



# The Sacramento Voter

APRIL 2019



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## President's Message

I was honored to represent our League on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2019 Sacramento County History Day sponsored by the Center for Sacramento History and the Sacramento County Office of Education. It was held at Inderkum High School. Students in grades 4-12 from throughout Sacramento County submitted projects based on the year's theme, "Triumph and Tragedy in History." It was my first experience at History Day and it was amazing to see the work done by students. This year I shared our award with two projects. Note that Women's History had the largest number of projects so choosing was not easy.

Both of the LWVSC award winners are in senior high school. The first award was for a paper by Lea Han titled *The Triumph and Tragedy of Mitsuye Endo and the Japanese Americans during WWII*. The paper told of the internment of the Japanese and explained that Ms Endo was the plaintiff in a lawsuit against the government for unlawfully detaining innocent citizens. It eventually went to the Supreme Court and the ruling was in her favor, thereby overturning the internment order. Lea received a champion designation.

The second award winner was Yasmeen Kaina. She gave an individual performance as the author Mary Shelley. Mary Shelley's mother died and her stepmother was cruel to her. Not only did Mary not let this defeat her, she rebelled against the stereotypes of women during her time. She went on to become a well-respected writer, best known for *Frankenstein*. Yasmeen was the runner up in the individual Performance Category.

Our Sacramento County League's **Annual Meeting will be Monday evening May 20<sup>th</sup>**. This is an opportunity to meet and connect with other members and meet our members being proposed for the League Board for 2019/20. At this meeting, our program for local emphasis approved by the Board will be presented for adoption. In addition, you will vote on next year's leadership and the budget. All that we do is done by our members and we want to make sure that new and current members participate in our educational, advocacy and voter services activities.

At the Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 28, the LWVSC will have a voter registration table. We are looking for members to volunteer in 2-3 hour time slots. Contact Claudia Bonsignore, [claudiabon16@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabon16@gmail.com), if you would like to help. If you were not able to attend the March 30 voter registration training you will be able to learn about the event that day. Our League has had a table at the Earth Day celebration for many years.  
By C. Bonsignore

## EVENTS

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 9-10. Unit meetings, page 3

Tuesday, April 9, 2019. 8:00 a.m. Legislative Hearing AB 392, police use of deadly force, (vote on first time).

Saturday, April 13, 2019. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Carbon Forum, Sacramento City College. Page 3

Monday-Wednesday, April 15-17, 2019. [Housing in California](#). Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St. 95814

Wednesday-Thursday, April 24-25, 2019. California Coalition for Youth. Sacramento Convention Center. [Register](#)

Sunday, April, 28, 2019, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Earth Day Celebration, Southside Park, 2115 6th, St. See President's  
Message

**MONDAY May 20, 2019, LWVSC Annual Meeting, 5:30 food/beverages, 6:00 p.m. meeting. Wellspring, 3414 4th Ave.**

**Sacramento 95817**

Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2, 2019. [The 67th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California](#) with a special pre-convention event on **Thursday, May 30, 2019. The Westin Pasadena Hotel** 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena, CA 91101, Phone: 626-792-2727

2018-2019

**Board of Directors**

**League of Women Voters  
of Sacramento County**

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*Voter* publisher— Eileen Heaser



[www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento](http://www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento)

Locating Election information

[www.Elections.SacCounty.net](http://www.Elections.SacCounty.net) or

916-875-6451

**Web sites to check for LWV  
news**

[LWVC.org](http://LWVC.org)

&

[LWVUS.org](http://LWVUS.org)

**Board Meeting Dates**

April 8

May 20

All members welcome

**Articles for *The Voter***

Members are encouraged to write articles relevant to LWV issues, word length up to approximately 350 words. Please provide attribution when appropriate. Email: [aliceginosar@yahoo.com](mailto:aliceginosar@yahoo.com) or [eheserlwv@gmail.com](mailto:eheserlwv@gmail.com)



March 18, 2019 State Capitol ... moms demand action on gun safety, AB 1603.

