



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.

February

Meetings and Events
Overview - details on
pages 4, 5, and 6

LWVNCSD Board
Friday, Feb. 8, 10 AM

Health Interest Group
Monday, Feb. 11,
10 AM

**Community Safety &
Guns** Wed., Feb. 13,
10 AM

LWV Book Group
Monday, Feb. 18, 1 PM

March VOTER deadline
Wednesday, Feb 20

Lecture at USD
Wed., Feb. 20, 5:30 PM
see pg. 7

**General Meeting
Program Planning**
Sat., Feb. 23, 10 AM

Women's Issues Group
Monday, Feb. 25, 1 PM

Oceanside Unit
Tues., Feb. 26, 12 PM

Lunch With League
Co-Sponsored with
LWV of San Diego, Wed.,
Feb. 27, 11:30 AM to
1:30 PM

San Dieguito Unit
Thurs., Feb 28, 10 AM

SAVE the DATE
**Advocacy Training
Workshop, Sat. March 2**
1PM to 4 PM

February 2019

General Meeting

Saturday, February 23, 2019 10 AM - Noon
Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave., Carlsbad

LWV Program Planning Meeting

"Program Planning" in League-lingo means choosing which issues to work on for the coming year or two. At program planning meetings we decide which of our many positions we want to have as our focus and/or which new issues we want to study.

This year Program Planning will be unique because we are being asked by other Local Leagues to recommend specific positions that those Leagues have already studied and adopted. This agreement is called "concurrence." Those positions are: Criminal Justice, Civil Discourse and we may be asked to support a Voting Systems position. Most importantly, our own League will be seeking concurrence on our own position on Homelessness which we adopted last year. This many Local Leagues seeking concurrence on different positions has never happened before and it is a remarkable tribute to the variety, passion and depth of concern of many Local Leagues in California.

LWVNCSD does program planning every year and all Leagues in California give input to LWV of California in odd numbered years. (All League members in the United States give input to the LWV of the United States in even numbered years.) Then at LWVC and LWVUS conventions the delegates make the final decision for future League action or advocacy. This is how League's grassroots work.

Please mark you calendars and plan to attend this meeting. Your thoughtful ideas and convictions are an important part of the process. We will have a lively discussion and you will leave with a keen appreciation of other members of our League.



**Message
From
President
Anne
Omsted**

Many thanks to all who contributed to the “Guns in the Community” Forum in January. It was complex, fascinating, factual, and a fine example of what kind of educational information the League can put together to present to our members and the public. Sincere thanks also go to the four panelists, District Attorney Summer Stephan and Fiona Dunleavy; Melinda Case from Palomar Trauma Center; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Mendiola, County Office of Education; and Greg Gunther of Gunther Guns, who all presented thoughtful insights along with factual information.

I also want to thank Sally Koblinsky and Jennifer Lonbom for the time they put into our five-page handout at the end of the forum with carefully documented and accurate information about gun violence. The Community Safety and Guns Interest Group is off to an impressive start! And they plan to hold two more forums on the topic in the next year or so.

Looking ahead, our next meeting will be on Program Planning on February 23, which is when we as grassroots members of the League of Women Voters decide what we want to especially work towards in the next two years at the state level. This year we face some intriguing choices and your brain will be engaged along with your heart as we have to make tough selections from a compelling list of choices. We will also review our local program choices.

The Women’s March in San Diego on 1/19/19 was, as always, inspiring and entertaining. Our League was represented by Edith Jones, Donald Omsted and me when we carried a banner with our League’s name in a procession that had many thousands of women and some men holding up signs expressing a wide array of opinions about women, civil rights, and the current government. It was a memorable time. Sincere thanks to all who attended.

Anne

LWVNCSO Officers & Directors 2019

Officers

President	Anne Omsted
1st VP, Admin. & Memb.	Nancy Telford
2nd VP & LWV Action	Veronica Seay
Secretary	Cecilia Jolly
Co-Treasurer	Arlene Meadows &
Co-Treasurer	Jennifer Lonbom

Directors

Media Outreach	Norelynn Pion-Goureau
Natural Resources	Elizabeth Gabrych
Observer Corps	Connie Ulrich
Regional Gov’t Issues	Cathy Greene
Social Media	Suzanne Carneiro
Social Policy	Bill Loftus
Strategic Communications	Loann Simon
Voter Editor	Roni Seay
Voter Service	Open
Women’s Issues	Nancy Hand
Webmaster	Suzanne Carneiro

