



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SAN DIEGO MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



Table of Contents

- Ambulance Study 1
- President's Letter 2
- Bd/Comm Dates 3
- Diversify Membership 3
- Homelessness Update 4
- Membership Report 5
- Ambulance—continued 6
- Make Voting Count 7
- Make It Fair flyer 8
- SEEE Seminar 9

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy

Ambulance Contract Amendment Approved by City

On October 24th, the San Diego City Council spent over three hours deliberating how to continue to provide ambulance service without AMR terminating their contract because they claim they are losing over \$7 million. The Fire and Rescue Department worked out an agreement with AMR to increase rates by 24% by January 1, 2018 while the two providers make changes to the response system and analyze the new plan for 90 days. Any changes to this new plan will come back to the Council. Then the Department will construct a Request for Proposal (RFP) and put it out to bid next summer. This will allow AMR to terminate the contract a year in advance of the 2020 deadline without a penalty.

Several changes were brought before the Council:

- Reducing the zones from 8 to 4
- Increasing the response times a bit for the less urgent calls
- Working on triaging calls more accurately because they found

that 30% don't need to go to the hospital

- Increasing the rates charged to the insurance companies/patients
- Changing the penalties for AMR

The LWVSD testified at the meeting that the rates should not be raised without verifying AMR's finances in a forensic audit. Since the consensus and resulting position are just in progress now, we had to depend on a LWVUS position on privatization for this testimony. Each Council member had questions and referred to their briefing on this topic. (The League requested meetings with some of them, but nothing was scheduled). More changes were added by the Council:

- Requiring AMR to provide audited revenue and expenditures, profit and loss, and bill records before RFP is written, subject to approval by the Council's Audit Committee and the City Auditor.

Continued on page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 1	6-8 pm	Make It Fair Town Hall—City College MS Bldg, MS 140, San Diego (page 8)
Nov 18	1-3 pm	General Meeting on Homelessness—Pt Loma Harvey Library, 3701 Voltaire
Nov 29	1:45-3:45 pm	Make Elections More Meaningful North University Community Library, 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego (page 7)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Power of Hope

As a parent, I often wonder what influence I have over my two teens. Studies show that kids their age are wildly susceptible to social media and their peers as significant influencers of their beliefs and behaviors. And my own experience bears this out: both my kids have made brash choices that they knew at the time I wouldn't have agreed with.

I, like most parents, struggle with the desire to respect my kids as independent, self-directed souls while simultaneously trying to ~~bend them to my will~~ instill in them my beliefs and convictions. But most

days I get the sense that I am raising two young adults who are very different from me.

Jeanne Brown, our past president, recently assured me that if I just keep doing what I do, my kids will see and, if not imitate, perhaps at least appreciate my values. That is my hope. But they're at an age where healthy separation from me requires them to set their own course, and sometimes I feel that hope is hollow consolation.

So I was surprised when my daughter pulled together her Halloween costume for this year. With barely a word to me, she assembled the whole thing and perfected

up to creation of can empower-sie! She me as a and I ly stop from kissing sic red so careful-



her make-ate her ver-that Ameri-of female ment Ro-sprung it on surprise, could bare-myself proudly those clas-lips she had ly drawn!

It turns out people do watch and listen. And they construct opinions, which inform their actions.

I want to believe this is true in all of life, particularly League life. Now more than ever we as League members need to remind ourselves that we set the example for thoughtful study and civil discourse in American today. We are one of the few remaining arbiters of non-partisan politics now. And people are watching. Through the noise and clutter of Twitter and headlines, our fellow citizens recognize our quiet resolve and turn to us for answers in the chaos.

At least that is my hope.

Lori Thiel, President



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

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San Diego Voter is published monthly by the Board except June, July, and December.
League of Women Voters of San Diego
7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A
San Diego CA 92111

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For information, use address above.

