



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

January/February 2017

Calendar 2017

Wednesday, Jan 11	Board Meeting	Noon	Linda Herman's House 28070 Ella Road, RPV
Thursday, Jan 12	Go-See Trip	1:00 PM	Skid Row Housing Star Apartments (see flyer)
Saturday, Jan 14	Program Planning	Noon	Think Cafe 310-519-3662 302 W 5 th Street San Pedro 90731
Wednesday Feb 8	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirels' House
SAVE THE DATE			
Saturday, March 25	County Convention	9:30-1:30	Pickwick Gardens 1001 W Riverside Dr. Burbank CA 91506

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

We hope all of you had an excellent holiday and are refreshed to start another calendar year although our League year is in its last few months.

We had a very busy and successful year with election season and want to thank Nancy Mahr--our Voter Service person. Believe it or not we still have another local election coming up and Nancy will be looking for helpers—watch for our emails as she firms up a date and place. If you want to help, she can be reached by email nlmahr@verizon.net.

We also have a “Go See” trip coming up next week at Skid Row Housing (see the flyer) and a week from Sat we will be having our Program Planning meeting in San Pedro. This is such an important meeting and I urge you all to attend at Think Café in San Pedro at noon (Jan 14). Don't forget to bring your Rosters.

Good news for new members (and old)—we are in the process of printing new Rosters and hopefully you will be getting one shortly. Thank you Linda Herman for all your hard work !! If they cannot be mailed out in time --- we will bring them to the planning meeting.

I also want to thank new member Karen Buresh who has accepted a position on the board for Action and has been doing a great job! We still have other positions available if anyone else would like to become active.

We also could use articles for our voter—so anyone who has a report of general interest — please send it to me (Vi- violaiungerich@gmail.com) for review and inclusion.

Hoping to see all of you very soon,

Katy Watkins (310-408-6211) and *Vi Jungerich* (310-541-5092)
Co-Presidents

Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance:

“We shall have to do more than register and more than vote. We shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we can respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud with enthusiasm.”

Annual Program Planning Session

By Katy Watkins

The annual Program Planning session is coming in January; scheduled as a noon meeting on Saturday the 14th at the Think Cafe in San Pedro. Please keep that date open. All members of the LWV Palos Verdes/San Pedro are strongly encouraged to attend.

We have happily welcomed 13 new members to our League during the past several months. For their benefit I will try to explain what "Program Planning" means and why it is important, as a member to attend this annual meeting.

A League position is established after members have studied an issue and achieved consensus on policies and practices that would best serve the public interest. The League acts only within its positions; if the members have not studied and come to consensus on an issue, the League has no position and therefore does not have a stand on that issue.

The process of planning the program for League members begins with the review of existing positions and current issues by local Leagues at several levels. This year we are reviewing established positions (programs) at the State, County and Local levels. After member discussion, each league chooses those positions that it believes should be retained, reviewed, updated and or deleted as well as those that the League should emphasize in the upcoming year. We can also recommend a new study to any of those levels.

Each League in the state holds a meeting, comes to consensus about the Programs included and sends a report to the National, State League (LWVC) or County League as appropriate. The input is then put on their respective convention agendas and put to vote during the convention. This is also the time we decide if there is a new local issue we want to study to put into our local convention. If we recommend a new study- or want to update a position, (which requires a study)-- then we usually prepare some material to support the study.

Social Policy Jan 2017

by Vi Iungerich

At the beginning of this new year, we can look at how social policy may be changed in the coming year for both the country and our local area.

The best predictor may be to look at the recommendations by the Heritage Foundation. For 2016 they recommended 4 changes. Not all these recommendations were bad, but several counted on old solutions for today's new problems.

The first was to "Account for Welfare Spending in the President's Budget". Their argument points out that the federal welfare system consists of roughly 80 means-tested welfare programs covering food, housing, medical care and social services for the poor. These programs are scattered thorough-out multiple agencies, are hard to keep track of and it is difficult to understand their effectiveness. This observation of the difficulty of understanding these policies is true and a complete picture and analysis of their pros and cons would be helpful to both the public and the professional.

