturned by the Supreme Court. Section 5 is the part that used to require localities with a history of discrimination to have any changes in their voting practices screened by the justice department to make sure that the change wouldn't make voting more difficult. The court ruled that the data that Section 5 pre clearance was based on 40 year-old data and so overturned the need for those jurisdictions to obtain pre clearance before changing voting policies. Since the removal of Section 5, we have witnessed many of those identified localities implementing voting changes that have increased the impediments to voting.

The VRAA would accomplish three goals:

- It would re-establish pre-clearance for states and localities that have demonstrated a history and pattern of discrimination in voting.
- It provides pre-clearance for areas with substantial minority populations on any voting changes that have been shown to decrease voting such as changes in polling locations and methods.
- It provides for greater transparency and public notices for changes in polling resources and data.

This Act has had difficulty making it to the floor of Congress. While we were there, a Discharge Peti-

tion was making the rounds, and we asked our representatives to sign on to it.. A discharge petition is a way to bring a bill out of committee to the floor. It "discharges" the committee from further consideration of the bill. This is usually used when a bill is kept in a committee for long periods of time.

As of June 21, Susan Davis, Juan Vargas and Scott Peters have signed the petition. It has 180 signatures but needs 218.

*Jeanne Brown*, President



Margaret Stevenson honored as a 50-year member  
by Beryl Flom, Membership Director,  
at LWVSD Annual Meeting in June



## Membership

Membership renewals are pouring into the office - thank you so much for following through quickly and for so many contributions. Our members are SO supportive! If you have not renewed, now is the time to stick it in the mail or pay with Paypal. Thanks.

New members in the last couple of months are many - they've been waiting to start the new fiscal year. Others are spouses - what a good way to increase our membership count! and to provide harmony in the family. Please welcome:

**David Adler** 92109  
**Ed Coblens** 92022  
**Anne Haule** 92103  
**Tom Karp** 92109  
**Lynn Riggs** 92175

**Bonnie Alloway** 91910  
**Anna Daniels** 92105  
**Rich Kacmar** 92105  
**Linda Larson** 92101  
**Catherine Rogers** 92103

**Jennifer Avina** 92116  
**Yvonne Elkin** 92126  
**Jon Kaneshiro** 92128  
**Claire Pratt** 91902  
**Sue Wille** 92037

We have lost a dear and devoted League member, **Debra Blum**. Many Leaguers attended her service and were joined by about 200 friends and family. She has been invaluable in so many ways to the League - Unit Chair, long time member of the Speakers Bureau and Program Committee, favorite chef of cookies and bread pudding, registrar at League luncheons for years, driver for Lila Brill, and most cheery enthusiastic member of our team! Each member of her family paid many tributes to her saying she was always a strong woman who lived for her passions (family, community involvement, Sunset Cliffs Regional Park, San Diego Yacht Club, Pt. Loma Garden Club, and performing arts including the symphony with Shirley Larson). Debra's enthusiasm and devotion to League cannot be replaced but we are all better off for having had her be part of our lives.

*Beryl Flom*, Membership Chair, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net), 858-459-4406.

## Volunteers Needed!



Get the facts before you vote.

The Voter's Edge team is an ideal volunteer opportunity for people who want to make a truly meaningful contribution to the democratic process, but who find it difficult to attend committee meetings. All of the training --and the actual tasks, too!--can be done remotely. Many of the tasks can be done at odd hours, too.

Voter's Edge (<http://votersedge.org>) is a joint project of the League of Women Voters and MapLight, a non-profit dedicated to showing where the money comes from to support candidates and measures.

It has never been more important to provide unbiased, non-partisan tools to inform the public about their choices. San Diego County Registrar of Voters Michael Vu has announced that the November 8 ballot will be so long and complicated that it will require an unprecedented TWO CARDS!

If you can spare one or two hours per week during September and October for this important work, we'd love to welcome you to the team! Please contact *Julie Ann Sih* at [ca-sd@votersedge.org](mailto:ca-sd@votersedge.org) or 858-444-6761 for more information.

