



# 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.

## APRIL 2020

**ALL LWV MEETING IN APRIL HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**

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

### TAKE ACTION AS AN INDIVIDUAL

by Nancy Telford

While we all must stay home let's put some extra time to good use. The current health crisis has numbed us and put us on high alert at the same time. The barrage of incoming information leaves us searching for answers, frustrated by delays and full of agitated energy.

It's crucial that our government representatives hear from us. We're dynamic and full of new and exciting ideas. This is the perfect time to channel your thinking and put that energy to work for yourself and the good of all. You have everything you need to make a tremendous difference right where you are. You can get ideas from checking the LWV websites or you can truly "Take Action As An Individual" and write about whatever interests you but without saying that you are a League member/ speaking for the League of Women Voters.

In the past we've had gatherings where we shared ideas about "Postcard Projects". The following outlines some hints about sending postcards, however, you can also write emails, make phone calls or write letters.

#### Goals

- Bring Attention to Critical Issues
- Address One Issue at a Time
- Compliment or Thank the Recipient for Present or Past Actions (if applicable)

(continued on p.3)



**Message from  
President  
Anne Omsted**

As the first major pandemic of our lives continues to change how we conduct our daily lives, I am sure you will stay home and take care of yourselves and your families. But keep your League antennae alert. As local government grinds to a slower pace, it is easy to focus only on what is happening related to COVID-19, and how various government and private entities are responding. Now is the time to observe carefully if planning was done, how well it was done, what is being done now, and how it all works over the next few months. Although no one could foresee how this disease would be affecting our communities, the variance in responses is an education in different styles of governing. When this is all over, our society will need to conduct in-depth postmortems of what was done well and what was done poorly, what were the useful ideas and what wasted time. Our ideas about health care may change dramatically. Our planning for schools and childcare may shift somewhat. Our reliance on electronic communication may be greater than ever before.

In any case, be careful, be kind, and call or email your family and friends often!

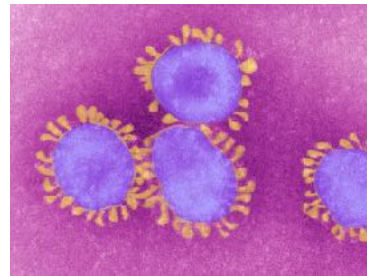
*Anne*

**March 13, 2020 Board Meeting Report**

At the 3/13/20 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Learned that the signature gathering for Schools and Communities First (SCF) is almost done. Now planning is being done for the November ballot.
- Cancelled all March and April activities because of COVID-19.

- Agreed on a Membership Recruitment and Retention plan presented by Rita Soza, Membership Director.
- Learned that Voter Service for the Primary election went well and we are beginning to plan for an anticipated very busy Presidential election season.
- Approved a letter to the City of Oceanside encouraging funding and attention be given to homelessness issues relating to existing League positions.
- Agreed to conduct the next two Board meetings by phone conferencing.
- Postponed the review of the reformatting of existing local positions to the April Board meeting.



**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

**Unit Chairs**

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

**Committee Chairs**  
Behavioral Health  
Candidate Forums

Liz Kruidenier  
Karen Vanderwerken &  
Dawn Guendert

Civil Engagement  
Education  
Health Interest Comm.  
Observer Corps  
Press Releases  
Pro/Con-Ballot Measures

Mary Thompson  
Claudine Jones  
Jane Dunmeyer  
Connie Ulrich  
Jane Schatt  
Karen Sutton &  
Mary Thompson

Social Media  
Voter Registration  
Webmaster

Suzanne Carneiro  
Blaze Newman  
Susan Connell

Community Safety &  
Gun Violence Prevention TBD

**Take Individual Action** (continued from p. 1)**Approach**

- Know the Facts – (factcheck.org is a credible resource)
- Assume Nothing
- Don't Attack the Recipient
- Express a Sense of Urgency
- Keep Your Message Simple and Straightforward
- Use Bold and Compelling Words

**Content**

- Engage Your Audience
- Identify Yourself as a Constituent
- State Why You Care
- Explain the Problem
- Suggest Solutions
- Call to Action

**Hints**

- Be Neat
- Handwritten is More Personal
- Be Creative
- Proofread
- Ask for a Reply
- Provide Contact Information

**Postcards**

- Are not delayed in Security
- Postcard stamps cost 35¢
- Buy postcards or make your own on a card stock rectangle (no larger than 4 ¼" high X 6" long X 0.016" thick) and apply 35¢ postage
- Use Black Ink

**Creative Ideas to Consider**

- Send colored postcards
- Send eye-catching picture postcards

**Examples**

*(Statement Example to Legislators)*

- Dear Senator xxx, I'm one of your constituents. It is very important to me and my community that you vote "yes" on xxxx.
- Dear Assemblymember xxx, I am one of your constituents that voted for you in the last election, please continue to support the fight for xxxx.

