

FROM THE CO- PRESIDENT'S DESK



A lot is happening this month as we start to wrap up before the midterm elections 2018!

Not only are we busy pre-registering high school students but we are also speaking across LA City about

the ballot measures to help educate the electorate.

We held our annual fundraiser, Celebrating Leadership Awards in October and honored our very own Raquel Beltran, Madeline Janis and Mayor Eric Garcetti for their efforts in voting rights and community outreach and education. We raised over \$58,000 dollars to support our important work of voter education and advocacy. Thanks to everyone who was involved and participated in our glorious event!

We continue to need your support and donations as we head into 2019 and are already planning for the 100 year anniversary of women winning the right to vote.

Now is the time to get involved!

In League,



November - October 2018

Co-President's Message

Fall LWVLA Events

Supportive Housing for Veterans

Campaign Finance Reform in Los Angeles City

Homelessness News of Interest

League Members Visit CSUN

Criminal Justice Reform Reaches Beyond LA

New Member Spotlight

In Memory of Mary Roman

League Orientation Invitation

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Memberships expired June 30

Email info@lwvlosangeles.org

Or call us to inquire whether your membership is current.

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LOCAL UNITS

Las Virgenes
Valley
Westside Evening



FALL LWVLA EVENTS



Mona Field with NALEO at the 5th Annual Latin Jazz Festival Highland Park.



Voter registration at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, LWVLA member Idelle Davidson and Temple Isaiah volunteers.



With the help of our Youth Voter Intern Amy Bell, over 500 high school students have registered and pre-registered to vote!



Over 3,000 people have attended our ballot measure events throughout Los Angeles, thanks to all of our LWVLA speakers.



Even Sony Studios participated with a voter registration and resource table, by Marsha Schwartz.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR VETERANS

SUMMARY FROM TOUR OF THE U.S. VETS SITE



I attended a United Way event recently, a tour of the U.S. VETS Supportive Housing complex in Inglewood. The facility was started in 1993 with five veterans and now has a capacity of 621. Some veterans are housed on a per diem basis depending on need, which is operated by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

Services are offered on-site for rehab, medical and mental health issues, job placement and career

training. There is a garden where residents can grow vegetables, a workout room and several multipurpose rooms for gatherings, plus a large terrace for cookouts and parties.

One large building is arranged in pods, as they are called, 3 bedrooms with a shared living room with a TV and bathroom. Some of the bedrooms in a pod are for one, two or three persons. Some housing pods are female only. Three meals per day are provided, lunch is packed in a lunch bag so it can be taken to work, their job training site or eaten anywhere they want.

Another building has single units including a kitchen for those that qualify, perhaps for those with a higher income.

The main takeaway after visiting US VETS is that the veterans were restored to their own selves, again. They were cheerful, smiling, willing to have conversations with the visitors, offering to show off their rooms and providing other details about their lives. I felt elated to see that the program works, that the staff knows each resident and help provide for their needs. The residents love the staff and speak glowingly of them.

One interesting fact I picked up is that in the first year of Measure H funding, 7,500 people moved into housing. That is something to be elated about, too.

The “Everyone In” Campaign suggested we see the new film, “The Advocates” which follows three outreach workers on the streets of Los Angeles.

As for me, I actually got to experience that the “Housing First” method for the dealing with the un-housed really works.

Sandra Trutt,
Chair of the Homeless Action Committee

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IN LOS ANGELES CITY

In 1990, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles was instrumental in the creation of the Ethics Commission and the Campaign Finance Program. Today, the LWVLA continues to support LA City's efforts to support candidates run competitive campaigns by making even more improvements to its matching funds program.

Along with a coalition of organizations — including Common Cause, California Clean Money, Unrig LA — LWVLA worked with the Ethics Commission to develop a package of reforms, which would be in place for the 2020 elections. [For those interested in the details, visit: <https://goo.gl/ATxGRV>. On October 5, City Council approved the Ethics Commissions recommendations, along with a motion by two councilmember's to empower small donors by reducing the maximum match donation from \$250 to \$115 for City Council races, visit: <https://goo.gl/Q1YYMR>

There is still more work to be done:

- By lowering the maximum match donation, the councilmember's' amendment inadvertently made it more difficult for candidates to reach the aggregate threshold of contributions in order to qualify for matching funds. We hope to maintain the number of matched donations required to qualify by reducing the aggregate threshold from \$25,000 to \$11,500. Note: the next highest municipal aggregate threshold is Washington DC's with \$12,000; New York's is \$5,000.
- We need to address developer contributions to ensure there isn't pay-to-play going on or the perception of pay-to-play.
- The definition of the "debate or town hall" requirement must be clarified to prevent candidates from using a campaign rally to qualify for matching funds.

If any other municipality is interested in campaign finance reform, take a look at Seattle's voucher program, which San Diego is considering. Visit this website for information.

