

The Sacramento Voter

September 2018

Power to the Polls



page 2

Creating a More Perfect Democracy

Contents 1-Convention Report Events 2- Suffragist 3- Units LWVSC Annual mtg Speakers' Bureau 4- In Memory	Imagine a large hotel in downtown Chicago packed with over a thousand women passionate about creating a more perfect democracy, and you will know what it was like to attend the <u>League of Women</u> <u>Voters' 53rd National Convention</u> . With plenary sessions, caucuses, workshops, and informational meetings, attendees could conceivably be busy from seven in the morning until ten at night and still be unable to attend everything. Session topics ranged from improving civics education, gerrymandering, fostering civility in our divided democracy, voter suppression, education, health care, and abandoning the Electoral College in favor of the popular vote, to more League-specific workshops, such as fund-raising and member recruitment and engagement.			
 5- Climate course Voting rights 6- New members Voting in cities 7- Books & Reports Homelessness 8- Member renewals Map-ranked choice 	The League actually has its roots in Chicago, as it was there in 1920, that Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women finally got the right to vote. Ninety-eight years later, the League's mission is as important as ever. In recent years, we have seen voter suppression efforts target our communities. We have seen laws that roll back voter access. We have seen politicians control power through illegal gerrymandering. And we have seen laws protecting women's rights under attack. Every day the League is fighting these battles on behalf of American voters, and coming together as League members under one roof felt exciting and empowering. It was inspiring to learn that thanks to the on-the-ground efforts of thousands of League volunteers nationwide, citizens are registering to vote in record numbers, particularly in communities that have previously been underrepresented.			
Web sites to check for LWV news LWVC.org & LWVUS.org	At the convention, local Leagues had an opportunity to offer workshops on projects they are involved in that may be of interest to other Leagues. Two such projects come to mind which may be replicated by our local League: (1) The Voter Girl Project. This project is an opportunity to provide civic engagement lessons through local Girl Scout Councils. Leaguers use their knowledge of voting and advocacy to provide workshops for scouts to earn citizenship badges that promote the ideals we cherish. The curriculum guide has been developed by teachers and communicators with backgrounds in diversity, as well as elementary and higher education. (2) Improving Civics Education with the Harvard Case Study Method. A League in Greenwich, Connecticut, has piloted a successful civics education program in partnership with area high schools using cases from Harvard Business School Professor David Moss's recent book, <i>Democracy: A Case Study</i>. Participants read a case focused on a specific era or event in our history, and then engage in dialogue with others who have also read the case. Survey results from the pilot showed significantly increased interest in voting, political engagement, and constructive political dialogue. Cont. pg. 2 			
EVENTS				
Saturday, September 8,	5, 6:00 p.m7:00 p.m. Candidate Forum, CALPERS Auditorium, Lincoln Plaza North, 400 P Street, Sac.* 10:00 a.m. Elk Grove Mayoral Town Hall, Elk Grove, Calif. Northstate University Center, 9650 West Taron, Elk Grove * 5:30 p.m. LWVSC Board Meeting, American River Bank, 520 Capitol Mall, Basement Room,			

<u>morsignore@comcast.net</u> or <u>mimilavelle@comcast.net</u> Board meeting dates on page 2

Tuesday, 11, 2018. Unit meetings, page 3 Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 10:00 a.m.—Noon. Elk Grove Council Forum, Council Chambers, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 * Saturday, September 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Speakers Bureau Training, McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento, page 3 Tuesday, September 25, 2018. National Voter Registration Day Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Suffragists' Club. Trisha Uhrhammer's home, 875 52nd St., Sacramento, CA 95819,

* Volunteers needed, contact Marina Perez-<u>mep1166@gmail.com</u>

SEPTEMBER 2018

2018-2019

Board of Directors

Cont. from page 1.

