

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES

# VOTER

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT'S DESK

## VOTER



Dear League Members and Supporters,

We hope you are staying safe and healthy during this extremely difficult time. We can assure you that the League continues to work, albeit remotely. Both of our dedicated staff members, Marilu Guevara and Elizabeth Valdivia, continue to work from home maintaining our activities and records, and your League leaders are working from home as well.

One of our most active committees continues to be our Criminal Justice Reform Committee, which is preparing for an autumn candidate forum for our District Attorney election.

We are also preparing for our Annual Meeting, which will take place via Zoom on Saturday, June 20, with some format modifications due to current circumstances. In order to dig deeper into some of the issues that we will be discussing and voting on, we will have short evening Zoom meetings the week prior.

Please watch your email the week of June 15 through June 20 for detailed announcements of our Annual Meeting plans.

Your League leadership continues preparations for the November elections and our Census information outreach. Through these difficult times, the League will continue to lead.

**May – June 2020**

*In this newsletter...*

- 1 Co-President's Message
- 2 A Suffrage Film Festival - Online
- 3 Letter from the Office
- 4 Update on LWVUS National Convention
- 5 Call for Board Nominations
- 5 New Member Zoom Meeting
- 6 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Task Force
- 7 LWVLA Annual Meeting
- 8 Upcoming Trainings & Community Calls
- 8 Remembering Thea Brodtkin
- 9 Monthly Highlights

*...Continued on Page 2*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is open to everyone.  
We invite your membership. Visit [www.LWVlosangeles.org](http://www.LWVlosangeles.org) to join.

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**WOMEN TO  
THE POLLS:**  
A SUFFRAGE FILM FESTIVAL

...Continued from Page 1

A final note: we received a generous offer of a matching grant, and we would really appreciate donations in any amount so we can achieve the full \$1000 match. Please consider going to our website and donating today.

We need League more than ever, and League needs each of us.

In League,



**Crissi Avila**, Co-President

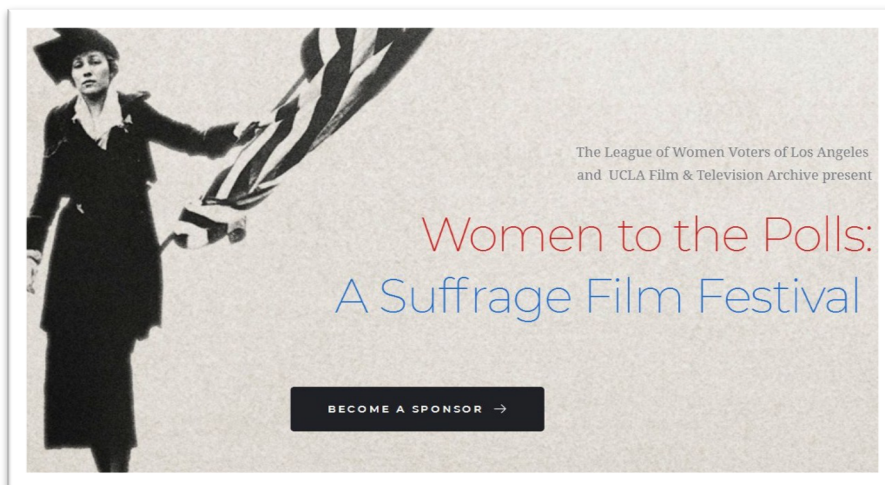


**Mona Field**, Co-President

## A SUFFRAGE FILM FESTIVAL – ONLINE

One of our major events to celebrate a century of women winning the vote is the "Women to the Polls: A Suffrage Film Festival", which was suspended mid-month due to the current circumstances. However, we are pleased to announce that part two of the film festival will be available online. Please join us from wherever you are. "Women to the Polls: A Suffrage Film Festival" shines a light on the need for continued vigilance in the fight for universal suffrage at a time when voter suppression still exists in many parts of the country.

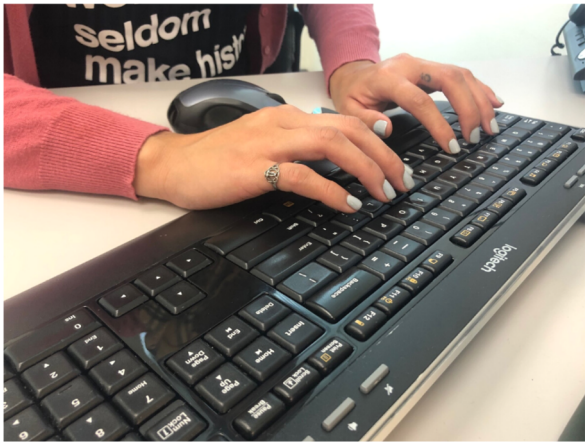
We hope to continue honoring the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote and celebrate the determination of the American men and women who fought for this right. We hope to inspire more people to participate and to vote.