To take one example, which we have been following, is the example of section-eight housing. We know that in LA there is not enough housing for the poor. We also know that section 8 housing is desired by about 1 million people in the LA area but is only held by 125,000 residents. To obtain a section 8 housing voucher is to wait sometimes for years. But few know that getting a voucher—which is good for a lifetime if your income remains low – is not the solution many think. About 1/3 of the people getting a voucher for the first time cannot find housing in the time they are given (4 months) and they lose the voucher because of this time limit. They then go to the end of the waiting list again. In truth, there is not enough section 8 housing to meet the needs and the supply is unlikely to increase. It is difficult and full of red tape to meet the federal standards to become section 8 housing so most rentals will not apply. And it is the same with many of the federal programs.

Children may qualify for dental care under Medi-Cal but there are not enough dentists who will accept their rates.

Their second position is to "Turn Welfare Into a Work Activation Program". Great idea that does not acknowledge that the jobs that pay well today and are needed--- are not the jobs most poor qualify for. There are a few bright centers today where industry has worked with community colleges to train folk for jobs they need. Training centers that focus on higher educational skills in programing, highly technical machining etc. can do the trick, but most of the jobs programs do not meet the real needs of either the people or the industries. Think of how self - driving trucks are likely to displace truck-drivers—the biggest job for men.

The third recommendation is to "Advance True Federalism in Welfare". This policy states that federal welfare should be gradually turned over to the states and be removed from the federal budget. This has been tried with mixed success for years and is one reason some states stay extremely poor (think of the poor south) and why many poor migrate to California which has better social policies for the poor.

Lastly the Heritage Foundation would like to "Promote Healthy Marriages". They look back to the 1960s when less than 10% of all children were born outside of marriage. Today they state more than 40% of children are born outside of marriage. There is no doubt that we have many more poor children today than we have had before and it is true that being a single parent is very difficult. However it is doubtful that marriage alone would make the difference to combat children's poverty.

The huge dislocation of jobs (globalization), technical advances (robots and artificial intelligence) to name some of the more fundamental changes that are more likely to be causative agents of these shifts are not being considered. However, we can expect that the

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Voter's Edge – Our enthusiasm continues....

By Linda Herman

In case you didn't have an opportunity to read LWVC President Helen Hutchison's update on Voter's Edge and how well it's been received in the November 2016 election season, take a look at the latest facts and figures which make us all very proud.

- Voter's Edge California's preliminary numbers show approximately 1.7 million visitors to the site looking at multiple pages during the combined primary and general election seasons.
- Voter's Edge California formed partnerships with a variety of public media and community groups including CA's four main PBS outlets, NBC and ABC affiliates, two Telemundo affiliates, the ACLU, CA PTA and Cal PIRG.
- Voter's Edge also partnered with Mi Familia Vota, NALEO, the National Council of LA Raza and other Spanish community groups.
- Several county registrars placed the Voter's Edge widget on their website.

This leads us to the last point, our Voter's Edge California (VEC) county and local coordinators contacted and cajoled 2053 candidates (45% of all candidates) to place information on VEC so that the general public could learn who they are and what they stood for.

March 7th brings us over 30 new elections to prepare for and we invite you join us as we work together obtaining contact information on candidates and check entries to insure they do not reference other opponents.

Please contact Linda Herman at lhermanpg@cox.net if you are interested in this short term Voters Service project. You certainly get to know the candidates. (Note that training will be provided.)



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new administration and congress are likely to apply these old popular conservative solutions to our social policies in the coming year in the expectation that the federal budget will improve. It is doubtful that they will look at how these conservative policies will affect the poor.

The lives of the poor, however, are unlikely to improve without more fulsome thought given to addressing the major shifts of the economy and how these changes affect all of the people.



