



THE VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

September Luncheon

“Charlottesville” Could it Happen Here? What Should We Do to Embrace Our Diversity?

Intolerance is defined as an unwillingness to accept views, beliefs or behavior different from one’s own. We saw it in Charlottesville but do we see it in ourselves.? How tolerant are we of people who are politically on the opposite side of the spectrum? How tolerant are we of other generations who either hold on to every item since they grew up during the depression or the ones who won’t stop texting to friends at the dinner table? Do we accept other’s differences and do we recognize the privileges that those of us in the majority enjoy? These are some of the questions that we will ex-



plore at our September luncheon.

At this luncheon, we will have a panel of speakers including Cara Dessert, Chief Engagement and Development Officer of the LGBT Community Center; Christie Hill, Associate Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Hanif Mohebi from the San Diego Council on American-Islamic

Relations and Tammy Gillies, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League. We will be hoping to find ways to create more harmony and understanding in San Diego

County. There have been vigils, rallies and marches but we want action that will bring us together, not tear us apart.

We hope that you will attend this timely and important discussion that needs to happen in San Diego now. And bring a friend.

Jeanne Brown, Program Chair

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UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tues-Sept 12 6-9 p.m. Sips & Civility, “FAKE NEWS,” featuring Snopes.com reporter Brooke Binkowski
Downtown Central Library, 330 Park Blvd.

Wed-Sept 27 11:30-1 p.m. Luncheon, Intolerance and Racism—Tom Ham’s Lighthouse (see flyer on page 7)

Sat-Sept 16 1 p.m. General Meeting, Immigration and Deportation in the Trump Era—Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego 92108 (see flyer on page 6)

Fri-Sept 22 11-2 p.m. Early Childhood Education Legislative Lunch Handlery Hotel \$25 registration (see flyer on page 8)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In a country of increasingly violent politics, it's reassuring to be a part of the nonpartisan League of Women Voters, a vaunted organization that has built its reputation on independent research, education and advocacy. The League is perfectly situated to stand against injustices like we've seen over the summer, from attacks on voter rights and free speech to racial violence, and we have publicly shown our support for American

values exemplified in our positions.

We raise our voice with those of other organizations that also support those values, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Common Cause, Fair Elections Legal Network, Center for Political Accountability, and others. This collaboration amplifies and spreads our message to communities that might not otherwise hear it.

The League understands the value of strategic alliances, and we will be fortifying our current relationships, as well as forming new ones over the coming weeks and months to stand united against a rising tide of anti-Americanism. White supremacy and neo-nazism are antithetical to America and her Constitution, as well as the values and positions of the League of Women Voters. It pains me to have to make that declaration in 2017, but this is the state of our nation.

Values we once thought all citizens shared are now being called into question in our public squares, sometimes in violent ways. The League grasps the magnitude of these shifting opinions and recently changed the topic of our September Lunch with the League to take a critical look at racism and intolerance in America today. We will host intelligent, knowledgeable speakers to guide us through what is sure to be a sobering discussion.

As League members, you may find yourselves explaining or even defending positions we all once thought were long-settled. At a dinner party recently the host referred to the League as a left-wing organization. I assured her that we're non-partisan and take great pains to maintain that status. Then she asked me our position on women's rights, education, climate change and other hot-button issues, and I had to admit that, yes, we advocate for women's rights and public education, and we believe in climate change. It is staggering to me that in today's climate, these positions seem to be "left."

Yours in League,
Lori Thiel



League of Women Voters
San Diego 2017-2018
Board of Directors 7/17 - 6/18

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League of Women Voters of San Diego

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For information, use address above.

LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ September

| | | | |
|-------|---------|-------------------|---|
| Tues | Sept 5 | 5:30 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting, Boardroom |
| Thurs | Sept 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Public Policy Committee and Committee on Homelessness, League Office |
| Sat | Sept 9 | 12-2 p.m. | Voter Empowerment Committee, home of Mary Hanson |
| Mon | Sept 11 | 10 a.m. | Ambulance Contract Study Committee, League Office |
| Thurs | Sept 14 | 8 a.m. 11 a.m. | Immigration and Deportation Committee, Marie Callender's, 330 F St, Chula Vista Scripps Ranch Unit Meeting, 22447 Maple Leaf Ct., San Diego 92131 Jewish Family Services refugee and Immigration Services staff members will focus on refugee and asylum issues. Contact Emily Dressler at scripps-lwv@gmail.com |
| Fri | Sept 15 | 10 a.m. | Program Committee, League Office |
| Mon | Sept 18 | 10 a.m. | Natural Resources, League Office |
| Wed | Sept 20 | 9:30 a.m. | Education Committee, County Office of Education, Room 307 |

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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership renewals are still arriving in the League office. If you have not renewed your membership, the deadline is mid September in order to get the Yearbook published by October 1. The Yearbook contains the membership contact list, board list, calendar, etc. and will be available at future League meetings.