<http://www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher>

Carolina Goodman,
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

HOMELESSNESS NEWS OF INTEREST

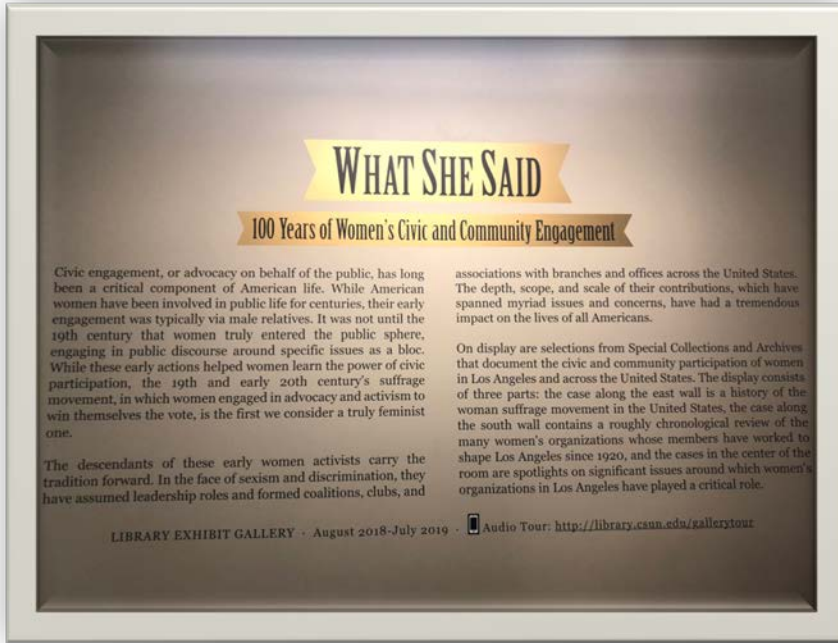
Margaret Ecker informed us that the LA Public Library has a new link on their home page. It now features in the left-hand column "Homeless Resources". There is a space to put your zip code in and tell what population you are interested in. It then tells you the locations of showers, meals, medical services and social workers within a mile or two of your zip code. Go to lapl.org to try it out.

Sandra Trutt,
Chair of the Homeless Action Committee

LEAGUE MEMBERS VISIT CSUN

On September 20, League members attended the opening of a new exhibition at the Oviatt Library at

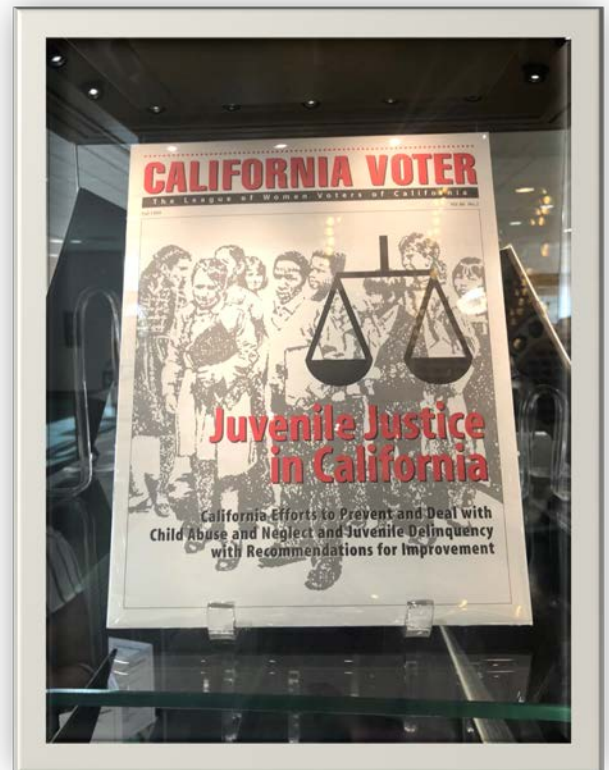
Cal State Northridge entitled “What She Said: 100 Years of Women’s Civic and Community Engagement.”



Attendees were treated to a reception and tour of the exhibit, which includes—selections that document the civic and community participation of women in Los Angeles and across the United States. There are 50 pieces from the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Collection, whose archives have been kept at the Oviatt Library since 1980.

Special guest speakers were Los Angeles City Councilwomen Monica Rodriguez and Nury Martinez. Our own Joy Picus received a special welcome and appreciation for her service on the Los Angeles City Council and active participation in the San Fernando Valley community.

The exhibit will be on display for a year and we encourage everyone to visit and learn about the League’s important role in the Los Angeles community since 1920.



Renee Channon,
League Member & Co-Chair of Civic Society

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COMMITTEE REACHES BEYOND L.A.



The Committee has spent the past three years studying the Los Angeles Police Department. Our methods have included researching the presence of nationally established best practices, plus interviewing key influentials within the Department and in the greater community. The LAPD is on its way toward reform, yet it continues to have astonishingly high rates of shootings of civilians by on-duty officers. We continue to observe and advocate for reforms that have been seen as effective by law enforcement experts.