**Addresses**

Contact information for the following will be attached to the Sunday Night Eblasts and on our website (lwnvncsd.org)

- United States, California and San Diego County Government Officials
- United States Senate Judiciary Committee
- United States House Judiciary Committee
- Senate Committees, their Chair and Ranking Member
- House Committees, their Chair and Ranking Member

**Conclusion**

Now, more than ever, it's imperative to make your voice heard.

**For your own information it is good to know the priorities of State and National League. Occasionally you get requests from both of them as well as from our own local League to contact government officials. Please respond to these "Calls to Action."**

**LWV of United States: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
LWV of California: [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)  
LWV North County San Diego:  
[www.lwnvncsd.org](http://www.lwnvncsd.org)**

**Climate Solutions Corner**  
**by Carol Parker, LWVNCSD Natural Resources Director**

Plants can help with our climate problem! The climate problem is too much CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Plants help by taking up CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air to make sugar during photosynthesis. Scientists at the Plant Carbon Drawdown conference that I attended last week at the Salk and SDBG thought that with changes in land use, plants can possibly take up another 30% of excess CO<sub>2</sub>.

I'll highlight 3 takeaways from this conference here:

1. We really have this decade to cut our greenhouse gas emissions and make changes in land use for the world to stay with an increase of only 1.5 degree Celsius in global temperature. A two degree Celsius increase is expected to harm most of the agriculture in California.
2. Coastal wetlands, such as our own salt marshes, are as effective as tropical rainforests in taking up CO<sub>2</sub>. Let's protect our San Diego regional lagoons.
3. Good soil goes hand in hand with having more carbon stay in the soil. Organic farming, no-till farming, using perineal crops, and enhanced weathering are land use practices that can increase the amount of carbon placed back into in the soil.

The last point about good soil is also the theme of the LWVC Climate Change Task Force subcommittee on Food, Soils, and Agriculture. This group meets once a month by teleconference to discuss state legislation, and actions local leagues are taking to promote building better soils (in your backyard or in commercial farms). Check out their website <https://lwvc.org/food-soils-and-agriculture>.

A good land use practice is purchasing organic food from our local farmers. During this Covid19 shutdown, many Farmers Markets have been shut down to eliminate crowds. You can find a list of local farmer stands at SD Sustainable Living Institute:

<https://www.sdsustainable.org/san-diego-farms>

Vote for representatives at all levels of government that share your views on climate change.

Contact Carol Parker at: [cgparker34@aol.com](mailto:cgparker34@aol.com)

**The Theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action**

**The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for**

**The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day**

### **Ballot Measure Team Uses March 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary to Prepare for November** by Mary Thompson

For the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary, League members came together in a new approach to research, write and deliver ballot measure information to the community (Pros & Cons). The focus was on one statewide and six local measures.

**Research Teams** - Two-person teams studied official ballot material, official websites, and media reports to produce 500-word analyses on the measures. This involved collaboration with the LWV San Diego on two countywide measures. The result of the research was shared and uploaded onto VotersEdge and became the basis of our presentations to the community.

**Presentation Teams** – Two-person teams practiced together before going “live” in the community. They delivered seven presentations, reaching 372 community members.

The Ballot Measure Team’s master schedule was maintained by Nancy Sublette.

**Lessons Learned** - Besides the valuable educational service delivered to our community, the Team gathered insights to prepare for the November election:

- Careful vetting of research and practicing together helped scrub our presentations for fairness and removal of bias.
- Developed timeline for research and preparation to predict when we can begin scheduling ballot measure presentations.
- Plan to reach out to larger groups to “book” early.
- Plan to offer presentations to the general public to more efficiently reach more people.

The November ballot will cover a large number of measures. (Already, statewide there are 22 measures cleared for circulation, 3 now eligible for the ballot, and 1 has qualified for the ballot.)

Please Welcome Our New Member  
  
**Brenda Miller - Oceanside**  
Brenda transferred her  
membership from LWV San Diego  
to LWV North County San Diego



The lessons learned during the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary will help make our League’s process of research and presentation smooth and effective in November.

Thanks to members of our dedicated, hard-working Ballot Measure Team:

<b>Researchers</b>	<b>Presenters</b>
Susan Burkhalter	Susan D’Vincent
Dana Frieauf	Dawn Guendert
Nancy Hand	Nancy Hand
Bill Loftus	Bill Loftus
Carol Parker	Carol Parker
Norelynn Pion-Goureau	Kathie Rosvall
Rita Soza	Patricia Sinay
Karen Sutton	Rita Soza
Mary Thompson	Nancy Sublette
Connie Ulrich	Mary Thompson
Vic White	

### **Mail Ballot Drop Off - Partnering With The Registrar of Voters** by Anne Omsted

For the March 3, Primary in San Diego County, eleven League members signed up to be temporary County employees, did the extensive training, and then served at the Del Mar, Encinitas, Dove, and Oceanside libraries for the seven days prior to March 3. The entire program, county-wide, took in 81,908 mail ballots out of the 1,805,530 total ballots cast for that election. Voter turnout for the County is estimated to be 47.5%.