Unit Chairs

Carlsbad Unit	Suzanne Burkhalter & Nita Rodriguez
Oceanside Unit	Bill Loftus
San Dieguito Unit	Katie Wheeler

Committee Chairs

Behavioral Health	Liz Kruidenier
Civil Engagement	Mary Thompson
Education	Claudine Jones
Community Safety & Guns	Jennifer Lonbom
Health Care	Jane Dunmeyer
Hospitality/Arrangements	Open
Speakers Bureau	Open

Board Report for January 11, 2019

The Board:

- Adopted Guidelines for Evaluating Requests for Endorsements or Opposition of Local Ballot Measures.
- Visting MTA (LWVC volunteer who helps local Leagues coordinate with state League and provides training) Caroline de Llama explained how the State Board chooses legislation to support or oppose in Sacramento.
- Voted to send to the Membership at the 2/23/19 Program Planning Meeting a request from the San Luis Obispo LWV to request at Convention that their position on Civil Discourse be advanced to all local Leagues for Concurrence.
- Began planning our own local League's participation in the state Convention 5/30 to 6/2/19 in Pasadena. We hope to take more than the 6 delegates we are allotted to this Convention to work on getting our own request for Concurrence advanced.
- Learned that LWVC gave permission for local Leagues to march under the LWV name at Women's Marches all over the state. Members will be invited to join us in San Diego.
- Received an update from Social Policy Director Bill Loftus on the extraordinary effort that is being made by the original Homelessness Study Committee to qualify our adopted Homelessness position for presentation at the State Convention in Pasadena 5/30 to 6/2/19.
- Learned that the Margie Monroy Memorial Fund collected \$6,975.00 its first year and that this money was sent to *Universidad Popular* at the request of Margie and her family.
- Learned that Helen Hutchison, LWVC President, has asked our League, along with the San Diego League, to host a workshop on Local Advocacy. We agreed to do so.

Please Welcome our New Members

Rosemary Goodyear - Cardiff
Patricia Johnson-Khalifa - Vista



Don Omsted, Edith Jones & Anne Omsted, early arrivals at the Women's March in San Diego on January 19, 2019.

SAVE THE DATE

Advocacy Training Workshop
 Saturday, March 2, 2019
 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Carmel Valley Library
 Led by Helen Hutchison
 LWV California President

Please plan to attend this important workshop to learn how to take action on League positions and issues!

February Meetings and Events

LWVNCSD Board Meeting

Friday, February 8 at 10 AM in the Leucadia Wastewater District Training Room, 1960 La Costa Ave., Carlsbad.

Members are welcome to attend but please let Vice President Nancy Telford know that you are planning to come.

Health Interest Group

Monday, February 11 at 10:00 AM at the home of Jane Dunmeyer.

The Health Interest Committee met in January to discuss its Transportation Resource List, its translation into Spanish, and its use of a League Web and e-mail site. All are pending. Then we dove into a discussion of exploring short- and long-term housing for behavioral health patients/clients who have a need for such services. We intend to find out what is available in San Diego County. There seems to be a great need to consolidate information of its availability.

Come join us and see what we do. Next meeting, Feb 11 from 10 AM - 12 noon. We meet the second Monday of the month at Jane Dunmeyer's house in Carlsbad. Please call for address and directions.

Community Safety and Guns Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Safety and Guns Group will be February 13 at 10 AM in the Leucadia Wastewater District Training Room, 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad.

We have a full schedule with an important presentation by Jim Brown on gun laws that could help decrease the epidemic of gun violence. We will discuss new gun laws introduced by CA and US lawmakers, and spend

some time writing/calling representatives regarding the laws. We will also recap and discuss the gun forum that took place on 1/22/19 and the group's 2019 objectives. We would love to have you join us one time or every time, to help curtail the expanding gun culture and stop gun violence.

NO Carlsbad Unit Meeting this Month

The Carlsbad Unit will not meet as a separate group this month. Please be sure to attend the Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 23 from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Carlsbad Senior Center.

League Book Group

The League Book Group will meet on Monday, February 18, at 1 PM at the home of Jane Schatt. We will discuss *Don't Think of An Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate* by George Lakoff.

Norelynn Pion-Goureau will be the discussion leader. Please contact Jane Schatt if you plan to attend.



