

LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

August 2017

General Meeting

“Fake News and
Freedom of the Press”

featuring *Union Tribune*

Opinion Page Editor

Matt Hall

Saturday, August 12

10 am till noon

North University

Community Library

8820 Judicial Dr, San Diego CA 92122



Reporters with various forms of "fake news"
from an 1894 illustration by Frederick Burr Opper

You Are Invited

Let's get acquainted at our

Summer Social

Enjoy drinks, delicious food, and lively conversation!

Sunday, August 20, 4-6 pm

Home of Vickie and Wayne Riggs

8646 Anrol Avenue, San Diego

RSVP to vickieriggs@mac.com

President's Message: Voting is in Vogue



There's an old saying: You don't appreciate what you have until it's gone. But perhaps we don't have to actually lose something to appreciate it. Perhaps merely having it threatened will make us appreciative. That seems to be the situation with voting rights.

The League of Women Voters has well-considered positions and supports many important issues. But our organization was founded on—and vehemently advocates for—voter empowerment, which includes educating voters and defending their rights. The past year or so has been particularly tumultuous for voter advocates: we've seen voters' rights questioned and voter mandates challenged, both nationally and locally.

Nationally, multiple non-partisan intelligence agencies confirmed that the Russian government targeted our 2016 federal elections to influence their outcome, hacking into dozens of state elections systems. Additionally, the Supreme Court let stand a federal appeals court decision to strike down a strict North Carolina voter law that was deemed unconstitutional. And most recently the federal government launched a voter fraud investigation asking states to provide personal voter data, despite the fact that multiple examinations of voter fraud claims reveal fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is nearly non-existent, and many of the problems associated with alleged fraud relates to unintentional mistakes by voters or election administrators. Here in San Diego this summer we saw our City Council repel multiple challenges to their constituents' mandate on Measure L, which rejects special elections for non-emergency situations.

To address these concerns, the League of Women Voters, San Diego is scheduling a series of programs over the next 12-15 months to educate our members and community on the issues surrounding voting. In August we're hosting a seminar on "Fake News" to help attendees identify myths about voting and other issues. And in the following months we will discuss redistricting, voting innovations such as Ranked Choice Voting and National Popular Vote, campaign finance reform, voting equipment, the Motor Voter Act, and strategies to motivate voter turnout.

Additionally, we noted that San Diego is creating legislation that affects housing prices and homelessness in our region, and we have assembled a task force to investigate affordable housing and homelessness. We will share the results of that research with local voters so they can make informed decisions at the polls in 2018.

As always, we will continue to monitor local officials and observe public meetings so we can inform our community of important issues as they arise. So keep up with the League and stay informed.

Lori Thiel, President

League of Women Voters San Diego 2017-2018

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League of Women Voters of San Diego

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LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ August

Mon	Aug 7	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office
Thu	Aug 10	8 am	Immigration and Deportation Committee, Marie Callender's, 330 F St, Chula Vista
Fri	Aug 11	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office
Fri	Aug 11	9:30 am	Committee on Homelessness, Board Room
Fri	Aug 18	10 am	Program Committee, League Office
Sat	Aug 19	12 pm	Voter Empowerment Committee, home of Jeanne Brown

**The Committee on Homelessness is going to meet at different times as meeting locations are available. Anyone interested in attending please contact Kay Ragan at kragand@cox.net of 619-233-8133.*

LWVSD Activities ~ August-September ~ Mark your Calendars!

Sat	Aug 12	10 am–noon	General Meeting, “Fake News and Freedom of the Press;” North University Community Library, 8820 Judicial Dr. San Diego CA 92122, p 1
Sun	Aug 20	4-6 pm	Summer Social, Vickie Rigg's home, 8646 Anrol Ave SD, p 1 rsvp
Sat	Aug 26	9 am	Board Retreat, Lori Thiel's home
Tues	Sept 12	6-9 pm	Sips & Civility, “Fake News,” featuring Snopes.com reporter Brooke Binkowski, Downtown Central Library, 330 Park Blvd.
Thu	Sep 14	11 am	Scripps Ranch Unit Meeting, 11447 Maple Leaf Ct., San Diego, CA 92131. Jewish Family Services Refugee and Immigration Services staff members will focus on refugee and asylum issues. Emily Dresslar scrippslwv@gmail.com
Fri	Sept 22		Legislative Lunch, Education Committee, details to follow

Also see lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html for updates

The League office is at 7710 Balboa Avenue, just east of the Balboa Ave/I-805 intersection. Meetings are held either in the League office in room 224A or in the board room on the third floor.