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County 921 11th Street Suite 700 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-447-8683 <u>lwvs@lwvsacramento.org</u> <u>https://my.lwv.org/california/</u> sacramento-county (New WEB)

Board Directors Claudia Bonsignore, President Paula Lee, 1st Vice-President Theresa Riviera, 2nd Vice-President Suzi Bakker, Treasurer Bernadette Lynch, Secretary Directors Barbera Bass Hazel Bergholdt Nancy Compton Louise Einspahr, Mahnaz Khazari Marina Perez, Heather (Skinkle) Rose **Off Board:** Patrica Pavone LWVC Children's Roundtable Nancy Findeisen, Budget Comm. Eileen Heaser, Voter Registration Roseanne Chamberlain Chair, Nominating Comm. Suzi Bakker, Membership Records Voter editor- Alice Ginosar publisher-Voter Eileen Heaser

www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

Locating Election information www.Elections.SacCounty.net or 916-875-6451

Board Meeting Dates

September 10, 2018 October 8 November 13 December 10 All members welcome The League of Women Voters holds its national convention during even years (2018, 2020) with states holding their respective conventions during odd years. In 2019, the California League of Women Voters Convention will be held at the Pasadena Westin Hotel May 30 – June 2. For an unforgettable experience, consider attending this convention. You'll be proud to be a part of what we, as Leaguers, are doing to advance the cause of democracy for all. By N. Compton



Virginia Kase, new CEO of the League of Women Voters. Chicago, June 28– July 1, 2018. Also see page 6.

2018/2019 LWVSC Suffragists' Club

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County 23rd Anniversary Suffragists' Club Reception: 1995-2018

Please support our local League by joining the Suffragists Club along with your membership renewal next month. Your donation of \$100 or more will support current expenses to keep League active and visible in Sacramento County all year long. Members will be honored at the annual Suffragists' Club reception, hosted by Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney. Members will enjoy gourmet appetizers along with wine and non-alcoholic beverages in a garden setting. Members will also be listed in various publications throughout the year.



In addition, the *2018 Anne Rudin Scholarship* recipient will be recognized at the reception, in our LWVSC's efforts to encourage future leadership in local government. Please join the Suffragists Club and attend <u>The Suffragists' Club Annual Reception</u>.

When Wednesday, October 17, 2018 5:00-7:00 pm Where Trisha Uhrhammer's home 875 52nd St. Sacramento, CA 95819 RSVP to <u>slphinney04@gmail.com</u> or 916-359-0899

Unit Meetings—September 2018				
Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location	
Suburban	Tuesday September 11, 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608	
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831	
Unit Meetings– Ranked Voting Information				
At the Annual Meeting, <u>Making Democracy Work</u> was adopted as a goal for Education and Advocacy. In keeping with this goal, the September Unit Meeting topic will be <u>RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV)</u> . The winner take all nature of the current system promotes adversarial competition dominated by negative attacks on opponents. RCV is potentially a better alternative. Information about RCV:				
https://my.lwv.org/california/oakland/voters-toolbox/ranked-choice-voting				
http://www.fairvote.org/ See map on page 8				
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/09/opinion/ranked-choice-voting-maine-san-francisco.html				
https://www.nytimes.com/series/tune-in-turn-out				
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2018/06/18/is_ranked-choice_voting_transforming_our_politics_137294.html				
https://www.fairvoteca.org/tips_for_voters_english By. B. Lynch			Lynch	
Annual Meeting 2018 Decisions				
The membership adopted the following local program for 2018-2019:				
Retained the current Government positions: Budget, City Governance, Budget, City Governance, Government Organization, City of Sacramento Mayor's Office (full time), and Merit.				
Retained the current Human Resources/Social Policy positions: Child Care, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Los Rios Community College District, and Pay Equity.				

Retained the current Natural Resources positions on Flood Control, Land Use/Planning, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Transportation, and Water. And

Adopted Making Democracy Work as a goal for Education and Advocacy.