We continue to gain new members and are anxious to get them involved in League activities and making a difference. New members with their zip codes are below.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Jane Anderson | 92101 |
| Diane Crawford | 92124 |
| Suzanne Ditmars | 92101 |
| Marie Dye | 92129 |
| Art and Elinor Elphick | 91902 |
| Tony Hurst | 92124 |
| Steve and Deb Schmal | 92104 |
| Lori Van Orden | 92128 |



We have also had two members die: **Betty Kollish** and **Ursula Sasso**. At press time we did not have biographical information on them.

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

Natural Resources 2017-18

Issues this year will include: a new Climate Action Plan for the County; the City's implementation of its Climate Action Plan; Community Choice Energy; and development of a Parks Master Plan.

Starting September 18th, Natural Resources will meet the third Mondays, 10:00 a.m. But attending meetings is not necessary! I welcome online assistance from anyone who would like to help with reviewing and evaluating Plans, attending and reporting on public workshops, and/or drafting comment letters. Or you can just follow our efforts in case the right job for you comes along. If I may add you to my "virtual" Natural Resources Committee, please send your email address to pegbengel@gmail.com.

County Climate Action Plan. The County of San Diego released a draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) for public review and comment through September 25. The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors will hold hearings in early 2018. You may recall that the County adopted a CAP in 2011, but courts ruled that it fell short of CEQA requirements. This is the re-do. Help us help the County issue a better Plan this time!

City Climate Action Plan.

Adopted in December 2015, the City of San Diego's CAP gained wide recognition for its ambitious goals. Now the challenges are in implementing the Plan's strategies and integrating climate goals into various policies and procedures. These will need steady and long-term public support. LWVSD will continue to monitor and encourage progress, and help inform the



public about challenges and choices that arise.

Community Choice Energy. This summer the City released a technical study that concluded that CCE would be feasible for San Diego. Advocates for CCE are now asking "What are we waiting for?" Last summer, the CPUC approved formation of an energy advisory group by Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E. Now established as Sempra Services, its aim is "a comprehensive dialogue about issues facing the San Diego community as we move toward cleaner sources of power." We hope that dialogue will be very public.

Could you help LWVSD encourage informative and broad civic engagement?

Parks Master Plan. This fall the City is launching a 4-year project to develop a Master Plan for a modern public parks system. Goals include beautiful and sustainable parks City-wide as well as integration of parks with a multi-model transportation system, incorporating the Climate Action Plan into park development, and identifying methods to make it financially achievable. The City's last Parks Master Plan was done in the 1950s, when needs were very different. Modern concerns include sufficient parkland in denser neighborhoods,

equitable resource distribution among neighborhoods, enhanced tree canopy throughout the City, and sustainability. Could you represent LWVSD in this process?

This is by no means the extent of LWVSD's Natural Resources interests. Please alert me to any local news that causes you concern about environmental pollution, water supply or quality, air quality, power production, open space, agriculture, or waste management. Thank you!

***Peg Engel, Chair
Natural Resources***

Regional Committee on Homelessness

The Regional Committee on Homelessness has been meeting since late spring. We have learned much about the problems surrounding the plight of persons who are homeless and the many ways other cities have dealt with problems and what has been proposed by cities in San Diego County, as well as the County. We also know that it is important that we share our findings with the membership in order to be able to come to consensus on a position.

Our tentative timeline is that we will include monthly articles in the VOTER, host a general meeting in November and be ready to come to consensus in a general meeting in January. This is an ambitious schedule. If there are members who would still like to join the committee, please get in touch with Kay Ragan kragand@cox.net.

The first in a series of articles was written by committee member, Joni Halpern. The Regional Committee on Homelessness has heard reports of several studies addressing housing and the proposed changes in building regulations. Not a single “lever” in the housing studies addresses the fundamental problem causing housing affordability. Low income. You can build millions of units, you can deprive neighborhoods of both the fees and requirements that would make the dense housing developments more easily absorbed into community life, but you can’t make them affordable if people don’t have money.

We are witnessing a fundamental shift in the focus of governments, a shift that has taken place over a period of 40 years. Steadily, we have been dismantling the contribution

of federal tax money to states and localities that helped provide benefits, services and infrastructure (including organization infrastructure) to fill the gaps that occurred naturally in a transforming economy. We do not have a federal investment anymore that is even remotely commensurate with the depth and breadth of urban needs. Or perhaps it is more accurate to



say it is so inadequate as to be almost invisible. In addition, we have loosened the constraints on corporations in an effort to allow them to be more competitive in the global economy, or as Thomas Friedman calls it, the “flattened” world. We have also increased our national debt and the percentage of our national expenditures on military endeavors, few of which have returned anything but economic and personal grief to the American taxpayer. What is left to address, the income inequality gap and in real terms the values we place upon a fair playing field in this democracy is almost nothing. Herein lies the housing problem.