To extend our focus to the State of California, we are currently researching what Leagues across the state and the nation have supported in their studies on criminal justice reform. Some California local leagues have already joined in with our position. Invested in this process are LWVC's President Helen Hutchinson and vice president Joanne Levitt, because they recognize how deeply important this issue is for the legitimacy of our governmental structures. Indeed, it is the one that has the most profound effect on many individuals. It includes not only community policing, but best practices in sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry.

If we gain the requisite number of California's 87 local leagues, we have done two things: 1) provided local Leagues with best practices to hold accountable their law enforcement agencies; and 2) gained a statewide set of positions which will allow us to advocate in Sacramento for changes that will make the police departments more just and equitable, and our communities safer.

The last week in September captured much of the dynamics of what the LWVLA's Committee on Criminal Justice Reform is doing including interviewing key influentials in the criminal justice world.

We met with the new Chief of the LAPD Michel Moore with the new President of the Los Angeles Urban League. Our entrée to the new chief was made possible by his commitment to improving community relations, the League's excellent non-partisan reputation, and the work our Committee on Criminal Justice Reform had done in interviewing so many key players both in the LAPD and in deeply affected community-based organizations.

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-- *Criminal Justice Reform Committee, Reaches Beyond LA*
Continued from Page 6

A questionnaire sent by our LWVLA co-president Martha Sklar was sent to the three top candidates, before Mayor Garcetti nominated his choice to the City Council. She asked them to give their responses to a series of questions involving community policing, de-escalation, and immigration.

Each candidate responded at length and their answers were forwarded to the Mayor. Our lengthy interview with the Chief gave us an opportunity to see his serious commitment to issues we feel of great importance and provided him with the opportunity to see the League as a thoughtful agency of outreach.

Marjorie Green,
Criminal Justice Reform Committee

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MEGAN MCWATERS



Originally from southern Maryland, Megan earned her B.A. in Communications and Media Studies from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. Having interned in K-12 education, environmental studies, and television production, Megan ultimately (and oddly enough) settled on a career in comedy. She is currently a comedy agent in the touring department at Agency for the Performing Arts (APA). She is also the mother to a ten-year old cat, named Layla.

IN MEMORY OF MARY ROMAN

MY GRANDMOTHER AND LONGTIME LEAGUE MEMBER

My grandmother, Mary Louise Roman, passed away last month leaving behind a legacy of education and civic engagement. She was a member of her local League of Women Voters of Troy Area in Michigan for years, working to educate voters. She famously said to me “The League wanted more people to vote but most importantly, to vote intelligently.” Mary was proud to engage the public in this crucial effort.



Newspaper clippings of Mary’s early work with the League of Women Voters.

According to our family records, Mary joined the League of Women Voters in the late 50s or early 60s. She loved being involved in candidate forums and even hosted one on television! She taught me the crucial importance of the unbiased reputation of the LWV and (I’m sure) passed that sentiment on to everyone she met through her work.

Mary’s legacy lives on in her children, grandchildren and friends--many of whom are now involved in education, nonprofit work, and advocacy and voter education. I’ve been a member of the League of Women Voters since 2015, first in San Francisco and now in Los Angeles. My sister, Mallory, is a member of the League of Women Voters of Orange-Durham-Chatham.

--Continued on Page 9

Since the last VOTER

Contributions

Joy Axelrod
Barbara Braunstein

Civic Society

Carryl Carter

New Members

Cherie Baker
Jessica Beckerman
Barbara L. Blaunstein
Lori Choi
Angelica Duenas
Christina Harvey
Joseph & Margaret Hoffman
Kaitlyn Holmlund
Judy Krull
Megan E. McWaters
Kelly Raney
Carmen Rico
Meredith Salamunovich
Eileen Sanford
Mary Simpson
Julie Stromberg
Kristy Thronson
Monroe Tifara
Gwen Toma
British Wagya

Sustaining Contributions

Crissi Avila
Jodi Doane
Marilu Guevara

Tributes

Sandra Trutt:
· In Tribute of Don Antelman
Miriam Carrillo:
· In honor of Marilu Guevara's
birthday
Jeffrey and Deborah Kaye:
· In honor of Mona Field



Hosting a candidate forum on television
circa early 2000s.

Our grandmother taught us that we must be involved in the important issues of our time and we must act with urgency. In this spirit, we will continue her work and honor her memory. Thank you for your passion, Grandma Roman. Rest in peace.

Lex Roman,
Homeless Action Committee



ORIENTATION SAT. NOV. 17 FROM 2-4 P.M.

Learn about opportunities available and how the League works. Find out how you might get involved.
Bring your laptop or smart phone
for an interactive session.

Location: UTLA Building, 3303 Wilshire Blvd. Room 816
Los Angeles, CA 90010

RSVP: S.trutt@verizon.net or (310) 479-7482





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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.