# Membership Immigration and Deportation Committee Update



This committee has been busy this summer meeting with members of Congress or their aides to discuss the immigration court backlog and make suggestions to improve the process such as computerizing the case and its progress, increasing the number of judges (there are only 258 immigration judges in the whole country!) and staff, conduct pre-trial conferences to eliminate things agreed to by both parties in the trial, and providing a public defender to people seeking asylum. We have also been discussing with the Congressional offices the plight of deported veterans and suggesting that they should be allowed to remain in the U.S. if they have taken the oath of enlistment which is virtually the same as the oath of citizenship, making undocumented members of the U.S. military "nationals" which is a category that cannot be deported, sending them to Veterans Diversion Treatment Court if they commit a "crime" possibly related to PTSD, and allowing them to get expedited humanitarian parole for medical appointments at the VA. We also manned an information booth for three days at Stand Down, an event for homeless vets. Finally Beryl Flom organized a tour of some of the new

border facilities designed to increase commerce and trade between Mexico and the U.S.

Several other organizations are enlightening Congressional members and doing research on immigration issues; our committee is following them. PTSD is now being classified as a physical disorder to the brain, not just a psychological one. ACLU has completed a study pointing out that undocumented people are not being treated according to the law; their report has two pages of improvements. The American Immigration Council had a similar report. The Federation for American Immigration Reform/FAIR wrote an article saying that some people held in the immigration jail beyond the six months maximum are there because their home countries won't take them back even though the U.S. has ordered them deported. The Nation had a long article detailing the poor medical treatment in the privately run immigration jails. The League committee is getting actively involved in some of these issues and welcomes new members - please contact *Beryl Flom*, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net) or 858-459-4406.



## Pros and Cons Wants YOU!

There are myriad propositions qualifying for our November ballot. We are expecting far more requests for our Prop Talks than we have speakers to fulfill these obligations. Without your help we will have to limit the number of folks we can inform.

We do have a wonderful group of experienced speakers, but they can only stretch so far. To do our job to the best of our ability we need YOU! You don't have to be an orator or have won the debate trophy during your scholastic career. You just have to be willing to learn about the propositions and then share that information with audiences who are eager to hear what you have to say.

Our speakers summarize the propositions in easy to understand language, present information both pro and

con on each issue, advise who is paying for these efforts, and usually give a brief history of the action. The LWV does not endorse any item, although we will advise if the League has a position and explain what that position is. We answer questions and give resources for further study. Sometimes this is the only unbiased information voters receive.

We are scheduling an orientation training in early August. Please contact Margaret Stevenson (619-299-0036, [mopsandpops@att.net](mailto:mopsandpops@att.net)) and join the fun. Also, please let us know if you have a group that would like to schedule a Prop Talk presentation. Dates will fill up quickly and we want to accommodate as many groups as possible.

*Jeanne Brown*



## Candidate Forums Hosted by the League of Women Voters

Candidate Forums serve to provide a neutral environment where candidates are given an opportunity to introduce themselves and interested attendees submit questions that are organized and screened for duplication and appropriate content. Candidates have equal opportunity to respond and the event ends with closing remarks. LWV Candidate Forums are generally not organized by the League but by interested community groups (community councils, PTA's, planning groups and churches) who request LWV to oversee the event. The overriding criteria for the hosting party is that they be non-partisan and are a key participant in the forum. As chairman of the League's committee, when contacted, I send out the documents and guidelines the groups follow to organize the event.

Following a request, I put out a call for volunteers to make up the team that will be needed for each event.

We always need a number of people to fill these positions but this upcoming year in particular will be very busy with the presidential election drawing more interest, and I ask now for you to consider: Are willing to join this very fun and exciting opportunity to participate as a League member?

