



# The Voter

". . . to promote informed citizen participation in government."

Membership: (949) 718-9626, League Phone: (949) 451-2212, Website: <http://orangecoast.ca.lwvnet.org>

## Calendar of Events

February, 2018

**Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00pm** CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!  
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 [mjob35@gmail.com](mailto:mjob35@gmail.com). **Join us don't be shy.**

**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am-12:00pm** LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting  
Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, 92660  
For information: 1-714-552-2608 or [pmheilig@icloud.com](mailto:pmheilig@icloud.com)

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm** CAPO Unit Book Club  
Book: "Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide" by Cass Sunstein  
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or [mjob35@gmail.com](mailto:mjob35@gmail.com)

**Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30-2:30pm.** Book Club North  
Book "The Righteous Mind," by Jonathan Haidt  
Moderator: Judith Stamper  
For information and location: 949-923-1793 or [stamper3@pacbell.net](mailto:stamper3@pacbell.net)

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Noon to 2:00pm.** Lunch with League  
Topic: "Tracing the DNA of the American Charter School Movement"  
Speaker: Dr. Shane Goodridge, UCI School of Education  
Location: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Drive, Irvine, 92612  
Entrees: Broiled Chicken Salad or Chicken Teriyaki with Steamed Rice and Vegetable, both with Garlic Bread and choice of Cookies or Brownies for dessert.  
Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only  
RSVP Required: 1-714-552-2608 or [pmheilig@icloud.com](mailto:pmheilig@icloud.com)

### "Tracing the DNA of the American Charter School Movement"

Dr. Shane Goodridge PhD., University of California, School of Education, will speak about his research on the historical context of the charter school movement in the United States:

"Over three million children in the United States are currently enrolled in charter schools, with increasing enrollments despite **NO** strong evidence of academic gains. My historical research

moves beyond a focus on academic outcomes and traces the success of the charter school movement, in part, to the foundational premise of restoring agency to educational stakeholders. State mandated schooling was a counterintuitive feature of American policy that chafed against the founding ideals of the Republic and gradually engendered resentment amongst, mostly white conservatives. Concurrently, in the aftermath of *Brown v Board of Education* factions of African-American policy makers began to look for equitable educational alternatives. The unlikely alliance of these two antithetical constituencies resulted in the creation of a unique – albeit fragile – coalition and the passing of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and paved the way for the nation’s inaugural charter school policy passed in Minnesota in 1991.”

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### March, 2018

**Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00pm.** CAPO Unit Clip & Come & PIE!  
**For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or [mjob35@gmail.com](mailto:mjob35@gmail.com). *Join us don't be shy.***

**Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am-12:00pm** LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting  
**Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, 92660**  
**For information: 1-714-552-2608 or [pmheilig@icloud.com](mailto:pmheilig@icloud.com)**

**Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>,** Future of CA Elections Conference  
**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Future of California Elections Conference at the California Endowment in Los Angeles. This year's theme is "Policy Meets Practice: Implementing California's New Election Laws." Registration opened January 2<sup>nd</sup>: <http://futureofcaelections.org/foce2018/>.**  
**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm** CAPO Unit Book Club  
**Atlantic Magazine, October 2017: article: "The First White President" by Ta-Nehisi Coates**  
**For information and location: [mjob35@gmail.com](mailto:mjob35@gmail.com)**

**Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30-2:30pm** North Unit Book Club  
**Book: "Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?" by Alyssa Mastromanaco**  
**Moderator: Judy Standerford**  
**For information and location: 949-923-1793 or [stamper3@pacbell.net](mailto:stamper3@pacbell.net).**

**Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00pm** Panel Discussion: Homelessness in OC  
**Speakers: TBA**  
**Location: TBA**  
**The major social issue of our time is homelessness. The weekend of January 21, 2018, approximately 1000 homeless people were evicted from the Santa Ana river bed in Anaheim. Some had been there 17 to 18 years. Unfortunately, there was no place for them to go.**

***All members or guests are welcome at any of the meetings in this calendar***

## Co-Presidents' Message

Welcome to 2018 and a very busy year for LWV of Orange Coast!

