



The Sacramento Voter

MAY 2018

Power to the Polls



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Co-Presidents Corner

This month we decided to forego our own message in favor of the following powerful message from Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States. We believe it should be forwarded to all members. Please read Chris' message below. Nancy and Claudia

“At the end of March it was announced that the Commerce Department has made the decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census.

Make no mistake. This decision isn't about improving demographic data on citizenship. It's designed to frighten immigrants – citizens and noncitizens alike – so they won't participate in the Census. It's a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation. **Including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.**

For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably. Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

The United States Constitution **mandates an accurate count of all people** living in the United States – not all citizens. Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country.

Stand with us as we call on Congress to take action to correct this issue before it's too late.”

Web sites to check for LWV news

LWVC.org
&
LWVUS.org

EVENTS

Friday-Saturday, 5/4-5/5-2018. 9:00 a.m. Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5321 Date Ave, Sacramento. Russell Rawlings, Resources for Independent Living. **One or two volunteers needed**, contact Claudia Bonsignore claudiabon16@gmail.com

Tuesday, 5/8/18 & 5/15/18 see Unit meetings' schedule changes, page 3

Monday, 5/14/18, 12:00-1:30 p.m. [Women in California's Legislature Sheraton Grand Hotel](#), 1230 J Street. Free, space is limited.

Tuesday, 6/5/18, Primary election, pages 2-3

Thursday, 6/7/18, 5:30 p.m. LWVSC Annual Meeting, Arden/Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave., Sacramento

Sacramento Women in Public Offices

Rudin and Fargo

"Power to the Polls" was the theme of our League meeting on March 22, 2018 at Wellspring Center. Led by Co-President Nancy Compton in a talk show host style, Mayor Anne Rudin and Mayor Heather Fargo shared their reasons for choosing to go into public office at a time when few women did.

Continued on page 2

2017-2018

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www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

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

LWVSC 3/22/18, Power to the Polls
event @ Wellspring. Former mayors
Heather Fargo & Anne Rudin (L to R)

Cont. pg. 1

Anne Rudin was first elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1971 and became Mayor in 1983. She said, "I enjoyed being Mayor even though it was very hard work." Often she would get calls at home in the evening, "Once I even hung up on a caller when the cookies were about to burn in the oven." She reflected, "It took me six weeks to decide to run for Mayor; I don't know why it took that long." Heather Fargo responded, "Because you are a thoughtful person," knowing it would be hard work. As Mayor, Rudin started light rail, banned assault weapons in the city, created campaign finance limits, legalized domestic partnerships and helped to develop the bike trail along the Sacramento River. Rudin concluded, "I worked very hard as Mayor and it was very satisfying."

Heather Fargo originally ran for City Council in 1989, after working as an activist in the Natomas area, to hold the City Council to their promise to provide services to the newly developed area. She became Mayor in 2000 and worked to have a healthy environment, as she had been one of the founding members of the Sacramento Tree Foundation. She continued to support gun control legislation, along with Mayor Bloomberg of New York and others. Fargo continues to be a voice for more affordable housing and recently wrote an article in The Sacramento Bee. Fargo and Rudin were a good team on the City Council. After a Council meeting Fargo went into Rudin's office to vent about the stress. Rudin said, without looking up from signing bills just passed, "Oh Heather, you're just going to have to get a thicker skin." And Heather Fargo did.

Not present at this League event, but also a woman leader very prominent in Sacramento is Illa Collin, who served for 28 years on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She was also a force in getting light rail going; the American River Parkway protected and flood protection established.

Both Ann Rudin and Heather Fargo recommend that women run for political offices.
Have YOU considered running?
By Alice Ginosar



Unit Meetings—MAY 2018

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday May 15, 2018, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday May 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Williams 916-447-4984	4804 Crestwood Way Sacramento 95822

100,000 California Teens Pre-Register to Vote

An April article in CNN quotes Secretary of State Alex Padilla as saying that “A whopping 100,000 16 to 17-year-olds” have preregistered to vote in California. The same article states, “Padilla's announcement was tied to the launch of HighSchool.sos.ca.gov, a new portal on the secretary of state's website connecting youth with civic engagement opportunities. At the end of April, Padilla kicked off California High School Voter Education Weeks, where he held rallies and spoke to thousands of students about the importance of voter registration and preregistration.”

It may be that a growing teenage interest in voting is, in part, a response to the teen political activism that's come out of the Parkland shootings in Florida. "We are laying out our demands so come November, and election time, we know who was listening to us and who isn't," 17-year-old Winter Minisee told CNN in a recent interview. "We can vote people out of office, and replace them with people who have our best interests in mind." California's expanded options for registering provide a note of optimism in an era when, in other parts of the country, voting rights appear to be under attack.

