

# The Voter

August 2018



## Congratulations!

Voter engagement slogan winner Carlo Rufo and video winner Andrew Patterson, shown with Claremont City Council members Larry Schroeder, Sam Pedroza, Opanyi Nasiali, Corey Calaycay, and Joe Lyons.

## Voting is Your Voice

The official kick-off for our "Voting is Your Voice" voter engagement campaign is August 23 from 5:30- 7:30 at the Garner House patio. Everyone is invited!

Our goal is to create a community-wide campaign to "make voting the thing to do" in Claremont. The city council has recognized our slogan and video winners. We are recruiting community organizations to spread the word. We are inviting community members and community groups to join our campaign. We have operated with a small, steering committee but now is the time for everyone, league members and non-members, to join. We are creating a specific task list for volunteers which will allow you to pick a task; in the meantime, please contact the league office by email or phone to join our cause.

In the June primary, the voter turnout in Claremont was 49% of **registered** voters. However, only about 43% of eligible voters cast a ballot. This was great considering that turnout in LA county, as a whole, was 29%. This means that less than half of eligible voters cast a ballot in an election with a bond issue that would impact property taxes for 25 years!

For me, voter disengagement and cynicism are the existential issues of our time. Our League must step up and support the national campaign to "Empower Voters. Make Democracy Work."

I will leave you with this quote:

*"Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was like in the United States when men were free."* Ronald Reagan

Please join our campaign!

## President's Message

Please join me in welcoming two new League officers: Kristen Fass, co-treasurer and Jeena Trexler-Sousa, co-secretary. We all look forward to working with them in the coming year.

As the fall election season nears, we are "gearing up" for voter services. Cindy Reul and Kathy Bresnan are organizing pros/cons sessions on the November ballot propositions at most local libraries and with service clubs. The program for our opening meeting on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> also will be a pros/cons presentation. More volunteers are needed as presenters. You will receive training, an experienced partner and an accompanying power point. Interested? Contact the Kathy, Cindy or the League office.

We are trying something new for our "Food for Thought" programs. The Social Policy committee chaired by Sue Keith and Amanda Hollis-Brusky is planning all three events on various aspects of gun control. More information will follow as planning is completed.

Thank you for allowing me, along with Barbara Nicoll, to represent our League at the National Convention in Chicago. As the League nears its 100 years anniversary it was very exciting to be part of the action. The League is undergoing a transformation to ensure that the League is as vigorous and influential in next 100 years as it has been in the first 100 years. Please see Barbara Nicoll's article for more about the convention and transformation roadmap.

At our League's annual meeting, the membership approved a name change for our local league to "LWV of the Mt. Baldy Area." Although we have many cities that we serve, when we reach out to members in those cities, the "Claremont Area" does not feel welcoming to residents of those cities. After much discussion at the meeting, it was decided by the membership that the "Mt. Baldy Area" was the most distinctive and unique name. The next step for the name change is approval by the LWV – CA board which is expected at their August meeting. The name is then sent to the national board for approval.

The membership also approved new by-laws which are available on our website. The by-laws changes match changes made at the state and national level. They also change the make up of the board with the primary change being reduction in the number of Vice-Presidents to one. The goal is to have a clear line of succession to the Presidency. Over the next year, the board will work with the new by-laws and review and update the policies and procedures to determine any changes that may be needed. Many thanks to Anne Bellemin and Jerry Klasik for agreeing to work on the policies.

I hope to see all of you at the opening meeting.

~~Tressa Kentner

### Food for Thought

The League of Women Voters Social Action Committee will sponsor a three-part series on the guns, gun violence, and gun control policies and the impact of gun violence on survivors. Richard Turner, a firearms specialist with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Washington, D.C. and Jarrod Burguan, Chief of Police of the City of San Bernardino, will begin the series on Sunday, October 6. Watch as more details emerge.



Be sure to attend our Voter Turnout Campaign kickoff August 23 to see the winning video!



## 2018 Beatty Award

The Caroline Beatty Service Award is presented annually to a League member who has promoted our League's goals and messages. It remembers and honors Caroline Beatty for her more than sixty years of service to the League. Our 2018 Beatty Award winner is Georgeann Andrus. In 2003, she was awarded the Ordway Award. She becomes only the fourth member to receive both of the League's service awards.

Georgeann's history of service to our community includes managing the Biology Lab for the Joint Science Departments of Scripps, Pitzer and Claremont McKenna Colleges for 12 years. She taught biology at Citrus College where she taught a class on AIDS in the eighties. She organized the first AIDS Walk in Claremont. She has received the Woman of the Year award from the YWCA. She has been recognized by the City of Claremont for her work on citizen government involvement.

