



# VOTER

The VOICE of League for Members; the FACE of League for our Communities.

## JULY 2016 AT A GLANCE

**Sat, July 16** Elections the  
11 am -12 pm American Way  
Conversation  
Oceanside Library  
330 N. Coast Hwy.

**Mon July 18** Book Group Mtg  
1 - 3 pm Home of Norelynn Pion-  
Goureau

**Wed, July 27** Sips and Civility  
6 - 7:30 pm San Diego Library  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Shiley Suite

## AUGUST 2016 AT A GLANCE

**Sat August 6** Coffee Chat  
9:30 - 11 am with President Cox  
Succulent Cafe  
322 N. Cleveland St.  
Oceanside

**Fri. August 12** Strategic Planning  
9:30 am - 3 pm El Camino CC  
3202 Vista Way  
Oceanside

**Mon August 15** Book Group Mtg  
1 - 3 pm Beach home of Jan  
Gonzales

Visit us on the web: [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)

Or contact us by phone or mail:

760-736-1608

PO Box 131272, Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272

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## Delegates' Report on the LWVUS Convention



**Delegates Suzanne Carneiro, Mary Hanson (LWVSD), Jeanne Brown (President, LWVSD), Norelynn Pion-Goureau, and Martha Cox**

By Norelynn Pion-Goureau, Suzanne Carneiro, and Martha Cox

The theme of this year's biennial Convention was: *Making Democracy Work For All* and the gathering of 700 members from across the country was a celebration of League's efforts to safeguard democracy for the past 96 years, as well as renew our commitment to continue the hallmark work of League: voting rights for all.

Many of the keynote speakers shared their grave concerns that this was the first general election to be held *without* the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Important sections have been systematically stripped away state by state since the last general election. We heard stories about those who had made costly trips to secure documentation to comply with new state rules for voter registration, only to be told that additional documentation was needed. Many made repeated trips to governmental agencies in a vicious cycle of attempted compliance and continued denial of rights. These stories left us angry and stunned – and confirmed for us why we are members of the League of Women Voters. You would have shared the sentiments.

“Reaching out” and “collaborative civic engagement” were consistent themes throughout Convention. They would have sounded familiar as you identified those areas of focus in your member survey responses (see Annual Meeting report elsewhere in this *Voter*.)

We will provide a more comprehensive 2016 Convention recap for you, which will be posted on the “members only” website at a later date. If you have not attended a League Convention, please keep it in mind. A word to the wise: you need to prepare for this as you would any triathlon: workshops/trainings start at 7:15 a.m. From there, you race to plenary sessions, which commence at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m. You seek out a quick dinner (the operative word being quick) in order to attend more trainings/workshops, which end at a scheduled time of 9:30 p.m., unless they run over!

Your depleted (yet energized) representatives,

*Norelynn, Suzanne and Martha*

## LWVNCSD Officers/Directors 2016-17

### Officers

Martha Cox	President
Roni Seay	First Vice President
Liz Gabrych	Second Vice President
Connie Ulrich	Secretary
Arlene Meadows	Treasurer

### Directors

Suzanne Carneiro	Webmaster
Jane Dunmeyer	Health Care
Cathy Greene	Voter Service
Margaret Liles	Voter Editor
Don Omsted	Natural Resources
Norelynn Pion-Goureau	Local Education Outreach
Nancy Telford	Membership and Special Projects
Henry Williams	Community Outreach

### Unit Chairs

Anne Patton	San Dieguito Unit Chair
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### Off-Board Directors

Claudine Jones	Education
Liz Kruidenier	Behavioral Health
Jackie Stone	Speakers' Bureau
Mary Thompson	Civic Engagement



*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



## President's Message

*Martha Cox*

As a retired educator, the summer always offered a welcome opportunity for replenishment and rejuvenation. Hopefully July will provide time for you to rest and relax, and return renewed and reinvigorated in August. Your North County League is doing the same, as we prepare for the busy fall ahead.

There will be many opportunities for you to engage with students and voters this fall and we encourage you to participate as often as you can. It's fun; it serves our communities; and it showcases the work of League. The 2016 election has generated a great deal of interest and we know we will be busy.

Speaking of the upcoming election, there was a great deal of discussion at the LWVUS Convention about the "elephant in the room" and whether the League would consider stepping off the nonpartisan platform (for "just this election") to participate in media interviews about the candidates (a slippery slope indeed.) I can assure you that reason prevailed in three days of riveting discussions. All Leaguers were cautioned to refrain from engaging in any partisan conversation. And, that is a caveat for all of us.