I started the year by attending a League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) webinar on "Make it Fair."

"Make it Fair" is a coalition of community organizations (LWVC is a member of the steering committee) that is working to reform Proposition 13. The intent is to require non-residential, non-agricultural property to be regularly reassessed at the fair market value. According to League background on this initiative, it is estimated that this will raise more than \$9 billion dollars in additional revenue for schools and local governments and make the tax fairer.



LWVC President Helen Hutchison, will provide more information regarding how our League can support this initiative. Please check your email for information. Some projects may include gathering signatures on petitions, contacting our local assembly representatives and asking for support, and distributing League information about the "Make it Fair" campaign.



Judy Standerford has designed and printed a postcard sized handout about "Make it Fair". Members will have these postcards to distribute with our usual League information cards.

The LWVC background paper on "Make it Fair" can be accessed here: [Google drive folder](#). Please become familiar with this and volunteer to help win support for this initiative. More information can be found here: <https://lwvc.org/news/ballot-measure-filed-fund-schools-closing-corporate-tax-loophole>

### Here are more opportunities to volunteer:

**Voter Services Committee:** We are reorganizing the Voter Services Committee to plan our activities for 2018. We had an in-person meeting in January, all other meetings will be via email. This is a vital part of LWV and we need your ideas and expertise! Please email Vickie Chenevey [vchenevey@yahoo.com](mailto:vchenevey@yahoo.com) to be included.

**Speakers Bureau:** We need speakers and assistants for our Speakers Bureau. Whether you have a topic you would like to present or you want to present our Pros and Cons, please contact Carolyn Martin [cmartin4cdm@yahoo.com](mailto:cmartin4cdm@yahoo.com) and let her know your interests.

**Voter Registration Training:** Stay tuned for an upcoming training session on Voter Registration. There is always something new and we want to be sure that we are current.

In League

*Rebecca Newman & Diane Nied*  
Co-Presidents

Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday League of Women Voters!



The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

Maud Wood Park was elected as the first president of the League. The League quickly began to spread throughout the nation and by 1924 there were National Leagues organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. The League quickly got involved with influencing policy and began advocating support for the Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of married women which became law in 1922. The League also sponsored their first "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy.

To learn more about the League through the decades: <https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history>.

## It's Time for Advocacy

*Can you advocate a political position without being partisan? Can you disagree without being disagreeable?*

by Jan Wagner, LWVNOC President

I received an email from LWVC President Helen Hutchison that was part of a continuing conversation about how the League can best navigate an increased need for advocacy and an increased value in our being perceived as an impartial, honest, nonpartisan source of voter information. She included an article from a website provocatively called [nonprofitwithballs.com](http://nonprofitwithballs.com) that asks, what is partisan? Given today's toxic political climate and our local League focus on Civic Engagement, I decided to share a large portion of that article with you. Here it is.

I believe we as a sector need to have more conversations about policies, especially when these policies severely damage communities and perpetuate racism, sexism, Islamophobia, ableism, and other forms of injustice. We must speak out against policies and beliefs that foster injustice, and we must advocate [our positions] more. Civil rights and human rights are not partisan. Fighting to protect our communities is not partisan. We may disagree with one another about stuff, but disagreement itself is not partisan. We need to end this belief that whenever someone says something we disagree with, they're being partisan and need to be shut down.

The problem may be that we don't really have an agreement about what actually constitutes partisanship and what is just a difference of opinion. So let's discuss that today. Here's my definition of partisan, mainly as applied to conversations, subject to feedback and future revisions: **Unwavering loyalty to a political party, often manifesting in personal attacks and/or the questioning of the motives of people considered to be on opposing sides.**"

**Personal attacks:** are attacks on people's character, not a critique on their ideas or disagreements with their premises or conclusions. There's been a lot of terrible name-calling on our society lately. This also includes insulting memes of various political figures. We've also been accusing one another of being "trolls" . . . when we do not agree. Personal attacks do not lead anywhere productive. They just force people to shut down or be on the defensive. They break down civil dialogue and further the divide between all of us.

