



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.

JULY 2020

ALL LWVNCSD PHYSICAL MEETINGS IN JULY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

For everyone's safety, we will conduct all business by email, phone or other electronic method of communication. If you have any questions, please call President Anne Omsted at 760-753-6970 or a Board Member.

**San Diego County Registrar of Voters
Michael Vu
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 2:00 PM the Registrar of Voters of San Diego County Michael Vu will address League members via a Zoom Webinar.

This Fall, California is going to offer a mail ballot to every registered voter in the state as well as providing in-person voting sites. How is it going to work? Hear Mr. Vu talk about the perception by some that mail fraud is possible. (Hint—he doesn't think so!) He will also discuss aspects of security when voting by mail and voting issues in the time of a pandemic.

You will receive an email announcement telling how you can sign-up for this meeting. Be sure to make your reservation by **July 12**. Please join us on July 14 to become the most knowledgeable person on your block and in your family about voting on November 2, 2020!





Message from President Anne Omsted

Protests over police killings and the continued COVID-19 pandemic plus the turmoil of an approaching Presidential election have dominated the news. How we respond is a very personal decision. As League members, our focus on encouraging informed voting will be a big part of our lives for the next 4 months. Opportunities to help out will be sent to you often, so please be ready to serve whenever you are able.

The National League of Women Voters and the LWV California have sent us word that the League is supporting protests against police brutality and racism and we are encouraged to display the League logo and name at these events. If you want to wear a LWV t-shirt and don't own one yet, contact me. I have lots of them!

Finally, I wish you all a healthy and restorative summer. Being careful and wearing masks are going to be part of our lives for a long time yet. And I hope you will attend our July 14th webinar with Registrar Michael Vu and learn all about how our County is handling mail ballot and in person voting. You are going to be amazed!

Anne

Notes from Board Meeting of 6/12/20

By Anne Omsted

At this Board meeting, the Board:

- Learned that the Executive Committee approved sending a letter to the San Diego County Planning Commission recommending termination of the Lilac Hills Ranch project after a fire safety Study reported no possible way for all the projected residents to escape from a fire.
- Supported Concurrence with an LWV of New Mexico study about the Transfer of Federally Owned Lands at the LWVUS National Convention.

- Planned for the 6/18 "Food Waste in North County" Webinar.
- Planned for the 7/14 Webinar with County Registrar of Voters Michael Vu.
- Learned that the U.S. Census in San Diego County has had a 66% return rate.
- Heard that we had received a bill from Zoom for half the anticipated cost for one year thanks to a discount because our League is a non-profit.
- Were delighted to learn that Sandy Sweet will serve as our Fundraising Chair.
- Worked on the 14 member Directions to the Board statements received at the 6/6/20 Annual Meeting.
- Voted to send \$300 to *Let Oceanside Vote*, to support the referendum on the North River Farms project in Oceanside.
- Had a brainstorming session about Social Justice and how to present the LWVNCSD's principles and positions supporting it. After developing a list of possible actions, it was decided to start with educating ourselves, by reading two books about racism, and asking the members for their ideas after we finish an intense Voter Service period on 11/3/2020.
- Decided to have its next Board Meeting in August.

LWVNCSD Officers & Directors 2020

Officers

President	Anne Omsted
1st VP Administration	Nancy Telford
2nd VP & Advocacy	Veronica Seay
Secretary	Jennifer White
Treasurer	Jennifer Lonbom

Directors

Membership	Rita Soza
Natural Resources	Carol Parker
Social Policy	Bill Loftus
VOTER Editor	Veronica Seay
Webmaster	Susan Connell

Unit Chairs

Carlsbad Unit	Nita Rodriguez
Oceanside Unit	(Chairs rotate monthly)
San Dieguito Unit	Katie Wheeler

Committee Chairs

Behavioral Health	Liz Kruidenier
Candidate Forums	Karen Vanderwerken & Dawn Guendert
Civil Engagement	Mary Thompson
Education	Claudine Jones
Fundraising	Sandy Sweet
Health Interest Comm.	Jane Dunmeyer
Observer Corps	Connie Ulrich
Press Releases	Jane Schatt
Pro/Con-Ballot Measures	Karen Sutton & Mary Thompson
Social Media	Suzanne Carneiro
Voter Service Calendar	Nancy Sublette

Membership Team is Getting Prepared

In anticipation of a rush of membership interest leading up to the November election, the Membership Committee has been hard at work focusing on two aspects of membership— Recruitment and Retention. A primary goal is to provide materials and useful tips for all members to use to promote our mission to make democracy work for all citizens.