Photo courtesy of P. Lee.

**Supporting AB 392 (Weber, McCarty) Police Officers: Deadly Force**

Across America, we have watched the unrelenting homicides by police officers of people involved in non-serious crimes or no crime at all. Even more tragic in these deaths is the fact that racism, implicit bias and/or white privilege result in a disproportionate impact on people of color and, particularly, African Americans. Californians have the opportunity to support legislation that is designed, and has been proven in Seattle, to change these violent outcomes without jeopardizing the safety of the officer.

Penal Code 196, enacted in 1872, would be amended by Assembly Bill 392, if signed into law, to redefine circumstances when killing by a police officer is considered justifiable. In summary, those circumstances are to prevent imminent and serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another and, consideration is given to an officer's action prior to a killing. Penal Code Section 835a, also to be amended, prescribes circumstances under which an officer is authorized to use lethal force. Narrowing a police officer's authority to kill will incentivize the use of deescalating tactics such as verbal warning, calling in reinforcements, backing away from threats, or use of nonlethal force.

The recently released California Department of Justice use of force-related report indicates that rank and file police officers across the country want more specific policy guidelines so they can understand what is expected of them.

Although AB 392 is just one step in a criminal justice system that needs a profound overhaul, it is an important step. It is imperative that the League support the effort to pass this legislation after a nearly identical bill failed last year.

Although the League leaders and members are diverse and work to proportionately reflect the communities where we are located, we have not yet achieved a level of representation that is reflective of all of our communities. For this reason, it is critical that we address justice issues, particularly those where implicit bias, white privilege, and other factors can tilt the scales unfairly.

By I. Olson

<b>Unit Meetings—APRIL 2019</b>
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Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday, April 9, 2019 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
*Outliers Folsom	Wednesday, April 10, 2019 11:45 a.m.	Nancy Compton 916-600-1992	Lunch, Cliff House, Folsom 9900 Greenback Lane 916-989-9243
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday, April 9, 2019 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

**The League's focus is on Making Democracy Work. Is Dark Money a threat to Democracy?**

“[Dark Money](#) refers to political spending meant to influence the decision of a voter, where the donor is not disclosed and the source of the money is unknown. Depending upon the circumstances, Dark Money can refer to funds spent by a political nonprofit or a super PAC.” Dark Money-Open Secrets, retrieved 3/25/2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/24/books/review/dark-money-by-jane-mayer.html>

<https://www.darkmoneyfilm.com/>

<https://publicintegrity.org/federal-politics/what-is-political-dark-money-and-is-it-bad/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melikkaylan/2018/10/10/the-latest-bombshell-how-dark-money-from-hostile-states-has-entered-our-elections/#561555385cc5>

<https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/396642-dark-money-threatens-our-elections>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2017/07/17/435886/secret-foreign-spending-u-s-elections-america-needs-disclose-act/>

<https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kennedy%20DPCC%20DISCLOSE%20HearingTestimony%207.19.pdf>

There are a myriad of articles and information on Dark Money that can easily be found on the web. Don't just settle for the above links. Have a great discussion.  
By B. Lynch



Free Clip Art, retrieved 3/24/2019

**Carbon Forum**

350 Sacramento is sponsoring a community forum, *Fast Track to Carbon Zero*, Saturday, April 13, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sacramento City College, Performing Arts Center, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Two panels will discuss how to speed up decreasing carbon in the atmosphere. There will be break-out groups and outreach to young people. Free lunch. Suggested donation on sliding scale \$5.00 to \$15.00.  
By E. Heaser



## Memorial to Helen Shryock

"League saved my life"

1923-3/28/2019

Helen Shryock was born in Salt Lake City, Utah but grew up in San Diego, one of many children (three or four sisters and a brother). She did graduate work at UC Berkeley in social work, and later worked for Sacramento County. Helen married Darrell, they had two children, Ron and Paula, two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren, a boy and a girl. Darrell died circa 1998.

