

FROM THE LEAGUE OFFICE

We hope you have had a wonderful holiday season and brought in 2019 with loved ones! 2019 will be a very exciting year for the League – we have many things planned! Our goal is to continue building on past successes and reach even more prospective members with our resources and programs.

The LWVLA had its annual end-of-year appeal, thank you to those who donated and strengthen the League with their valuable support.

In the first weeks of January the League will be facilitating community meetings in Malibu (1/7) and West San Fernando Valley (1/9) for the Vote Center Placement Project. The purpose of these meetings is to engage the public in the selection of Los Angeles County new vote centers, which will be implemented in 2020. Vote Centers will replace traditional polling places. Vote Centers are a critical part of Los Angeles County's new voter experience. We encourage League members from those community areas to attend or attend a local community in a nearby area.

The League will also be cosponsoring a candidate forum for the LAUSD Board of Education District 5 primary election. Additionally, on January 22, we will be hosting a happy hour social at EMC in Koreatown.

As you can see, it's a busy start to 2019! We hope to see you at one of our many events.

Let us Make Democracy Work!

In League,

Marilu Guevara, Executive Director
Elizabeth Valdivia, Administrative Assistant

January - February 2019

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Memberships expired June 30.
Email info@lwwlosangeles.org
Or call us to inquire whether your membership is current.

**League of Women Voters
of Los Angeles**
3303 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1732
T 213-368-1616
F 844-269-9164
www.LWVlosangeles.org

VOTER STAFF

Marilu Guevara
Editor

Elizabeth Valdivia
Production

Jean Cohen
Copy Editor

Submit articles to:
info@LWVlosangeles.org

LOCAL UNITS

Las Virgenes
Valley
Westside Evening



STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

The Legislative Interview kit will be arriving shortly from the State League with the outline of information to discuss lots of background information, and the list of legislators we need to meet with. This is a great way to get acquainted with our state representatives and learn what their priorities are. Although these are not advocacy meetings, we can let them know of our positions when appropriate. We use these meetings to get to know each other better.

Please contact Jean Thomson, mightmite@gmail.com, if you wish to join the volunteers in this project, to help set up the meetings, or attend and help interview (they are often on Friday when they are in their local office), or help prepare the reports back to the state League, etc. The project is expected to be complete by early March!

-- **Jean Thomson**, LWVC Legislative Interviews Coordinator



CIVIC SOCIETY MEETS WITH LAX EXECUTIVE

On December 5, contributors to the League's Civic Society were treated to a special insider's view of the renovations and modernization taking place at Los Angeles World Airports (LAX).

Our guest speaker, Michelle Schwartz, Deputy Executive Director and Chief of External Affairs for LAX, gave an upbeat presentation of all the projects designed to improve travelers experiences at the airport. LAX has a history of women serving in high administration offices and we are proud that several League members have served on the on the LAX Commission.



LAX, with 55,000 employees, is the second busiest airport in the country, and 5th biggest in the world. Only Atlanta has numbers larger than ours. And our cargo business is 4th in the country. We handle 75 air carriers representing 88 countries. In the very near future, LAX will be the first airport in the country to offer direct, non-stop service to Africa.

Extensions are planned for Tom Bradley Terminal, and Delta just finished its new terminal. In addition, Terminal One has just re-opened with an exciting array of food choices, many from long-time Los Angeles restaurants you will recognize. Southwest Airlines, which is assigned to Terminal One, will now have its home-base in Los Angeles.

To address traffic circulation needs, The Automated People Mover (APM) is planned for the near future. It will provide a 2.25-mile elevated guideway train system and is the centerpiece of LAX's Landside Access Modernization Program. It is designed to revolutionize the traveler experience by providing easy access to the airport. Partnering with L.A. Metro's regional transportation system, reliability and mobility will be improved and congestion and emissions will be reduced. More than 2200 construction jobs will be generated by this project.

These are exciting times for LAX and all travelers. Especially during these construction periods, LAX welcomes volunteers/ambassadors who can ease travel anxiety and assist travelers when they enter our city.

For information on how you can be part of the Civic Society, please contact Elizabeth Valdivia at (213) 368-1616 or aa@lwwlosangeles.org.