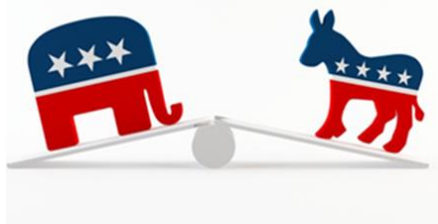
***The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. (repeat phrase as needed)*** Please exercise prudent and thoughtful judgment in conversation with Leaguers and others, at meetings, in social media postings and written communication. Don't make assumptions about the political leanings of others. Many political parties are represented in our membership, including "decline to state" non-affiliation. Each and every member is valued and contributes to our success. It's time to take a deep breath and renew our commitment to our guiding principle of respectful nonpartisanship. Thank you for supporting this important goal.

I hope you will join me at the first "Coffee Chat with the President" on Saturday morning, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at the [Succulent Café](#), 322 N. Cleveland St., Oceanside.

*In League,*

*Martha*

## July/August Meetings



### Elections the American Way

*LWV Conversation About our Election System*

**Saturday • July 16<sup>th</sup> • 11am to noon**

**Oceanside Public Library**

**Civic Center Library Community Room**

**330 North Coast Highway, Oceanside**

The 2016 presidential election has provided plenty of headlines and drama, even before the first gavel at the national political conventions. This constructive conflict is to be expected as part of the competition between political ideas and personalities.

The League's presentation on July 16<sup>th</sup> will offer community members a chance to better understand the conflicts of our political primaries and unravel some of the mysteries about delegates and party conventions.

As part of our mission to provide voter education, the League of Women Voters of North County San Diego is proud to partner with the Oceanside Public Library in presenting this event.

### Book Group Meetings

**All Members Welcome**

**Monday • July 18 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Monday • August 15 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

By Kathy Anderson

The July meeting will be hosted and led by Norelynn Pion-Goureau. If you wish to attend, please contact her for directions at [norelynnp@gmail.com](mailto:norelynnp@gmail.com) or 760-929-8209. The book to be discussed is: *The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*. The author is Jenny Nordberg.

The August book is a work of fiction: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Charbonnet Zevin. The August meeting will be held at the beach home of Jan Gonzales. *Anyone interested in attending these meetings should RSVP to Kathy Anderson at [760-634-2841](tel:760-634-2841), especially for the address and directions for the August book meeting as it is not the address listed in the directory. Thank you.*

**Coffee Chat with the President**

**Members and Guests Welcome**

**Saturday • August 6 • 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**Succulent Café**

**322 N. Cleveland St., Oceanside**

Join LWVNCSD President Martha Cox for coffee and conversation about League. Bring your questions and suggestions. Take this opportunity to meet with your fellow Leaguers and guests in an unstructured social setting. If you have a suggested location for September's coffee, send it to Martha at [marthacox@roadrunner.com](mailto:marthacox@roadrunner.com)



## Sign up for Pros and Cons Training

By Anne Omsted

One of the major services that the League presents to our communities is the opportunity to learn about ballot propositions. So far this year six propositions have qualified, and more are possible as signatures submitted by the proponents are counted. The League has training for what is on the ballot, analyses of what it means, who is supporting, who is opposing, what money is being channeled into the various campaigns. Those who present the Pros and Cons are amongst the best educated voters in the state on these propositions, because they have studied them carefully. Would you like to be one of the League members who present this information to interested groups? Please call Anne Omsted at [760-753-6970](tel:760-753-6970) to sign up.

**Training will be in August.**



## Working Together to Serve Our Communities

By Mary Thompson

A recent *NY Times* op-ed asked if the flourishing of anti-system candidates, Mr. Trump and Senator Sanders, means there is too much democracy in America. [\*Too Much... Too Little Democracy\*](#)

The piece cites a common complaint during Election 2016: “people like me don’t have any say.” What if they are right?

Over the last few generations, policy outcomes that voters can actually influence through the ballot box have steadily declined since decisions by the Supreme Court or agencies like the Federal Communications Commission make law beyond the reach of a citizen’s ballot.

Basic civil rights should not depend on voting majorities at any level of government. But in other areas of public policy, majorities should be allowed to prevail, especially in cities and counties where voters have the greatest influence.

For example, this might mean loosening tax and expenditure authority of local governments (i.e., Prop 13, which restricted local autonomy when it came to property taxes) or allowing cities and counties to experiment with municipal broadband systems without being constrained by private internet groups working through state legislatures.

We are convinced that to avert the sense of powerlessness heard during Election 2016, the answer is not less democracy. Civic participation makes our civil society empowered, protected, and accountable.

The League’s work in expanding democracy by listening, talking and acting on behalf of the people of our region is more important than ever.

