



President’s Message: Voter Services Rock! by Gerri McNenny

This is an exciting time for the League of Women Voters of North Orange County. Our Voter Services Committee, headed by Linda Lockwood and Jan Urban, has done an amazing job in holding 10 highly effective Candidate Forums and 9 Pros and Cons Sessions in our area. They and the Voter Services Committee members—Jodi Balma, Jan Wagner, Deborah Vagts, Sherlan Neblett, Karen Lloreda, Maggie Lee, Jennifer Trafford, Ruth Zemke, Kristina Fruneaux, and Barbara Dunsheath—have worked tirelessly with volunteers from LWVNOC to make these events happen. These have been hugely successful, with over 450 people in attendance.

But that’s not all that the League of Women Voters does in educating and advocating for voters. The League is deeply committed to safeguarding voting rights and combating voter suppression and has done so through several initiatives. Many of these are enacted at the national level. Here’s an overview of the key efforts the League as an organization is making:

Advocacy and Legal Action: The LWV actively advocates for policies that protect and expand voting rights, often taking legal action to challenge restrictive voting laws. Our national organization frequently engages in lawsuits against states implementing voter ID requirements, restrictions on mail-in voting, and purges of voter rolls that disproportionately affect minority and low-income communities.

Voter Education and Outreach: By offering nonpartisan voter guides through VOTE411, registration drives, candidate forums, pros and cons sessions, and educational resources, the LWV ensures that voters understand their rights and are informed about candidates and issues. We partner with our communities wherever we can to provide resources in multiple languages and support voters who may face barriers to accessing information.

Protecting Voter Registration and Access: The LWV works to ensure fair voter registration processes, often opposing unnecessary restrictions and promoting automatic and same-day voter registration. The national League advocates for expanded voting access through early voting and no-excuse absentee voting, which have been shown to reduce the impact of long lines and inflexible voting hours.

Fighting Voter Intimidation and Misinformation: The LWV is active in preventing misinformation about voting procedures, which can deter people from voting. At every level, the League collaborates with organizations to monitor misinformation online, engage in public awareness campaigns, and educate the public on recognizing and reporting voter intimidation.

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Promoting Fair Districting: The LWV supports fair redistricting practices to combat gerrymandering, which can suppress the power of specific voting blocs. The national League has advocated for independent redistricting commissions and transparent district-drawing processes to create fair and competitive electoral districts.

We have so much to be proud of in being one of many local League of Women Voters organizations. The League is both a national organization and a collection of grassroots groups committed to the rights of an informed electorate. The League's multi-pronged approach combines legal advocacy, education, policy reform, and grassroots organizing to promote equitable voting access for all eligible voters. This fall, we saw that advocacy for an informed electorate in action through the many Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons sessions that we hosted in our communities. Congratulations to all those who participated in that work. At every candidate forum and pros and cons session I attended, people were grateful for the careful preparation and work that made these events possible. Whatever the outcome, we can rest in the knowledge that we made a difference!



Many Thanks to Voter Service Volunteers by Linda Lockwood

Voter Services planned and presented ten Candidate Forums and nine Pros & Cons Forums this election season. Every one of them was at the peak of professionalism and a prime example of democracy in action.

There were some challenges and disappointments. Most venues were accommodating, but not all. Candidates' contact information was more difficult to locate than in the past. Not all candidates were thrilled to participate and declined, while some chose not to respond until the last minute. Not to worry! The League volunteers stepped up each time. They diligently searched and found the contact information in time to send the invitations. Jodi arranged for three of the forums to be held at Fullerton College. Candidate follow-up calls were made and resulted in greater participation. Amazing work!

It has been my honor to work with all the volunteers throughout the planning and implementation of the process and procedures of Voter Services. It is such worthwhile and important work.

My thanks to all the volunteers!

Voter Services Forum Team: Jan Urban, Jennifer Trafford, Ruth Zemke, Karen Lloreda, Deborah Vagts, Maggie Lee, Kristina Fruneaux, Jodi Balma, Linda Lockwood

Moderators: Jodi Balma, Kristina Fruneaux, Sue Guilford, Donna Miller, Jan Wagner

All other volunteers: Gerri McNenny, Marcy Fry, Betty Hammond, Jim Hill, Karen Hill, Ed Smith, Chris Heusser, Lucina Moses, Love Abu, Charlene Brotman, Richard Larsen, Karen Bender, Barbara Dunsheath, Naomi Jue, Dee Steedman, Trudy Gray.

Many thanks to the students from Fullerton College whose names I never knew. They did a great job of gathering questions from the attendees and giving them to the question sorters.

Advocacy

by Richard Larsen



There was not much advocacy action in October because campaigning took over most of the action other than asking for financial support. On October 10, we did receive a petition request from Common Cause USA to eliminate the Electoral College and move to a national popular vote for the Presidency. This was distributed to the Advocacy group to take action. Then on October 17, we received another petition from Common Cause USA calling on Congress to end the Citizens United era to get big money out of politics.