Georgeann was an early member of the organization to Save Johnson's Pasture. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Claremont Hills Conservation Corporation, established by Pomona College to protect hillsides open space. Because she knew the history of the hillsides and had worked with the City and the League as well as the Conservancy, her contributions were very important to the newer members of the board. She also contributed to the development of the Master Plan for the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. She kept the League plugged into the action. This kind of coordination is very important to the role of the League in our community. She remains a Trustee Emerita of the Conservancy Board. We might also note that she was a moving force in the formation of the Claremont Older Women's Soccer Team, The Cows, an important organization in our town.

Georgeann joined the League because she had an interest in environmental issues and energy usage. She has chaired Unit meetings and studies on those issues. She has chaired Units and studies on Reapportionment, the United Nations, the role of Community Colleges; some of these were National and State level studies. She has been involved in moderating and organizing Candidate forums, pros and cons presentations, voter registration drives and gathered signatures on numerous League approved voter initiatives. She has been a League observer to Claremont City Council. And she has served on our nominating committees, most recently this year as Chair.

Georgeann has served as League president with Liz Allen and served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. She has organized our fund raising auctions. If all of this isn't enough, she was instrumental in getting our website up and running in 2001. In 2002, Georgeann wrote in "The Voter" about the establishment of a new League award, "The Caroline Beatty Service Award," an award to recognize a League member who has given distinguished service to the League of Women Voters, little knowing that she would become the poster child of this award. We are proud and honored to present the 2018 Beatty Award to Georgeann Andrus.

## Popovers in Pasadena, Summer League Day

LWV LA County, July 21, 2018

### League Transformation

Helen Hutchinson, LWV California President from Oakland, shared the US League campaign to reinvigorate the League.



- We should no longer rely on the unpaid labor of women.
- We must strive to be strong, visible, and relevant.

The change began in 2016, by reaffirming:

- Our mission: We do not support or oppose parties or candidates. We DO take positions on issues. (This wording avoids the use of “non-partisan,” which is often heard as “partisan.” Yes, the new phrase is longer, but clearer.)
- We are a grass-roots organization: local members remain vital.

Road maps include:

- Keep a clear strategic focus.
- Be more inclusive.
- Improve networking between levels of League.
- Increase capacity at all League levels, i.e. membership.

Focus on our Campaign to Make Democracy Work through:

- Redistricting
- Constitution
- Advocacy
- Voter service

Inclusivity means:

- Take small risks: If it fails, so what?
- Avoid the attitude “That’s not the League way.” Adapt to current needs.
- Consensus can block action. We need action.
- The small inner circle needs to expand to include more voices.
- We lack diversity in gender, ethnicity, economics, age.
- Build diversity, equity, inclusion.

## Networking:

- Streamline membership to make more accessible.
- Utilize technology to support the League.
- Include more young people.
- Gather a single, shared set of data to measure ourselves. (When grants ask for membership description, we can't provide it.)
- Change our nominating process to be more strategic: nominate those with needed skills, expertise, demographics.
- Set measurable goals.

Dorothea Park, LA County Census Coordinator, explained some 2020 census changes. It will be online for the most part, not paper copy. Door-to-door enumerators will only be in hard to access areas, such as disaster zones. Congress set the same funding as for 2010, yet technology costs will make the census more expensive. California has 10 designated hard-to-serve counties. The state has 220 languages in rural and city areas. To get help, the census workers are reaching out to partners: all 88 cities, SCIU and other unions, colleges and renters (who, typically, don't respond), 80 school districts in LA County alone, businesses and chambers of commerce, NGOs and other organizations. In 2010, it is thought that 44,000 Latino children were not counted. The state has 700,000 children in areas difficult to access. The census count determines our share of federal funding and our number of representatives. Sometimes the workers feel that the motto is "ABC: Anything But California". The census will be conducted March 25, 2020-August 2020. There are 6 lawsuits against having a question about citizenship on the census. On July 3, 2018, a New York judge was "underwhelmed" by the US government's case for including it. Currently, citizenship is on the census, but may be removed.

