



The Sacramento Voter

APRIL 2018

Power to the Polls



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Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

Co-Presidents Corner

On March 14, exactly one month from the shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, students all across the country walked out of class and stood in silence and solidarity to show their support for sensible gun laws.

This issue directly affects their sense of safety and a right to an education without fear. These students were joined by teachers, parents, and community members from all walks of life who are weary of politicians unable to stand up to the powerful gun lobby.

This action speaks volumes to those of us who remember marching for civil rights and against the Vietnam war. Then, as now, it was student activism that eventually led to change. These students may not realize it yet, but they have become a part of our country's continuing struggle for political change, economic justice, and environmental well-being.

This is what courage and determination look like. In fact, rallying and marching has a long history of making needed change. Women know this and have experience in planning and leading political action. Consider this:

Every time you go to the voting booth to choose your candidate, you are doing so because of women who marched.

Every time you go to a job outside the home to provide for you and your family, you are doing so because of women who marched.

Every time you open a checking account or credit card, or buy property, or make an independent financial decision, you are doing so because of women who marched.

Every time you plan and decide the best time for your family to have children, you are doing so because of women who marched.

Continued page 2

EVENTS

Saturday, 4/7/18, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. CSUS Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento Coalition Homecoming, University Union. Charlene Jones and **two volunteers need.**

Tuesday, 4/10/18, Unit meetings schedule, page 3

Saturday, 4/21/18, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Shabazz Safety & Family Fun Day, Valley Hi Community Park, 8185 Center Parkway, Sponsored by Rick Jennings, Vice Mayor, Sacramento City Council & Jim Cooper Assemblyman, in conjunction with Valley Hi Family Resource Center. **Two volunteers needed**, contact Claudia Bonsignore claudiabon16@gmail.com

Sunday, 4/22/18. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Earth Day, Southside Park, 700 T Street, Sacramento. **C. Bonsignore, volunteers needed**

Saturday, 5/5/18. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento. Russell Rawlings, Resources for Independent Living. **One or two volunteers needed**, contact Charlene Jones charlenej@surewest.net or Claudia Bonsignore claudiabon16@gmail.com

2017-2018

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www.facebook.com/LWVSAcramento



Orthodox Easter

Google image 3/26/18

Continued Co-Presidents' from page 1

The things we have today are a product of protest, social unrest, activism, and resistance. Even the most anti-feminist 21st century woman lives in the sunlight of female activists who were willing to fight for generations they would never know.

Today's students who are engaging in peaceful protests, marches, and civic participation are fighting not only for their own lives, but for generations who they will never know. And in so doing, they are making their mark on history.

Nancy and Claudia



Sacramento County History Day

I was honored to represent the League at Sacramento County History Day on Saturday, March 3, at Inderkum High School. Students from all over Sacramento County in grades 4-12 submitted projects based on a specific historical theme: Conflict and Compromise in History. Winners (champions) will move on to the statewide competition. I was tasked with choosing a project to receive the League's Special Award for Women's History; well over 30 projects were about women's history, which in itself is quite exciting!

It was tough to choose just one, but I selected Chinmayi Balusu's excellent documentary on Elizabeth Blackwell to receive the League's award. Blackwell was a British physician, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States, and the first woman on the Medical Register of the General Medical Council. She was also a pioneer in promoting medical education for women, as well as a social reformer.

Chinmayi, a student at Vista del Lago High School in Folsom, plans to be a doctor. Along with receiving the League's Special Award for Women's History (including a cash prize of \$100), her project also received the Special Award in Medical History from the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Museum. In addition, she was selected as a champion and will move on to the statewide competition.

[Link here to Chinmayi's documentary.](#)

By Barbera Bass

Unit Meetings—APRIL 2018

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday April 10, 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday April 10, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	455 Sunlit Circle Sacramento, 95831

Welcome New Members

Phoebe Austin
Leslie Watts

A Nation on the Verge of Disaster

Just six states now stand between us and a constitutional crisis. Twenty-eight states out of a required thirty-four have already called for an Article V (amending the Constitution) Convention for a balanced budget. Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, Sierra Club and other public interest groups are activating their members with a profound sense of urgency in opposition to this matter. Never before has the United States had a Constitution Convention called by thirty-four states. The better way would be to use the amendment process. There have been twenty-seven amendments, all approved by at least three-fourths of our state legislatures, after being passed by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress as outlined in Article V.