Summarized by Barbera Bass

Get Out the Vote

Another feature is the “Student Poll Worker Program.” Requirements are: be a US Citizen, turn 16 years of age by election day, attend high school, have at least a 2.5 GPA and their parents' permission. They do get paid.

To find out more go to the sos.ca.gov web site, choose Elections then [Voter Education and Outreach](#). By Claudia Bonsignore

Support the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond in November & Four Homeless Policy Bills:

SB 918: Homeless Youth Act of 2018
 SB 1010: Supportive Housing Pilot Program for Parolees
 AB 2161: Homelessness Integrated Data Collection
 AB 2162: Streamlining Supportive Housing

Voting Information

Voter Service Products for June 5 Election

The LWVCEF Voter Service Committee is busy preparing for the June 5 Primary Election. Here is the list of our voter education products:

The *Easy Voter Guide* (EVG) is available online in five languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean). You can download copies in PDF format at www.easyvoterguide.org.

The *Pros and Cons* analysis of the five state ballot measures is now available online, in HTML format [on CAVotes](#) as well as a [printable PDF in color](#) and [grey-scale](#) versions.

In Depth is now [available as a PDF](#). By LWVC sent by R. Torretto

LWVC Propositions

Prop-68 supports
 Prop-69 supports
 Prop-70-opposes
 Prop-71-supports
 Prop-72-supports

Byer's Fund

Last year LWVSC was honored to receive a generous portion ~ \$77,000 of the estate of Dr. Nina Byers, an internationally prominent physics professor with an abiding interest in education and social justice. The executor of her estate selected the LWVSC based on the directions in her will to distribute the residual of her estate to organizations that shared her interests and values. Dr. Byers passed away at age 84 at her home in Santa Monica. Most of her distinguished career was at UCLA from 1961 to her retirement in 1993. Following her retirement, she continued to serve as a very active Professor Emeritus until her passing. In addition to her passion for learning and activism in the field of physics, Dr. Byers was an advocate for social justice and environmental causes. She was known to be a person who would say, "What can we do about this?"

On April 2, 2018, the Byers' Fund Committee (Suzi Bakker, Nancy Compton, Alice Ginosar and Marina Perez) met to make suggestions about the use of the Nina Byer's Fund.

Enhancing League Visibility:

- Expand our social media presence to better connect with a younger demographic
- Seed money for a community event in 2020 to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary

Scholarships:

Create a scholarship for high school seniors in Dr. Byers' name and awarding it to a young woman planning to major in Physics or related STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Civic Engagement:

Since 1920 the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that voters should play a critical role in democracy. Sacramento County has communities that are under-represented in voting. With the Byer's fund (and cooperation from other non-profit organizations) LWVSC will actively register and educate potential voters in the election process.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 50 Years Later

Fifty years ago, we lost one of our great world leaders Martin Luther King, Jr. The man who preached and lived non-violence was struck down by gun violence, while fighting for social justice in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968.

A woman who served as one of King's right hand "men" Dorothy Cotton, was a friend and co-worker of Dr. King and on the Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She was the engine behind the Citizenship Education Program. Dorothy Cotton writes that King did NOT create the civil rights movement. Others on their own had already done that, e.g., Rosa Parks, James Meredith and many others. However Dr. King used his voice to focus the movement and to inspire others to join the fight for justice. The civil rights movement under the direction of Dr. King, Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, Septima Clark and Dorothy Cotton showed that one makes "the road by walking it," we can "use our impatience and anger to empower ourselves" to act for change. Violence can stop a man or woman, but violence cannot stop a movement.

We must continue the movement for justice today. We must stop the police violence against people of color. We must stop the mass incarceration of Black men. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., I read Dorothy Cotton's 2012 book, *If Your Back's Not Bent*.

By Alice Ginosar

Evictions in Sacramento

This past week, [The Eviction Lab](#) at Princeton University, founded by sociology professor and author Matthew Desmond, released [interactive maps](#) with eviction data from around the country collected in 2016. Per the data reported through the mapping tool, Sacramento County had over 15 evictions a day in 2016, and Sacramento City had over five evictions a day in that same period. From Sacramento Housing Alliance

East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA)

The ESIA meeting convened on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Guest speaker, Chief Assistant Deputy District Attorney Steve Grippi provided a two page handout outlining the many duties of the D.A.'s Office. Grippi referred to the D.A.'s Office as similar to a "blue collar law firm"... every day is different. There are over 150 lawyers who prosecute crimes and 440 support staff. The 43 law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County/City handle 35,000 cases a year, 70% of the cases are filed the rest of the cases are not charged due to insufficient evidence. The Office has their own crime laboratory that is considered one of the best in the west. Twelve DNA analysts are employed; they also work on cold cases, e.g. the East Area rapist. [As of 4/24/18, a Citrus Heights suspect was arrested and alleged to be the East Area rapist!]

