



The Voter

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

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

Calendar of Events

February, 2019

Monday, February 4th, 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: 1-949 451-2212, or League@LWVOrangeCoast.org

Thursday, February 7th, 2:00-4:00pm **CAPO Unit Clip & Come *Join us don't be shy!***
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com.

Friday, February 8th, 11:00am-1:00pm **“The League’s Transformational Journey”**
Location: St. Joseph Conference Center Auditorium Lounge, 480 S. Batavia Street, Orange.
Speaker: Melissa Brach, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California
For information and to RSVP by February 5th, 2019, here:
<https://goo.gl/forms/EQodlyRt9IDzD9Ex1>, or call: 1-949 451-2212, [Map](#) to location

Wednesday, February 20th, noon-2:00pm **Lunch with League**
Topic: “Coalition of OC Community Health Centers: One-Stop-for Health”
Speaker: Esen Sainz, JD, MPH
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 Monday, February 18, at this link:
<https://goo.gl/forms/Lv1eLhgMdjbpHEBU2>

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, February 21st, 2:00-4:00pm **CAPO Unit Book Club**
Book: “The Library Book” by Susan Orlean
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, February 28th, 1:00-2:30 pm **North Unit Book Club**
Book: “The Justice of Contradictions; Antonia Scalia and the Politics of Disruption” by Richard Hasan
For information, to RSVP, and location: League@LWVOrangeCoast.org.

March, 2019

Monday, March 4th, 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: 1-949 786-1669 or beckynewman2222@gmail.com

Thursday, March 7th, 2:00-4:00pm. **CAPO Unit Clip & Come**
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com. *Join us don't be shy.*

Wednesday, March 20th, noon-2:00pm. **Lunch with League**
Topic: "Civil Dialogue is on the Horizon for 2019"
Speaker: Martha Cox, LWVC Board Member
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 Monday, March 18, at this link:
<https://goo.gl/forms/P3AfJHveHCb4CCHT2>

Saturday March 23rd, 2019, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 pm. **Great American Write-In**
Location: Delhi Center, 505 East Central Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92707
The Great American Write-In is a free annual event offered to the public by, Women For: Orange County. In 2018 more than 70 different organizations and advocacy groups presented information and almost six hundred attendees visited the participants' tables and wrote over 3600 letters and postcards to government and corporate decision-makers. Watch your inbox for registration information – and the opportunity to sign up to help Coast and ILO staff our tables.

Thursday, March 21st, 2:00-4:00pm. **CAPO Unit Book Club**
Book: "Braving the Wilderness" by Brené Brown
For information and location: 1-949-496-1858 or mjob35@gmail.com

Thursday, March 28th, 1:00pm. **Book Club North**
Book: "Wolves at the Door: the true story of Americas Greatest Female Spy" by Judith L. Pearson
Moderator: TBA
For information, to RSVP, and location: League@LWVOrangeCoast.org.

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

President's Message

Welcome back! December and January offered many of us a welcome change from the busyness of our lives and a chance to reconnect with family and friends, and perhaps to celebrate according to our faith traditions. Some reflections from both my personal and League "lives."

- Holidays and family times can be renewing – and difficult. For us, there was joy, and activity – and nostalgia and sadness. We lost our son-in-law December 28 2017, so this was our first Christmas without him, and a beloved sister-in-law died on Christmas Eve 2018. I know that some of you were having these same experiences. I wish you peace and healing.
- I am happy to let you know that our immediate past president Diane Nied recently had a pacemaker implanted and is recovering at home.
- The League's holiday began with a wonderful Holiday Open House at the home of Diane and Bob Nied. At least 34 COAST members were there, including many new members. In addition to enjoying food and fellowship, members signed up for a total of 28 different assignments doing the work of the League in the first months of 2019.

Speaking of work: Voter Service kept us busy in 2018 – but 2019 comes with its own long list of important work. Here's some info for the next few months! See the calendar in this *Voter* for more details on these important and inspiring events.