In regard to increasing our membership, both in terms of numbers and diverse voices, the team has compiled the following suggestions:

- Flaunt your League membership by using an **email signature signoff** for all (or most) of your email correspondence. Example:

Sally Smith



League of Women Voters
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760-123-4567

- Increase our **social media presence**, especially on the platforms that young people utilize. To that end, we have posted an internship opportunity with the MiraCosta College Career Center. Hopefully, we will attract a college student or two for work right up to the election and help promote the 2020 Census response.

- Utilize a digital version of a new “business card,” which will direct voters to **VotersEdge.org** on one side, and to our League on the flip side. Susan Connell designed the approved card.

The team has been considering ways to reach out especially to new members to learn about their special talents, experience, or interests. Therefore, the team is implementing a new onboarding process, which is a start toward the ultimate goal of implementing a “buddy system” of sorts that pairs new and long-term members of similar interests.

1. The team agreed that new members should receive a phone call immediately upon joining. During that call new member interests can be established. Initially, that call will be from a Membership Committee member. But in the future, we would like volunteer **phone welcomers** from among the Units.
2. Next, Membership Director and League President email a joint letter welcoming the new member providing the contact information of their new Unit Chair who is copied on the email.
3. At the same time, Membership Director mails a welcome card to the new member.
4. Next, the new member will be invited to a “**Meet-Up**” **via Zoom** with one board member, one member of the Unit and other new members who will belong to that unit.

This process is in the planning stages. We hope for an end-of-summer implementation.

Continued next page

Membership Team

Expect to hear regularly from your Membership Committee Members, just as we look forward to your comments and suggestions:

Carlsbad Unit:

Dorine Meade (dorinemeade@yahoo.com)
and Karen Pendergast (kapapen@aol.com)

Oceanside Unit:

Debbie Loftus (deborahloftus3@gmail.com) and
Jane Schweighardt
(mcdermott835@yahoo.com)

San Dieguito Unit:

Arleen von Schlieder (aamvons@gmail.com),
Roni Seay (RoSeay@aol.com),
and Nancy Telford (lwwnancyt@gmail.com)

Rita Soza, Membership Director

(membership@lwwncsd.org)

Please Welcome our New Members

Brittany Engel - Carlsbad
Whitney Orellana - Cardiff
Geri Schmotzer - Fallbrook
Becky Walker - Del Mar



* * * * *

Recruiting (Virtual?) Ballot Measure Team Members

Researchers, writers, and presenters are sought for ballot measure work for the November 2020 General Election.

It's unknown whether our traditional *Pros & Cons* will be delivered to the community in person or on-screen. What is certain is that our work to prepare will begin soon.

There will be an organizing meeting via Zoom on August 1 at 10:00 am to give an overview of the work involved in researching and writing information about county and local ballot measures, and how our presentations may be delivered and published on LWV's *VotersEdge* website.

Contact Mary Thompson if you'd like to know more about this work and sign-up for the August 1 organizing meeting. Email: thompsmg@roadrunner.com or Phone:

July Events

Registrar of Voters Michael VU

Tuesday, July 14 2 PM, please see page 1

LWV Book Group

The LWV Book Group will have a meeting via Zoom on July 20 from 1 - 3 PM. We will discuss *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander. This is an updated version of the book she wrote 10 years ago. Karen Vanderwerken, Kathy Anderson, and Bill Loftus will lead the discussion.