More information and exact dates will be posted soon. Please visit [suffragefilmfestival.com](http://suffragefilmfestival.com) to stay updated and register to the online event.

**Virginia Wexman**  
League Board Member

## LETTER FROM THE OFFICE



Greetings League members, community partners, and supporters! I hope you are well and in good health. We are happy to stay connected with you all during these tough times. In order to ensure the safety of staff and League members, on-site meetings at our office will no longer be hosted until further notice. All meetings will shift online through Zoom or will be hosted through the teleconference line. This includes the Annual Meeting in June, the summer internship program, and the Speakers Bureau during the fall, which will also be adapted to

a virtual format.

Thank you to everyone who donated on #GivingTuesday and everyone who has responded to our action calls during this time of crisis. We are doing the best we can to uphold the League infrastructure and connect you to all opportunities of civic engagement. Together we make Democracy Work, and together we must keep up the fight because the year is not over—we have an important Census count still underway and a critical election up ahead.

If you have not completed the 2020 Census, please take the time now to respond by visiting [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). It's quick and easy! The 2020 Census questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete. The self-respond period has now been extended to October 31, 2020. Help us spread the word and ensure an accurate count for Los Angeles. You can inspire others. Tell everyone—your friends and family, neighbors—within safe means—to respond to the Census too! Census results have an impact on planning and funding for health clinics and highways, fire departments and disaster response, education programs such as Head Start and college tuition assistance, and so much more.

As we adapt to this time period, we need to prepare for the future of our elections now. The way we participate in our democracy will have to shift. Our vote must be protected just as much as our health and safety. We are thrilled to see that California is rolling out an election plan that will address these concerns for the General Election this November. Recognizing the threat COVID-19 continues to pose to public health, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to ensure that Californians can exercise their right to vote in a safe and accessible manner. The order requires that each county's elections officials send vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters. We hope this encourages an increased number of voters to participate, because no one should have to choose between their health and having a say in our democracy!

**Ely Valdivia**  
Administrative Assistant

# UPDATE ON LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION 2020

Save the Dates: June 25 - 27, 2020



The League of Women Voters of the United States has announced transitioning the convention to a virtual event. *Women Power the Vote for 100 Years*, the 54<sup>th</sup> biannual National Convention, will be held on June 25, 26, 27.

We invite our League members to save these

dates. Our Los Angeles League is looking for voting delegates to represent at the National Convention. Let us know if you would like to join fellow passionate and engaged League leaders. Please email [Elizabeth Valdivia](mailto:Elizabeth.Valdivia@lwwlosangeles.org), if you are interested.

## Why Attend?

In addition to your participation as a [voting delegate](#) during plenary sessions on official League business, including budgeting, programming and election of officers, there will be opportunities to network and engage with fellow League members from all areas of the country and hear from League leaders and outside speakers, as well as celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and plan for the next 100 years and beyond.

**The Los Angeles  
League needs  
delegates for the  
National Convention**

Email Elizabeth:  
[aa@lwwlosangeles.org](mailto:aa@lwwlosangeles.org),  
if you are interested.

Details on this virtual Convention are still being worked out, but the following information has been shared:

- Business sessions will be held on June 25-27, and the agenda will be planned with consideration towards all time zones.
- A full plenary will be hosted, and working closely with the parliamentarian, all governance guidelines will be observed in the virtual space. All requirements around delegates, quorum, and how we conduct our business will remain the same. Detailed instructions will be sent to all delegates ahead of the first plenary session.
- The Convention Awards will carry on as part of this virtual experience, and [details can be found here](#).
- All current registrants will receive a full refund. An email from our registration software will be sent soon with instructions. We are also offering registrants the option to convert their registration fee to a donation to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.
- We are working with the hotels on all existing hotel reservations. All reservations will be canceled at no penalty.

Please continue to check the League Management site and the *League Update* for the preliminary at-a-glance schedule and for emerging information on registration. Learn more about the [convention here](#)!

# CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

Would you or someone you know make an excellent League of Women Voters of Los Angeles (LWVLA) board member?

Ideal candidates are committed to the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy with integrity, credibility, and passion. We are looking for candidates who have experience in leadership, business, government, philanthropy or nonprofit work.

The LWVLA is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging individuals, households, communities, and influencing policy changes to create a more perfect democracy.