Kathay Feng, Executive Director of California Common Cause, spoke about the need for a new Citizen's Commission to create the new legislative boundaries after the census. In 2010, they had hoped to get 1000 people applying. They got 30,000! California's redistricting was a success and is impacting other states. There are cases currently in Wisconsin, Maryland, North Carolina, and Ohio, against partisan gerrymandering. In Spring 2019, the US Supreme Court might hear North Carolina's case, where it was admitted that the lines were drawn on partisan, not racial lines. The time commitment for a Citizens Commission for redistricting is heavy: expect 100 hearings, all over the state. You could apply in December of 2020 and be seated in 2021. Keep current at <https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>.

## Motor Voter

In California, Motor Voter was launched the week of July 21, 2018. Any change at the DMV automatically includes changes to voter registration if one is a citizen, unless one opts out.

~~Barbara Rugeley



## 2018 LWVUS Convention Report

Tressa Kentner and Barbara Nicoll went to Chicago to participate in the LWVUS Convention. They participated in workshops and caucuses where we got lots of ideas for fund raising, leadership, inclusion, gun control, action, getting out the vote and transformation. The most important thing that happened is the convention agreed to continue its program “Making Democracy Work” with a focus on Voting rights; Improving elections; Campaign Finance/money in politics; redistricting; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the league at all levels.

Two years ago the LWVUS hired consultants to help figure out how we can transform ourselves into a more current, more active, more inclusive and more responsive organization.

This transformation will include the following at all levels of the league:

1. Advancing a clear strategic focus
2. Building a more inclusive culture
3. Building a healthier league network
4. Increasing capacity at all levels

At the national level the league has already begun to transform. Most importantly, our volunteer congressional advocates have been responding daily and sometimes hourly to actions on the hill. We have also for the first time hired a professional to organize and deploy those advocates always focusing on our primary mission, “Making Democracy work.”

How does all of this affect what we do at the local level?

We have begun our transformation in the following ways:

1. New Name and By-laws
2. Reviewing some administrative processes (one goal here is to free up board time so that everyone can do what they joined the league to do, advocate for and work on the issues most important to them.

Additionally, we need to integrate LWVUS Program priorities, in particular, “Making Democracy Work” into our own program.

If you want more information about the convention go to the LWVUS web site, Management and National Convention and there are daily summaries of what happened at convention.

~~ Barbara Nicoll

## Observer Update



**David Estrada** is our new observer for the Board of Tri-City Mental Health Center. He retired in 2006 as National Coordinator for the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions AFL-CIO headquartered in Washington DC. Prior to that, he served as Department Director for the Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers in Los Angeles. Currently he serves on the Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement for the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire. In 2012 he was elected President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness for the Pomona Valley and “proudly served” four years.

**Betsey Coffman** soon begins her duties as Observer to the Commission of the Tri-City Mental Health Center. She served as Observer to the Claremont City Council for the last two years, as well as previous stints in that job. Betsey also is secretary to our Claremont Area League, as well as secretary to the LA County League. She just keeps giving her service to the League and to other good causes.

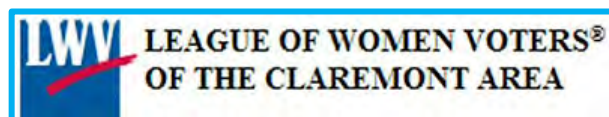
**Charles Ferrell** is a graduate of Calexico High School and attended Grossmont Community College and San Diego State University. He served as a reporter/photographer for Calexico Chronicle, Imperial Valley Press, Daily Californian and Gardena Valley News, as editor of Gardena Valley News, Southern California Business (the official publication of Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce), San Fernando Valley Division of Hearst Community Newspapers (13 newspapers), Chino/Chino Hills Champion, South Ontario News and the Beaumont/Banning Record Gazette. He is a current or former board member of Kiwanis Clubs in Woodland Hills, Chino, Chino Hills, Banning and Ontario and elected President of Kiwanis Clubs in Chino and Banning, and, for the upcoming year, in Ontario. He was the charter Secretary of San Gorgonio Pass Rotary Club and has been elected to the Boards of Chambers of Commerce in Gardena, Banning and Beaumont and was an elected trustee of the Beaumont Library District. He and his wife Kerrie will celebrate their 35th anniversary on Nov. 12, 2018.

**Penny Vienna**, our new Observer for the Claremont City Council, is a retiree from 45 years in healthcare, the last 21 at Kaiser Permanente. She earned her bachelor’s degree and CPA while working two jobs and being a single mom, getting very little sleep. She has served as Finance Director on the Board of Project Management Institute, whose mission is “To provide opportunities for individual growth in project management and increase corporate awareness of the project management profession.” She maintains her CPA and offers pro bono tax return service for multiple communities. Currently she volunteers in Pastoral Care with Claremont’s Our Lady of the Assumption Church and the Outreach Ministry to help the homeless and disadvantaged, especially at Christmas time. She is also a volunteer for Front Sight, an organization that provides support and education for veterans. As a member of the Upland Women’s Club, she helps raise funds for the Casa Colina Children’s Arts Program.

