

The Voter

July 2017

Development/Membership

We are very excited to combine the development committee with the membership committee for the coming year. Development is not just about raising money, though we do need to do that. It is also about developing LWV membership and public awareness.

Recently, I was talking to an old friend about the League and describing all of the activities that we engage in. My friend said she had known about and even been a member of the League in the past but never knew about observers or studies!

So, this year please help us get the word out. When you come to a meeting, bring a friend who may be interested in our work. Ask others to donate in order to support our work. Share our website with others, and share our action alerts that come from LWVUS and LWVC. Share our Facebook posts and let all of your friends know about the good work that the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area is doing on their behalf.

And finally, if you have time to do more this next year, please contact a board member and we will get you into an activity that suits you.

~~Barbara Nicoll

Postcard Campaign

Local League announces a monthly postcard-writing campaign to reach your representatives on issues supported by our positions. At our June Annual Meeting, Vice President of Voter Services Cindy Reul conducted the first postcard writing exercise. Several topics were chosen, sample language was provided, and the postcards were mailed to the appropriate Congressional representative.

Each month, a new topic and language will be provided at the Unit meetings as well as on our Facebook page and Constant Contact. Please join us and contact your representatives on topics for which the League has taken a position.

Observer Update

I am happy to report that our retiring Pomona City Council Observer, Elana Barach, has been replaced by Jennifer Stark.

Rachel Forester has taken up the observer position on the Claremont Public Art Committee, now that Jack Caselles has retired from that duty, though he is keeping his position as Observer on the Claremont Police Commission. Rachel is also observing the Claremont Architectural Commission.

Charles Ferrell will begin soon as Observer for the Ontario City Council, and Ruth Currie will be observing the San Dimas City Council beginning in September.

All 19 Observer reports were delivered to their respective agencies in June, following the presentations in May. These current reports should be available on the League website soon. We have an exceptional team of League Observers.

~~Barbara Rugeley

From the President

Happy summer everyone!

Barbara Nicoll and I started our summer with the LWVC convention in Sacramento. We participated in Lobby Day, interesting workshops, and plenary sessions. I learned a lot about League processes and procedures. One workshop focused on the new League website, MyLO (My League Online). We are excited to have the improved capabilities and functionality of MyLO. It is expected to be available in late summer or early fall. I am hoping to have a MyLO representative to present to our Unit meetings in January. I came back energized to work through the League to help effect change and, most importantly, improve voter engagement and participation.

I attended a workshop by Melissa Breach, LWVC Executive Director, where she gave us a preview of changes being considered at the National level. Melissa will be joining our Board of Directors'

retreat on August 7th to share some of the proposals with the Board. All members are welcome to attend the retreat if you let me know in advance.

Welcome to these new Board members: Centia Batz, Amanda Hollis-Brusky, Sue Keith, and Tamara Nicoll. We are all looking forward to the coming year. Our first meeting of the year is the opening meeting on September 16, from 10am – noon, at the Hughes Center in Claremont. The meeting will focus on the upcoming changes to the California election process. Dean Logan, LA County Registrar of Voters, will be one of the speakers. I am hoping for confirmation that Michael Scarpello, San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters, will also be speaking. We hope to have information about future events at that time. I look forward to seeing many League members at the meeting. ~ Tressa Kentner

ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Recently, President Trump's Election Integrity Commission met formally for the first time.

I have been following the activities of Committee Co-Chair Kris Kobach for some time. Last year I did a presentation at a League Unit meeting on the Voter Rights Act of 1965 during which I discussed how it is being undermined by voter suppression laws that are being enacted across the country. Kris Kobach has made his career by talking about false claims of massive voter fraud in US elections. His co-chair, VP Mike Pence, and most of the other members of this commission have similar views.

This commission has been given a public forum to move forward with its agenda.

Forty-four states have already refused to turn over the voting records of millions of Americans to the commission. But the commission will not stop trying to get these records.

The "Interstate Crosscheck System," which looks for people with the same name registered in multiple states, was created and developed by Kris Kobach. This system was used by 27 states in 2015. Nonpartisan information on this can be found at thevotingnews.com.

The League will not stand on the sidelines and allow the rights of voters to be compromised. Our LWV president, Chris Carson, wrote in the Kansas City Star:

"This commission is the antithesis of integrity and we can't let them win."

