



League of Women Voters of Orange Coast

The Voter

“.....to promote informed citizen participation in government.”

League Phone: 1 949 451-2212. Website: <http://lwvorangecoast.org>

Calendar of Events

April, 2019

Monday, April 1st, 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: 949 451-2212, or League@LWVOrangeCoast.org

Wednesday, April 3rd, 5:00-7:30pm

New Member Welcome

A celebration for new members and their mentors. However, if you are not a new member, but haven't been active and don't know many Leaguers, this event could also be for you. Please e-mail or call Christine Moore for more information: 714-508-2563, marychristinemoore@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 4th, 2:00-4:00pm

CAPO Unit Clip & Come Join us don't be shy!

For information and location: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 17th, noon-2:00pm

Lunch with League

Topic: “Promoting Wellbeing in Early Childhood: The Crucial Investment in Establishing a Healthy Start for Children and Families”

Speaker: Lee Lombardo, LCSW

Location: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Drive, Irvine, 92612

Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only

Entree choice and RSVP Required by Sunday, April 14, at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/WFFKD70M3F14MaZn1>

If you do not have electronic access you may leave a message with your name and phone number for a call back to make your entree choice (or to cancel) at (949) 451-2212.

Thursday, April 18th, 2:00-4:00pm

CAPO Unit Book Club

Book: “Becoming” by Michelle Obama

For information and location: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, April 25th, 1:00-3:00 pm

North Unit Book Club

Book: “The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels” by Jon Meacham

For information, to RSVP, and location: League@LWVOrangeCoast.org

May, 2019

Monday, May 6th, 10:00am-12:30pm

LWV Orange Coast Board Meeting

Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Bonhoeffer Room, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, 92660

For information: 949 786-1669 or League@LWVOrangeCoast.org

Thursday, May 2nd, 2:00-4:00pm.

CAPO Unit Clip & Come

For information and location: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com. Join us don't be shy.

Wednesday, May 15th, 10:30am - 2:30pm.

Lunch with League (Annual Meeting)

Check-in starts at 10:00am

Topic: “PUNISHMENT WITHOUT CRIME: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes America More Unequal”

Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Natapoff, UCI school of law.

Note that the business portion of this event will start at 10:00 — all are welcome to attend, but only members can vote. If you are only coming for the lunch/speaker, please check-in after 11:45am, and quietly remain in the back of the room until the business portion concludes - thank you!

Location: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Drive, Irvine, 92612

Cost: \$20 for lunch and speaker, \$5 for speaker only.

Menu and RSVP Required by Sunday, May 12, at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/sqJlsg72hBvLOGyx1>

Thursday, May 16th, 2:00-4:00pm.

CAPO Unit Book Club

Book: TBD

For information and location: 949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, May 23rd, 1:00-3:00pm

Book Club North

Book: “Becoming” by Michelle Obama

For information, to RSVP, and location: League@LWVOrangeCoast.org

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

June, 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 22nd, 11:00am-3:00pm **SoCal Climate Change Forum**
Location: All Saints Church, Sweetland Hall, 132 N. Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101
RSVP to climatechange@lwvc.org

- **Meet League members from Santa Barbara to San Diego**
- **Learn what other Leagues are doing**
- **Learn about state legislation**
- **Learn how you can collaborate**

Governor Gavin Newsom's Budget Puts a Focus on Early Childhood

The governor's January 2019 budget proposal includes many provisions that advocate for early childhood education and well-being. The emphasis is on mitigating many ill-effects of poverty. The statistics indicate that 1 in 8 children living in California do so in poverty. Combined with the facts that the cost of living in California is so high, housing costs are excessive as well as the cost of childcare, it is encouraging that the new Governor has established his focus on the well-being of young children and families which might be characterized as a down-payment on "a robust childcare and development system". Some of the provisions in the Governor's 1.8-billion-dollar budget proposal include:

1. Full day kindergarten
2. Universal pre-school
3. Work-force development
4. Home visits
5. Early screening to determine needs for early intervention
6. Paid Family Leave.

Chris Collins, Social Policy Director

President's Message



Dear Colleagues,

It has been a busy two months since my last message! Here is some news of what we have done and will be doing.