**Questioning of motives:** The other destructive marker of partisanship is the questioning of motives. Instead of, again, focusing on ideas, we start attacking people's motives. A simple disagreement now becomes "you only believe that because you hate so-and-so, or you're trying to do blah-blah." None of us have access to anyone else's minds, so when we start assuming we know what they are thinking or why they believe the things they do, we are venturing into wild conjectures. This is incredibly counterproductive, as nothing riles people up more than when their motives—and thus their integrity—are attacked.

In general, name-calling and motive-questioning are terrible, and we need to put a stop to them in all dialogues. They're even worse when they're injected into already volatile political conversations. That's when it all becomes partisan and destructive. But absent of either of these two elements, I don't think it's necessarily partisan, but rather just a disagreement, and we need to learn how to have conversations even when we disagree.

**Here are a few examples:**

**Example A:** “I am not a big fan of [politician].” Is this partisan? I don’t think so. No one is being insulted. No one’s motives are being questioned. This states a simple fact. We tend to get riled up and make assumptions about people, such as assuming this person is obviously a member of a particular political party. Who says they are? They could be independent. I’ve met a few people who are not fans of President Trump who are also not fans of President Obama.

**Example B:** “All these protests are counterproductive. We need to give this administration a chance.” Is this partisan? I don’t think so, no. You may disagree with this statement. But no one’s character is being attacked, and no one’s motives are questioned.

**Example C:** “The only people who voted for [politician] are xenophobes, misogynists, and racists.” Is this partisan? Yes. It questions people’s motives, and also resorts to some very serious name-calling. This does not help anything. It shuts down conversations. We need to avoid statements like this.

**Example D:** “It saddens me that [politician] is endorsed by [group].” Is this partisan? No. Again, this states a simple fact; no insults, no questioning of motives.

**Example E:** “You only say that because liberals care more about trees and animals than people.” Is this partisan? Yes. Even if there is not a personal attack, it is making assumptions about why someone is saying something, which falls into the area of motivation-questioning.

You get the picture. We need to learn to have civil conversations, even including strong disagreements, without it becoming a political throw-down. I am proposing a simple rule: If a statement contains no personal attacks and no questioning of anyone’s motivations, it is not partisan; and we need to be able to have a conversation like adults.

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### ↳ In Memorium ‹

**“Corky” Francis Adam Maywhort**, husband of LWV Orange Coast Past-President Phyllis Maywhort. He is remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend who loved boats, classic cars, and travel with the love of his life. He served in the U.S. Army reserve, as a volunteer fireman, and retired from McDonald Douglas after 33 years of employment.

**Sue Grafton**, a best-selling crime novelist whose popular “alphabet” mysteries featuring Southern California detective Kinsey Millhone sold millions of copies worldwide, died Dec. 28 in Santa Barbara, California. Ms. Grafton published the first of her alphabetical series of novels — each title began with a different letter — with “A Is for Alibi” in 1982. She reached the 25th letter of the alphabet with her final book, “Y Is for Yesterday,” which was published in August. “My goal in life,” Ms. Grafton once said, “is to write one perfect mystery.”