LWVSD BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Thurs	Nov 2 Dec 7	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy and Homelessness Committees, Boardroom
Sat	Nov 4	12-1:30 p.m.	Voter Empowerment Committee, Home of Mary Hanson
Tues	Nov 7 Dec 5	5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting, Boardroom
Fri	Nov 10	4:00 p.m.	Scripps Ranch Unit—Kevin Beiser, San Diego Unified School Board Trustee. Scripps Ranch Community Association Center located at 11885 Cypress Canyon Rd., San Diego, CA 92131. He will present on the state of the district with an opportunity for questions to follow. Children are welcome, and volunteers will be providing childcare during the meeting
Wed	Nov 15 Dec 13	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Education Committee, County Education Center, Room 301, 6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, 92111
Fri	Nov 17	10 a.m.—12 p.m.	Program Committee, League Office
Mon	Nov 20 Dec 18	10 a.m.—12 p.m.	Natural Resources Committee, League Office
Mon	Dec 4	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, Elijah’s Restaurant, 7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
Thurs	Dec 14	8-9:30 a.m.	Immigration Committee, Marie Callender’s Restaurant, 330 F St., Chula Vista, 91910

Also see lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html for updates

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH DIVERSIFYING OUR MEMBERSHIP?

At the state convention last June, delegates from across California engaged in an honest discussion about the demographics of most local Leagues. A unanimous sentiment was that the League must do better in reaching out to communities that we may not traditionally have connected with. To carry out our mission of expanding voter participation and engaging Americans in civic involvement, our League must reflect the diversity of our communities.

To that end, Serena Rodriguez and Jennifer Avina, both of whom attended the state convention, have initiated a member outreach program. The goals of the program are threefold: 1) to make the League more visible to communities where awareness of what we have to offer has been absent, 2) to reach potential new members who may not have traditionally considered joining the League, and 3) to better understand the political interests and needs of areas of the county that are predominantly low-income or of color.

The first step in this member outreach is to attend community events where we can host a table and expose people to what the League is all about. **We are looking for League members who are interested in assisting with tabling events or who would like to contact organizations to setup tabling.** If you are interested in assisting with this member outreach program or have ideas on how to increase the diversity of our League, please contact Jennifer at javina@bethethepolitics.com.

Hope to see you at an upcoming event!



Committee on Homelessness Update

Last month you were provided a list of terms/ definitions/findings the LWV Regional Committee on Homelessness has learned about over the past few months. This is a continuation of the list.

Shipping container apartments and 3-D “Urban Cab-ins” a concept presented to the City by a Development Company, Housing on Merit offered to build these units for \$150,000 compared to \$350,000 average cost of traditional affordable units.

Focus Strategies, a firm that has been contracted by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness and the Alliance for Regional Solutions to develop a single plan to bring all components together into a coordinated, region-wide system to end homelessness.



Los Angeles City/County Plan to deal with homelessness has six key areas: prevention, subsidized housing, increased income (for individuals), case management and services, system coordination and affordable housing.

Universal Basic Income, recommendation of the Housing Emergency Alliance that the government should give every citizen enough money to cover basic living expenses.

Illegal Lodging Citations given to those living in tents/cardboard boxes on the sidewalks. An accumulation of those citations result in the person being jailed.

Project 25, focused on individuals who were homeless and the most frequent users of public services. The findings were that an average of \$110,715 per year was spent on services for each individual. When they were housed and provided services the costs were reduced to an average of \$11,717 a year, per individual

three years later.

Physical disabilities, mental illness, catastrophic family medical expenses, job loss and substance abuse all contribute to poverty resulting in homelessness.

Solutions for Change Transformational Housing Model has been adopted by five city mayors in North County. Individuals housed in this program must be sober and pass a drug test.

“Housing First” accepts people as they are and provides shelter for those who may have no other option.

The committee continues to research and study. Last month I said that we are going to have a general meeting to provide further information. That meeting is still going to occur on **November 18**; however, the location has changed. The meet-

ing will be at the **Point Loma /Harvey Library, 3701 Voltaire, San Diego from 1-3 pm.**

This is an open meeting for members and the public. Members of the committee will make brief presentations with an opportunity for Q&A to follow.