Our Advocacy team has the State Legislative Interviews to look forward to which will occur after the election with both newly elected and incumbent Legislators. The Legislative Interview Reports are due February 24, 2025, to the LWVC. LWVC has published a Legislative Interview Kit 20024-20025 for us to follow. This kit tells us how to put together the interview and the questions to be asked. The questions are 1: What major issues do you think the Legislature must deal with in 2025? 2: What are your personal legislative priorities? 3: We can also ask an optional question.

There are five CA Senate Districts and six CA Assembly Districts in our League's area. Before beginning we determine the number of our members in each district and identify the districts with the largest number of LWVNOC members. We then contact other local leagues in these districts and decide who will set up the interviews and which leagues will perform them. After the election and the winners are determined, we can start trying to make contact to set up an interview. I say "trying" because in this effort I believe some legislators do not want an interview with the LWV since they just do not believe the LWV is non-partisan. With the questions from LWVC this year, the interview process may be easier this time since we are only asking them what their goals are. We have 3-4 members at the interview: One to take notes, and the others for discussion. Our league representatives are selected based on their interest and availability. Having a fairly large pool of participants is helpful since we have no control over the timing or location of the interview, which are chosen by the legislators. The interviews are typically performed in the Legislator's local office.

Holiday Party Announcement

Come join us for the League's Annual Holiday Party!



Where?

Les Amis Restaurant

128 W Wilshire Ave
Fullerton, CA 92832

When?

Thursday, Dec. 5th at 5:30 pm

Cost?

\$25



Please RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 27, to Betty Hammond at

lunchwithleague@lwnoc.org

The **holiday party fare** will include chicken kabobs, lamb kabobs, falafel, cauliflower, hummus with naan bread, fruit salad and a desert.

Our own **Ed Smith** will delight us with a **magic show**, and there will be a **gift exchange**. Each person willing to participate in the gift exchange will bring a wrapped general gift under \$20 in value.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Observer Corps Report

by Karen Bender



At the October 1st **Fullerton City Council** meeting there was a long presentation about California and Fullerton’s efforts to decrease the amount of methane gas escaping from landfills.

Caltrans has given Fullerton \$799K to improve the train depot, including new signage and repairs to the pedestrian bridge. Details are provided in the City Manager’s newsletter online.

La Habra has an extensive Traffic Mitigation Program for decreasing speed and volume of traffic in residential neighborhoods.

At recent **Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District** meetings, friction between the Board members and members of the public continues.

The superintendent reports a positive trend in student enrollment, reversing several years’ decline.

At the 9/24 **Board of Supervisors** meeting, Chairman Wagner weighed in against the Climate Action Plan for the County’s Departments stating it “needs to be scaled down” and “may hamper growth and development.”

A “purely symbolic” resolution was adopted to censure Supervisor Do’s alleged misuse of federal American Rescue Plan funds. According to Supervisor Foley, the Board learned of the problem from the press. The County CEO has been directed to draft policy for Board discretionary contracts and to provide the Board with quarterly reports of compliance issues. Two legislative bills have passed designed to prevent a repeat of this problem.