Legislative Interviews: Every year, the LWVC encourages local League members to interview their state legislators. Legislators share their priorities with League members and learn about our priorities. **Contact me if you can help – there is lots to do. See page 7.**

Lunch with the League (LwL): We have two dynamic speakers and great topics for LwL in February and March.

- February 20: Esen Sainz, Director of Policy and Government Affairs for The Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, will speak to us on the mission and work of the Coalition and the vital work of Community Health Centers – and tell us how the League can be of help.
- March 20: LWVC Board Member Martha Cox will speak on how civil dialogue (or discourse) work being done across the country can help us bridge the polarized partisan divide and renew our hope for our country.



Transformation in the League: February 9, LWVC Executive Director Melissa Breach, will speak at an ILO (Inter-League Organization) lunch on the League's current Transformation Journey. Melissa is a young, engaging, dynamic speaker.

The 34th Annual Great American Write-In, March 23, 2019: The Write-In is a free annual event which gives attendees the means to influence policy decisions by writing letters. ILO will have a table at this event and Coast will be providing attendees with individualized lists of their elected officials.

Heads-up! The LWVC Biennial Convention will be held in Pasadena at the Westin Pasadena Hotel on Las Robles from May 31-June 2, 2019. Registration will begin on March 1 at the latest.

I am looking forward to getting down to work with all of you in the coming months

In League,
Rebecca Newman
President

Voter Service Report on the November 6, 2018, Election

By: Michele Musacchio and Steph Campbell

What an historic midterm election turnout in Orange County! At 71%, it was the highest midterm turnout in nearly half a century. LWV of Orange Coast is proud to have been part of the drive to get all voters out, regardless of party preference. How did we do it? Step by step.

Voter registration is just the first step on the path to the polls. Next comes learning about who's running and what's on the ballot, and making a plan to cast a vote: vote-by-mail, early voting in person, or voting at a polling place. Our League knows that after they sign that registration form, voter education is key to making a new voter into a regular voter, who in turn engages others. We couldn't fit all our Voter Service activities in one article, so here's a sampling:

Our members were out in force, presenting ballot Pros & Cons, drumming up candidate participation in the state League's Voter's Edge ballot lookup tool, distributing the Easy Voter guide to community centers (in four languages), running voter registration drives, even getting interviewed on the radio (go Becky!). We forged and strengthened community partnerships, including at Google, the OC Alliance for Just Good, Temple Beth-El, San Joachim parish, Junior League, UCI, and the Registrar of Voters (ROV) office itself. All that work paves the way for new and ongoing LWV projects in voter education and civics.

The Voter's Edge web tool was packed, with 462 active candidates in Orange County. Chair Petti Van Rekom heroically trained and led her ten League volunteers through questions and candidate-cajoling to get candidate participation up to 49%. Petti deserves a big share of the credit for informing OC voters. Many of us engaged candidates personally at candidate forums throughout South County, shaking one hand while putting a Voter's Edge bookmark in the other!

Voter Service co-chair Vickie Chenevey conducted our League's annual voter registration training with the OC ROV in April, and our Pros & Cons training in September. That kicked off a run of over 30 Pros & Cons presentations right up until Election Day. Attendance was always high, and for some groups with monthly program events, our presentation generated their highest turnout of the year! Our president, Becky Newman, gave a rapid-fire interview on the Ask A Leader KUCI radio show covering the ballot initiatives. People across the nation tuned in.

Special thanks go to our speakers and assistants: Alice Schreiner, Anne Stone, Becky, Riley Newman, Christine Collins, Christine Moore, Diane Nied, Gail Benda, Laurie Jacobs, Mary Leigh Blek, Michele Musacchio, Nancy Kriz, Pat Heilig, Patty Santry, Phyllis Maywhort, and Steph Campbell. They spoke to a range of groups from a High School Special Ed class to the UCI Black Faculty and Staff, along with senior centers, women's clubs, community action groups, churches, temples, business groups and political party clubs. Every one of them wants to see us in the next election cycle. Carolyn Martin and Steph set up and scheduled our missions.