The board meets at least once a month from September through June. We have a yearly retreat in August. Board members typically chair or serve on the committees whereby the LWVLA does its work: Membership, Program Planning, Finance, Grants, Communications and committees advocating in the areas of Criminal Justice, Homelessness, Environment, Voter Services, and Women's Issues. Please see more details in the [FAQs for Board of Directors and Nomination Terms](#).

[Use this form](#) to recommend a person or yourself for the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Board. We are taking nominations through June for board service from September 2020 to June 2022. **Please submit your nominations as soon as possible!**



If you have any questions or require assistance with the process, please contact [Stephanie Gomez](#).

**Stephanie Gomez**  
League Board Member

## New Member Zoom Meeting.

Sign up now

Join us for this virtual meet & greet  
Wednesday, May 27 at 6:00 pm

You are important to us  
& we want to stay  
connected with you!

Contact Thanayi Lindsey, Membership Chair  
[tlindsey@lwwloangeles.org](mailto:tlindsey@lwwloangeles.org)



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

**Webinar Monday, June 15, 2020**

Do you want to know more about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force's exciting new work? What exactly is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?

To find out, you'll want to participate in a webinar set for **Monday evening, June 15, 2020 beginning at 6:15 p.m.**

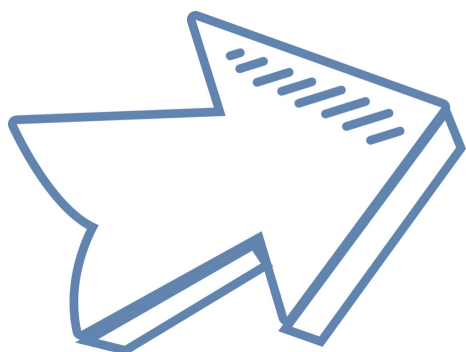


The League of Women Voters US laid out a vision for how the League can seek to remain a vital organization and network that focuses on engaging new members, embracing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and increasing participation. The LWV US commitment essentially states that DEI is central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

The LWV Los Angeles began a process to review DEI intentionally for the organization. In October 2018, the League adopted a formal DEI policy, and a year later the Board of Directors approved the establishment of the DEI Task Force for the purpose of developing an action plan to promote DEI. The Action Plan identifies initial steps in key areas within the League that can strengthen DEI. Implementation of this plan will be a continuing process led by members, committees, staff, and the Board of Directors.

Join the DEI Task Force on a webinar, Monday, June 15 at 6:15 p.m. Meet the members and learn about the DEI Action Plan, including the Key Action Step Areas, recommended strategies for implementation, and how you can participate in Task Force activities.

**Gwendolyn Flynn,**  
League Member



Don't forget  
to renew your  
membership!

League  
Membership  
Expires  
June 30, 2020

Renew yours today at:  
<https://bit.ly/LWVLAMembership>

# 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

VOTING MEETING IS SATURDAY, JUNE 20  
FROM 10:00 TO 11:30 AM  
VIA ZOOM

## JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING



This year our Annual Meeting will be online. The health of our members is our primary concern. We hope that this encourages every League member to participate safely and remotely! We have scheduled virtual workshops throughout the week to learn more and discuss the items up for a vote. These workshops lead up to Saturday's Annual Meeting, where items will be approved. The Annual Meeting Kit will be distributed via email.

## FEATURED WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FROM 6:15 TO 7:00 PM



- MONDAY, JUNE 15      Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- TUESDAY, JUNE 16      LWVLA Merger with LWV Glendale/Burbank
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17      2020-2022 Board Mixer
- THURSDAY, JUNE 18      Program Planning for 2020 - 2022
- FRIDAY, JUNE 19      Budget Proposal for 2020 - 2021

All meetings will be accessed through ZOOM  
Members must RSVP to receive access information  
**RSVP to Elizabeth at [aa@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:aa@lwvlosangeles.org)**

## Since the last VOTER

### Civic Society

Judith Jordan  
Fran Lapides

### Contributions

Phyllis Axelrod  
Sula Baye  
Russell Burrows  
Susan Hirsch  
John Isely  
Eugene Kapaloski  
Teresa King  
Eric Mandel  
Francine Oschin  
Susan Rice  
Martha Sklar  
Joe Viola

### Giving Tuesday

Harriet Borson  
Russell Burrows  
Renee Chanon  
Idelle Davidson  
Rozanne Feldman  
Lynette Sim  
Laurice Sommers  
Alexandra Tangalos  
Sandra Trutt  
Anne Whatley