There are several teams including misdemeanor, sexual assault, trafficking, juvenile, etc. There are several courts that exist to provide services and avoid incarceration: Re-Entry Court (they give the released prison more than a suit and money when released), Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans' Treatment Court, RESET Court (Reducing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked) (they try to help victims find a better way), and DUI Treatment Court. There is a youth court: CSEC (Commercial Sexually Exploited Children). Grippi noted that if a child can read by the fourth grade there likelihood of committing crimes is reduced. The D.A.'s Office does not deal with the homeless unless there is a crime, being homeless in not a crime.

Mr. Grippi discussed the purpose of the other units, task forces and programs that the Office engages in. He credited D.A. Schubert with instituting many of those services. A few include: an MOU with Motel 6, that resulted in them changing their business practices in order to reduce crime and human trafficking by cleaning up around their motels, adding fences, lighting and querying patrons who presented with young girls that did not appear to be part of a "family." This effort began back east. As a result Motel 6 is making more money and people are more likely to use motel sixes; Partnership Against Chronic Truancy (PACT) is an early intervention program that works with schools, juvenile court, Public Defender's Office and Department of Human Assistance to combat truancy and keep kids in school, Business Watch is a partnership with the business communities to educate them on how to reduce crime in/around businesses, Citizens Academy provides an 11 week program to educate adult students about the criminal justice process (partners include law enforcement, courts, public defender's office, probation and victim advocates), Sacramento Together-Human Trafficking Task Force, Animal Cruelty Task Force, and Youth and Community Connect, to mention a few.

Jeff Harris, City Councilman, District 3, reported that McKinley Village has sold homes to 106 families, one third of the homes are occupied; Sutter Park (Sutter Memorial Hospital site) will start building by fall ... delayed due to rain; Sutter Landing Park: land in that area now owned by SMUD & Blue Diamond is in the process of being acquired by the City. Road repairs are being discussed: Folsom to B Street, Alhambra to 36th Street, Elvas Avenue to H Street is being resurfaced. Some work has begun on the 65th and Folsom project including mixed use housing and student housing.

Crime: Harris cautioned that the crime statistics reported by police and those by Next Door have discrepancies. Sixty-seven percent of car break-ins result because people leave items inside in view resulting in a crime of opportunity. Lock up, hide items, don't leave car running when not in it, be in well-lit areas. Harris discussed issues with the Stephon Clark death and policies that could be instituted, e.g., foot and car pursuit policies, body cameras that are kept on, hire more police and request more resources. TASERS are not used by the Sacramento Police. The D.A.'s report on the Clark case will probably not be released for a year.

The *ESIA Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter* outlined the [Secondary Dwelling Units](#) (SDU) City Ordinance highlights: Only one SDU per lot. The size of SDUs if attached can be 50% of the main home but no more than 1,200 sq. ft., or if detached 1,200 sq. ft. SDU's need to be architecturally compatible with the existing home and neighborhood. For more specifications open the link above.

By E. Heaser

Higher Education, California

Equity, Interrupted: How California Is Cheating Its Future, a report by the California Faculty Association (CFA) describes how “Over the past 30 years, the State of California has drastically reduced its funding for the CSU system and put more financial burden on students ...”

“In 2015, CSU tuition had increased by 4.5 times the amount it was in 1985. The CFA report blames insufficient state spending. And student employment has grown to cover those costs. “In 1985, students had to work 199 hours at minimum wage to pay tuition and fees for an academic year at CSU,” according to the paper. “In 2015, students had to work 688 hours at a minimum wage job to cover those costs.”

“Between 1985 and 2015, student-body enrollment increased by more than 150,000, meaning fewer resources for more people, a stark difference to what CSU students experienced in 1985.” *Comstock’s Business Insights for the Capital Region*. Retrieved 4/23/18 E. Heaser

Criminal Justice An Election Agenda for Candidates, Activists, and Legislators

A 42 page report issued by the Brennan Center for Justice and authored by Lauren-Brooke Eisen and Inimai Chettiar, 3/22/2018, contains the following six chapters proposing an election agenda.