Voter Service Got to Go to Google! Michele presented Voter Registration training, and with Nathan Gold registered over 20 Google employees and collected donations for the LWVC Ed Fund. Michele's afternoon presentation to an audience of Google engineers covered Voting

Myths, how to use Voter's Edge, and ways for STEM professionals to become involved in civics and registering voters.

National Voter Registration Day was spent at the Blackmarket Bakery voter registration drive with volunteers Kris Kerrigan, Jan Dye, Al Abalos, and Michele. We handed out delicious cupcakes to all who stopped by, most of whom were surprised to learn they could vote early all over the County.

Teamwork with the AAUW via LWV member Marge Sosa had us very active on the Saddleback Community College campus, sharing a voter registration table almost every week from September through October, with Trudy Josephson, Marilyn O'Brien, Al, Jan, Diane, Becky, Michele, Anne, and Laurie. The Voter's Forum with AAUW at Saddleback Community College brought over 200 students by our voter registration table. Becky and Laurie also gave Pros & Cons presentations to the pre-law students on Saddleback College's "Don't Ghost the Vote!" Early Voting pop-up day on Halloween.

How did we help student voters who are already registered? We created a new tool to help them plan: "reminder" postcards at Saddleback, UCI, and at three high schools. Each postcard edition featured a calendar timeline, with the nearest Early Voting center and pop-up Early Voting dates. We personalized the cards with their polling place address and the Voter's Edge website. A week later they had all their options arrive on one card!

More colleges, more voters! Voter Service worked many hours behind the scenes and on the ground at UCI with the Associated Students at their Civic Engagement Fair. We led the drive at UCI Law, too. Coastline Community College held a Voter Registration Drive with a student engagement session by Michele on California Government and Voter's Edge. Nathan was such a hit setting students up at computers to register that Coastline offered him a job with Student Outreach! Thanks also to volunteers Jan, Al, Christine Collins, and Elaine Cheslow. Judy Standerford posted our photos on Instagram and Facebook, our major social media outlets.

High-schoolers are voters, too. Trudy, Michele, and Julie Tapp put together our high school voter registration program at Laguna Beach HS and the Sage Hill School, from administration outreach to student drive. We learned that students registering other students and showing them Voter's Edge is our best bet to get them to register reliably and have voter information. We registered over 30 voters at each school during an outdoor lunch. Not bad for an hour!

Voter Service is tooling up for more civics programs for these future voters, connecting Coast high schools to the OC ROV's MyBallot Program and to statewide programs that reward and recognize student civics engagement. One such program, Project Soapbox, had our own Steph Campbell and Linda Moon representing our League as judges. Other programs we're looking at are the Voter Girl project pioneered by the LWV of Kent in Ohio in collaboration with the Girl Scouts; and the Harvard Case Method Project. Please reach out to Trudy Josephson if you want to get involved in adopting high school civics programs. The path to the polls continues to 2020!

< In Memorium >

Longtime League member **Joan McCurry** died in December at the age of 92. Joan was a fierce proponent of voting and told everyone, “Never say your vote doesn’t count.” At every election, she said, “The last vote was mine. “ If the vote total for a particular office was 3997, she pointed out that it would only have been 3996, if she hadn’t voted. We’ll miss your dedication and enthusiasm, Joan.

Historian Recognized Black Suffragists: Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, a historian who helped bring to light the long-suppressed role of black women in the women’s suffrage movement, died on December 25 at her home in Columbia, MD. She was 77. [Read more about her work here.](#)

Welcome to New Members in 2018!

We are delighted that we welcomed 46 new members during 2018. Each one of them is important to us. ***We’re hosting a New Member Event on April 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They are all invited, along with their League mentors.*** In addition, we’re planning a social event in June for all our members, so we can get to know each other—especially our new members—better. Finally, we look forward to seeing each new member at our upcoming events, starting with the Program Meeting on January 25. November new members: Cindy Hayden, Huntington Beach; Joanna Link, Laguna Woods; Eugene Barnyak, Laguna Woods; and Sherry Naiman, San Juan Capistrano. December new members: D’Lora Hughes, Irvine; and Theresa LaBarte, Irvine.