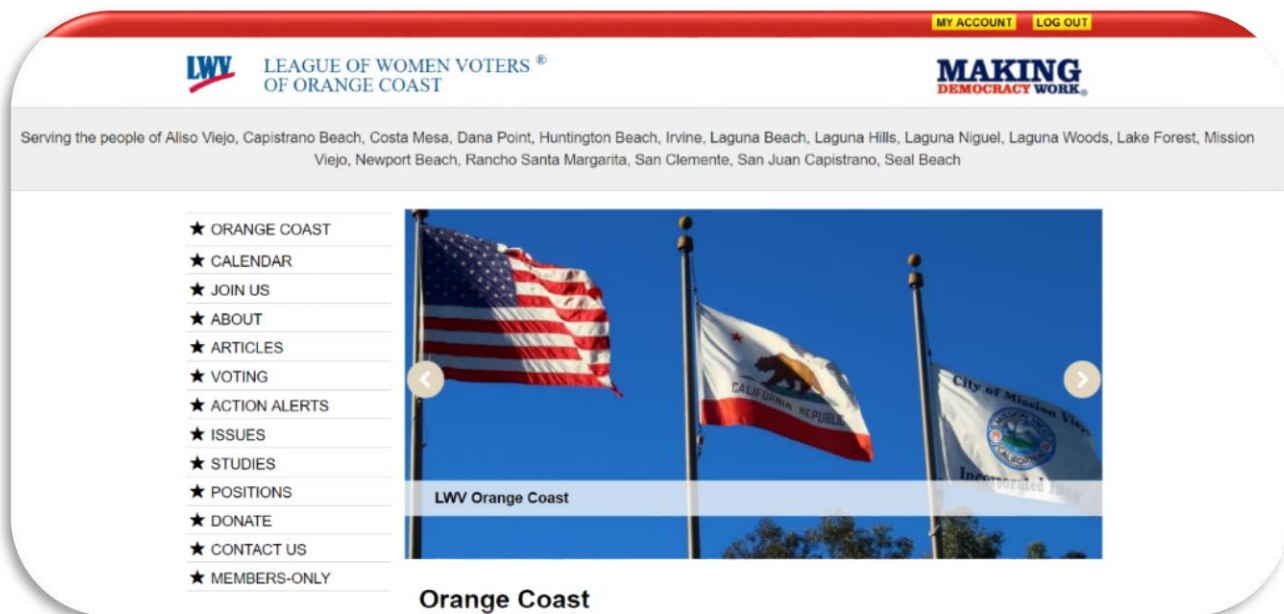
## Announcing the New Orange Coast League Website!

By: Janette Dye, LWVOC Communication Committee Member and Web Manager

The Communications Committee is proud to announce the new Orange Coast League Website (My League Online). You are cordially invited to check it out at [lwvorangecoast.org](http://lwvorangecoast.org) for the latest updates and information about our League. Or, visit our [Facebook page](#) (@lwvorangecoast) and click on the link for the new website.

My League Online (MyLO) takes the best of League Easy Web and leverages new technologies to take state and local League sites to the next level. MyLO harnesses the new, more effective tools that are now available for content sharing, syndication, accessibility, and responsiveness to devices essential to drive traffic and increase engagement. We are so excited about the possibilities.

Our new website aspires to reflect our coastal Orange County lifestyle in pallet and pictures with a fresh, dazzling look. More importantly, it contains all the up-to-date information on League news and events. A new feature is the LWVOC Events Calendar, where you can see, at a glance, events scheduled by month. Also new is our Contact Us form where members of the community are encouraged to tell us what's on their mind.



If you are an Orange Coast League Member, you may log in to gain access to our website's Members-Only section. There you will find our archives and a new way to contribute information, photos and files for inclusion in, say, *The Voter*, or maybe our Facebook page. Members, specific instructions on how to log-in will be in the email with *The Voter*. If you have ideas for how the LWVOC website can better serve you, please let us know by using the Contact Us form on the website. We cheerfully look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Charlotte Pirch for her many long hours working on our previous website, which was based on a very old, difficult to manage technology, and to Judy Lewis our original "guru" who created our first website.

## LWV of California Update:

**Opportunities to Help the LWVC Gear Up for the 2018 Elections!** Voters turn to the LWV to give them useful unbiased information. The LWVC is already making plans to provide it. **If you are interested volunteering for any of these interesting, absorbing, and exciting Voter Service opportunities, contact your League's Voter Service Chair:**

- ***Voter's Edge California*** More than 1.7 million users consulted our site in 2016; we anticipate even more in 2018. League volunteers are crucial to getting local candidates and local ballot measures to appear on Voter's Edge. We love and appreciate all our volunteers, but in particular, **we need volunteers in Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Riverside, Santa Cruz, and Tulare counties.** Contact [Sharon Stone](#) with questions.
- ***Pros and Cons Ballot-Measure Writer/Researchers*** are needed for the November 2018 edition. This is the perfect opportunity for those who like to dig into the meat of ballot measures. Our writers and researchers draft the Pro & Con according to a set format, based mostly on the material from the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Secretary of State's Official Voter Information Guide. Training is available. *The work is done in the months prior to the November election and writers must be available to begin work as propositions are qualified for the ballot.* If you are interested, contact [Carol Moon Goldberg](#).