I. Eliminate Financial Incentives for Incarceration II. Enact Sentencing Reform III. Pass Sensible Marijuana Reform IV. Improve Law Enforcement V. Respond to the Opioid Crisis VI. Reduce Female Incarceration
Retrieved 4/11/18 E. Heaser

Welcome New Member

Kathy Chao

Interactive Map: Geography of Student Loan Debt

Urban Institute

This new web tool allows you to view student loan debt by state, region, and other demographics. By Higher Ed Impact, April 5, 2018, *Daily Pulse: News and Trends in Higher Education*
E. Heaser



Google Images 4/9/18

Book Notices

By E. Heaser

Journalist and writer Elaine Weiss's book is *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, 2018. This book focuses on the summer of 1920 when the fate of the 19th Amendment "... hung in the balance when pro- and anti-suffrage forces converged on Tennessee for a crucial showdown." Only one more state was needed to ratify the 19th Constitutional Amendment. (*The Week*, 4/6/18, pg. 23.) Jean Zimmerman at NPR.org noted "... the deciding vote fell to Harry Burn, a young delegate who was wearing a red rose to signify his support for the Antis. But in his pocket, he was carrying a note that read: 'Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in 'ratification' ... With lots of love, Mama.'" "On August 26, 1920, a dutiful son voted just as his mama asked, giving 27 million Americans the right to vote and change the nation's direction." Other reviews USA Today 3/6/18 & Goodreads 4/4/18.

Patricia Fara, historian of science, University of Cambridge, wrote, *A Lab of One's Own: Science and Suffrage in the First World War*, 2018, that describes how war disrupts gender roles. The book is based on World War I and after. During the war, women designed airplane equipment, tested bombs, studied the effects of tear gas, ran hospitals, cracked codes and more. Many women did receive recognition, but others did not, furthermore "... women scientists were overwhelmingly relegated to the lowest-paid least-prestigious positions ... tedious but also dangerous: such as ... industrial chemists, where women were almost 90% of their ranks." Despite these facts some women were able to translate their competence and experience into positions after the war. Some of the women became committed to women's rights, e.g., Louisa Garrett Anderson and Gloria Murray, medical pioneers and suffragettes, set up hospitals staffed entirely by women. *Science*, 3/16/18 pg. 1221.

In *Class Matters: The Strange Career of an American Delusion*, 2018, Steve Fraser, historian and author, describes how class (that we are born into) influences our life before birth and after. Although class is a power that has "shaped our nation" only recently has this effect been acknowledged. The reviewer, Felicia Lee, *Washington Post*, states that the book "... is a welcome addition to the growing body of scholarship examining the country's rising inequality." "The reality of class – not just patterns of consumption and markers of wealth and privilege but raw power – had largely been expunged from our national vocabulary by political elites pushing the American Dream ..." "But the dirty secret of class emerged a decade or so ago in the unequal wreckage of the global financial meltdown ..." The book consists of six essays: Settlements of Plymouth & Jamestown, ratification of the Constitution, Statue of Liberty and the symbol of the cowboy, capitalism vs. communism, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Dream" speech. *The Sacramento Bee*, "Book Review." 4/1/18 5E.

Reports & Articles

Gun Owners

["Among gun owners, NRA members have a unique set of views and experiences."](#) By Kim Parker, Pew Research Center, *Fact Tank News in the Numbers*, retrieved 4/9/18

Health Care Spending

The Journal of the American Medical Association [JAMA], v. 319 #10, 3/13/18, pgs. 1024-1039, published an article comparing health costs in 10 of the highest-income countries: "Health Care Spending in the United States and Other High-Income Countries," I. Papanicolas, L. R. Woskie & A. K. Jha. Their conclusion follows.

"The United States spent approximately twice as much as other high-income countries on medical care, yet utilization rates in the United States were largely similar to those in other nations. Prices of labor and goods, including pharmaceuticals, and administrative costs appeared to be the major drivers of the difference in overall cost between the United States and other high-income countries. As patients, physicians, policy makers, and legislators actively debate the future of the US health system, data such as these are needed to inform policy decisions." page 1038

Racism

[Mapping racism:](#) The roads protesters blocked for Stephon Clark were the frontline of Sacramento's segregation. Feature article in the 4/5/18 issue of *SN&R*, 16-21 describes and maps [for 1938] the prevalence of racism in the Sacramento area.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Return Service Requested
MAY 2018
First Class Mail

No newsletters in
June, July &
August.



[The History and Traditions of May Day](#)

“In over 80 countries across the world, this day is commonly known as a form of Labor Day. Socialist countries often mark this day as a general day for workers’ rights with some staging massive patriotic events to celebrate the state.” Retrieved 4/4/18
Google Images E. heaser