



League of Women Voters

North County San Diego

VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

August 2018

August Calendar

County League Day Returns

Gun Safety Study Group

Thursday, 8/2/18
10:30am
at Leucadia
Wastewater
meeting room.
Questions:
please call
Jennifer Lonbom

County League Day

Saturday
8/18/18
see next column

LWV Book Group

Monday 8/20/18
see page 5

For Updates check
our website:
www.lwvncsd.org

Saturday, August 18, 2018

12:45 to 3:30 pm

Scripps Ranch Library,

10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego*

The central theme of the program is the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA.) We will learn about the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote and the history and current status of the ERA.

San Diego League member Anne Hoiberg will provide a brief history of Women's struggle to secure the passage of the 19th Amendment. Members of the LWV North County's Women's Issues Group will discuss the ERA and what we must do to pass it. We are so close and need to act now!

We will be viewing an exciting and motivational short film. This film defines professionally researched ways we can take Action and Make a Difference. The program will also highlight some of the accomplishments of both Leagues over the past year and attendees will be asked how we can collaborate further during this program year.

To add to the festivities of the afternoon, everyone is encouraged to wear white, green, purple or a combination of those colors in honor of the Suffragists.

There will be a birthday cake to celebrate the actual passage of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920.

Come for a bit of history and a look ahead.

**For carpooling, contact Roni Seay*



**Message
From
President
Anne
Omsted**

Off partnership with the Registrar of Voters in three local libraries netted 10,000 returned ballots for the Primary election on June 5. Twenty-eight League members participated in this effort. Thank You!

I invite you to participate, help out, get involved, and enjoy our services. The saying "it takes a team to make a dream" is good, but in League, it's more "it takes lots of teams to work on lots of dreams."

Anne

This past year of League activity has been a whirlwind for me. I am enjoying meeting so many of our League members and look forward to meeting more of you during the next year. Our Board is exemplary—dedicated, hardworking, and smart. It is a pleasure to work with them.

The League of Women Voters is changing in order to stay relevant in our emerging culture. The need to be smart about social media is crucial, but many of us are not enthusiastic users. In order to draw new and younger members, we have to adapt. The Board is trying to embrace this new approach and we are fortunate to have some members who are savvy about social media and willing to share their expertise.

A major concern at all levels of League has been our need to focus on Making Democracy Work and at the same time deal with pressing local problems. There are many things we could be doing if we had infinite resources, but, of course, we don't. So, we try to focus on a few of the most pressing needs.

Next year our League will be spending a lot of time and energy on seeking ways to deal with the many problems with homelessness. We must continue to observe as many local government entities as possible to ensure transparency in government. (We need more Observers!) We also must join with Local, State, and National Leagues to lobby legislators on important issues, and always be aware of what is going right or wrong locally.

We will, naturally, continue to provide Voter Services to our local communities through forums, Pros and Cons Presentations of the ballot measures, Mail Ballot Drop Off, and the occasional Voter Registration drive.

Special thanks to all our members who worked on Voter Service. Amazing Voter Service Director Elizabeth Brady reported that our Mail Ballot Drop

LWVNCSD Officers & Directors 2018-2019

Officers

President	Anne Omsted
1st VP, Admin. & Memb.	Nancy Telford
2nd VP & LWV Action	Veronica Seay
Secretary	Cecilia Jolly
Co-Treasurer	Arlene Meadows &
Co-Treasurer	Jennifer Lonbom

Directors

Media Outreach	Norelynn Pion-Goureau
Natural Resources	Elizabeth Gabrych
Observer Corps	Connie Ulrich
Regional Gov't Coord.	Cathy Greene
Social Media	Suzanne Carneiro
Social Policy	Bill Loftus
Strategic Communications	Loann Simon
Voter Editor	Roni Seay (interim)
Voter Service	Elizabeth Brady
Women's Issues	Nancy Hand
Co-Webmasters	Suzanne Carneiro &
	Loann Simon

Unit Chairs

Carlsbad Unit	Suzanne Burkhalter & Nita Rodriguez
San Dieguito Unit	Katie Wheeler
Oceanside Unit	Bill Loftus