By B. Lynch



<u>Speak Out for League!</u> Speakers Bureau Training Saturday, September 22, 2018 10:00 AM-12:30 PM, McClatchy Library 2112 22nd St., Sacramento

Have you wanted to develop public speaking skills but just haven't had the training or encouragement? Or, are you an experienced LWVS speaker on the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures? Either way, we have an important training for all of you!

Develop your speaking skills and serve a very important League function. We are already receiving numerous requests for Fall speaking engagements in this gubernatorial election year, especially covering California state ballot measures. The League will provide training to all interested members on <u>Saturday, September 22</u>, from <u>10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at McClatchy Library</u>. A side note, McClatchy Library is one of those hidden jewels of Sacramento-a Morning refreshments will be provided.

Training will be provided for the following League activities

-Speaking to the community to groups on the Pros and Cons of the November ballot measures.

-Speaking on basic information on the Fall 2018 election-National, State and Local levels.

-Speaking to League units on the Pros and Cons.

If you are interested in attending the training or being a speaker for the League, please contact **Trisha Uhrhammer**, at **(916) 248-3851** and attend this very important training!

In Memory Trudy Porter Schafer 12/4/46-6/10/18

The League lost a devoted friend and colleague to pancreatic cancer on June 20, 2018.

Trudy Schafer held a BA from Northwestern University and a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of Chicago. At the University of Chicago Trudy conducted research as a physical chemistry student of Y.T. Lee who later won a Nobel. On published papers she was the coauthor "T.P. Schafer." She was a Hertz Foundation Fellow at UC Berkeley.

Her family's move to Sacramento in 1978 brought about a change in her career. Volunteer activity with the League of Women Voters sparked Trudy's enthusiasm for public policy. She held various positions on the local board and served as the president of the League of Women Voters Sacramento County from 1985-1987. In 1992 Trudy joined the staff of League of Women Voters California and worked for the next 25 years leading the LWVC's advocacy and community education efforts. As the Senior Director of Program, she oversaw the state League's complex, multi-issue legislative agenda and lobbied at the Capitol. She was a highly respected expert on many issues including election and redistricting reform, limiting the influence of money in politics, and reforming the California budget process, to mention a few.

Assemblyman Ken Cooley had a resolution proclaimed in the Assembly after Trudy passed away. Copies were made for her family as well as the LWVC and for the LWVSC. The resolution is in the LWVSC office.

Portions of this obituary were adapted from The Sacramento Bee, "Life Tributes," 6/25/2018, 2B.

Trudy was an active member of the local Mid-City Unit. Her contributions to the many issues studied in the League were always insightful, academic, thoughtful, measured, and appreciated by the Unit members. She will be sorely missed.

By, E. Heaser & L. Wright



Trudy Schafer's retirement party—center back, teal dress. 10/19/2017, Il Fornio Restaurant. See *The Voter*, 10/2017, pg. 2 for more information on the retirement party.

Below -Trudy at her office desk.

Photos by R. Torretto



The California Senate adjourned in memory of Trudy Schafer on Monday, August 13. The Schafer family was on the floor of the Senate for the presentation. The State League staff gathered at the Senate Gallery. The meeting was televised on Cal Channel (Comcast channel 108). By L. Wright. Photos by R. Torretto.

Below left, State League.

Below right, Local League





Climate Change Course at CSUS

Almost nothing is as important today as addressing the issue of climate change to ensure the health of our families, our society, and our very planet, which is why our League has identified this topic as one for education and advocacy for the past four years. We have just learned that this fall, an outstanding program is being offered by CSUS's Renaissance Society titled," Climate Change: Science, Impacts, Politics, and Solutions." This course will be taught by nationally known and respected, peer-published environmental scientists who have spent their careers studying the influence of humans on our local, regional, and global environment, and are committed to making our planet a better place to live for future generations.

The course will be offered on Saturdays beginning September 8 through December 8, 2018 from 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. Lectures, films, and group discussions will be used, and the instructors promise not to overwhelm you. The goal is to help lay people, as well as professionals from diverse backgrounds, better understand and deal with this complex topic. Specific areas to be covered include: -Science: Basic climate science (how our climate system works); climate history; the expert scientific consensus on human-

caused global warming, including detection, risks, and impacts.