Now is the time for each of us to support the League's national effort to stop voter suppression in all forms. It takes money. It takes phone calls. It takes postcards. It takes ACTION. Please consider helping out or donating any amount to LWV.org

~~Cindy Reul, VP Voter Services

2017 Beatty Award

The Beatty Award is presented annually by the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area to a member who has served our organization above and beyond all expectations. It was established in honor of Caroline Beatty, a long-time member, director and officer who was ubiquitous in promoting all aspects of our mission. Caroline was a wonderful example of how so many League members work to promote the common good.

This year's Beatty Award honoree is Jeralyn Klasik. Jerry joined our local LWV in the mid-1980s. She served on the League Education Committee for a number of years, and then on the Nominating Committee. From 1989-90 she served as Action Vice-President. In that role she obviously made a very favorable impression on then LWV President Marilee Scaff, who for the next several years at nomination time would say "We need to get Jerry Klasik back on the Board". Meanwhile Jerry was raising her family (two sons) and teaching special education students at Claremont's Vista Elementary School.

We finally got Jerry back when she agreed to become Action Vice-President again in 2006. And a couple of years later she took charge of our Speakers Bureau. Her great organizational abilities, clear communication skills, and matter-of-fact manner served us well as she dispatched speakers (including herself) to explain the ballot measures of 2008. (That was the year that the League and others did so good a job of explaining the need for an Independent Commission to draw legislative districts, that California voters approved such a plan.) In 2011 she became our Administration Vice-President and started on her way to becoming something of a mainstay of the Claremont Area LWV office. Then-President Ellen Taylor reports that Jerry organized the office, and is a person who takes care of what needs to be taken care of, speaks up when necessary, and lets other people do their jobs.

Following Ellen's presidency, Jerry and Ruth Currie teamed up as Co-Presidents. One of Jerry's many accomplishments during their tenure was procuring a tax status with the federal Internal Revenue Service which allows donors to deduct contributions to our local LWV on their tax returns. Jerry was persistent in that task, and we finally became a "501(c)3" organization. She also worked with our LWV Treasurer, Anne Bellemin, to assure our funds are audited on a regular basis. Ruth describes Jerry's tenure as Co-President as follows:

"Jerry is the epitome of a dedicated and caring volunteer who follows through on directions from the Board of Directors and other levels of League. She never has an excuse for not completing a request. She promptly notifies members who should be aware of changes and new developments in plans or programs. Jerry managed Board meetings so as to advance the agenda and not become sidetracked. Focused and working diligently to complete obligations was her 'modus operandi'. With her energy and insight and tireless support for the LWV, she has made a real impact on the local organization's recognition within the community."

For the last couple of years Jerry has returned to the Administration Vice-Presidency, but with a plan for the future. She has been mentoring our incoming Administration V. P., Carol Kusleika. Together they huddle in our second-floor office at Garner House in Claremont's Memorial Park, keeping our local LWV affairs in order and coordinating communication among League members and with the public. Carol describes Jerry as patient, dedicated and knowledgeable, and adds "She is definitely a treasure." We can all echo that.

We are fortunate that Jerry continues on our Board as one of our Directors. We are grateful for all her many years and modes of service, and delighted to present her with the Caroline Beattie Award.



Claremont Area
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President: Tressa Kentner
 VP of Administration: Jerry Klasik
Voter Editor: Judith Tanenbaum
July 2017

Return Service Requested

LWV Claremont Area Summer, early Fall 2017 Program/Events

| Date/Time | Location | Topic/Theme | Other |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Sat., July 29 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Women's City Club 160 N. Oakland Ave. Pasadena, CA | Popovers at Pasadena Featuring Keynote Speaker: Dan Schnur, Director, Jesse M. Unruh, Institute of Politics, USC | Workshops: Follow the Money: Implementing Measure H; Voting Reimagined; TECH! Empower Yourself! Deadline July 25th, \$40 per person, lunch served. For more info, send an email to: league@claremont.ca.lwvnet.org |
| Sat., Sept. 16 10 a.m.- noon | Padua Room Alexander Hughes Center 1700 Danbury Road Claremont, CA | Opening Meeting | Speakers will be Dean Logan, LA County Registrar of Voters and, pending confirmation, Michael Scarpello, San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. |
| Tues., Sept. 26 | Across the U.S.A. | National Voter Registration Day | nationalvoterregistrationday.org |