Committee Chairs

Behavioral Health	Liz Kruidenier
Civic Engagement	Mary Thompson
Education	Claudine Jones
Gun Safety Group	Jennifer Lonbom
Health Care	Jane Dunmeyer
Hospitality/Arrangements	Open
Speakers Bureau	Open



**Our Delegates to the LWVUS Convention:
Elizabeth Brady and Karen Vanderwerken**

Reports from our Delegates

LWV of UNITED STATES CONVENTION Chicago, June 27 - July 1, 2018

by Karen Vanderwerken, LWVNCSD delegate

Amazing doesn't fully capture this convention!!
With over 1,000 attending and 800+ voting delegates—every state represented except North Dakota, the plenary sessions were packed! About 114 California delegates attended, so we had about 10% of the votes, and the most attending from any state. But, of course we did.

Convention preparation began with several webinars starting in April. LWV San Diego sent four delegates and LWV North County sent two, so San Diego County was well represented. All State Board members (-2) and several State staff attended also. California President Helen Hutchinson set up *What's App* for all California delegates, so we had easy connections with everyone. Easy breezy!

As always, the business meetings were professional and prompt with budget approval and a few bylaw updates. Mission and vision statements approved, and support of the Transformation Plan completed. Plenary speakers were excellent and timely, especially Nick Stephanopoulos and his wife Ruth Greenwood on redistricting and understanding the impact of gerrymandered districts.

ERA proclamation passed including statements to see this all the way to the finish—and to get Congress to drop the time limitation.

Not truly surprising, but with caucuses starting at 7:30am and running again after dinner until 9:30pm, never heard anyone complain about the intense schedule, with most rooms having standing room only. Convention attendees are passionate and dedicated. All of them.

I have handouts to share on many topics, and “bling” to give out too.

National Convention A Gathering Like No Other by Elizabeth Brady, LWVNCSD delegate

As a first time delegate to the convention, I diligently attended all the webinar prep sessions and meet with other local attendees before packing my bags for Chicago. But nothing could have prepared me for the first plenary session. As Chris Carson dropped the gavel to open the meeting the ballroom was packed, literally packed, with over 800 voting delegates and hundreds of volunteers and presenters. A thousand people had come together to make democracy work - it was a powerful sight.

General business was addressed in the plenaries but some of the best conversations happened in the side meetings. Leagues from all over the US are fighting for redistricting reform, passing the ERA, Single Payer Healthcare, civics education and a slew of other issues. Many Leagues are pressing their legislatures to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) in which States would cast their electoral votes to the popular vote winner. Some Leagues are seeking a constitutional amendment to eliminate the Electoral College completely. I was reminded of how lucky we are in California to have already dealt with redistricting and to have signed the NPVIC.

My biggest surprise at the convention was to learn that the LWVUS has a United Nations Observation Corps. Not only do they observe but they have a special status that allows them to make comments.

Overall the convention gave me great hope about the future of democracy in America. As one presenter said, "A cause that is just and has mobilized voters is a pretty good antidote to big money." And nobody mobilizes like the League!



- ERA -

DO WE REALLY NEED IT?

Section 1 of the Equal Rights Amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Almost 80% of Americans believe that women have the same rights as men. Some point to the 14th Amendment which guarantees equal protection under the law, but the reality is that it doesn't cover sex discrimination. The late Justice Antonin Scalia made it very clear that the Constitution does "not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg supports the ERA because "legislation can be repealed. It can be altered." So, why in 2018, don't we have the ERA?

Over 130 nations have constitutionally guaranteed equal rights for women, but the US is not one of them.

Women gained the right to vote in 1920, but our nation was not ready to give women the same legal and economic rights as men. In 1972 the ERA was passed by Congress. It then went to the states for ratification. By the 1982 deadline, the amendment was ratified by 35 states, 3 states short of acceptance. Since then, Nebraska, Tennessee and Idaho rescinded their earlier ratification; however, Nevada (2017) and Illinois (2018) have accepted the ERA.

Do we have "only one more state to go", or do we have to start this process all over again? Come to County League Day on August 18th to find out.