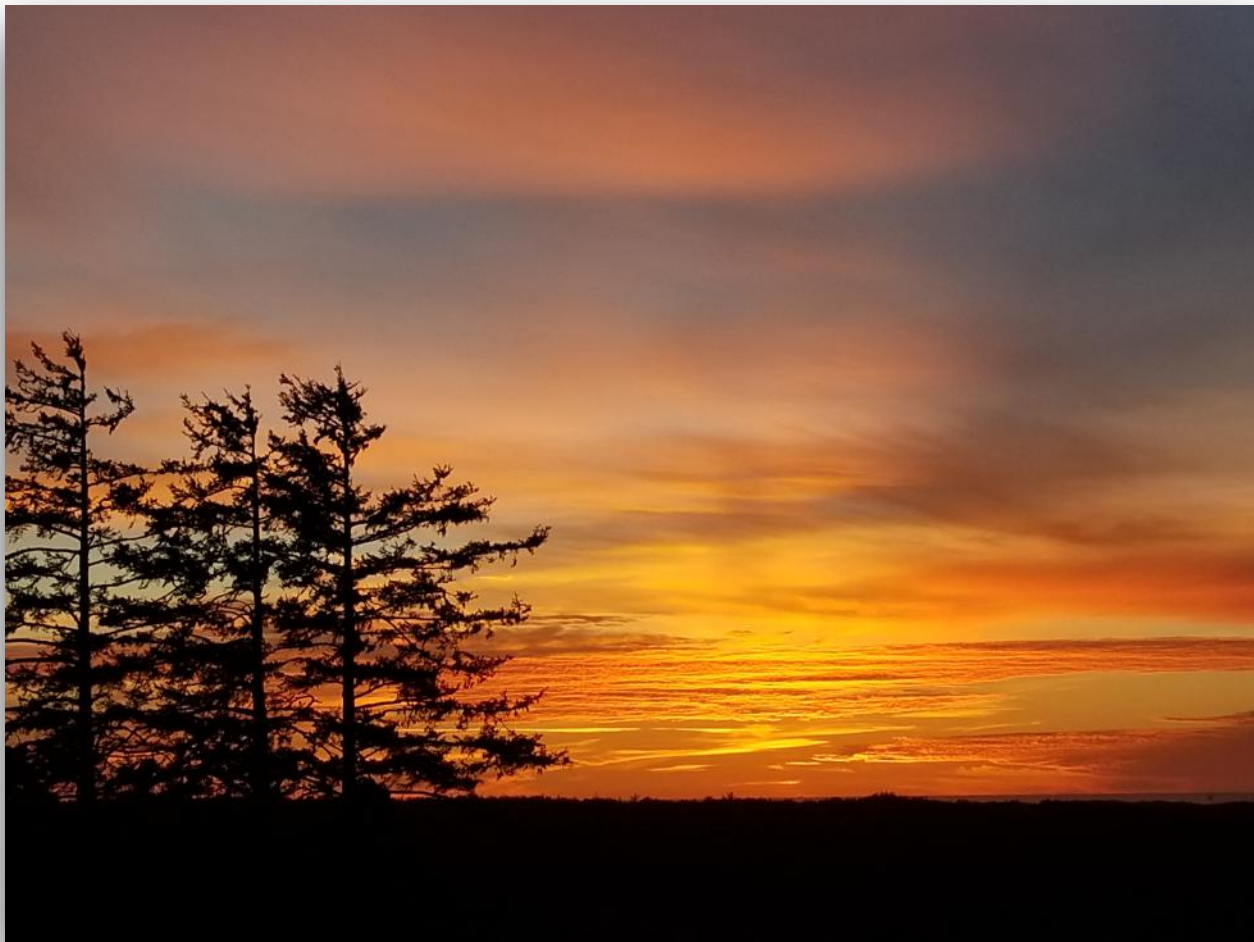
The Orange Coast League reports* on September 4, the **Board of Education** passed (5-0) a resolution to have staff create an Ethnic Studies curriculum to be used in the Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) program, which would be offered to all 28 school districts in the county and outside the area. Issues of transparency in developing the curriculum and academic freedom were discussed.

*The Orange Coast League’s County Board of Education reports can be accessed on our League’s website by scrolling down below “LWVNOC Reports.” Scroll farther down below “Observer Resources” to the section labeled “The following material is for demonstration – the content may not be current.” Click on “Observer Reports – County.” Select “Board of Education” to see the full 9/4 report.

Thanks to our dedicated LWVNOC Observer Corps: City councils: Brea – Gerri McNenny; Cypress – Patricia Larsen; Fullerton – Dee Steedman and Ruth Zemke; La Habra – Richard Larsen; School Board: Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District – Dennis Van Vliet; County Board of Supervisors – Karen

Lyft Rides to the Polls

Lyft states that it is working with the League of Women Voters to provide free and discounted rides to the polls in its [April 30, 2024 press release](#).



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Gerri McNenny
Vice-President	Sherlan Neblett
Secretary	Ruth Zemke
Treasurer	Karen Bender

Directors

Action/Advocacy	Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League	Betty Hammond
	Jennifer Trafford
	Maggie Lee
Co-Membership	Marcy Fry
	Maggie Lee
Voter Service	Linda Lockwood
Speaker Committee	Jodi Balma
E-mail Blasts	Maggie Lee
<i>Voter</i> Editor	Jim Hill
Web Host	Ed Smith
	Maggie Lee

Special Events	Vacant
Nominating Comm.	Vacant

Off-Board Directors

Read with League	Love Adu
Past President	Kristina Fruneaux
League Phone	to be discontinued
League Mail Box	Karen Bender
Student Outreach	Jodi Balma
Facebook	Jodi Balma
	Kristina Fruneaux
Climate Change Comm.	Gerri McNenny
Observer Corps	Karen Bender

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR 2024-2025

First Name	Last Name
Email Address	
Street Address	
City	Zip
Phone Number	Cell Number

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS

- Individual Membership @ \$85
 - Two in a household @ \$120
 - Free Student Membership
 - Donation to the LWVNOC \$ _____
 - Renewal
 - Renewal
 - Renewal
 - Donation to LWVNOC Education Fund \$ _____
 - New Member
 - New Member
 - New Member
- (Must be separate check made out to LWVCEF)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check enclosed (payable to LWVNOC)
- Credit card

Name on Credit Card	
Billing Address	City, Zip
Credit Card Number	
Expiration Date	Security Code

Please circle areas of interest for you and/or add a special interest to you:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Read with League | Education | Climate Change | Affordable Housing/
Homelessness |
| Observers | Action & Advocacy | Voter Services | Help with Technology/
Communications |
| Special Events Planning | Fund Raising | Field Trips | |

Do you have any skills or background that would support any of these areas?

Yes No

Please send this completed form to:
 League of Women Voters of North Orange County (LWVNOC)
 PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