-Impacts: The Big-5 carbon polluters (U.S., China, EU, India, Russia); how ongoing climate change is affecting extreme and unpredictable events, e.g., temperature, rainfall, hurricanes, wildfires, sea level rise.

-Politics: How politics has shaped the climate change discussion and will do so in the future.

-Solutions: The Paris Climate Agreement; why our military is taking this very seriously; alternative energy sources; geoengineering; economic and policy solutions; and how each of us can make a difference, both locally and globally.

There is no charge for the course; however, participants must enroll in the Renaissance Society at CSUS (\$100). A parking permit is \$20; carpooling is recommended. Lead instructor Dr. Tom Suchanek, U.C. Davis, announced that the syllabus for the course may be found on his website: https:// www.tomsuchanek.net For more information contact him at thsuchanek@ucdavis.edu

Register at http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc/seminars/html

By A. Ginosar



Voting Rights

On 7/20/18, I attended a Renaissance Society lecture : "Let me vote: The struggle for voting rights in America." Cathy Minicucci, former LWVSC member, presented. She stated that advances to <u>allow</u> voting expands after wars, e.g., the Revolutionary War, and contracts during large periods of immigration.

J. Adams thought only talented, intelligent, virtuous white men should vote. T. Jefferson thought that democracy thrives when all men can vote. For a period of time voting was not allowed for white men who did not own property (at least 40-60 acres) and for Catholics, Jews and Quakers. By 1830 all white men could vote and by the Civil War 80% of white men did vote. Some free black men could vote until 1850 when there was a push-back, except for the state of RI that continued to allow black men to vote. Although black men were allowed the vote in 1865 it took until 1967 to get many of them registered. Gerrymandering began during the Reconstruction period; by 1890 few black men were allowed to vote. Poll taxes (they had to keep their receipts from their previous voting and present each time they voted), literacy tests, violence and the presence of the KKK diminished the number of blacks who voted. Literacy tests for African Americans were very different then those given to poor whites. Whites were given a sentence or two to read and the concepts were simple. African Americans could be given at least a page of narration that was complex. The 14th Amendment (1868) was supposed to provide "equal protection of the laws" however it was a weak amendment. The 15th Amendment (1870) "prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The 15th Amendment was specific to race and color and thus provided more protection. However, African Americans continued to be denied and frightened away from the polls: in 1896 130,000 voted but by 1904 only 1,342 went to the polls. It still took 70 years from the end of the Civil War for women to get the vote through-out the United States. Some states in the West did enact voting for women before 1920 (WY 1869, UT 1870, CO 1895, WA 1910 and CA1911). Southern senators in particular did not want women to vote especially Black women as they considered them to be quite smart. The liquor interests thought women would vote against liquor laws as many belonged to temperance unions. Democrats were more opposed to women voting than Republicans. This is only a brief summary of the talk. By E. Heaser

Welcome New Members

Christine Ferrari Alisha Franklin Cathy Grab Marge & Philip Hall Adele Largomersino Cadie Marotta Norma Nelson Laura Ostenberg Cheryl Patzer: Eric Riviera-Jurado Felipe Riviera-Jurado Teri Thompson Tammy Vallejo Dorothy Vincent



Aerial view of over 1000 attendees at a plenary session Chicago, June/July 2018

Voting in California Cities

On June 21, 2018 The Center for California Studies presented a talk and panel discussion on "Buying the Grassroots: Voters and Money in Local Politics." Visiting scholar Dr. Brian Adams, San Diego State University, Dept. of Political Science, discussed the role of money and voter choice in California cities. He emphasized that voters have few relevant cues to candidates' qualifications except their <u>occupations</u>.

-Up to three words can be used to describe the occupation on the ballot unless already in an elected positon. Candidates can list multiple occupations.