Elizabeth Brady's E-mail from Convention:

"It (the ERA vote) came up as an amendment from the floor. There was such a supportive roar from the delegates that it was accepted unanimously."

LWVUS Convention 2018 Highlights

Convention delegates worked on several important business items while in Chicago, some of which are highlighted here.

- Delegates approved the proposed program of Making Democracy Work®, which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.
- Delegates voted to add advocating for the National Popular Vote Compact under the Improving Elections section of the Campaign.
- Delegates also voted for LWVUS to prioritize advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to be added to the U. S. Constitution.
- Convention delegates adopted the LWVUS budget for the 2018 - 2020 biennium. The Per Member Payment (PMP) rate will remain unchanged for the biennium.
- By acclamation, Convention delegates voted to elect the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of new officers, board members,



New Interest Group for Gun Safety

by Jennifer Lonbom

Almost everyone is dismayed by the daily stories in the news regarding guns. Accidental shootings, especially of children, mass shootings, also especially of children, gun murders, suicides, and injuries, happen on an hourly basis in our country. All of us, including our children and grandchildren, are much more likely to experience a shooting than we were 30 years ago, as a result of the proliferation of guns in the U.S. The number of guns, estimated at 300,000,000, will only increase in the coming years if we don't work together to change the current gun culture.

A culture that normalizes and glorifies guns, multiple guns, bigger guns, and carrying guns everywhere, for everyone, even children. Check out the Del Mar Crossroads of the West Gun Show's Facebook page for policies that "encourage family participation with children under 12 admitted free", and show proud photos of children and teenagers holding what appear to be assault rifles.

What can you do about it? Educating yourself by attending some of the interest group meetings is a good start. You will find like minded, compassionate people. At our first meeting we spent time talking about what members would like to do and there were many ideas, including education, activism, and partnership with existing groups. As a group we will follow the League's Gun Control position. It is comprehensive, sensible, and balanced, and has been in place since the 1990's when the NRA intensified what became a very successful lobbying effort to loosen existing gun laws.

Our Gun Safety Interest Group's monthly meetings will be held at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 am. Our next meeting will be August 2, 2018. We would love to have you join us one time or every time, to help curtail the expanding gun culture and stop gun violence.

Welcome New Members!!

Susan Ball - San Diego
 Stephanie Caballero - San Marcos
 Lani Conti - Carlsbad
 Susan Crowe - Cardiff
 Dee Dee Field - Encinitas
 Debra Hager - Encinitas
 Susie Jablinske - Oceanside
 Kathryn Murtfeldt - Encinitas

Hi Fellow Readers,

We had another great discussion at the July LWV Book Group of the book *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *The Ossage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. Thanks to Norelynn for leading the group and to Nancy Telford for being our gracious hostess!

August is fiction month. Our fiction book will be *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. In Tibetan Buddhism, the bardo is defined as a state of existence between death and rebirth, varying in length according to a person's conduct in life and manner of, or age at, death.

The book (a Man Booker prize winner) is written in an unusual style, making it a bit of an adventure to read. For me, after a chapter or two, I was drawn in and found it a fascinating fictional journey.

We will meet at the home of Heather Callahan, on August 20 at 1:00 pm. If you are a regular, let Heather know if you are not coming. New participant, please let Heather know you are attending.

Kathy Anderson





Notes from Board Meeting of June 15, 2018

Voted to give \$500 to support the SOAR initiative in Oceanside because it is consistent with all recommendations in our Agriculture Position.

Learned that LWVC reported that it is nearing the end of signature collection for the California Schools and Community Funding initiative.

Discussed Directions to the Board given at the June Annual Meeting and as a result:

Will establish a fundraising committee; try to be more clear on using League terminology at public meetings; will encourage Unit Chairs and members to help the Board be aware of local acts that may require League action; will hold a workshop on Immigration issues this year; continue to stress the value of VotersEdge; host a panel discussion on gun violence issues; and will try to provide more information to members on such things as when state or national conventions are held and the Program process.

The Board will continue to encourage a warm welcome to all new members and provide them with any information requested about all things League.