**LWV participation in the 63rd United Nations
Commission on the Status of Women, March 9-22, 2019!**

By Kathleen Montgomery

In 1945, at the UN Charter Conference, the League of Women Voters was invited by President Harry Truman to serve as a consultant to the U.S. delegation. Since that time, the League has continued its presence at the United Nations through its UN Observer Corps. Our role further developed in 1997 when the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted special consultative status to the League. The UN Commission on the Status of Women is part of the UN ECOSOC.

The UN Observers carry on the League’s finest traditions and pursue an ever widening agenda that solves problems by partnering with others to engage in civil discourse to clarify the issues, identify best practices, implement strategies and measure the results of the League’s initiatives. The UN Observers foster cooperation with UN Member States, UN Agencies and other UN accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), academia and the private sector.

LWV has been an annual participant in the UN CSW gatherings, sending a delegation of up to 20 LWV members as UN Observers. ***Kathleen Montgomery*** of LWV Orange Coast has been selected as one of the 20 delegates to this year’s UN CSW. She will have the opportunity to interact with LWV delegates and delegates from other NGOs and member states, and to attend many events during the course of the CSW. A major set of relevant events are those organized by the NGO CSW/NY, which will sponsor sessions that inform, engage and most of all inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy needed to empower women and girls. Kathleen is especially looking forward to participating in the LWVUS-sponsored event entitled, **“Critical Mass to Gender Parity—Women in Decision-Making Do Make a Difference!”** *Look for Kathleen’s report about this exciting opportunity upon her return from New York.*

Legislative Interview Reports Due March 11, 2019

Making Democracy Work: An Equity Lens

The League of Women Voters of California is working to apply an “equity lens” by analyzing our processes and foundational assumptions from the perspective of how they impact marginalized and underrepresented individuals and communities. To that end, this kit weaves in explanations of ways the legislative interview questions touch on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

In that spirit, we encourage you to proactively and mindfully form interview teams that include young members, people of color, and other individuals from underrepresented groups. With legislative interviews you have the opportunity to help develop League leadership that is truly representative of California’s democracy, and to add the richness of diverse perspectives to your advocacy work.

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.

Use the interview to become better acquainted with your legislator and to emphasize that the League never supports or opposes candidates or parties, but that it is political and takes positions on issues after thorough study and consensus.

Each Local League interviews only state legislators serving its members. There are members of the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast (a.k.a. Coast) living in the following state Senate and Assembly and Senate districts:

- CA State Senate: 34, 36 and 37
- CA State Assembly: 68, 72, 73 and 74.

We share some of those districts with our sister Leagues in Orange County and San Diego County – and work out who interviews which legislators among the various Leagues.

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

A fourth question asks about the legislator’s own priorities and Local Leagues such as Coast may also ask one question of their own – our League has yet to determine if we would like to ask a local question.

Coast members interested in working on Leg Interviews should contact Coast president Becky Newman for detailed information: BeckyNewman2222@gmail.com, 949-786-1669.

League of Women Voters of California: Update

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI): The LWVC board is committed to expanding the representation in League leadership in California. As part of this, we [spend](#) part of each board meeting discussing an article or book about diversity, equity, and inclusion. At this past meeting, our meeting was based on [White Fragility](#) by Robin DiAngelo. You'll find some other suggestions for reading material [here](#).

Diversity and equity can be difficult discussions. It's difficult to hear that, despite best intentions, our actions have caused hurt or harm to others. Keeping ourselves open to hearing what others have to say, listening to a wide variety of voices, and, most of all, being willing to admit our own fallibility and need to change, is essential to making the changes we need to make.

A reminder of why we're talking about this – what our ultimate goal is – from a social media post from Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg: “We need diverse representation not only so every kid can see themselves as the hero of the story, but so that every kid can understand that **other** kinds of kids are **also** the heroes of the story.”