Helen was a long-time member of the League. A few years ago we celebrated her 50 year membership. She always said that the League saved her life. The League enabled her to use her brain, voice her opinions, and indulge in a life long interest in politics. Helen was an avid quilter and many of her works were displayed in her home. She loved to eat out and had a special fondness for martinis and Thai food.

Helen was a beloved member of the League's Suburban Unit in Carmichael. In the last few years Helen worked ably with Anne Berner to facilitate our meetings. We appreciated her intellect and interest in such a variety of subjects, her kindness and her wry sense of humor. She was the one who called all our members to remind us of the upcoming Tuesday Unit Meeting.

Helen passed away February 28, 2019 at the age of 96; she will be remembered for her youthful outlook, knowledge and humor ... we will miss her.

By Alice Ginosar, Anne Berner & Inga Olson

## Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park "Of Lost Conversations"

By Betty Soskin

Recently, my husband Jim and I went to the Rosie the Riveter National Park with our older son, his wife and their two daughters. When we checked in with a ranger, we learned that, due to a last-minute cancelation, there were reservations available for the "Of Lost Conversations" presentation that afternoon. We had no idea how lucky we were!

The museum itself is very engaging, and the setting is right where the Kaiser Shipyards were. There is a lot to learn there, and the films and memorabilia pulled us into those times quite successfully. But nothing compares to the presentation we serendipitously fell into that afternoon.

Park Ranger Betty Charbonnet Reid Soskin was a clerk for the Boilermakers' (African-American auxiliary) Union during World War II. She talked about how the U.S. recruited men and women to the shipyards for construction jobs and all of the necessary support services. She recounted how the integration of our wartime workforce evolved: slowly admitting white women, and, even more slowly people of color into the well-paid, skilled construction jobs. Labor unions were a big factor in the slow progress, but necessity eventually won out.

Betty also talked about her family:

- her great grandmother who was born into slavery and lived to the age of 101,
- her grandfather who shared his love of gardening with her and told her stories about her grandmother, who had died before Betty was born, and
- her mother who also lived more than 100 years.

Imagine someone alive today who knew someone born into slavery!

One of the most touching things Betty recounted was how people of color, who could only get low-pay service jobs, had to hold down 2 jobs just to make ends meet. It struck me that most people in the auditorium wouldn't appreciate what that meant in those days.

The museum is well worth the drive to Richmond, and, if you plan to go, make sure to sign up for "Of Lost Conversations" ahead of time. Hearing first-hand accounts like Betty's have probably always been remarkable, but hearing them in person is an exceptional gift that won't be available forever. By Suzi Bakker



## Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

*A message from the National President of the League of Women Voters*

Ninety-nine years ago, the League of Women Voters was founded with a mission to help 20 million American women carry out their new responsibilities as eligible voters. As we turn 99 years old, the truth is: **we are just getting started!**

In 2018 our organization reached more voters than ever before. In court rooms from Arizona to Wisconsin to the United States Supreme Court, we are fighting to protect the rights of voters and defend our democracy. In Congress right now, the League strongly supports major sweeping legislation in HR 1, the *For the People Act*, that will expand voting rights and improve our elections.

The *For the People Act* is a comprehensive democracy reform package that includes restoration of the Voting Rights Act, voter registration modernization, public financing of elections through small donor matching funds, ending partisan gerrymandering and more. The League worked behind the scenes to influence the language of this legislation, including a push to include Same Day Registration.

As we celebrate 99 years of women's suffrage, we will continue to carry on the legacy of that achievement by making sure ALL eligible voters can exercise their rights and championing the expansion of those rights in the *For the People Act*.

By Chris Carson, President LWVUS

## National Popular Vote

### Background

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The bill would give every voter a direct voice in deciding who becomes President. It accomplishes this by giving every voter in every state a direct vote over the disposition of a bloc of 270 or more electoral votes (enough to elect a President). The National Popular Vote bill would make every vote for President equal throughout the United States. It would guarantee that **every** voter in **every** state matters in **every** presidential election.

The shortcomings of the current system of electing the President stem from "winner-take-all" laws that have been enacted at the state level. These laws award 100% of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each state.