Meeting and Luncheon Changes

At the July Program Committee meeting, we addressed the issue of people asking us, “When are your meetings held?” We decided to have them on a regular day:

- **Monthly LWVSD general meetings will be on the 3rd Saturday;** the location will vary.
- **Luncheons will be held the 4th Wednesday (change of date).**

This will allow us to remind people of the luncheons at the general monthly meeting. We also included allowing time at the general meetings for conversation which is one of the reasons that Sips & Civility is so popular. We want our meetings to be active, not passive. So please, mark your calendars. We will be skipping December and probably November.

Jeanne Brown, Program Director

LWV California Convention

Seven delegates represented the LWVSD at the LWVC Convention; Jeanne Brown, Amanda Berg, Alex Gauthier, Penny Adler, Jennifer Avina, Serena Rodriguez, and Lori Thiel. Donna Bartlett-May attended as the ILO delegate.

Several members of our delegation were able to participate in Lobby Day and meet with the staff of several San Diego representatives, including the offices of Shirley Weber, Toni Atkins, Ben Hueso, and Todd Gloria. Unfortunately, Lobby Day was held on the last day for lawmakers to pass bills through an originating house to get them considered for this legislative term, so all representatives were on the floor and could not meet with us. We did get a chance to share the League's support for several pieces of legislation on crucial topics like immigration and climate change.

The following is your new LWVC Board of Directors:

President: Helen Hutchison (Oakland)
1st Vice President: Gloria Chun Hoo (San Jose/ Santa Clara)
2nd Vice President: Joanne Leavitt (Santa Monica)
Secretary: Caroline de Llamas (East San Gabriel Valley)
Treasurer: Jacquie Canfield (Fresno)
Directors: Amanda Berg (San Diego), Jeanne Brown (San Diego), Carol Burr (Butte County), Sarah Diefendorf (Oakland), Christina Dragonetti (San Francisco), Carol Moon Goldberg (Sacramento), and Karen Vanderwerken (North San Diego County)

The financial reports for both the LWVC general fund and the education fund were presented. As of February 2017, LWVC total liabilities and reserves were \$154,000 and the education fund's liabilities and reserves were \$224,000. The 2017-19 Budget was also approved showing total income of \$832,414 and total



Our local League members: Vice President Lori Brannen Thiel, President Jeanne Brown & Secretary Donna Bartlett-May with California Secretary of State Alex Padilla

expenses of \$736,224.

The recommended program was adopted including retention of all existing positions, no new study or update study; and adoption of three issues for emphasis. The issues for emphasis include making democracy work in California with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, and money in politics; natural resources including climate change, water, and land use/CEQA; and response to changing federal policies and budget actions that have an impact on California in areas such as health care, immigration, the environment, and tax reform.

The LWVC Bylaws were totally re-written. If you would like to see the new bylaws, go to <https://lwvc.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/18-bylaw-amendments.pdf>.

There were many great workshops with excellent speakers including one entitled Engaging New Members Around Local Issues that Jeanne Brown presented with Helen Hutchison, Joanne Leavitt and Trudy Schafer. There were also some very informative caucuses including Immigration and Deportation from a Border City Perspective hosted by our own Jennifer Avina, Penny Adler and Serena Rodriguez.

(continued on following page)

What Happens When You Call 911 with a Medical Emergency?

All 911 calls come into the San Diego Police Department and they route medical and fire calls to the Fire & Rescue Command Center. A GPS system locates the closest available engine and the 911 Command Center sends that engine to the call. If the engine at the closest station is on a call, then another engine is sent which takes longer. At the 911 Command Center, a computer is programmed to guide the questions asked of the caller depending upon what the previous response is. The fire-rescue medical director designs the program and it is reviewed regularly. If there is a fire, an ambulance responds in case the fire fighters are injured. If needed, language translation is available for a call. San Diego Fire & Rescue has an ACE accreditation - the highest- and they are proud of it!