On August 17 we will discuss *The Color of Law: a Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein. Bill Loftus will lead the discussion.

If you are interested in participating in either of these meetings, please contact Kathy Anderson at kathsand@sbcglobal.net

Climate Solutions Corner July 2020

by Carol Parker,
LWVNCSD Natural Resources Director

Climate Change and Social Justice

With both the Covid-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, we have heard a lot about the need for greater social justice. I believe this is true for the problems of climate change. We need climate solutions that help not only the environment, but the socially-disadvantaged citizens among us that are usually most affected by air pollution and the health effects of increased green-house gases (GHG) in our atmosphere.

The good news is that there is a bill introduced in Congress, HR 763 – the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, that expects to lower GHG by 40% in 10 years and help the socially disadvantaged. This bill would tax carbon producers at the source (oil producers, coal plants, natural gas plants) and give the money directly to American citizens. The dividend payments would help pay for any increase cost in energy and/or give us all extra money. The dividend would increase over time and is expected to be in year 10: \$4,410 for a family of 4. This amount of money can make a big difference for the low or middle-income earners. Well over 3,000 of the nation’s top economists have endorsed this bill as the fastest way to lower GHG emissions. This is a real solution for both climate and social justice.

For more information: <https://energyinnovationact.org/how-it-works/>

In 2020, Election Day is the real Earth Day.



The Schools & Communities First Initiative is now officially Prop. 15. It has been given that number for the November Ballot!!!

LWVUS Convention 2020 Update!

Next week, members will receive a special report from the LWVUS Convention Delegates: Anne Omsted, Karen Sutton, Nancy Telford, Karen Vanderwerken and Jennifer White.



LWVNCSD’s First Virtual Annual Meeting in 2020



LWVC CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

FACTS about Structural Racism

by Bill Loftus, LWVNCSD Social Policy Chair

Today, African-American incomes, on average, are about 60 percent of average white incomes. But African-American wealth is about 5 percent of white wealth. Most middle-class families in this country gain their wealth from the equity they have in their homes. So this enormous difference between a 60 percent income ratio and a 5 percent wealth ratio is almost entirely attributable to federal housing policy implemented through the 20th century. African-American families that were prohibited from buying homes in the suburbs in the 1940s and '50s and even into the '60s by the Federal Housing Administration gained none of the equity appreciation that whites gained.

Richard Rothstein is the author of the book "The Color Of Law: A Forgotten History Of How Our Government Segregated America." He writes about federal, state and local policies that help explain why new suburbs were predominantly white while housing projects became predominantly black and so many neighborhoods became - and remain - segregated. He also writes about how this mandated segregation has contributed to inequality in education, employment and income.

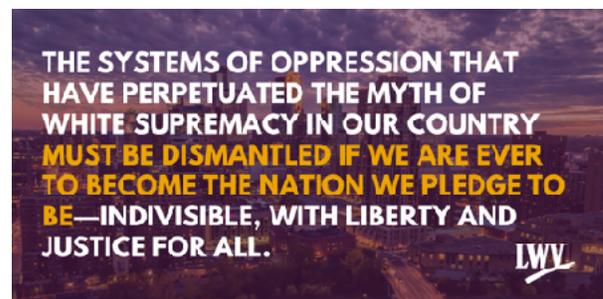
The GI bill included support for banks to provide veterans low-cost, zero down-payment home loans across the United States. But of the first 67,000 mortgages secured by the G.I. Bill for returning veterans in New York and northern New Jersey alone, [fewer than](#) 100 were taken out by non-whites. The G.I. Bill helped place 6,500 former soldiers in Mississippi on nonfarm jobs by fall of 1947, but while 86 percent of the skilled and semiskilled jobs were filled by whites, 92 percent of the unskilled ones were filled by blacks.

Since 1983, national median wealth has declined by 20 percent, falling from \$73,000 to \$64,000 in 2013. And U.S. home-ownership has been in a steady decline since 2005.