**Ask Before You Sign -- or -- Think Before You Ink:** As more and more petitions for the November ballot are qualified for signature gathering this is a good time to remind ourselves of [this League Resource](#). Use this op-ed in your newsletters, on social media, or submit it to your newspaper – or do all three!

**Legislative Interview Kit:** [The Legislative Interview Kit for 2017-18 is now available.](#) We would like to have as many responses as possible by March 9, 2018, but understand this depends on your ability to make appointments. We strongly request that you use [the online form](#) for your response. This makes the information much more accessible and usable. **Contact your local president to volunteer.**

**Free Training for Local Members:** You can register for upcoming webinars and participate live, share the recordings for individual use, or take what we've done and use it as a group or even customize it for your needs. For each webinar we share the recording, slides, materials, and point people for questions, collaboration, and assistance.

- [Concurrence Webinar - policing as example](#): This webinar answers the questions: What is local League concurrence? How do you do it? Why would you do it? Why would you not do it? Who can help you with it?
- [Criminal Justice Recruitment Webinar](#): What is criminal justice? How can we get more members interested this? How can we recruit new members who are interested in criminal justice?
- Political, YES! Partisan, NO!: [webinar recording](#) and [PDF of slides](#)

Together,

*Helen Hutchison*, **President**

League of Women Voters of California



## LWVUS Making News

**Statement by President Carson:** We are appalled and disgusted by President Trump's racist statement made during a bipartisan meeting about immigration yesterday. Language and ideals like this have no place in our society, and certainly not in our White House.

This administration has done little but implement policies that endorse discrimination against immigrants and communities of color. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity, and that we have crude and bigoted slurs emerging from the Oval Office is shameful.

This, now denied, comment from President Trump occurred during a meeting around a bipartisan compromise to extend protections on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); a policy the administration called an end for last year. The League of Women Voters urges our leaders to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children. We support the Dreamers, who are Americans in everything but the name.

We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable. Stand with the League of Women Voters and contact your Senators and Representatives. [Take action now.](#)

**New Leagues:** The LWVUS Board is pleased to welcome the [League of Women Voters of Southeast South Dakota \(SD\)](#) and the [LWV of Jackson Area \(MI\)](#). Congratulations to these newly recognized Leagues that are already making a big impact in their communities! And, special thanks to the LWVs of South Dakota and Michigan for their mentoring!

**Countdown to Convention 2018: 6 months to go!** We hope to see you next June in Chicago for Convention 2018! To help you plan we've continued to update our website with helpful information and links. Recent updates include: [Program Planning Guide](#), [process to propose](#) Bylaws Amendments, and the [Hardship Request](#) Application. All forms are due by March 1. [Room reservations at the Chicago Hilton](#) are open and we are looking forward to opening Convention registration next month! The Early Bird registration rate is \$450. For more key dates see the [full Countdown article](#), and be sure to read future League Updates for Convention news.

**The League of Michigan** has joined in the fight against gerrymandering, where they have filed a lawsuit [challenging partisan legislative and congressional district maps](#).

**Leagues in Ohio** are also fighting for fair maps, where they may soon be seeing [two anti-gerrymandering measures on the ballot](#).

In League,





**Contact Us**

**LWV Orange Coast:** [lwvorangecoast.org](http://lwvorangecoast.org)  
**LWV Orange Coast:** [League@LWVOrangeCoast.org](mailto:League@LWVOrangeCoast.org)  
**Voters Edge:** <http://votersedge.org/ca>  
**LWV California:** <http://www.ca.lwv.org>  
**LWVUS:** <http://www.lwv.org>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LWVOrangeCoast>

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of Orange Coast  
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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