Kay Ragan, Study Committee Chair

Membership Report

It's hard to believe that it is almost time to be thinking about gifts. I don't know about you, but teenagers are a challenge - how about a membership in the League? Non-citizens and people as young as 16 can now join the League. It's simple and we can send you a nice card telling about your gift, if you like. They can also be part of your household. Students are \$25 and Household members are \$35 per year.

We have several more new members to welcome into the League this month:

Patrick Brandon	92103
Marie Burke	92117
Paula Day	92117
Barrie Fairley	92122
Sharon Griswold	92124
Nita Hallisey	92117
Amy Kuhn	92116
Blaze Newman	92024
Evita Rodriguez	92071



When you go to a League event, be sure to introduce yourself to people you don't recognize. We have a lot of new folks to integrate into the group and it's important to make them feel welcome.

Ursula Sasso's obituary was in the paper recently, so I am able to tell you more about her. Soon after she joined the League, she was diagnosed with lymphoma, so she mainly came to luncheons although she wanted to serve on committees. She was well read and kept us on our toes with articles of interest. Ursula was also active as a docent for the Museum of Contemporary Art and loved music and other cultural events in San Diego. Her memorial service is at the Atheneum in La Jolla on November 4th at 2:00 p.m.

I have also received **Betty Carlson's** obituary. She was a life-long member of the LWV and was active in the Clairemont Unit a long time ago. She also volunteered at the Discovery Shop run by the American Cancer Society. In the early days, Betty ran an office for a company providing home-study education to military personnel. She died at age 97 in late August.

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

Continued from page 1

Ambulance Contract Amendment

- Requiring AMR to make monthly reports about how they are spending the increased revenue to the Council or Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee.
- Requiring the Fire and Rescue Department to provide response times by zip code or smaller areas to ensure that each Council district is getting about equal service . The larger zones allow for more flexibility by AMR but the average response time must meet the goals in the contract amendment 90% of the time.
- Planning a meeting with health insurance companies and representatives from the county and state to develop a better plan for emergency medical services. Some of the issues that need to be resolved include 1) average “wall time” (time for ambulance paramedic handover to ER) which has risen from 20 minutes to 45 minutes. 2) Twenty two percent more people are calling 911 compared to four years ago. 3) Medicare and MediCal pay only a small portion of the fees for their patients. It was mentioned that Anthem is now reimbursing non ambulance transport (such as Uber).

Beryl Flom, Chair, Ambulance Contract Study Committee





Make Elections More Meaningful

- ✓ **Represent More Voters**
- ✓ **Solve Vote Splitting**
- ✓ **End Gerrymandering**

Paula Lee

20 Year League Member

Shares her Election Reform Expertise

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

1:45 – 3:45 pm

North University Community Library

8820 Judicial Dr.

San Diego, CA

See a visual demonstration of **Instant Runoff Voting** (aka Ranked Choice Voting) and see how RCV achieves a majority winner in one election instead of two, solves the vote splitting issue, saves candidates money and results in more civil campaigns.

Hear about **Fair Representations Act, H.R. 3057** and how multi-member districts drawn by independent redistricting commissions could provide more voters with representation and create more opportunities for women and others to serve as elected representatives. California Assembly example: Instead of 80 single member Assembly districts, imagine 16 five member districts where more than one party can be elected. Come and see who wins the seats in a five member district.