The fire and rescue department's fire engine is manned with four people including a paramedic and is the first responder for Priority 1 & 2 calls. The city has 48 fire stations, so they are usually closer to the call than an ambulance. Ambulances are provided by AMR/Rural Metro through a contract with the city. They are stationed around the city and are the second responder. Ambulances are manned with two people, one of whom is a paramedic. A computer program can predict where calls will come from on different days and times of the day, so ambulances are stationed accordingly. AMR hires the people manning the ambulances. The fire engine is supposed to arrive within 8 minutes of the call and the ambulance comes within 12 minutes of the call. The contract calls for 90% on-time arrivals. The time of arrival is carefully recorded and analyzed. The philosophy of San Diego's Fire and Rescue Department is to send as many people as could possibly be needed. Sometimes a heavy person has to be transported down stairs, someone falls into a difficult corner, or both paramedics are needed to stabilize the patient because they each work on what is needed at the same time. Paramedics have two years of training. All the rest of the staff are emergency medical technicians (EMT's) which have very basic training. The captain who rides in the engine records all procedures and times.

Beryl Flom, Chair, Ambulance Contract Study

Each 911 call is classified by computer into one of four categories:

- Priority 1 - potentially life-threatening emergency response (80% of calls)
- Priority 2 - non-life threatening emergency response
- Priority 3 - urgent request
- Priority 4 - unscheduled non-emergency response, other private ambulance companies can do transport; no response time is recorded.

Convention *(continued from the previous page)*

On Saturday night LWVSD took home two of the three awards for which we submitted entries. Our Sips & Civility program won the Effective Community Engagement award and the Tijuana Border Tour won in the Strengthening Democracy category. Both categories had several winners, and LWVSD took home the prizes in the "Large League" segment.

All your delegates were energized and motivated to

come back and get busy working on all the issues facing us. Please look for an area you are interested in and help us make change happen.

DID YOU KNOW: You can log in to lwvc.org/membersonly without a password to see important information from LWVC. Within the next few weeks, many of the presentations and speeches will be on the LWVC site.

Donna Bartlett-May, Secretary

LWVSD General Meeting on Charter Schools and Vouchers

League members and members of the general public learned a great deal about charter schools and vouchers at the League-sponsored general meeting held at the Mission Valley Library on Saturday, April 29. The most valuable thing the audience learned was that, as the president said about health care reform, “It’s complicated.”



Speaking to us about charter schools, Miles Durfee, Regional Director for Southern California of the California Charter Schools Association, clarified several myths and misunderstandings about charter schools as they function in California. Primarily, charter schools are public, tuition-free schools, open to all applicants (until the schools reach their capacity, at which time additional applicants are chosen by lottery as space becomes available). Another myth he set to rest relates to special education students: Students with special needs are not designated as such in their applications, and thus are part of the full pool of applicants. Also, most charter schools, contrary to popular belief, are not for-profit. There are a few for-profit charter schools in California, but two bills currently before the state legislature, one in the Assembly and one in the Senate, are attempting to eliminate or at least modify such schools.

Mario Koran, education reporter for the Voice of San Diego and the event’s other speaker, described his own education in a small town in Wisconsin, where the one elementary school, which fed into the one middle school and then into the one high school, was the only option. He grew up knowing nothing but traditional public school education, and it was not until he moved to San Diego three years ago and took his present position at Voice of San Diego, that he had even dealt with the concept of charter schools. He has come to believe that when neighborhood schools don’t meet the needs of particular children, especially in poor neighborhoods, parents should be offered a broader choice—hence, charter schools. He has come to see the debate

over charter schools as political, and explained that the movement was actually born out of a political conflict: In 1992, when vouchers were proposed and strongly opposed, charter schools emerged as a compromise program for those parents who were demanding choice.

It is important to keep in mind that charter schools are a growing movement, with 1200 schools serving 600,000 students currently operating in California. In San Diego County, charter schools have an enrollment of over 70,000 students, constituting over 25 percent of the city’s total public school enrollment. With so many schools to choose from, and so much at stake, how does a parent decide on the best place for his/her child? Both speakers agreed that there are qualitative differences among charter schools, and that parents have the responsibility to vet the choices carefully to find the best fit for their child, and there are huge waiting lists at the best charter schools. According to Durfee, the best charters have on-site, community-connected boards of governors which are responsive to the communities they serve.