Calling a new constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution is a threat to every American’s constitutional rights and civil liberties. The Constitution’s text is vague and does not include any rules for a convention. No one knows how delegates would be selected, how people and states would be represented, or what issues could be brought up in an Article V Convention. In our current national climate of fear and hate, it is frightening to think of what decisions could be made in addition to the stated aim of requiring a balanced budget: limiting freedom of speech and the press, or changes to health care access, regulating abortions and a woman’s right to control her own body, immigration, marriage equality and/or voting rights.

It is alarming to know the powerful and moneyed forces behind this effort. Chief among them are the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the Koch Brothers. The grass roots movement of civic minded groups such as—League, Common Cause and over 75 others – must mobilize more Americans to pressure their elected representatives to reject a constitutional convention where everyone’s rights and liberties are at risk.

See: [League Opposes Calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention](#) and [Constitutional Rights and Public Interest Groups Oppose Calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention](#)

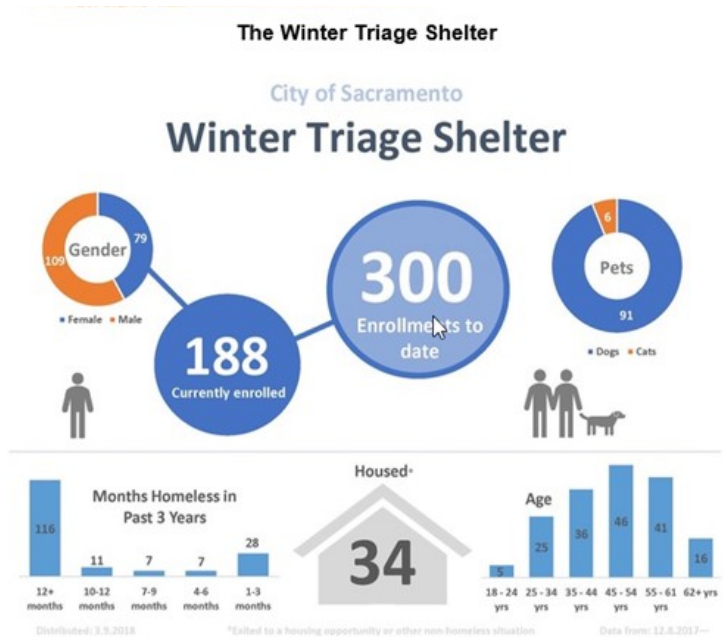
By Alice Ginosar & Helen Shryock



March for Our Lives, 3/24/2018
 “Turnout was estimated to be between 1.2 to 2 million people in the United States, making it one of the [largest rallies in American history.](#)” [Wikipedia](#) 3/26/18
The Sacramento Bee, 3/25/18, reported that thousands marched to the Capitol in Sacramento. Photos by E. Heaser



Google image 3/26/18



The Winter Triage Shelter is up and running and making a difference in people's lives. The purpose of this shelter is to get people out of the elements, assess their needs, connect them with services and get them into stable housing situations. So far, 300 homeless individuals have been admitted to the shelter—34 have found either permanent supportive housing, transitional living or another homeless service program. Our goal is to get 2,000 people off the streets in a 3-year span. We can do this!! For the latest information about this effort, please follow this link to the "Winter Triage Shelter Mid-Season Report" presented at Council on February 27th.

CSAC, League of California Cities report on homeless

[Homelessness Task Force Report: Tools and Resources for Cities and Counties, 2018](#)

A joint task force of the California State Association of Counties and League of California Cities produced the following report: From the *Executive Summary*, page 1: “ After steady declines in homelessness from 2007 through 2014, the number of people without homes in California has now risen for three consecutive years. This is occurring not just in major cities and urban areas but also in rural California, in our heavily forested areas, along our rivers and in our suburban neighborhoods. Homelessness is no longer confined to our major metropolitan areas — it has spread to every part of our state.”

“California is home to 21 of the 30 most expensive rental markets in the nation and the state does not have enough affordable housing stock to meet the demand of low-income households. The state’s 2.2 million extremely low-income and very low-income renter households compete for 664,000 affordable rental homes.” Retrieved 3/12/18
E. Heaser

[“The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2016,](#) “ updated September 2017. By Liana Fox *Current Population Reports*. P60-261 (RV) Retrieved 3/12/18

“The U.S. Census Bureau currently reports two different measures of poverty: the official poverty measure and the [Supplemental Poverty Measure](#) (SPM). Unlike the official poverty measure, the SPM reflects available financial resources and liabilities, including taxes, the value of in-kind benefits, e.g., food stamps, and out-of-pocket medical spending (generally higher among older adults), and geographic variations in housing costs. This analysis presents national and state estimates of poverty under both measures for adults ages 65 and older. Current estimates of poverty based on the SPM indicate that the share (and number) of older adults who are struggling financially is larger than is conveyed by the official poverty measure.”