Because of these state winner-take-all laws, five of our 45 Presidents (including two of the last three) have come into office without having won the most popular votes nationwide.

Sent by N. Compton

## Good-Bye Electoral College? Popular Vote Movement Gaining Steam

*It's not just Democrats who see the virtue in reforming presidential elections*

"Currently, 12 states with 172 Electoral College votes have joined the compact ([CA](#), [CT](#), [DC](#), [HI](#), [IL](#), [MA](#), [MD](#), [NJ](#), [NY](#), [RI](#), [VT](#), [WA](#)). Another 10 states with 89 Electoral College votes have bills in the legislative process ([AR](#), [AZ](#), [DE](#), [ME](#), [MI](#), [NC](#), [NM](#), [NV](#), [OK](#), [OR](#)).

This first group of states is politically blue, while the second group, which until recently included Colorado, has some purple states—meaning both major parties are vying for governing power—and some red states." By Steven Rosenfeld. Retrieved 3/18/2019

## League of Women Voters to Take on Criminal Justice Reform at the May 2019 State Convention - Local Advocates Needed

As reported in the March 2019 Newsletter, one of the three 2019-2020 recommendations for State Issues for Emphasis included Criminal Justice Reform. This recommendation was based upon a concurrence position to be voted on at the May 2019 California LWV Convention. The LWVC expects that local Leagues will use its concurrence position to develop advocacy programs.

At the January 2019 LWVSC General Meeting, several people expressed an interest in working on Criminal Justice Reform advocacy. As the Sacramento County Representative on the LWVC Task Force for the recommended Criminal Justice Reform Concurrence Position, it was suggested and I agreed to form a LWVCS Advocacy Committee initially focusing on the Policing Practices component of the State Criminal Justice Position. As such, those who expressed an interest in working on this issue for our Chapter are asked to e-mail me at [nnrealtor@yahoo.com](mailto:nnrealtor@yahoo.com) to let me know which of the following areas you would like to work on or others related to the Criminal Justice Position:

- 1) Observers (Sacramento Community Police Review Commission, City Council and Board of Supervisor meetings, etc.)
- 2) Community collaboration: Identify and coordinate advocacy with other community organizations
- 3) Legislative Tracking: Track key legislation officially endorsed by LWVC and LWVSC and actively support through advocacy
- 4) Elected officials accountability
- 5) Emerging issues

Please let me know your top five areas of the Policing Practices component that you believe should be our focus. Thank you for your interest and support.

By N. Nelson

## Sacramento Indivisible Meeting

Joe Barr, Chief Content Officer for Capital Public Radio (CPR), and journalist for thirty years, addressed the [Sacramento Indivisible](#) group on 3/20/2019. He discussed the current emphasis on the use of pod casts, smart speakers and smart phones to report news. The desire by users to hear the news when and where they want and not be tied to scheduled radio and television or print has rapidly altered traditional information transfer. These “disruptive” means of media access have seriously affected print media, cable TV, etc. Barr noted that social media and cable news are echo chambers and are losing favor among listeners. People want civil discourse and are moving away from social media sources.

*The Sacramento Bee* had 300 reporters a few years ago, they have 45 now. Only larger newspapers like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* or *Wall Street Journal* are sustainable. The profit margins have gone away, how to monetize is the problem for most newspapers. CPR has increased their report staff to 40 as they have become more accessible with the use of pod casts and streaming formats. CPR has half a million listeners per week. National Public Radio (NPR) has 38 million listeners per week.

CPR does local reporting that is now missing from much traditional reporting. Joe noted that only 17% of reported news is local. Public officials know they are not being watched as was the case in the past. This is a problem for democracy. CPR is doing a one-year series in the Meadowview area, the reporters are very welcomed by the locals who often have been neglected. NPR is the only network outlet in most rural areas. The network has a regionalized goal to reflect the demographic and its diversity. The speaker states that there has never been more desire or need for journalism than now. There is an increased interest in journalism as a career by young people, a very encouraging sign.

