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President’s Message

by Gerri McNenny, President LWVNOC

Message from the President of LWVUS — Dianna Wynn: “We Will Speak Up and Speak Out.”

As we take stock of the work before us in the aftermath of the election, we can take comfort in the following reminders from Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters US that she shared in her blog to League members.

The League is expert in nonpartisanship with over a century of experience in pro-democracy work. Navigating through a hyper-partisan political environment in a nonpartisan manner can be confusing to some. Despite what political parties may have you believe, issues are not inherently partisan. Of course, political parties take partisan positions on issues, but that does not alter the League’s nonpartisan approach.

Advocating for gender and racial equity is not partisan. Calling out attacks on democracy is not partisan. After all, our mission is to “defend democracy.” We cannot live up to our mission if we are unwilling to speak up and speak out.

Our concern for and commitment to women’s empowerment is grounded in our core values. To claim this commitment is partisan is to belittle — and seek to silence — us.

Women’s Equality is Not Partisan.

Support for women's equality is nonpartisan. Our belief in the rights of women is not derived from a specific candidate or party. Nobody — Democrat, Republican, or other — has an exclusive claim on equality.

The League has stood for the political rights and representation of women for over a century, and in that time, political support and public opinion around issues like suffrage, abortion, workplace discrimination, maternal rights, and more have evolved and shifted. Yet, we have always stood firm in our values.

Our concern for and commitment to women’s empowerment is grounded in our core values. To claim this commitment is partisan is to belittle — and seek to silence — us.



Gerri McNenny
LWVNOC President

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President's Message (Continued from the first page)

What Do We Do Now?

Considering all of this – that we are concerned for women and other marginalized groups and that our concern is nonpartisan – what do we do? The truth is that we're still figuring that out.

Practice regular self-care

In a world that oppresses us, self-care is essential to effective activism. It allows us to recharge and realign with our goals and values. Take the time to care for your mind, body, and soul. . . .

Embrace radical hope

Radical hope is not mere optimism or wishful thinking. Rather, radical hope is a deeply held belief that our world can be better coupled with a commitment to engage in collective action. Radical hope is not necessarily radical action. But radical hope drives activism in all its forms, both large and small. Hope is not always easy to hold onto. But it is essential. From Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall, hope has always fueled activism. And hope will sustain us through our work as we move forward.

[This] election may have dramatically changed the course of our nation's history. We don't yet know what the future holds for us. But whatever it is, the League remains steadfast in its commitment to defend democracy in ways that fuel the fight for human rights, especially women's rights.

And I am grateful to have you with us in the fight.



Voter Service by Linda Lockwood

The election is over! Voter Services Team '24 has completed a debrief of the 2024 election activities and made suggestions for possible changes for 2026; we've updated the Forum Materials inventory and preserved the spreadsheet, contact information, and all of the documents used in '24 in the League library. Forum Materials are being stored at my home. In addition, Jan Urban compiled all the information into a well-organized binder to be shared with the next Voter Services Director.

But... who could that be?! Hopefully it will be a passionate member who is a team player who is willing to accept the challenge of leadership, a commitment of time and energy, and who possesses a sense of humor. Team '24 is ready and willing to consult and guide as well as volunteer to help with any Voter Services events. It is good and noble work.

This position should be filled as soon as possible and ready for full participation in the Strategic Planning in August. If you even give it a little thought to it, please contact me at (714) 336-5288 or Jan Urban at (714) 423-5802 for more information.

ADVOCACY

by Richard Larsen,



Because of the election there was only one advocacy petition sent out November, and it was on overturning Citizens United to get big money out of politics. The major effort was a request from LWVC to set up interviews with our California State Senators and Assembly Members and to submit a report by February 24, 2025.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LEGISLATOR INTERVIEWS

LWVNOC has the task of interviewing our State Legislators and submitting a report to LWVC by February 24, 2025. There will be five to seven interviews and three to five people are needed for each interview. We need several volunteers since the time and date of each interview is determined by the Legislator and not every volunteer will be available at that time and date. The interviews may be in person or by Zoom, though in person is preferred. Each interview will include at least a greeter, a note keeper, and a question asker. Any additional people are to participate in discussions or ask one of the questions.

We will ask the Legislator two questions provided by LWVC and possibly one more that is of interest to LWVNOC. The purpose of the interviews is to provide LWVC insight on issues of interest to the Legislator and provide introduction of the Legislator to LWVNOC.

I'd like to gather a list of those interested in being part of the legislator interviews and also to know what roles each team member would prefer. I'll keep the team informed of interview activity and provide times and details to see who available. The League would like the team to be as diverse as possible. In some cases we may need help setting up the interview. If you know or have some contact with any of the Legislators let me know.

If you are interested in participating, contact Richard Larsen at (562)652-3211 or rkajdane5@gmail.com. I only have three volunteers so far.



Meeting Dates January - May 2025

Lunch With League
11:00 am at Coyote Hills CC
All on Thursdays
January 23 February 27
March 27 April 24 May 22

Board Meetings 10:00 am at ROP
All on Wednesdays
All members welcome!
January 15 February 19
March 19 April 16
May 21

(Board meeting dates are occasionally changed.)