-Must describe the current profession, occupation or vocation

-Cannot use superlatives, e.g. world renowned researcher

-Previous occupation not allowed unless retired

-Cannot list hobbies or generic status, e.g., taxpayer

Dr. Adams noted that business candidates do not do as well as <u>previously</u> elected officials (excluding incumbents). He speculated that business candidates don't run well financed campaigns, don't know how to raise money or run a campaign.

Dr. Adams studied 61 smaller California cities in 400 races and 1,700 candidates from 2008-2015.

- In order to run a campaign especially in a city of over 10,000 registered voters (RV), candidates need money. If there are 29,765 RVs the candidate needs approximately \$23,070. An exception was Sacramento City Councilman Jeff Harris, District 3, who won and spent little money.

-City size does not determine the competitiveness of a race

-Small town RV do have cues to candidates other than occupation as many people in the community know the candidate or know of the candidate

-Small towns are more homogenous; candidates maybe of the same party

-<u>86% of incumbents get reelected</u>, this is consistent no matter the size of the community.

-Small city elections aren't much different from their state and national counterparts, i.e., no democratic benefit to smallness.

Three panelists discussed Dr. Adams' speech and added their insights: Jaycob Bytel, Office of Mayor Steinberg, Sacramento, Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Elections & Redistricting Committee, Nicolas Heidorn, California Common Cause.

-Developers give large contributions to campaigns

-One percent of people contribute to campaigns

-Public financing needed, could be incentivized by matching funds that can diversify donating, use vouchers to increase donating and diversification especially to reach poor people although vouchers are used more by higher income voters. In a recent race in Seattle the majority of spending came from vouchers, the first time this method was used.

-Door-to-Door canvasing is the most effective method of reaching people but time consuming, and only 25% answer the door. By. E. Heaser

Book & Report Information E. Heaser

On May 17, 2018, Lauren Markham spoke to a group at Capital Public Radio about her book, *The Far A way Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life*, 2018. This is the true story of two El Salvadorian twins who escape violence and flee to the United States. Author, Markham, journalist, educator, and advocate for immigrants and refugees, is an authority on international refugee issues and Central American and child migration in the United States. These seventeen year old twin boys experienced a harrowing journey across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, and dealing with the immigration authorities. They are in a new school, learning a new language and having to pay the mounting coyote debt. All this during their teen years. The author describes the many legal issues that undocumented border crossers face from youth detention centers (that are run by non-profit contractors funded by the government) to finding a sponsor or a relative to care for them, getting lawyers, etc. In 2014 there were 60,000 unaccompanied, mostly teens, crossing, in 2017 there were 40,000, most were from El Salvador. The author is a school teacher in the Oakland schools as well as advocating for immigrant and refugee youth. A timely book.

Insane: America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness, 2018, by Alisa Roth, print and radio reporter and author. The author investigates the widespread incarceration of the mentally ill, said to be approximately half of the people in prisons. Roth visited several prisons and reported "It's unpleasant, it's loud, it's claustrophobic ... You see people who are desperately sick." (Roth described some of the situations). Some prisons would not allow her to come in to research for her book. She was struck by the cycling through from the mental health care system to the criminal justice system and not resulting in proper treatment. The author recounts the situation in Oklahoma concerning mental health care: if a patient has symptoms of mental illness, the patient is given a score from one to four, if not actively suicidal or psychotic the patient will be diverted to some other treatment and will not see a psychiatrist for months. She did see hope in the fact that there is a consensus among patients, their families, corrections officers, doctors and others that what is being done is not correct and many changes are needed.