While we often hear about the struggles of the white working class, a driving force behind this trend is an accelerating decline in black and Latino household wealth.

Over those three decades, the wealth of the median black and Latino households decreased by 75 percent and 50 percent, respectively, while median white household wealth actually rose a little. As of 2013, median whites had \$116,800 in wealth — compared to just \$2,000 for Latinos and \$1,700 for blacks.

This wealth decline is a threat to the viability of the American middle class and the nation's overall economic health. Families with more wealth can cover emergencies without going into debt and take advantage of economic opportunity, such as buying a home, saving for college, or starting a



MEMBERS' INSTRUCTIONS TO THE BOARD at Annual Meeting June 6, 2020 (Instructions in **Bold** and Board response in *Italic*)

Instruction 1 from Karen Vanderwerken: **Establish an Annual Fund Letter Campaign with a clear goal of raising the minimum amount to cover balancing the budget**

Agreed. Will be generated in the fall.

Instruction 2 from Karen Vanderwerken: **Review and prepare a written policy for the use of Reserves including a maximum amount allowable to use annually.** *Agreed.*

Instruction 3 from Karen Vanderwerken: **Recommend a policy to limit use of Reserves to cover the budget.** *Agreed.*

Already in process. Instruction 2 and 3 are combined, Nancy T, Chair of the Reserves Policy Committee will set-up a meeting and report back at the next Board Meeting.

Instruction 4 from Diane Nygaard: **Review the Social Justice Policy. It's incumbent on us to look at what things we might be doing locally and that we have a clear visible presence of the League on this issue.**

June 12, 2020 Board Meeting Agenda topic 5.a. Social Justice Brainstorming Session held. Will begin Board education, invite members to participate, ask members for ideas of what to do.

Instruction 5 from Suzanne Carneiro: **Remind everyone about Voters Edge and that there will be a meeting in June about it. Voters Edge is an important extension of Voter Services.** *Agreed.*

Ongoing part of Voter Service.

Instruction 6 from Susan Connell: **Remind members to select LWVNCSD as their preferred charity if they shop on Amazon.**

Reminder in Sunday Night Eblasts and at all events.

Instruction 7 from Mary Lucid: **Promote transparency and accountability at the Carlsbad Sr. Center.**

Carlsbad Unit Issue.

Instruction 8 from Jennifer Lonbom: **Generate cards to pass out at protests and other events that encourage people to register to vote and include the Registrar of Voters information.** *Agreed.*

Instruction 9 from Anne Omsted: **Add the words "Educate Yourself" on the cards.** *Agreed.*

Instruction 10 from Rita Soza: **Include LWVNCSD information on the cards.**

Instructions 8, 9 and 10 are combined. Rita and Susan will design the card and present it for review at the next Board Meeting. Anne would like to have 25 cards mailed to all members.

Instruction 11 from Shirley Anderson: **Encourage people who vote by mail to mail the ballot or take it to Mail Ballot Drop-Off sites, not to the Polls on Election Day.** *Agreed.*

Instruction 12 from Liz Gabrych: **Remind the public that mailing their ballot doesn't require postage.**

Instructions 11 and 12 are combined. Voter Service Team will work on it.

Instruction 13 from Nancy Hand: **Would like Anne Omsted or Mary Thompson to write an Op-Ed on Ballot Harvesting because the national news publicizes that California has Ballot Harvesting and refers to it as a negative. We should write an article saying that we do have Ballot Harvesting but the voter is protected and we do have fair elections in California. Also mention there's a barcode on our ballot and if someone forges a signature, it's thrown out.**

Anne and Mary Thompson will work on it. Anne will also send a suggestion to LWVUS to make a statement about Ballot Harvesting.

Instruction 14 from Nancy Telford: **Promote completing the Census and encouraging family and friends to do the same.** *Ongoing project with heavy LWV commitment.*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**North County San Diego
Post Office Box 131272
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: lwvncsd.org

Dues:

____ \$35 First Year member

____ \$70/year renewal

____ \$50/year 2nd member at the same address

____ \$0/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