LWVC Convention: Mark your calendars now for the [LWVC convention](#), May 31-June 2 in Pasadena, registration begins March 1, 2019. A few quick reminders:

- Leagues are all encouraged to [send](#) a full delegation, and especially to try to send a delegation that is more representative of your community
- make sure your League's voice is heard in the [Program Planning process](#)
- think about applying for one of the [convention awards](#)

U.S. Census 2020: The 2020 census is getting a lot of attention. It's critical to get an accurate count of everyone for a variety of reasons – redistricting and apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives, the allocation of money from a wide variety of federal programs. Every county in California should have a [“complete count” committee](#). Local Leagues are encouraged to participate in these to help ensure that every Californian is counted in 2020.

The 1990 Census undercounted California's population by 2.74 percent (about 835,000 people), which was disproportionately worse than the national undercount of 1.59 percent. The Legislative Analyst's Office has issued a report that evaluates how the state may be impacted by an undercount in 2020, and is available using the following link:

http://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3909?utm_source=laowww&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3909

League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary: We're all looking forward to celebrating the League's 100th birthday in 2020. The LWVUS will be providing resources for all of us at the end of January. I'll share these in the Presidents' Google group. Feel free to share your ideas there now.

Sincerely,

Helen Hutchison, President
League of Women Voters of California

LWVUS Making News

In the Know: Rucho Blog: *LWVNC v. Rucho* case headed to the U.S. Supreme Court and the court has added the Maryland case, *Benisek v. Lamone*, to the mix. This addition gives the court an opportunity to review multiple redistricting cases where both political parties gerrymandered. [READ MORE](#)

Webinar Announcement: (1) LWV Policy Briefing on HR1, the For the People Act: Join LWVUS for [a webinar briefing on HR1](#), the For the People Act, the first democracy reform agenda bill introduced in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress. LWVUS staff will provide an overview of the legislation, detail what provisions the League is fighting for, and talk about grassroots engagement with Congress as well as opportunities to engage at state and local levels. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 5 at 4:00 PM Eastern. [RSVP here.](#)

(2) LWV/Wellstone present Grassroots Lobbying! We are pleased to finish this webinar series with a training that is so relevant to the work Leagues are doing across the country! Join us on [January 31 at 4pm EST](#) and learn best practices for IRS Code §501c3 grassroots lobbying just in time for your legislative sessions. This training is for anyone wanting to understand the pros and cons of, and how to navigate, IRS Code §501c3 lobbying and will ensure that you and your team are well equipped for success. There will only be a single training on this topic and spots will fill up. [RSVP here.](#)

(3) Two Important Climate Reports: February 6: Two important climate reports issued late in 2018 underscore the urgent need for decisive climate action. World-renowned climate scientist Professor Michael Oppenheimer will discuss the meaning and implications of these two reports in a webinar sponsored by the LWV of Massachusetts on Wednesday, February 6, 4-5pm EST. The webinar is free but pre-registration is required. [Click here to register.](#) You'll receive a confirmation email from Zoom with webinar details. The webinar will be recorded and available to webinar registrants. The recording will also be posted on the [LWVMA website](#) and a link will be available in the [LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Action](#).

Sign the Petition Supporting HR1: The League has joined with a coalition of groups collecting signatures on a new petition that will be delivered to Congress supporting HR1, the For the People Act. [Add your name to the petition](#) and help us build support for this comprehensive piece of democracy reform legislation. By adding your name, you agree to receive occasional emails on this and related campaigns from other participating organizations.

LWV New York State Celebrates Major Elections Reform Victory: On January 14, 2019, LWV of New York celebrated the passage of a comprehensive voting reform package that includes early voting, same day voter registration, and primary consolidation in the state of New York. The League of Women Voters of New York played a critical role in securing the passage of these crucial reforms and will continue to work with the legislature and governor to ensure proper roll-out of these new policies. [READ MORE](#)

League Supports Bold Climate Legislation: The League [joined a letter](#) urging Congress to move forward with bold and ambitious legislation that addresses climate change in a serious manner. This letter was signed by more than 600 progressive organizations. Please note that the League still firmly supports an effort to place a price on carbon despite opposition expressed within the letter. We will continue to work with the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force to analyze any and all legislation that addresses climate change.

In League,





**League of Women Voters
of Orange Coast
Board of Directors**

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 501c-4 membership organization.

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