The debate over the direction education should take in the U.S., especially since the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as Education Secretary, often frames charter schools and vouchers in a way that implies that the two terms are interchangeable. To explain the difference between charter schools and vouchers, Koran quoted Kevin Carey, director of the education policy program at New America, who explained it this way: “Market-based school reforms generally come in two flavors: vouchers and charter schools....Charter schools are public schools, open to all, accountable in varying degrees to public authorities, and usually run by nonprofit organizations. Vouchers, by contrast, allow students to attend any school, public or private, including those run by religious organizations and for-profit companies.”

(continued on page 8)

Membership



Dues renewal letters were mailed on July 1, so we need to have your reply soon. Your support of the LWV and all of the work we are doing in San Diego is very important to our impact to achieve goals of transparency, democracy, and equality.

Over the last two months, we've had several people join including:

Amber Alexander....92104
Douglas Case....92120
Lori deWerd....92037
Wyatt Farmer....92116
Robert Hartwig....92119
Marilyn LaFrance....92117
Emilie Mason....92120
Peggy Murray....92129
Fran Selder....92119
Eden Yaeger....92117

Simone Arias....92117
Cathy Comstock....92037
Dorte Eichhorst....92122
Gary Ferdman....92037
Betty Jeter....91977
Kathy Large....92101
Phyllis McGrath...92037
Brenda Richmond....91977
Carolyn Shadle....92037

Janed Casady....92103
Kerri DeRosier....92106
Joanne Evoy....92014
Anne Fernandes....92103
Kathy Lynn Johnson....91911
Hilary MacPhail....92103
Myriam Miedzian....92037
Leslie Satz....92104
Violette Walter....92128

Hopefully, many of them will come to the **Summer Social** on August 20 and you will get to meet them.

Ione Buie, a past member, has turned 100, so we want to congratulate her! She was a faithful member of the University City Unit Meetings and had tons of questions and comments. Ione was a scientist and worked on land use issues.

We've also had a few important people pass away lately.

Danah Fayman died June 18; she was a well-known philanthropist who largely supported the arts but also donated to the LWVSD. She lived a long life - 97 years - and supported museums and theatre, particularly progressive and modern arts. She lived downtown and helped us with the dinners honoring various volunteers and public servants.

Suzanne Ghelardi was probably known by more of our members. She and her husband, Jeff (also a League member), attended many League luncheons and tours together. She had been a member of the League since 2001 and was especially interested in homelessness, poverty and other issues studied by the League. Suzanne was born on March 2, 1938 in Santa Rosa, California and moved to La Jolla graduating from La Jolla High. Her service in the Peace Corps is but one example of her devotion to community service and her social awareness and concern. Family and friends knew Suzanne as a person with a heart full of kindness, generosity and compassion. She was a loyal friend to many and will be deeply missed. An **open house** will be held in her memory on August 5 at Casa Ghelardi, 4484 Saratoga Avenue, San Diego 92107 from 11 am-5 pm.

Inge Jodka dropped her membership a few years ago and moved out of state, but her interest and support of the LWV was ever-present. She gave the speech at the naturalization ceremonies because, she, too, was naturalized and a very loyal citizen. Her **memorial service** is August 4, 2017 at the Trotter Chapel, First United Methodist Church San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio S. at 1 pm.

(continued on following page)



(continued from page 6) Koran also asserted that there are limits to the scope of Education Secretary DeVos's power to dramatically diminish the role of tuition-free public schools despite her avowed opposition to traditional public school education. For example, she cannot unilaterally impose vouchers on the State of California. Currently, Washington, D.C. and 12 states do offer vouchers. Recent D.C. test scores have dropped. Durfee expressed belief that it is unlikely that such authorization will be approved in California.

Durfee's and Koran's remarks were followed by a robust question-and-answer period, including many questions concerning budgeting, funding and staffing. A few of the points mentioned were that charter schools do not receive funding for transportation, which gives them a little less per student; pension obligations are pushing LA Unified to bankruptcy and

San Diego is not far behind, thus resulting in proposed budget cuts. Since few charter schools have unionized faculties, they are not currently being affected by this strain on their budgets. Currently California ranks 43rd in the country in education funding. Concern was expressed that the monies designated for charter schools would diminish that available for traditional public schools. Durfee stated that "the money follows the student" and sees the increase in charter schools not as a money issue but as a staffing issue stemming from the reductions in class size as more students are drawn off from traditional schools into charter schools. Will traditional schools, operating with less per student state funding as their populations drop, still be able to offer the services which more money buys? Yes, it is complicated.