Barr recommended the following reliable news sources: *Cal Matters* (California State government and policy coverage ... they have hired many *Sacramento Bee* reporters), *Center for Investigative Government*, *Reveal*, and *Pro Publica*.

Joe was asked about the recent arrest of reporters. This is of great concern to reporters, stay tuned for results of talks with reporters and police.

By E. Heaser

## Book Notices, Articles, Reports

By E. Heaser

*The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*, David Wallace-Wells, 2019, appeared as an essay for the *New York* magazine in 2017. Although some scientists state that the essay and book take on an extreme tone the information is not “wrong or wildly misleading” (David Archer, U of Chicago). [Kevin Begos, The Associated Press](#), states despite the hyperbole of some of the author’s claims, time is running out to slow climate change justifying the tone of *The Uninhabitable Earth*. “If the book inspires a new generation of climate activists, more power to Wallace-Wells.” [Read chapter one](#). Retrieved 3/18/2019

*White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, 2018, Robin DiAngelo. The author is a professor at the University of Washington and an author and lecturer also referred to as a race scholar and diversity trainer. The author uses personal experiences (she is Caucasian), research, real world examples, and her own missteps to illustrate the problem. “Her analysis effectively challenges the widespread notion that ‘only intentionally mean people can participate in racism,’ rather ... racism is deeply embedded in the fabric of our society.” DiAngelo concludes with a blueprint for confronting and dismantling one’s own white fragility and thus “interrupt” racism. *Publishers Weekly*, 4/23/2018, v.265,(17), page78. Retrieved 1/6/2019. An [Amazon.com](#) review states: “DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.” Retrieved 1/6/2019. A *New York Times* best-selling book.

### [Armed and Prohibited Persons System Final Report 2018](#) (APPS)

This *Report* by the State Attorney General was mandated by Senate Bill 140 in 2013, the annual report provides a comprehensive analysis of the APPS database. In order to capture and better display the number of individuals coming into the system, leaving the system, and the current case load, this year's report also provides a comprehensive assessment of the APPS system, data, and the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Firearms enforcement activities.

In just over 10 years, the number of known firearm owners in California has more than doubled, going from 927,686 in 2008 to 2,516,836 as of January 1, 2019. Since 2013, over 56,000 armed and prohibited persons have been added to APPS, while over 53,000 armed and prohibited persons have been removed

### [Five Things to Know About the New Juvenile Justice Act](#). (click on link for details)

#### 1. New standards for jurisdictions to treat youth in age-appropriate ways

Each state must submit a three-year plan to be eligible for federal funding under the law, and these plans must now demonstrate that they are guided by scientific knowledge about adolescent brain development and behavior.

#### 2. Mandates for community-based prevention and treatment services and family engagement ... incorporates key elements of the Youth PROMISE Act, which establishes funding for local communities to build a continuum of prevention and intervention programs for youth who are involved — or at risk of being involved — in the justice system.

#### 3. Stronger core protections for youth of color, youth tried as adults and youth who commit status offenses

#### 4. Additional data-collection requirements

#### 5. A related bill, the FIRST STEP Act, will also affect youth

From the Annie E. Casey Foundation retrieved 2/27/19

### [No Food Left Behind](#) Underutilized Produce Ripe for Alternative Markets

Report prepared by the World Wildlife Fund with assistance from the WalMart Foundation.

Retrieved 3/9/2019



[Karen Keskulla Uhlenbeck](#), a mathematician and professor at the University of Texas, has become the first woman in history to receive the Abel Prize, one of the most prestigious mathematics awards in the world. Retrieved 3/20/2019



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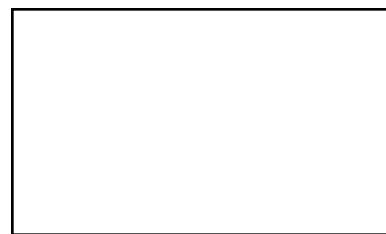
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**APRIL 2019**

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3/20/2019



April Showers

Free Clip Art. Retrieved 3/9/2019