Gave directions to our National Convention delegates, Elizabeth Brady and Karen Vanderwerken to support resolutions from other Leagues in support of Climate Change science, abolishment of the Electoral College, and support for the National Presidential Popular Vote. There was also some discussion of the movement to give the vote to 16 year-old students.

The Board then adjourned to a Workshop to discuss setting targets for our new Social Policy portfolio - Homelessness and Immigration will be our focus this year. Voter Service will be, as always, our first priority. We also welcomed our three new Board members and discussed Board policies and procedures.

We are happy to announce that Nancy Telford has been honored by a gift of \$1,600.00 in her name to the LWVNCSD. Nancy has been working on membership and efficiently managing many, many "Special Projects" for several years and is, for most members, the friendly face of League. This gift is to be used for promotion of Voter Service activities. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. What a generous gift, what a great example for us all!



Three New Board Members At Annual Meeting June, 2018

Bill Loftus, Oceanside Unit Chair

Loann Simon, Strategic
Communications and Co-
Webmaster

Jennifer Lonbom, Co-Treasurer
and Gun Safety Group Chair

News from National League (LWVUS)



Election Year Goals

*Edited to be appropriate for our Local League

LWVUS has some major goals this election year. To help us achieve them organization-wide, we're making available lots of resources to help you succeed. We're also encouraging all state and local Leagues to focus on the activities we know voters need most from us, including:

- Host at least 10 voter registration events.
- Sign up as a National Voter Registration Day partner: nationalvoterregistrationday.org.
- Protect voters! Meet with local elections officials to discuss challenges & solutions.
- Host at least one candidate debate/forum.
- Publish an online voters' guide on Voter's Edge
- Get Out the Vote! Send election alerts to new registrants, volunteers, & partners.
- Respond to & share LWVUS action alerts.
- encourage a complete 2020 Census count.
- Share your impact stories on social media and identify 5 key media contacts and communicate monthly.

Sign up for National Voter Registration Day 2018

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is Tuesday, September 25! Sign up your League as a partner in this celebration of democracy. Simply host or publicize a registration event in your community on 9/25. Join thousands of organizations, elected officials, celebrities, and other partners—including hundreds of participating state and local Leagues—by signing up today! The League has been the single largest on-the-ground partner for NVRD since 2012. Let's keep up the trend! (Contact Voter Service Director, Elizabeth Brady.)

For more on National League go to:
www.lwv.org

How to Take Action on State Issues

If you want to know a quick and easy way to contact your California legislators, go to: <https://lwvc.org>.

Next, click on "TAKE ACTION" on the blue band at the top the page. Then you can choose "Action Alerts" which will take you to a page showing the most current, pressing issues for League in California.

After you click on the the link "Tell your Assembly Member to vote YES on SB 100" all you have to do is follow the prompts to fill in the blanks. It is all done automatically for you!

Please vote YES on SB 100!

Moving to 100 percent zero-carbon fuels for electricity generation by 2045 is both necessary and achievable. We reached the goal of 33 percent renewable sources two years earlier than the 2020 goal, and we are currently on track to reach 50 percent renewable sources by 2020, a decade ahead of schedule.

Please join me, the League of Women Voters of California, and the vast majority of California voters across both major parties who support SB 100.

I urge you to safeguard our environment and our livelihoods by voting YES on SB 100.

Of course if you want to spend a little more effort you can write your own letter in your own words which will be all the more effective.

While you are on that page of the LWVC website be sure to sign up to receive the LWVC Action Alerts in your own inbox.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**North County San Diego
Post Office Box 131232
Carlsbad CA 92013-1272**



**LWV North County San Diego
Membership Application**

***** Share this with a Friend *****

Membership is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Please make check payable to LWVNCSD
Mail to:

LWVNCSD - Attn. Membership
PO Box 131272
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272

or Join Online at: www.lwvncsd.org/join.html

Dues:

____ \$30 First Year member

____ \$60/year renewal

____ \$30/year 2nd member at the same address

____ \$30/year Students enrolled in accredited Institution

Additional Levels of giving

____ \$100/year Suffragist

____ \$200/year Activist

____ \$300/year Advocate

____ \$500/year Founders Circle

I am interested in:

____ Voter Service

____ Action and Advocacy