Many thanks to all who participated. The delight of voters when they saw their ballot go into an official ballot box, and the pleasure of providing this service to voters, made the entire experience worthwhile.

## **Gun Violence Restraining Orders: Preventing Predictable Gun Tragedies**

With 3,000+ gun deaths in California annually, there is an urgent need to implement effective strategies to reduce firearm violence. Our state's Gun Violence Restraining Order is one legal tool that addresses the warning signs of violence and may prevent gun tragedies.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Jill Cooper, a retired Solana Beach educator, gave a presentation on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) at the LWVNCSD's program, "Protect Your Loved Ones from Gun Violence." Her talk described GVROs, why GVROs are important, evidence of their effectiveness, and the process for obtaining one.

A GVRO is a civil court order that temporarily prevents someone at risk of harming themselves or others from possessing, purchasing, or accessing firearms, ammunition, and magazines (ammunition feeding devices). When a judge grants a GVRO, the restrained individual must surrender all guns, ammunition, and magazines during the period of the order. Because the GVRO is a civil order, the restrained individual will not have a criminal record unless s/he violates the order.

After the tragic mass shooting at Isla Vista in 2014, California legislators passed our GVRO law, effective in 2016. The GVRO is one of the "Extreme Risk" laws that states have found effective in preventing gun suicides and providing restrained individuals with safe paths to treatment. GVROs may also protect children and family members from accidental home shootings, and there is new evidence that they are preventing mass shootings in our state.

California has 3 types of GVROs. Emergency and Temporary GVROs enable law enforcement and family or household members to contact a Superior Court judge for an order lasting up to 21 days to prevent imminent harm. Following that order, the court can hold a 'GVRO After Notice and Hearing' to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to approve a GVRO for up to 1 year. In September 2020, legislation will extend this period for up to 5 years.

San Diego County, led by City Attorney Mara Elliott, issued more than 40% of the state's GVROs last year. The League presentation included sharing of local cases where guns were removed from individuals at risk for harming themselves or others.

Program participants were encouraged to call 911 or the Police for help if they or loved ones are at risk for gun violence and were urged to consider petitioning for an emergency GVRO. For additional information, see

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/33961.htm> or <https://tinyurl.com/GVRO-Petitioner-Packet>

*(Sorry, due to technical difficulties we cannot use live links in this VOTER.)*

### New Homeless Issues - Facing the Pandemic

We can likely assume that our League members who are reading this edition of the VOTER are safely isolated in their homes facing the challenges of the “new normal” during the coronavirus crisis. That “new normal” for K-12 students and college and university students is the possibility of schools and higher education institutions not reopening until August or September. In the meantime, every effort is being made to provide on-line learning to approximately 500,000 K-12 students in our County as well as providing meals to those who qualify for “free or reduced” breakfast and/or lunch.

While the pandemic has created challenges for everyone in San Diego County I would like to draw your attention to the 20,600 students considered homeless in our local schools.

According to California law, students are guaranteed enrollment in school if you live:

- In a shelter (family, domestic violence, or youth shelter or transitional living program)
- In a motel, hotel, or weekly rate housing
- In a house or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship
- In an abandoned building, in a car, at a campground, or on the street
- In temporary foster care or with an adult who is not your parent or guardian
- In substandard housing (without electricity, water, or heat)
- With friends or family because you are a runaway or an unaccompanied youth

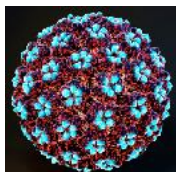
Some of you have heard the personal stories of the homeless since San Diego City LWV and North County LWV conducted a Study of Homelessness and adopted a Position on Homelessness in June, 2018. Those stories included vignettes of homeless children doing their schoolwork by the illumination of a street light or on-line at County libraries. Now those libraries are closed and children’s access to on-line learning has been more or less terminated.

Our study of the homeless has included those who are called "youth in transition," "transition age youth," or "youth aging out" of foster care. For these students who are living in dorms at SDSU or UCSD they are now homeless. Where do they go to continue their on-line learning?



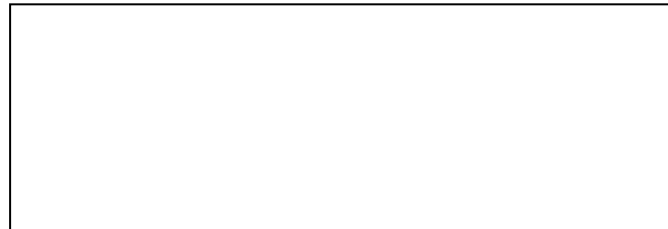
In summary, the challenges of the coronavirus are daunting for everyone and clearly greater for the unhoused.

Bill Loftus, Director of Social Policy



**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](http://lwvncsd.org)

**Dues:**

\_\_\_\_ \$30 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