<u>The Great Revolt: Inside the Populist Coalition Reshaping American Politics</u>, "... CNN contributor Salena Zito and Republican strategist Brad Todd, reports across five swing states and over 27,000 miles to answer the pressing question: Was Donald Trump's election a fluke or did it represent a fundamental shift in the electorate that will have repercussions--for Republicans and Democrats --for years to come." "What they have discovered is that these voters were hiding in plain sight--ignored by both parties, the media, and the political experts all at once, ready to unite into the movement that spawned the greatest upset in recent electoral history. Deeply rooted in the culture of these Midwestern swing states, Zito and Brad Todd reframe the discussion of the "Trump voter" to answer the question: *What next*? "Crown Forum, 2018. By Amazon, retrieved 7/25/18

FOOD - A Year in Review: ReFED's, By Chris Cochran 5/23/18 Reduced Food Waste

Impact: "After taking into account the adoption of plant-rich diets, if 50 percent of food waste is reduced by 2050, avoided emissions could be equal to 26.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide. Reducing waste also avoids the deforestation for additional farmland, preventing 44.4 gigatons of additional emissions. We used forecasts of regional waste estimated from farm to household. This data shows that up to 35 percent of food in high-income economies is thrown out by consumers; in low-income economies, however, relatively little is wasted at the household level." Retrieved 5/23/18

<u>A Study of Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States Between 2000-2013</u>, United States Department of Justice, FBI, 2018, Phase II. J. Silver, A. Simons, and S. Craun. From the Introduction page 6.

"The present study (Phase II) is the natural second phase of that initiative, moving from and examination of the parameters of the shooting events to assessing the pre-attack behaviors of the shooters themselves. This second phase, turns from the vitally important inquiry of "what happened during and after the shooting" to pressing questions of "how do the active shooters behave before the attack?" and, if it can be determined "why did they attack? The FBI's objective here was to examine specific behaviors that may precede an attack and which might be useful in identifying, assessing, and managing those who may be on a pathway to deadly violence."

"Inclusionary exclusion.: A move by Allen Warren and a worsening rent crisis renew debate on axing former housing rules." by Scott Thomas Anderson, *SN&R*, 6/28/18 page-6-7. Another reason why little to no low income housing gets built in Sacramento.

Homelessness Update

Homeless activists gathered over the summer to advocate for rent control, shelters and to repeal the anti-camping ordinance. They were pressuring City Hall to declare a "shelter crisis" in order to qualify for **a** \$5.6 million grant under the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), from the state of California. Sacramento was granted the money.

Homeless activists and Mayor Steinberg agree that Sacramento has an affordable housing crisis. Lost in the debate regarding potential solutions to this crisis, whether it is building more affordable housing, the Mayor's "rent stabilization" proposals or rent control and community stabilization proposed by the coalition Housing 4 Sacramento, is the relationship between rising rents and rising homelessness in our community. A. Ginosar



The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

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Renew Now to Influence Elections

For most of our members, it is time to renew your membership in the League of Women Voters (LWV). The local League (LWVSC) uses September 1 as its renewal date. By renewing with the local League you also renew your membership in LWVC and LWVUS. If you joined the League after January 31, 2018, or you are a Life Member you will receive an email renewal notice or a renewal letter by US mail. If you joined the League on or after February 1, 2018, I will send you a renewal notice on your anniversary for a prorated amount. If you are a Life Member, we owe you! Thank you for your many years of service.

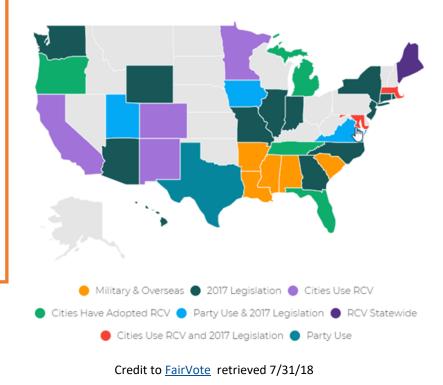
See the information about our Suffragist Club on page 2, and become a member if you are able.

Suzi Bakker 916-944-0194 treasurer@lwvsacramento.org 6993 Lincoln Creek Circle, Carmichael, CA 95608



Ranked choice voting is used in cities across the country

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Google Images 7/9/18