Key Findings. More key findings if you open the title link above.

“Under the SPM, 7.1 million adults ages 65 and older lived in poverty in 2016 (14.5%), compared to 4.6 million (9.3%) under the official poverty measure.

Nearly 21 million people ages 65 and older had incomes below 200% of poverty under the SPM in 2016 (42.4%), compared to 15 million (30.4%) under the official measure.”
E. Heaser



Graph: Peter Wagner, 2016. This graph originally appeared in [States of Incarceration: The Global Context 2016](#). For more data on [incarceration rates](#) Click on the title link for more information.

Source: <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2016.html>

[‘Testilying’ by Police: A Stubborn Problem](#). Police lying persists, even amid an explosion of video evidence that has allowed the public to test officers’ credibility. Joseph Goldstein, *The New York Times*, 3/18/2018 retrieved 3/19/18

Book Notices

Caitriona Perry, Journalist and Washington correspondent for RTE NEWS (Ireland), lived in the United States for four years; some of that time was spent visiting ten “Heartland and/or Rust belt” states during the 2016 election. *In America: Tales from Trump Country* is the culmination of her travels. Perry’s focus is on people who planned to vote for Donald Trump. "This is the story of American people who were angry and disillusioned by traditional politics. It is the story of the workers of the industrial heartland, of the women of America, of immigrant communities, of the people who viewed a wealthy business man from the city of New York as 'one of us'. This is the story of people who shook the world." (dustjacket)

More than that, the book is a devastating look at the many problems America faces: broken infrastructure, lack of jobs and job training, a lack of sufficient economic recovery from the economic recession under President Obama, viz., people were unable to attain the American Dream ... an entitlement to the right to achieve something better. Some thought that D. Trump didn’t stand for anything in particular ergo he could stand for anything, an a-la-carte candidate. pg.18. The ideology of President Obama did not work for them. There was a desire “for a backlash a punishment vote,” pg.19. They felt ignored by traditional politicians and left out of the economic recovery, racism, changing demographics, immigrants all played a part. Many interviewees mentioned Trump’s rearing of “fantastic children,” therefore he must be a good person. pg. 23

Perry observed shabby diners still resembling the sixties, idled industrial smoke stacks and shuttered plants. She witnessed one declining, blighted town and it’s industries after the other. One man stated, “This country will never be defeated by a foreign power, it’s being defeated from within.” pg.29 He stated that the place looked like it had been bombed. Falling down structures, cracked potholed pavement, main streets fenced off and more.

[C. Perry was interviewed on C-SPAN by Brian Lamb](#) 12/28/18

E. Heaser

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jesse Eisinger’s latest book, *The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives*, 2017, focuses on “... the corporate bungling and greed of the past few years, most notably the 2008 financial crisis and its roots in Wall Street’s web of risky investments and banking malfeasance—all enabled by loose regulatory enforcement, cozy Washington connections, and the implicit promise of government bailouts.” by Jason Heller, [NPR Books](#), Retrieved 2/28/18.

“Why were no bankers put in prison after the financial crisis of 2008? Why do CEOs seem to commit wrongdoing with impunity? The problem goes beyond banks deemed ‘Too Big to Fail’ to almost every large corporation in America—to pharmaceutical companies and auto manufacturers and beyond. *The Chickenshit Club*—an inside reference to prosecutors too scared of failure and too daunted by legal impediments to do their jobs—explains why in an absorbing financial history, a monumental work of journalism...a first-rate study of the federal bureaucracy.” [Bloomberg Businessweek](#). Retrieved 3/12/18

E. Heaser



Google image 3/26/18

David Osborne, public sector reformer and author; published [*Reinventing America's Schools, Creating a 21st Century Education System*](#), 2017. The book provides an analysis of the failure of America's public schools and a revitalizing plan to reform them. The author uses examples of reforms that are working in three cities, New Orleans, Washington D.C. and Denver. He states that this book is not about "charter schools." "After you read this book, I hope you will never again see charter schools as a minor innovation around the edges of the public system. Instead, I hope you will see them—and the "innovation schools," "renaissance schools," and "pilot schools" they have inspired—as a 21st century system emerging to supplant the old one." (Preface & Acknowledgements)