◀ MAKE IT FAIR ▶ COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

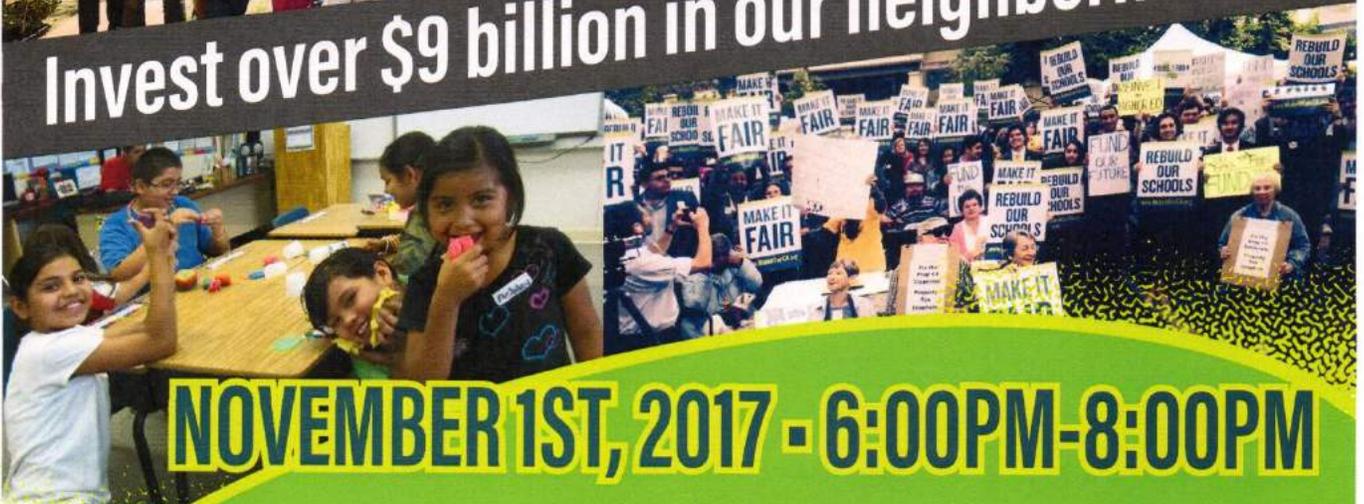
Close the Loophole, Invest in San Diego

Tax giveaways to corporations hurt schools, healthcare for all, affordable homes and other vital community services we deserve.

Elected officials need to hear from you that now is the time to close the Prop 13 commercial property tax loophole and make corporations and millionaires pay their fair share. Join our effort to restore billions to invest in local communities and guarantee protections for homeowners, renters and small businesses



Invest over \$9 billion in our neighborhoods.



NOVEMBER 1ST, 2017 - 6:00PM-8:00PM

San Diego City College MS Building - Room M140
16th Street & Broadway - San Diego, CA 92101

FREE PARKING

www.MakeltFairCA.org

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/mifsd17>



SEEE Seminar Series presents



Statistics and the School Level K-12: We've Come a Long Way!

Wednesday, November 8, 2017; 3:30–5:45pm San Diego State University, GMCS 333

Dr. Christine Franklin

University of Georgia
Department of Statistics American
Statistical Association K-12
Ambassador

Dr. Anna Bargagliotti

Loyola Marymount
Mathematics Department
Seaver College of Science
and Engineering

This presentation will provide an overview of the American Statistical Association's efforts including a brief history of statistics at K-12 in the U.S. and internationally, a summary of the statistics and probability content of school level standards, the knowledge and preparation needed by the future and current K-12 teachers who will be teaching using these standards, and the desired assessment of statistics at K-12 on the high stakes national tests.

Event Schedule:

3:30pm Reception and Exhibits
4:30pm Guest Speakers
5:45pm Adjournment

More Details:

www.seeeseminar.com

Questions:

cmse@mail.sdsu.edu

Driving & Parking Directions

Take the College Ave exit from I-8.

Go south, following the signs for Alvarado Rd.

The correct lane is the second from the left.

At the 2nd stoplight, follow the lane that goes first left and then right to enter Parking Structure 1.

Park your vehicle. All levels are no-cite from 3-7pm 11/8.

Exit the parking garage.

Walk north to the street light.

Cross College Avenue.

Angle right towards the bank of elevators in the CLS building.

Take an elevator to the reception (follow signs for reception).

Exit at the 6th floor for the lecture.

Walk across bridge.

333 is just inside the GMCS door, on the left.

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Critical Thinking & Creativity





**League of Women Voters
of San Diego**

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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

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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