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

“Go See Tour” Skid Row Housing Trust
Apartments for the Chronically Homeless

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017

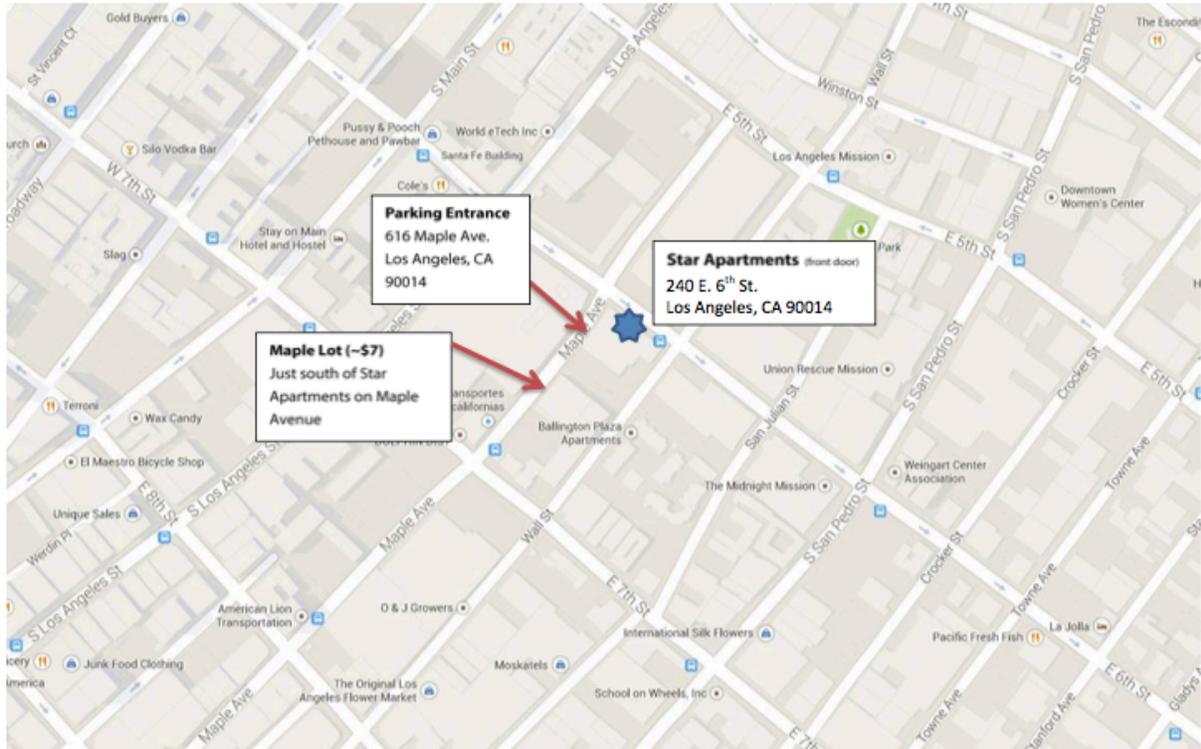
Meet at the Star Apartments
240 E. 6th St. Los Angeles 90014
1 to 3 p.m.



Public Parking nearby, five handicap spots at the bldg.
Two groups 15 will tour, maximum RSVPs - 30. See Parking map
A LEED development, the Star features 100 units of permanent
supporting housing above a Health & Wellness Center which
includes a community kitchen and exercise space.

RSVP to Vi Iungerich at violaiungerich@gmail.com or 310-541-5092
Restaurant suggestion for lunch: Artison House, 600 S. Main St. 90014, nearby

PARKING AT STAR APARTMENTS





Join The League!

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWV PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWV PVP*

Membership Form

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day/cell) _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$80.00 one member

\$40.00 additional member in the same household.

Dues are tax deductible. LWV PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

LWV PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:

Co-Presidents:	Viola Iungerich	310-541-5092	violaiungerich@gmail.com
	Katy Watkins	310-408-6211	kathleen6068@att.net
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