The author states that for a century America's public education system was the first free mass education system in the world, it was the backbone of success in the United States and offered equal opportunity at least to Caucasians. Around the sixties when television began to dominate, it undermined the desire and ability to read, teen pregnancy was on the rise, single mothers tripled, and gang activity increased as well arrest rates for those under 18 increased. The information age economy changed what students needed to get good jobs. "Today our traditional public schools "work" for less than half of our students. One in five families chooses something other than a traditional public school—private school, a public charter school, or home schooling. Among those who do attend public schools 17 percent fail to graduate on time." (Preface & Acknowledgements)

Mr. Osborne thinks if the country were inventing a school system today it would look much different. He saw this happen in New Orleans after the devastating Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This book describes how schools around the country are reinventing their schools and improving.

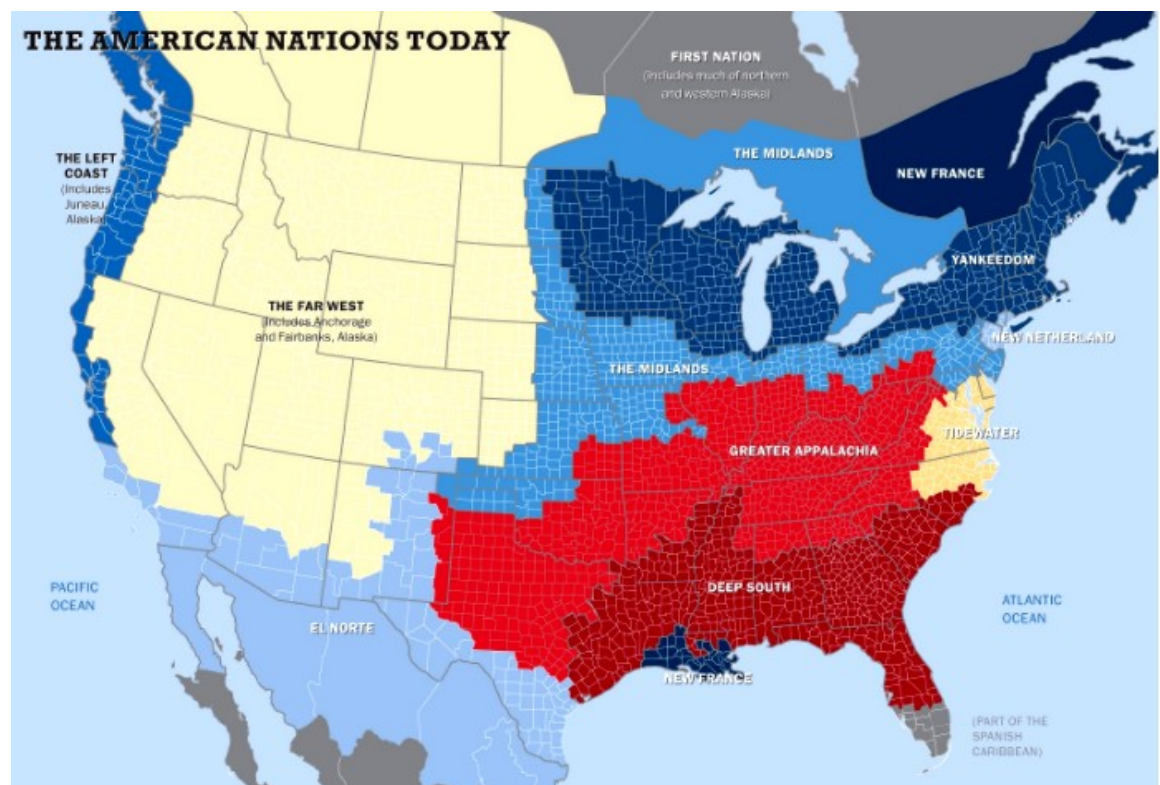
[Kirkus Reviews](#), 3/28/17, states, "He offers myriad school models, such as 'no-excuses' schools, with longer school days and years; schools that focus on science and technology; athletics-intensive schools; single-sex schools; schools offering intense therapeutic help; and schools that seek to preserve a particular ethnic heritage."

By E. Heaser

Map Shows Why America is Actually Comprised of 11 Different "Nations"

In his fourth book, *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures in North America*, award-winning author Colin Woodard identifies 11 distinct cultures that have historically divided the US.

Business Insider,
7/27/15
Retrieved 3/13/18





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March for Our Lives, 3/24/2018

Photo by E. Heaser



Google Images 3/12/18