***All politics is local.***

House Speaker Tip O’Neill  
In his first political campaign, 1935

## A Call to Action For Voter Service

By Cathy Greene

Are You All Fired Up Over the Elections?

While you are relaxing this summer, your voter service team is fired up and getting ready for the fall election season! We are busy planning training and mentoring sessions to prepare for our many voter service activities.

During the election season, voter service volunteers enjoy serving our communities, meeting new people, learning from the election related activities and from each other.

Voter service is the core of the mission of the League of Women Voters. Our services are much in demand this year;

I have been receiving requests since January!

Here is what our League will be doing:

- Registering voters
- Moderating candidate and issue forums
- Discussing the ballot measures.

Consider becoming a moderator, a question sorter, or a timer at a candidate forum. Join fellow League members to prepare to discuss the ballot measures with community groups. Be ready to register student voters. Don’t worry, we have excellent trainers and mentors to help you learn about and prepare for these various activities. Come to one of our training sessions; there is no obligation.

We need many League members to raise their hands and volunteer. And guess what! You will be very glad you did.

More League information will be sent out in August with dates and times of the training and orientation sessions.

If you are ready to volunteer now or if you have questions, send an email to Cathy Greene at [csgreene49@aol.com](mailto:csgreene49@aol.com)





## WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS OF 2016

By Kathy Anderson

The annual meeting with our local legislators was really interesting and educational, as always! In April and May, a team of League Interviewers met with two State legislators who represent districts covered by the North County League: Assembly Members Rocky Chavez (District 76) and the staff from Assembly Member Marie Waldron's office (District 75). The interviewers were Arlene Meadows, Gary Nessim, Nita Rodriguez, and me. Thanks to all the team for a fine job!

The State League supplied all local leagues with the same four questions and guidelines for handling the interviews. Here are some of the highlights of our legislators' responses.

### **1. *Voting and Elections--Are legislative actions needed to improve registration and turnout?***

- ASM Chavez believes that government needs to represent the people, so encouraging more people to vote is good. He supports legislation to help increase voter turnout and he also favors electronic voting using cell phones to make the process as convenient as possible, an alternative already successfully used in several countries.
- ASM Waldron's staff felt that a number of legislative and administrative initiatives to increase participation had recently been implemented. It is now time to look at the results of the Primary and General Elections to see whether any further actions are necessary.

### **2. *Housing--what steps, if any, should be taken to increase the supply of affordable housing and how could it be funded***

- ASM Chavez indicated that issues such as zoning, safe neighborhoods, and walkable neighborhoods are decided at the local level, so he believes the related issues of affordable housing and its financing should be decided locally as well. He felt that among the cities in his district, political and not financial decisions drove the degree to which the need for affordable housing was addressed.
- ASM Waldron felt that available State funding was inadequate to answer today's affordable housing needs and a broader answer is needed. She favors streamlining the array of regulatory requirements facing developers, including CEQA. Housing

prices are driven up by lengthy delays in bringing projects to completion, such as permitting processes, local and environments regulations, lawsuits, etc.

### **3. *Climate Change--what are your priorities for state legislation and policies on climate change and other related issues?***

- ASM Chavez believes in climate change and is concerned with utilizing available solar energy more effectively. He sees regional energy production as a better way to achieve more efficient utilization of solar electricity, but feels that trade unions have set up roadblocks to going regional. He is critical of water and dam management practices at the State level, citing an ongoing lack of water storage capacity to capture winter melt water for summer utilization. He also favors development of technological solutions to pollution- free energy production (e.g. plasma energy).
- ASM Waldron is concerned with water scarcity. She has authored state legislation (which recently passed in the Assembly) to fund development of a pumping system to get urban treated waste water to the farm lands rather than dumped into the ocean. She also authored AB1447, signed into law last year, to allow money to be taken from the Greenhouse Gas Fund to synchronize traffic lights to cut down on gas consumption and improve air quality. She authored AB 1647 to expand water storage by up to 25% in existing facilities, using a streamlined CEQA process.

### **4. *What other major issues must the Legislature deal with in 2016 and what are your personal priorities?***

- ASM Chavez continues to focus on education projects and will be a spokesman for passing the school bond. He is also very involved with legislative action on sex trafficking.
- ASM Waldron's staff cited several bills she was working on to address important issues: AB 2061 to give preference for grant applications from employers who are hiring previously incarcerated individuals; AB 2269 which ensures that animals are not taken from an animal shelter to be used in biological/medical research; AB 1754 establishing a pilot project to make victims of elder and dependent adult financial abuse eligible for

(See Legislative Interviews, Page 6.)