### **Moderators:**

- Greet and welcome the candidates (and maybe the audience), explain procedures, direct questions to the candidates in order and keep answers within the established time limits;
- Set the tone for the event: slightly formal but friendly; respectful of the candidates but firm in applying the ground rules; impartial at all times;
- Have a reasonable level of general knowledge about the issues, enough to facilitate the exchange of information between the candidates and the audience, not provide it;
- Introduce timekeepers, questions sorters/screeners and pages;
- Are in charge of the forum: making whatever deci-

sions are appropriate to keep control while being helpful to the candidates and the audience, and decide when questions screened out are appealed.;

**Pages:** assist the audience by passing out index cards and pencils and collecting written questions;

### **Sorters/Screeners:**

- Identify questioners needing help with wording;
- Assist the moderator and audience by collecting written questions from the audience and combining questions;
- Feed questions to the moderator, ranging in subject:
- Eliminate questions that are unclear, hostile or of a personal nature.
- Put aside questions for specific candidates until there is one for each candidate.

### **Timekeepers**

- Assist the moderator with keeping the answers within the established time limits;
- Help the moderator track the format and order;
- Make sure that the moderator has briefed the candidates on the timing procedure.
- A team of two works best: one to time and the other to hold up yellow and red cards. However, one person can act as the timekeeper.

Finally, if you have knowledge of interest in a debate between candidates in your district, share the information about our services with interested parties, and use the above information to communicate how our support is provided.

I hope this has helped share what our wonderful organization is doing to promote educated decision making in the election process. We have a long history of ethically serving our communities. I look forward to continuing that service with your help.

*Vickie Riggs*, Candidate Forum Chair

858-735-6404, [vickieriggs@mac.com](mailto:vickieriggs@mac.com)

This weekend, the Immigration and Deportation Committee has been staffing the LWVSD table at Stand Down assisting homeless vets to obtain copies of their birth certificate, military discharge papers, California ID, and other legal papers. Volunteers were **Bonnie Bishop, Beryl Flom, Anne Hoi-berg, Lixya Preston de Silva, Jan Ruhman, Russ Russell, Penny Adler, and Ralph Thomas**. Lixya and Russ worked much of the night on their computers and printer to provide documents for these applications and will continue to meet clients to notarize and complete documents. In addition, they are subsidizing the fees required! We met with about 60 people and registered about 15 others to vote.

The Veterans Village and Marines set up an encampment where 1000 vets stayed for the long weekend. They were well fed and cared for including medical, dental, haircuts, counseling, and many services.



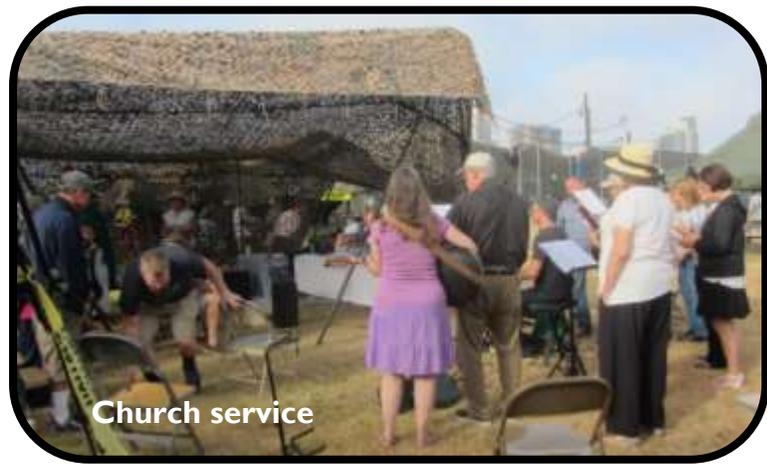
Lixya, Beryl, Russ



Overview of encampment



Pancake breakfast



Church service

Eileen Coblens and Ann McDonald are heading up a **Secondary Education Committee** for LWV this year. We plan to present a class lesson to high school seniors about how to evaluate a candidate and a ballot initiative. We also want to talk up Voters Edge and websites like FactChecker, etc. We feel that before the November election is a prime time to dispense this information to new and prospective voters. We are hoping to go back to the same schools that we visited this spring to hold straw polls and register voters. We are looking for others who would like to help in this project. Please contact *Ann McDonald*, [amcd92119@gmail.com](mailto:amcd92119@gmail.com), or *Eileen Coblens*, [eileencoblens@gmail.com](mailto:eileencoblens@gmail.com), if you would like to help.



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**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

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