The 34th Annual Great American Write-In: By the time you read this, on March 23rd several Coast volunteers will have staffed our now-traditional table at the entrance to the Write-In, where we offer any Orange County participant in the Write-In an individualized list of her/his electeds, with their contact information. This year we provided more than 150 Write-In attendees with these individualized lists.

2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Information Events, April 7 & 28, 2019: The League has long worked to improve redistricting practices, and the LWV of California was instrumental in the major effort leading to the establishment of California's Citizen Redistricting Commission. The first Commission "drew the lines" after the 2010 Census and a new Commission is being formed to redistrict state assembly, state senate, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts after the 2020 Census. For more information, go to the Citizen's Redistricting Commission page of the State Auditor's website: <http://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/> The LWV of Orange County – our Inter-League Organization (ILO) – is working with a group of other OC organizations to host two presentations designed to inform under-represented communities about the opportunity to apply to serve on the Commission. Our Voter Service Chair Michele Musacchio is on the planning committee and Coast will be partially staffing the April 7 event. League members are not really the "target audience," as we are well aware of the existence of the Commission and our demographics don't generally match the description "under-represented." However, we anticipate that we will continue to work on outreach efforts and certainly on informing our own members and other groups about how to apply.

63rd Meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 9-22, 2019: In the last *Voter* our member Kathleen Montgomery wrote of League work with the Commission. As I write, the meeting is underway in New York and Kathleen, who serves as a member of the LWVUS Observer Team, will be on her way home soon. She emailed me this morning and I want to share part of her message with you: "I'm winding up my week in New York and wanted to let you know how extraordinary this experience has been. I can't wait to tell you all about it. Being surrounded by women devoted to human rights around the world has been truly inspiring. The LWV delegates are wonderful and remind me of our great members in Orange Coast."

We can be proud of the work of our League of Women Voters, from Orange County to Sacramento and Washington DC and even with the United Nations!

In League,

Rebecca Newman
President

League Member Mary Ann Gaido - Panelist at Golden West College's International Women's Day Breakfast



Left to Right: Dania Alkhouli, Co-Founder of *A Country Called Syria*; Lorena Ortega, Community Leader and Activist; Letitia Clark, City Council Member for the City of Tustin; Mary Ann Gaido, Former Council Member for the City of Irvine and Representative from the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast; Linda Vasquez, Senior Public Affairs Director for The Campaign for College Opportunity

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019 Coast member Mary Ann Gaido was a member of a panel presentation at Golden West College's International Women's Day Breakfast. The theme of this annual event for young women students is "Empowering Future Leaders." This year's theme focused on political action, community organizing and policy making by women. The League was invited to participate and Mary Ann spoke about how her work for the League as an observer of the Irvine City Council in the early days of the city led to her becoming a member of the planning commission and then a member of the City Council and continuing advocacy and leadership in public life.

Legislative Interview Reports - Update

As we highlighted in the February-March issue of [The Voter](#), every year, the LWVC encourages local League members to interview their state legislators. This is an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with League members and develop an understanding of League positions and priorities. Local League members can discover how state legislative actions are going to impact their communities.

This year there are three questions dealing with specific legislative arenas in which the League of Women Voters of California is interested and active:

- State and Local Redistricting;
- Public Education – Closing the Achievement Gap; and
- Water Resources

In the last couple of weeks our Team has interviewed one of our Senators and the staff of an Assemblymember, to obtain responses to the questions on these topics. The resultant reports from these interviews are sent to LWVC for analysis and compilation.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Please welcome these new members. Look for them and get to know them at Lunch with League and other events. They are the hope and future of our Coast League:

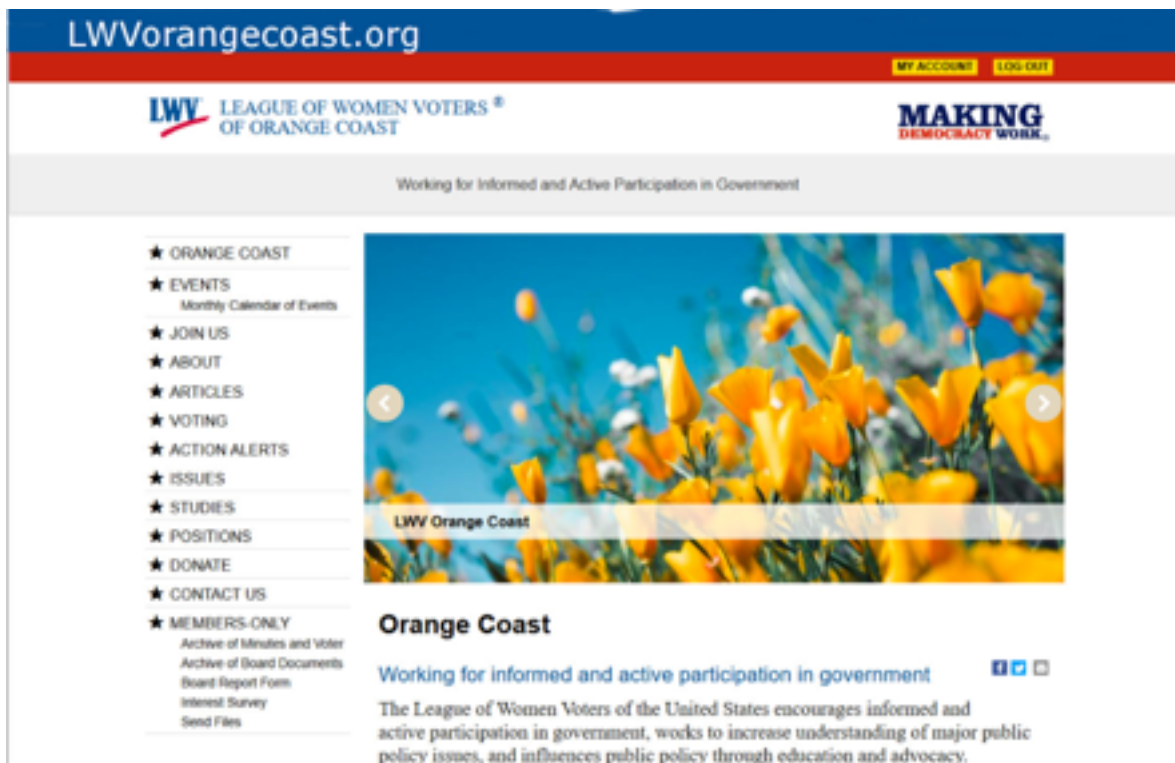
- D’Lora Hughes, Irvine
- Theresa La Barte, Irvine
- Linda Martin, Corona del Mar
- Olivia Gaddini, Rancho Mission Viejo

Watch for Coming Changes On the LWVOC Website

Menu Redesign – Simplified

See all those starred menu items on the left of the screen? We think the quantity may be overwhelming and make it tough for visitors to find what they’re looking for. So we will soon reduce the number of menu items: HOME, ABOUT, EVENTS, NEWS & ALERTS, OUR WORK. Don’t worry - none of the content is going away, it’s just being shuffled a little. In addition, members who are logged in will see the MEMBERS-ONLY item.

Photo Gallery – New



Our new League photographer, Stephanie Oddo, has been producing some amazing work, and we plan to feature it in the new Photo Gallery page, found under ABOUT. We encourage you to come back to this page often as we expect the slideshow will change frequently to feature the latest events, activities, and smiling faces.

Meet Our Board – Improved

The Board page will be improved with photos of all the board members, again thanks to our fabulous photographer. We hope this will help new members familiarize themselves with the League’s structure, and to associate names and faces with responsibilities.

Committee Pages – New

We will be offering space on our website to each committee that can include normally static content, such as a description of the committee’s purpose, or links to other important sites or pages. We now have the capability to include a very straightforward file-sharing functionality with the intention of giving committees a more hands-on, real-time method of managing the documents, images, or other files that are available to the public. For an example of this, check out the Civil Discourse page at <https://my.lwv.org/california/orange-coast/civil-discourse>. The scrolling box beneath the Materials and Resources heading was created by the committee chairperson, Petti VanRekom. She determined and created the way that those folders are set up,

and added the documents. We hope that all committees will find this to be a useful new (optional) feature.

Main Page Slideshow - Redesign

The plan to improve the main page slideshow includes replacing some of the generic shots with more League-specific photos and linking them to some of our most important pages, like Voter Information and Action Alerts.