### Legislative Interviews continued.

financial assistance and counseling through the CA Victims' Compensation program; AB 73 to allow Medi-Cal beneficiaries to have prompt access to medically necessary drugs for HIV/AIDS

5. **Local Question (only asked of ASM Chavez)--Is there a need for legislative intervention to limit the use of a citizens' initiative to approve of large development projects and over-ride the need for CEQA?**

- ASM Chavez stated that the initiative process was put in place about 100 years ago to break up the power of special interests. He believes that it is important to hear the voice of the people and sees no need for legislative intervention. He also believes that it is the responsibility of each local government to "read" its citizens accurately so such situations can be avoided.

## Annual Meeting Report

By Martha Cox

Keynote speaker, Tom Shephard, political consultant to the campaigns of many well-known elected officials, kicked off the annual meeting in fine style. Everyone in attendance drank in his insights and left abuzz, feeling slightly elevated in status as "political insiders."

The annual meeting is a time for conducting the business of League for the upcoming year: approving the budget; approving the program; and, electing officers. This year, the business also included conducting the official vote on the future of the ILO (Inter-League Organization, which is the County level of League) and whether to continue with the ILO as is, continue with the ILO with changes or to dissolve the ILO. The membership voted to dissolve the ILO. In the interim, the ILO will continue in its current structure, until a new organizational structure is created by a transition team consisting of six members from each League – San Diego and North County San Diego.

The 2016-17 budget was approved as presented. The 2016-17 program was approved as presented by retaining all current issues for education and advocacy and adding the following: 1) *continue to further the relationship with Universidad Popular*; 2) *focus on voter registration of high school seniors*. The 2016-17 slate of officers were elected:

Martha Cox, President (one year); Roni Seay, 1st Vice President (one year); Liz Gabrych, 2nd Vice President; Connie Ulrich, Secretary (one year); and Arlene Meadows, Treasurer. The following directors were elected: Margaret Liles, Norelynn Pion-Goureau and Nancy Telford. Continuing as directors are: Jane Dunmeyer; Cathy Greene, Don Omsted; and, Hank Williams. Members of the 2017 Nominating Committee are: Anne Omsted, Chair; Nancy Dietrich; and Jackie Stone.

Several members submitted "Directions to the Board" which will be considered at the Strategic Planning Session in August.

## Update Book Donation Project

By Suzanne Carneiro

As I wrote in the April *VOTER* our member, Claudine Jones, read *E is for Election Day* by Gloria Gavis to students at three elementary schools in the Carlsbad Unified School District. Claudine is currently president of CUSD Board of Trustees. She did this on Dr. Seuss' birthday in conjunction with Read Across America.

Since then, we have received a Miner grant from the San Diego County League and have bought books for all nine elementary schools in the Carlsbad Unified School District. I designed a bookplate and am in the process of distributing them personally to the school librarians. They have been appreciative and enthusiastic to read the book to the students now and in the fall before the nation-wide general election. I also sent a message to all of the school board trustees at the request of Claudine Jones and have received encouraging feedback from them.

I would like to expand this project to other elementary school districts in North County but may have to wait until the fall to see if other League volunteers step up to help. It's a worthwhile and rewarding project. Check out the website: [eisforelectionday.com](http://eisforelectionday.com) for details on the book. Contact me to get involved especially if you have a contact with a local school board or school administration.

## Stay Connected and Share

The League has launched a new Online Voter Guide, Voter's Edge California.

- Use your address to get a personalized ballot.
- Get in-depth info on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote.
- Keep track of your choices and use them to vote.
- Share and start the conversation!

Suzanne Carneiro

*Webmaster and social media guru*

### **LWV North County San Diego Membership Application**

*~ Share this with a friend! ~*

Membership is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age. Others are welcome as Associate Members.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to LWVNCSD  
and mail to:

**LWVNCSD • Attn: Membership  
PO Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272**

or join online at:

[http://www.lwvncsd.org/join\\_form.html](http://www.lwvncsd.org/join_form.html)

#### **Dues:**

- \$60/year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30)
- \$30/year for 2nd member, same address
- \$30/year, new members joining after Feb. 1st
- \$30/year Students enrolled in accredited Institution.

#### **Additional levels of giving (thank you!):**

- \$100/year • Suffragist
- \$200/year • Activist
- \$300/year • Advocate
- \$500/year • Founders Circle

#### **I am interested in the following:**

- Provide organizational support
- Participate in Voter Service
- Participate in Interest groups:
- Book Group
- Civil Discourse
- Community Outreach
- Health



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

*North County San Diego  
Post Office Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272*

FIRST CLASS



**July/August, 2016**

Volume VI, No. 5

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The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

Have you checked North County League's website this week?

Stay current, stay active, stay informed!

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