### New Members

Kathleen Koster  
Alexandra Tangalos

### Suffrage Film Festival

Jennifer Fairchild  
Carolyn Fowler  
Jane Guthrie  
Loretta E. Kelly-Denkis  
Julia Maher  
Lori Miller  
Hermalee H. Schmidt  
Andrea Slavin  
Laurice Sommers  
Susan Walsh

### Sustaining Contributions

Jodi Doane  
Marilu Guevara  
Jo Ann Dawson  
Benjamin Moore

### Tribute

Molly Malloy, in honor of  
Elizabeth Malloy

## UPCOMING TRAININGS & COMMUNITY CALLS

The LWVUS is hosting useful community trainings and calls. I welcome you all to sign up and take advantage of these great resources. Recordings of past trainings and a list of upcoming trainings can be found below:

### This Month's Community Call

- You can access yesterday's recording [here](#)

### Next Monthly LWVUS Community Call

- LWV June Community Call Register [here](#)

### Upcoming Trainings:

- Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
[Facilitating and Building Engaging Meetings on Digital Platforms](#)
- Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
[An Intermediate's Guide to Social Media Tools](#)

### Resources:

- [Interactive Community Call Handout](#)

## Remembering Thea Brodtkin

Thea Brodtkin was the beloved wife of Bart Brodtkin (z"l), and is survived by her sisters Dale Strok (Mike), Linda Fox (Bill z"l), and Gloria Cowan, her children Karen Watson (Chris) and Amy Burkhart (Chuck), her grandchildren Charlie, Brooke, and Quincy, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In the 1970's, Thea served on Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's Advisory Council, implementing desegregation. For decades she was the Voter's Guide Chair for the California League of Women Voters.

Thea joined the LA League in 1973. She was highly active in Voter Service. Registered and presented at high schools, a dedicated member of the Speakers Bureau and always willing to go out and represent the League. Thea was a member of the LA County Registrar's Community Voting Outreach Committee and volunteered during election time. Always a voter advocate! Thea will be deeply missed by her Los Angeles and Santa Monica League family.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Dale and Linda, and their families. Both Linda and Dale are longtime active members of NCJW, serving in many capacities. Currently Linda is Long Beach section President and Dale is Vice President of Communications.

Donations in Memory may be made to:  
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles  
Temple Israel's General Fund

Thea passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020.

*May her memory be a blessing.*





# MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES

May 2020 - Volume 11, Issue 9

## Voter Service: Volunteer Opportunity

We work year-round to make sure all eligible Americans—especially first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, communities of color, and low-income Americans—have the opportunity to register and vote. Our Voter Service is looking for volunteers to help in the upcoming election. If you are interested in participating, please contact Fran Lapides at [voterservice@lwvlosangeles.net](mailto:voterservice@lwvlosangeles.net)

**Monday, May 11 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

## Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

Please join us as we develop an online webinar in lieu of an in-person presentation meant for the LWV-US Convention that was cancelled. We are seeking to discover the criminal justice issues that other state and local Leagues identify as needing reform, e.g. juvenile justice, reducing mass incarceration or making sure that surveillance doesn't end privacy. Our guest will be Margot Bennett from Women Against Gun Violence.

**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/6754305941>

Or join by phone:

(312) 626-6700 or (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 675 430 5941 (No need to type the spaces. The spaces are there to make the string of numbers easier to read.)

**Wednesday, May 13 | 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## League Book Club

Join the book club! As we are encouraged to stay-at-home through June, here is a creative way to reach out and connect with League community. The book being discussed for this meeting is, "The Storied Life of A.J. Fickry" by Gabrielle Zevin.

**Zoom Link:** To attend this Zoom meeting, Please RSVP to Ann Rushton at: [annrushton.lwvla@gmail.com](mailto:annrushton.lwvla@gmail.com) to receive the correct code and link to the meeting.

**Thursday, May 21 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Valley Unit Meeting**

Come learn about the role that Neighborhood Councils play in city government. The speaker is our former LWVLA Executive Director and beloved 2019 CLA Honoree, Raquel Beltran, and is currently the General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

**Zoom Link:** To attend this Zoom meeting, Please RSVP to Elizabeth Valdivia: [aa@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:aa@lwvlosangeles.org) by May 18 in order to receive the correct code and link to the meeting.

**EMPOWER LA**



## Speakers Bureau: Volunteer Opportunity

The Speakers Bureau is looking for speakers for this Fall 2020. This is an important service offered by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles leading up to every election. The Speakers Bureau program offers the public the opportunity to request a speaker to address specific areas of interest including: ballot measures, League advocacy, civic engagement, and general information about the League. Join our team of speakers! You'll learn what it means to speak for the League and how the traditional Speakers Bureau will be adapted amid the COVID-19 crisis.