Members Only – Improvements

Archives will be reorganized and connect directly to LWVOC Google Docs, again with the goal of reducing the complexity and number of steps to this process. New pages will provide connection to Google Docs for Board and Committees to share files and folders with membership.

Recently, a members-only page was added so you can order your membership badge online. If you're a member and haven't yet logged into the website, you are missing out on this important section.

If there is something you would like to see on our website that we've missed, please email us. We are always happy to hear your thoughts.

Jan Dye webmanager@lwvorangecoast.org
Nathan Gold webmanager1@lwvorangecoast.org

First Call to Convention — LWVC



What: [The 67th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California](#)

When: 10 am, Friday, May 31, through 12 pm, Sunday, June 2, 2019, with a special pre-Convention event on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

Where: [The Westin Pasadena Hotel](#), 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626-792-2727

Who: Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League.

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!

Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our site: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>

A range of activities is available to suit any schedule or budget, from investing in a full three-day registration to treating yourself to a special pre-Convention event. Check out your options now—early bird registration begins **March 1**, and ends on **April 30**.

The Westin Pasadena Hotel is offering a special room rate of \$179 per night—but you must book by **April 30** to secure this rate. [Visit the Convention website to book online](#), or you can call the hotel and mention the LWVC Convention. Don't get caught without a room by waiting until the last minute; rooms may sell out before that date!

- LWVC President, Helen Hutchison

Additional Info for Coast Members:

About Delegates:

- Delegates are expected to attend the full two and a half days of the Convention and to participate in creating written reports from the delegation to the membership. Only delegates may vote.
- Coast is entitled to send the president and five additional delegates; of whom four have already been named by the Board.
- Coast pays Convention registration for its delegates but they are responsible for covering their other expenses – although the LWVC offers some scholarships – see the convention website.
- Please contact Becky Newman (president@lwvorangecoast.org or 949-786-1669) if you are interested in being a delegate!

About Attending Convention Without Being a Delegate:

- You can attend Convention at the regular price without being a delegate.
- One day registration for Convention is \$125.

- Registration for the full-day pre-convention workshop - *Let's Talk About Power: Exploring Race, Identity Formation, and Organizing* – is \$35.

For more information, [Visit the Convention website to book online](#)

Attention Wine Drinkers:

Here's a unique way to support the LWVC Convention. The LWVC is seeking donations of bottles of wine that will be either used for the Saturday night banquet, and/or a "wine pull" as part of the silent auction fundraiser. If you have a bottle of good quality wine to donate, please contact Becky Newman (president@lwvorangecoast.org or 949-786-1669) for details.

First Call to 2019 Annual Meeting - LWV Orange Coast

What: At Annual Meeting we:

- Celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and look ahead at the work to come;
- Approve the annual budget;
- Elect officers and directors;
- Approve the Local Program; and
- Consider other pending business as needed.

When: Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (check-in starts at 10:30 a. m.)

Where: Back Bay Conference Center, 3415 Michelson Dr. Irvine, CA 92612

Who: Any interested person can attend Annual Meeting but only Coast members may vote.

Speaker: Alexandra Natapoff, Professor of Law, Joint Appointment in Criminology, Law & Society and Co-Director, Center in Law, Society and Culture. Professor Natapoff specializes in criminal law and procedure, misdemeanors, informants, public defense, law and inequality.

It is possible to come only for lunch and the speaker.

Watch for the Annual Meeting Kit which will be emailed to all members no less than 20 days prior to the Convention!

LWVUS Making News

Membership Update: *Thanks to everyone who worked with your Leagues and our office to complete roster updates by the January 31 deadline. We are proud to report that membership grew by 10% last year, which is consistent with recent years. One big standout in our membership numbers was in the student category, where membership increased by more than 150%! We attribute this huge influx to the waived PMP for student members, which continues through 2020, as well as the increased outreach Leagues are doing to young members in their communities.*

H.R. 4: Voting Rights Advancement Act Introduced!

LWV is proud to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), which would restore the VRA by updating the coverage formula to determine which states and localities must pre-clear election changes with the Department of Justice. The bill would essentially restore section 4 of the VRA, which was gutted in the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. [Read our statement on the VRAA.](#)

We encourage you to call to thank our Coast U.S. House of Representatives for co-sponsoring this bill: Katie Porter (45th CD), Alan Lowenthal (47th CD), Harley Rouda (48th CD), and Mike Levin (49th CD).