Observer Corps Report by Karen Bender

Front and center in this report is the 11/19 **Fullerton City Council** meeting, because over fifty percent of our North Orange County League resides there. The major focus was the Fullerton General Plan Housing Element amendment to implement the state required housing incentive zoning. The proposal by the city staff produced far more than the state imposed minimum requirement of about 13,000 residences. Discussion ranged over the impacts on city water, transportation, streets, infrastructure, schools, crime, small businesses replaced, small affordable rentals replaced, and the potential increase in population of about 40,000 people. Recommendations included adding a “middle income” purchase category to developer requirements in addition to the current “low income” ones for affordable housing; increasing parking space requirements, setting building height limits (3 stories suggested); and placing geographic limits to projects built in the Chapman to Commonwealth corridor (State College to Berkeley). City staff has been assigned to revise the proposal and present it at the Dec. 17 City Council meeting. (See our website for R. Zemke’s full report).

On October 22, the **Orange County Board of Supervisors** meeting was essentially disrupted by events outside of that meeting. The Department of Justice and the District Attorney had just held a press conference to announce that District 1 Supervisor Andrew Do had pled guilty under indictment and resigned his Supervisor position.

The November 5th meeting was short because it was Voting Day. Meanwhile, workers continue to remove hazardous waste material from the area burnt by the Trabuco Canyon airport fire. Some surrounding properties have been contaminated by ash and debris. Five government agencies are working to clear Trabuco Canyon and Holy Jim properties as soon as possible to mitigate further environmental contamination to the surrounding area and watershed.

On November 19, the legislative agenda for the coming year was presented via supplementary materials. About an hour was spent discussing whether, following the Do scandal, an independent external auditor should also review county procedures regarding contracts, in addition to 1) the Procurement Office and 2) the Campaign Finance and Ethics Committee. The discussion was continued to the next meeting on 12/3.

The Orange Coast Observer Corps reports that the **Orange County Board of Education** voted 5-0 to approve Board travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with lobbyists and federal government officials. Public comment asked the Board to publicly disclose and agendaize their plan in advance of voting; the Board thanked the speaker for her comments and immediately approved the travel.

Full reports are available on our League website. Contact Ed Smith if you have difficulty accessing this resource.



Great Scot! by Jim Hill

My wife's family is from Scotland, and a few years ago we visited her cousins who live near Edinburgh. We had a great time. The Scottish dialect can sometimes be daunting though. Here are some examples.

"WE'RE A JOCK TAMSON'S BAIRNS." Translation: "We're all created equal." (Jock Tamson is a Scottish term for 'everyman')

"FAILIN MEANS YER PLAYIN." Translation: "It's better to be doing badly than not taking part at all."

"YE MAK A BETTER DOOR THAN A WINDAE." Translation: "You're standing in my way, and I can't see through you."

"A LIE IS HALF-WAY ROON SCOTLAND AFORE THE TRUTH HAS ITS BOOTS OAN." Translation: "News travels fast, so be careful what you are saying."

"MONY A MICKLE MAKS A MUCKLE." Translation: "If you look after the pennies then the pounds will look after themselves."

"YE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN." Translation: "You look like a disheveled mess."

"DINNAE BE A WEE CLIPE." Translation: "Stop being a little gossip."

"KEEP THE HEID." Translation: "Keep calm, and carry on – everything will be ok."

"HAUD YER WHEESHT!" Translation: "Keep your mouth shut!"

"WHIT'S FUR YE'LL NO GO PAST YE." Translation: "If it's meant to be, then it will happen for you."

"YER BUM'S OOT THE WINDAE." Translation: "You're talking absolute nonsense."

"A' YER EGGS ARE DOUBLE-YOAKIT." Translation: "You're always embellishing your stories."

"YER A LONG TIME DEID." Translation: "Seize the day and live life to the fullest, you never know what might happen."

"LANG MAY YER LUM REEK." Translation: "I wish you good luck and good fortune for the future."

"GUID GEAR COMES IN SMA' BULK." Translation: "Good things come in small packages."

"YER HEID'S FU' O' MINCE." Translation: "Your head is in the clouds."

"TATTIES O'WER THE SIDE." Translation: "It's all gone horribly wrong – a disaster"

"YER AYWIS AT THE COW'S TAIL." Translation: "You're always walking slowly, dragging your heels."

"AH EH IH OH!" Translation: "I ate it all."

Why I Feel the LWV is Important

by Richard Larsen

The LWV's primary goal as far as I am concerned is to urge people to get registered and to vote, regardless of political party. Why this is important and a real concern to me is detailed below.

In the 1950s and 1960s our politicians were saying how bad the Russian Communist party was, and that they only represented twenty percent of the population. They never mentioned that we were not much different. Our presidential election this year is not much different than most presidential elections. Regardless of how you feel about this year's outcome, consider this:

- A. The President elect so far has received 78,842,134 votes.
- B. This number represents just 47% of registered voters, not a majority.
- C. This also represents just 30% of voting age population, not a majority.
- D. And finally this represents just 23% of our total population, similar to typical USSR percentages.

THANK YOU, LWV, FOR WORKING TO MAKE US A MORE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY.



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
Voter 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.	Vacant
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