## NEEDED: OBSERVERS for 2018-19

**GOAL:** Attend at least half of the meetings per year.

Write a two-page report and present it in May.



### City Councils

<b>Glendora</b> <a href="http://www.ci.glendora.ca.us/residents/online-videos">http://www.ci.glendora.ca.us/residents/online-videos</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7:00 pm
<b>Montclair</b> <a href="http://www.ci.montclair.ca.us/depts/council/default.asp">http://www.ci.montclair.ca.us/depts/council/default.asp</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 7:00 pm
<b>Chino Hills City Council</b> <a href="https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/">https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7:00 pm
<b>Pomona City Council</b> <a href="http://public-records.ci.pomona.ca.us/weblink8/Browse.aspx?dbid=0&amp;startid=22091">http://public-records.ci.pomona.ca.us/weblink8/Browse.aspx?dbid=0&amp;startid=22091</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 6:45 pm

### School Districts

<b>Chaffey College Board</b> <a href="https://www.chaffey.edu/governingboard/">https://www.chaffey.edu/governingboard/</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. 2:00 pm
<b>Chaffey JUHSD (9-12)</b> <a href="http://cjuhsd-ca.schoolloop.com/">http://cjuhsd-ca.schoolloop.com/</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. 6:30 pm
<b>Chino Valley USD (K-12)</b> <a href="https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/">https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 7:00 pm
<b>Citrus Community College</b> <a href="http://www.citruscollege.edu/">http://www.citruscollege.edu/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. 4:15 pm
<b>Glendora USD (K-12)</b> <a href="http://www.glendora.k12.ca.us/">http://www.glendora.k12.ca.us/</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon. 7 pm
<b>Mt. San Antonio Community College</b> <a href="http://www.mtsac.edu/">http://www.mtsac.edu/</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. 6:30 pm
<b>Mountain View School District (K-8)</b> <a href="http://www.mtnview.k12.ca.us/">http://www.mtnview.k12.ca.us/</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon. 7:00 pm
<b>Ontario Montclair SD (K-8)</b> <a href="https://www.omsd.net/omsd">https://www.omsd.net/omsd</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 7:00 pm
<b>Pomona USD (K-12)</b> <a href="http://edline.pusd.org/pages/PUUSD">http://edline.pusd.org/pages/PUUSD</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. 7:30 pm
<b>Upland USD (K-12)</b> <a href="http://www.upland.k12.ca.us/">http://www.upland.k12.ca.us/</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. 7:00 pm

### Regional Boards

<b>3 Valleys Municipal Water District</b> <a href="http://www.threevalleys.com/">http://www.threevalleys.com/</a> Location: 1021 E Miramar Ave, Claremont CA 909-621-5568	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>d</sup> Wednesdays (not July/Aug) 8:00am
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### Claremont Commissions and Committees

<b>Traffic &amp; Transportation Commission</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:00 pm
<b>Public Art Committee</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:00 pm

Contact Barbara Rugeley  
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909-626-9833





Claremont Area  
 PO Box 1532  
 Claremont, CA 91711

President: Tressa Kentner  
*Voter* Editor: Judith Tanenbaum  
**July 2018**

Return Service Requested

LWV Claremont Area early fall 2018 Program/Events

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic/Theme</b>	<b>Other</b>
Thursday August 23 5:30 p.m.	Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont	Kickoff of the 2018 Voter Turnout Campaign	Winning theme - "Voting is Your Voice"
Saturday, September 22 9:30 a.m.	Padua Room, Hughes Center 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont	Fall Opening Meeting	Pros and Cons
Saturday, October 6 4 – 6 p.m.	Padua Room, Hughes Center 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont	Food for Thought	Guns, the trafficking of guns and their impact nationally and in the Inland Empire
<u>9:30 a.m.</u> 7 p.m.	Mt San Antonio Gardens 875 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona <u>Building D, 4<sup>th</sup> floor lounge</u> Garner House 840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont	Upcoming Unit Meetings	<b>Nov. 29</b> – Election Results <b>Jan. 24</b> - Reconciling Housing and Natural Resources <b>Feb. 28</b> - Net Zero Energy Usage