HR1 Passes in the U.S. House

HR1, the For the People Act, [passed in the U.S. House](#) on Friday, March 8, and LWVUS staff was there to see it! This landmark legislation is the biggest improvement to our democracy since the Voting Rights Act. The League is now focused on advocacy efforts in the [U.S. Senate](#).

We encourage you to call to thank our Coast U.S. House of Representatives for co-sponsoring this bill: Katie Porter (45th CD), Alan Lowenthal (47th CD), Harley Rouda (48th CD), and Mike Levin (49th CD).

League Urges Support for HR1 Companion in U.S. Senate

The League recently sent a memo to the U.S. Senate urging members to support and co-sponsor a companion bill to HR1, the For the People Act. Complementary democracy reform proposals in both the House and Senate will show a unified approach in Congress and are an important step forward in repairing our broken political system and our destructive campaign finance system. The League supports legislation led by Senator Udall that mirrors provisions of this historic bill.

LWVUS Includes Climate Change Position in Impact on Issues

The LWVUS Board approved the following position on climate change:

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global.

This position will be included in the next version of Impact on Issues when it is published later this Spring.

LWV Supports Passage of HR8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act

The League of Women Voters joined the Brady Campaign and other groups to support HR8 in the U.S. House. HR8 will require Brady background checks for all firearms, which is a provision supported by 97% of Americans.

How the Daughters and Granddaughters of Former Slaves Secured Voting Rights for All

Historian Martha S. Jones tells the stories of the suffragists who were often overshadowed by the big names often associated with the movement because of their race. Activists like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Eliza Gardner, and Julia Foote are figures who stand out, in Jones's words, as "unparalleled advocates of universal suffrage in its truest sense. [Read about their stories from Smithsonian Magazine.](#)

Register for our Spring DEI Webinars

We will be hosting three webinars on DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) this Spring. Topics will include knowledge sharing on terms and theories in the DEI space and how and why DEI should intersect with your League work. All League members with an interest in these important topics are invited to attend. All webinars will be recorded and shared on the League Management Site.

League Members: Contact Becky Newman(president@lwvorangecoast.org) or Patty Santry (VP@lwvorangecoast.org) for information on how to sign up for a webinar.

LWVUS Welcomes New Female Members of Congress

On March 11, LWVUS hosted a reception for new and seasoned members of 116th Congress. We had 5 members who attended and spoke during the reception and local League leaders, including our Lobby Corps volunteers, attended to salute the legislators for their work in the first 60 days of this historic session. The 2018 midterm elections resulted in the greatest number of female legislators elected to the Hill in American history. To read our live tweets from the event visit the [@LWVUS on Twitter](#).

LWVUS Climate Change action: League Submits Amicus Brief in *Juliana v. U.S.*

LWVUS and LWVOR submitted an [amicus brief](#) to the 9th Circuit in the case of *Juliana v. U.S.* The brief was submitted in favor of the young plaintiffs arguing that it is the job of the federal government to protect them from the damaging effects of climate change. The brief also argues that it is the job of the courts to address claims that are asserted by the politically powerless and the courts should act to fulfill that vital function by allowing the merits of this case to proceed to the trial process.

In League,



Be Informed and Active

Stay informed about the work of the League and ways that you can participate!

League of Women Voters of California (LWVC): Sign up for Action Alerts, newsletters, voter information and LWVC online discussion groups at: <https://lwvc.org/stay-informed>

League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS):
Sign up for Leaders Updates for the LWVUS at http://participate.lwv.org/signup_page/league-update?utm_source=email&utm_medium=LeagueUpdate

Sign up for Action Alerts: Go to <https://www.lwv.org/> and scroll to the bottom of the page, where you will see this message: What can you do? Sign up for email and news alerts. Enter your email address. Interesting notes:

If you are already signed up, you will no longer see that message!

If you are not signed up, the message appears at the bottom of every page on the site!



The League of Women Voters of Orange Coast encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We are a non-profit IRS Code §501c-4 membership organization.

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Contact Us

LWV Orange Coast:	http://lwvorangecoast.org
Voters Edge:	http://votersedge.org/ca
LWV California:	http://www.ca.lwv.org
LWVUS:	http://www.lwv.org
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