Renee Chanon
Co-Chair, Civic Society

A VIEW OF HOUSING ALONG LA'S SKID ROW

On a warm, sunny Friday in November I took a walking tour of Skid Row led by Jerry Jones, Director of Public Policy at the Inner City Law Center, which is located at ground zero of Los Angeles' homelessness crisis. The Inner City Law Center was founded in 1980 and is the only full-time provider of legal services on Skid Row. It focuses on eviction defense, helping veterans and others access the benefits to which they are entitled, and suing so-called slum lords for illegal rental practices. Embracing the notion of "housing first," the Center, and other non-profit organizations on and near Skid Row work to get those displaced into poverty and homelessness shelter first and then the other services that they need, such as mental health services.



Los Angeles' Skid Row is the largest stable populations of homeless people in the United States. At any give time it is home to four thousand people, half of whom are unsheltered. There are very few public toilets in the area and no easy access to clean drinking water. Jerry Jones informed us that Skid Row (defined as east of Main Street, south of Third Street, west of Alameda Street, and north of Seventh Street) does not meet the minimum standards required by the United Nations for refugee camps for displaced people in

terms of sanitation, access to clean water, or shelter. He also highlighted that at various times it has been the focus of aggressive policing efforts, police neglect, sanitation sweeps, and sanitation neglect. Until the recent passing of Measure H and Proposition HHH, the former raising money for homeless services and the latter for the construction of permanent supportive housing, this ping-pong approach to Skid Row mirrored the City's vacillating approach to homelessness in general. The hope is that with the influx of funding, that back and forth has changed.

As our group moved through the tent encampments lining almost every sidewalk — sometimes walking single file in the streets so as not to disturb the residents — the sights and smells assaulted our senses. It's a squalid, desperate part of the city, there's no denying it. However, one cannot help but be moved by the dire living circumstances, the various non-profit agencies at work (we saw a Lava Mae portable shower station) and the community being built on the streets. It's impossible not to wonder how these folks' lives would be changed by having a permanent place to call home with the services available to make that transition — from a tent on the sidewalk to an apartment — viable.

The dearth of affordable housing is the most pressing challenge to any housing-first initiative. Nationwide there is estimated to be a seven million unit shortfall when it comes to affordable housing. Here in Los Angeles, we're a least a half a million units short. This is a daunting statistic. But it doesn't have to be the end of the story. The League's "Yes in My LA" Guide to Supportive Housing, with its emphasis on helping neighborhoods understand and say "yes" to housing, is a way to re-write the story with an aim toward housing for all. Take a look at yesinmyla.org. To join a walking tour of Skid Row go to innercitylaw.org and follow the link to the Skid Row walking tour page.

Debra Silverman
Homeless Action Committee

HOMELESSNESS NEWS OF INTEREST

LA-HOP.ORG

There is a service in Los Angeles that will send an outreach team to homeless on the street, needing assistance. The information from their website can be found at la-hop.org. You can go there and request help for an individual you have seen who could benefit from contact with an Outreach Worker.

LA-HOP is designed to assist people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County with outreach services. We'll use this information to dispatch a homeless services outreach team to the area.

When should I fill out an outreach request?

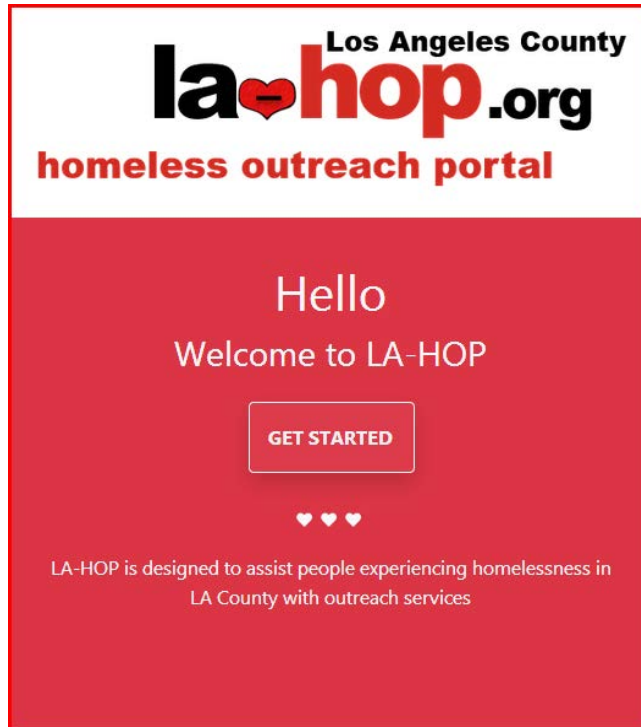
Did you see someone experiencing homelessness that needs help? Notice a homeless neighbor who seems to be struggling with their physical and/or mental health? Then you can help them by filling out an outreach request and alert us as to any specific concerns you may have regarding the person's well-being. As outreach capacity is limited, requests for those with more serious medical and/or mental health needs may be prioritized.