The plans being put forward now to close the housing gap are very likely to create environmental, health, safety and infrastructure problems for the next 40 years. It is not that dense housing should be avoided, but that it should not be touted as a solution to affordable housing unless development standards for construction, parking, supporting city infrastructure and green space are

set high enough to prevent the thousands of residents who will occupy these dwellings from overwhelming those elements in existing neighborhoods.

And finally, you can build millions of dwellings, but picture the person like an ambulance medic who makes \$12 to \$14 an hour, or a retail clerk who makes \$10.50 an hour, or a parent on public assistance, or

disabled person on SSI. Picture them being able to afford rent, water and basic care and maintenance of the things inside their dwelling on that amount of income. Some form of subsidy absolutely would be required. Not a single program presently offered by the San Diego Housing Commission or the federal, state or local governments exists in adequate size or breath to address the housing need of this constituency. The sad fact is that this constituency has been growing since the days of Ronald Reagan.

Joni Halpern
Member, Regional Committee on Homelessness



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS® OF SAN DIEGO

GENERAL MEETING

IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION IN THE TRUMP ERA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 AT 1:00 P.M.

MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY (large meeting room)

2123 FENTON PARKWAY

SAN DIEGO 92108

There is a lot of confusion out there between tweets, executive orders, courts, decisions made by ICE and Customs & Border Patrol and a lack of a comprehensive policy from Congress. We have three excellent speakers who are sorting this out daily and will bring us up to date. They also have stories to tell and will be able to answer your questions. The speakers are:

- Lilia Velasquez, Esq.— a very busy and well respected immigration attorney and professor at the Western School of Law
- Daniel Torres — a self-deported veteran who got his U.S. citizenship and has completed law school in Mexico
- Heidi Martinez — Veteran Affairs Coordinator, Partners for Progress and deportedvets.org

THIS MEETING IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

LWV



**Lunch with
the League**



SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

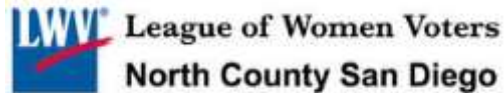
Tom Ham's Lighthouse
2250 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego

COULD A "CHARLOTTESVILLE" HAPPEN HERE? WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY?

SPEAKERS ADDRESSING INTOLERANCE AND RACISM WILL BE:

- Hanif Mohebi from the Council on American-Islamic Relations San Diego
- Christie Hill, attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union
- Chris Wilson, Associate Director from Alliance San Diego
- Caroline Dessert, Chief Engagement and Development Officer from LGBT Center
- Tammy Gillies, Regional Director/Anti-Defamation League

CO-SPONSORED BY:



Lunch with the League: Intolerance and Racism

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Guest(s) _____

Amount enclosed (\$35 per person) _____ by September 25. \$40 at the door. Make check payable to LWVSD and mail to 7710 Balboa Avenue 224A, San Diego, 92111, or register on our website (lwvsandiego.org) with PayPal. Click on 'donate', 'amount' \$35, 'purpose' September luncheon.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: Putting Ideas into Action

2017 Legislative Lunch

Join the Early Care and Education community and invited Legislative Representatives, City Officials, County Board of Supervisors, and County Board of Education to discuss vital policy issues affecting children and families.



Place: Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

Date: Friday, September 22, 2017

Time: 11 am - 2 pm (doors open at 10:45 am)

Info: Debra Boles, 619-521-3055 ext. 2319

Cost: \$25 Pre-registration (by Sept. 15) includes lunch, resource materials, and parking

Register online: <https://9-22-2017leg.eventbrite.com>

Special Guest Speaker:

Brian Maienschein, Assembly Member, 77th District

Member, The Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education, formed in 2016, is a policy driven body tasked with developing strategic solutions to improve outcomes for California's youngest learners and their families. The ultimate goal is to provide more services to children and families across California through a sustainable system.

Event sponsored by: YMCA Childcare Resource Service, San Diego County Child Care & Development Planning Council, San Diego County Office of Education, Volunteers of America, Child Development Associates, and The League of Woman Voters of San Diego.



If paying by check or money order, send to: YMCA CRS, Attn: R&R Training, 3333 Camino del Rio South, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108. Sorry, no refunds or credits. Substitutes will be allowed if you are unable to attend.

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH (Registration deadline September 15, 2017)

\$25.00 enclosed per person

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please inform us of any dietary restrictions or allergies:



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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