Eileen Coblenz, Co-Director,
Secondary Education Committee

September 26, 2017



(continued from previous page)

Dorothy Joy (02/11/1925 - 05/29/2017) came from East County and was an avid protector of animals and did a lot of gardening. While she raised her children, she sewed clothing for her family and others. Dorothy helped make calls for her Unit Meetings.



Frances Venn, age 92, born October 2, 1924, served on both the LWVSD Board as education director and on the LWVC Education Committee doing an update study on education. After they completed the state study, she chaired the LWVSD's study on Student Support Services in 2001-2003 and was very valuable as she had been a school principal. Fran's husband, Ken, was also an educator and predeceased her. Fran also helped chair the University City Unit meetings and recruited several new members. She was a very dedicated worker and sweet and kind to all who knew her. Most recently, Fran lived at the Vi Residence in UTC and brought League speakers to their programs and some of the residents to League membership. Fran passed away on June 5, 2017; her memorial service was held, June 18, 2017.

Beryl Flom, Membership Director

Making Democracy Work!

Have you ever wished that everyone's ballots came in the mail and we could have the choice of either mailing them in or taking them to a local location? Isn't that the way we should be doing it? Well, beginning in 2018, some counties in California will be able to! We hope San Diego County will soon be onboard.

Check out this link I found on the LWVC website:

<http://futureofcaelections.org/wp-content/uploads/VCCAnnouncementMay2017.pdf>

The League supported this and we want them to know that San Diego County is very interested. Please click on the links in the article and let them know that San Diego County wants to be included in this soon.

Jeanne Brown, Program Chair

For nearly a century, the League
has fought to defend the
most fundamental American
right—casting a ballot.

State Legislation - Action Alerts, Discussion, Suggestions



Jennifer Waggoner of LWVC has created the following thread to post information about LWVC legislation: LWVC Policing Practices <lwvc-policing-practices@googlegroups.com>

Here are key references you can use, and you can share in your local League:

- Sign up for action alerts: <https://lwvc.org/stay>
- State Action main page: <https://lwvc.org/take-action>

- Bill Status Report and Bills of Interest: <https://lwvc.org/take-action/legislation>
- Article detailing how LWVC takes action: <https://lwvc.org/take-action/how-lwvc-takes-action>

Jennifer Waggoner, LWV San Francisco member, jwaggoner@lwvc.org, skype jwaggo 415-644-5094

Join the League's California Policing Practices Discussion Group [practices/d6549464-30d6-4197-a984-ec4f0d38c7f%40googlegroups.com](https://groups.google.com/d6549464-30d6-4197-a984-ec4f0d38c7f%40googlegroups.com).