When should I NOT fill out an outreach request?

If you come across a family with minor children experiencing homelessness, have them call 211 and ask to be connected to the Coordinated Entry System for Families. If you are concerned about illegal activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. For medical and mental health emergencies, call 911. Unfortunately, outreach teams are not able to serve individuals who are couch surfing, temporarily living with friends or family, at risk of homelessness, or already staying in a homeless shelter.

What do you mean by "homeless"?

While there are different types of homelessness, street-based outreach teams serve those who the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers "literally homeless." This is defined as, "an individual that has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation."



Sandra Trutt
Homeless Action Committee Chair

2018 RECAP: CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP AWARDS ON SEPTEMBER 29



Mariachi Academy performing during reception



Ana Guerrero from Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office and Stephanie Martinez, Univision 34 KMEX, our Master of Ceremonies



Madeline Janis, Community Advocate Honoree



League Activist Honoree, Raquel Beltran with CLA staff Rubit Escamilla, and League Member Renee Chanon



Raquel with her husband Jerry Groomes, Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein Executive Director at PBI, and Ann Rushton League Member host for the CLA event.



Lovely backyard at the Rushton Family Residence.

Since the last VOTER

Civic Society

Harriet Borson

Contributions

Dorothy DeCayette
Jane Goichman

Giving Tuesday

Michael Goldberg
Hans-Dieter Kopal
Amelia MacRae
Benjamin Moore

New Members

Jo Bennett
Jeanne Black
Pamela Galle
Amanda Smith
Julia Teweles
Dennis Wixon
Gail Zaritsky

Sustaining Contributions

Crissi Avila
Jodi Doane
Marilu Guevara

Tributes

In memory of Bette
Caraway
· Joy Picus
· Barbara Scheibel
· Sharon Schuster

Year-End Appeal

Eugene Kapaloski
Jean Kornbluth
Ann Lane
Nancy Alayne Mills
Zhita Rea
Lex Roman
Bertha Sutton
Renee Weisenberg
Virginia Wexman
Madeline Wolf

HOT TOPICS LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

Unfortunately, time was too short with the holidays, that we have been unable to secure a professor to speak about U.S. Immigration Policy on Jan. 12, 2019 as we planned. I am sorry to announce that we will have to cancel the Hot Topics Lunch for January.

Hot Topics Lunch on February 9, 2019 will continue as planned. We have a speaker about the Climate Crisis headed our way. Professor Emeritus at USC, John Odell, will describe solutions that can make a difference. Lunch will be at HMS Bounty Restaurant, 3357 Wilshire Blvd, LA 90010 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees must pre-order lunch choices at and pay beforehand, \$15. Please our website for details. RSVP and pay online at hottopicclimate.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact Sandra Trutt s.trutt@verizon.net or 310-479-7482.

Sandra Trutt

Homeless Action Committee Chair

PUB NIGHT JANUARY 22 AT EMC

Please join us for our first, monthly "Pub Night" in Koreatown. Everyone is welcome. You are encouraged to bring a friend.

**EMC SEAFOOD & SUSHI HOUSE
JANUARY 22 - 6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.
3500 W. 6TH STREET, LA 90020**

Public parking lot on Mariposa Ave.
Validated, 2 hours free

Menu items include beer, wine, oysters (raw or fried), shrimp & fish tacos, fried clams & fish tenders, chicken wings, edamame, crab cakes, lobster rolls and clam chowder. I am sure you'll find something yummy to snack on. Everyone pays for own items. See you there.





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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES
___ Individual	\$ 85	___ Sustaining	\$ 250
___ Student (currently enrolled, under 25 years)	\$ 28	___ Patron	\$ 500
___ Household (2 members, 1 address, 1 mailing)	\$ 120		
___ Supporting	\$ 125		



Scan the code to join online!

I am paying my dues by check: Amount: _____
To pay by credit card: please go to www.LWVlosangeles.org and click "Join the League"

I'd like to do more: Here is an additional gift and separate check to support the League's activities for:

Donation of \$ _____ payable to LWV of Los Angeles

Contributions, gifts and dues to the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles are tax-deductible.