Lori Thiel, President, (949) 842-7931

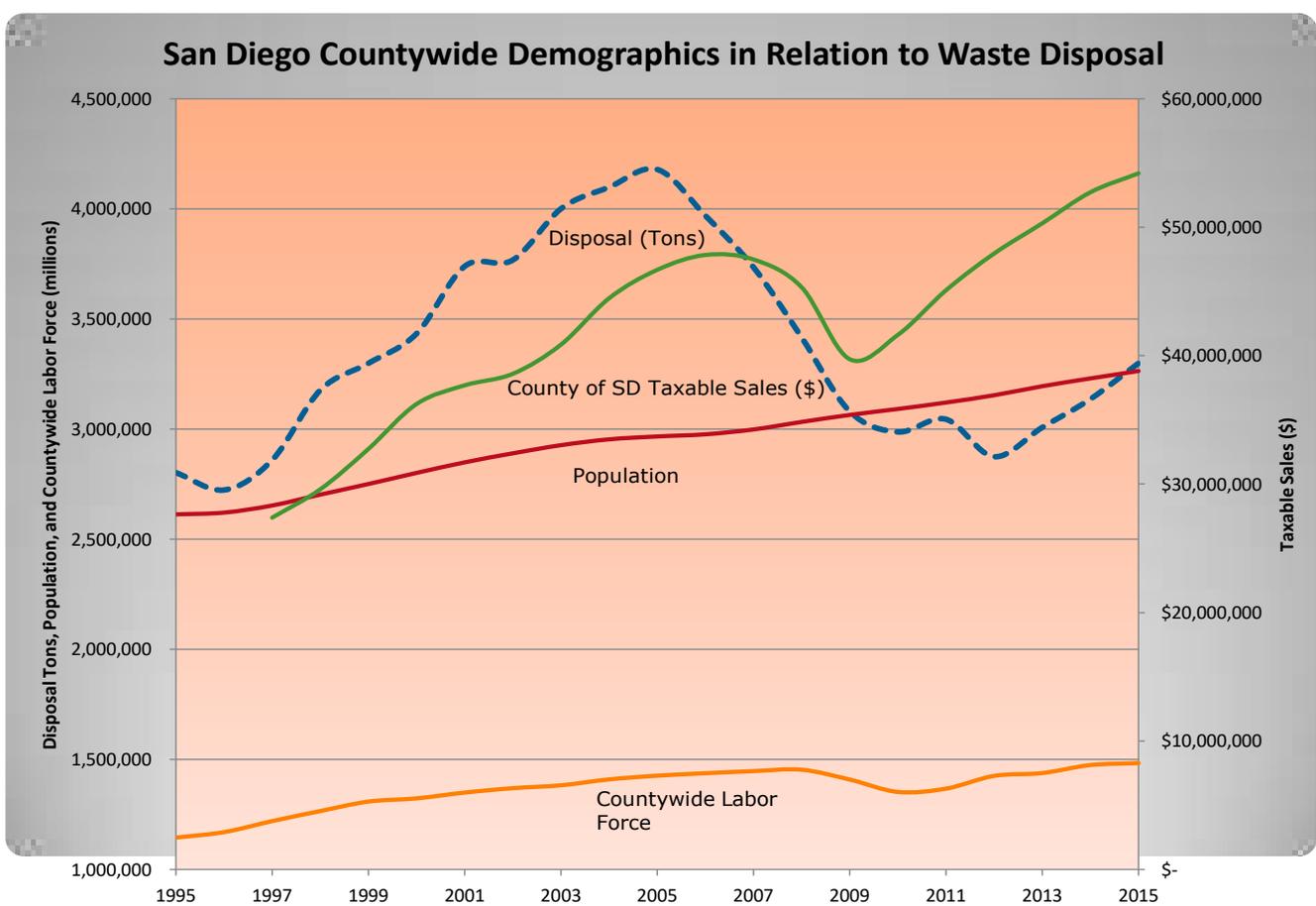
Update on Solid Waste

Every five years, San Diego County has to send a report to the State of California estimating the remaining landfill space. This graph shows how disposal parallels taxable sales (the economy) until new laws were adopted to reduce waste - specifically, requiring at least 50% diversion of construction and demolition (C & D) waste and recycling for commercial and multi-unit buildings.



varies a lot by city.

The City of San Diego has expanded recyclables to include styrofoam containers. No food waste can go in the green cans. EDCO has a new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Escondido with optical sorting. It is the most advanced MRF in the U.S. and can recycle 2.5 times faster than the old MRF's. It can handle new recyclables as they come on



Otay and Miramar Landfills are estimated to close in 2030 and then Sycamore will expand. Part of Gregory Canyon is now sold to a housing developer, so it is no longer considered to be a landfill. On average, each person in San Diego County disposes 5.5 lb. of waste per day which is higher than the state average (4.50 lb./pday) and has gone up by 5% in the last three years. Both recycling and consumption are going up (home construction and packaging). San Diego County has a 62% diversion rate now but it

stream.

Oceanside and Chula Vista went door-to-door telling people they could put organics in the green cans, but it didn't make much difference. Most composters don't want to mix food and greens because the food is not clean enough and is in plastic. We need a culture change first!

Beryl Flom, Member, Citizens Advisory Committee, Countywide Integrated Waste Management



Stand Down

Red Table: left to right,
 Russ Russell,
 Lissa Stanfield Jones,
 Sarah Bonavich
 (LWVSD intern),
 Lixya Preston de Silva (hat),
 Pam Hunter, and
 Jenny Avina

July 2017

When veterans walked into Stand Down in mid-July they were greeted with a handshake and open arms, breakfast, coffee and fruit. They were assisted in accessing the services they need; immediate visits to the clothing tent, showers, barbers, makeovers, medical, dental and optical services.

There is a homeless court, family court, counseling, VA benefits, employment and job counseling, integrative medicine, recovery providers, shelters and more.





**League of Women Voters
of San Diego**

7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A
San Diego CA 92111
858-483-8696

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 income 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 and mail to
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