VOTER Newsletter Deadline February 20

Do you want to comment on what the League is doing or could/should be doing? Will you write-up League meetings you've attended? We are encouraging you to help us create a more interesting VOTER with input from new voices. Please contact Roni Seay with your ideas at RoSeay@aol.com or call her.

Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 23, from 10 AM to Noon at the Carlsbad Senior Center 799 Pine Ave.

Women's Interest Group Meeting

Monday, February 25, at 1 PM in the Leucadia Wastewater District Training Room, 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad.

In 2019, the Women's Issues Group will focus on voters' education and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

We plan to discuss what action we can take to make our members and the public more aware of the necessity to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. Virginia almost became the 38th state this January to ratify the ERA. It passed their Senate but failed to get a majority vote in their House subcommittee. Opponents say that the ERA would strip abortion laws because any government policy that restricts access to abortion would be deemed discriminatory on the basis of sex. We need to counter this argument with reasons why women and men both need equality under the law. Did you know that in 1972 there were only 15 women serving in Congress? In 2019, there are a record-breaking 127 women who hold seats in Congress! The chances of passing a resolution to remove the deadline to pass the ERA has just increased.

Trish Halsey-Monroe, Chair of the voter education subcommittee and an attorney, has in the past assisted ACLU in conducting a one-hour, free courses in high schools and elementary schools regarding the US Constitution. Because Constitution Day is September 17th, she is suggesting that our League prepare a similar course or volunteer to teach the course with ACLU. The presentations would be non-partisan, interactive, historical and contemporary. We could also provide voter registration assistance to senior high school students. The possibilities are endless, AND if you are interested, please come to the next WIG meeting on Monday, February 25.

Nancy Hand, WIG Chair



February is Black History Month - Learn something new about Black History today!

Oceanside Unit Meeting

Tuesday, February 26, at 12 noon at the Buena Vista Audubon Center, 2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside.

San Dieguito Unit Meeting

Thursday, February 28, at 10 AM at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church, Encinitas

Along with updates on other LWV programs, we will host Captain Taft, the recently assigned head of the Sheriff's Department North Coastal Station.

Lunch With (San Diego) League

Wednesday, February 27, 11:30 - 1:30
Tom Ham's Lighthouse, 2150 Harbor Island Dr., San Diego. RSVP by Feb. 24.

Humanitarian Crisis at the Border

Speakers:

Enrique Morones, Pres. and Founder of Border Angels

Esmeralda Flores, Immigrant Rights and Bi-national Affairs Advocate for ACLU

Everard Meade, Faculty Director of the Trans-Border Institute at USD.

RSVP online with a credit card: or send a check for \$35/each payable to LWVSD. Mail you check to LWVSD, 7710 Balboa Ave #224A, San Diego, CA 92111.

Information: San Diego's website <https://my.lwv.org/california/san-diego/contact-us> or call 858-483-8696.

RSVP by mail with a check payable to LWVSD and mail to LWVSD 7710 Balboa Ave.#224A, San Diego CA 92111

RSVP online with a credit card NO LATER than Feb. 24: got to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chaos-at-the-border-tickets-55618602738>

Homelessness Count A Personal Encounter

by Bill Loftus, LWVNCSD Social Policy Chair

While my primary interest these past two years with the LWV has been with Policy Development for Homelessness, I have found it to be grounding to participate in the annual Point-in-Time-Count (We All Count) census of homeless citizens in my city of Oceanside. Last year I volunteered to join County and City staff at 4:00 am to count homeless individuals in our city. We drove around our assigned census track and simply marked locations and numbers of homeless. This year San Diego County was asked by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to actually interview homeless individuals. For me and others this put a very different face on the census-taking process because we were being asked to wake up sleeping homeless folks and ask their cooperation in responding to 30 prepared questions about their name, length of time being homeless, their physical and mental health, etc.

I - and others - found this to be a very different experience due the personal interactions I had with individuals I found under bushes, in tents along trails and sleeping in their cars in WalMart parking lots. My individual experience included awakening and interviewing a cooperative 50-year-old white guy who was sleeping on a sheet of cardboard under a bush wearing shorts and a T-shirt. No blanket! While this wasn't Chicago, I must say that I was bundled up for the 47-degree temp in Oceanside. He understood my interest and answered all the questions on the survey. He became homeless 15 years ago here in San Diego. He wasn't - as some believe - given a one-way ticket from NYC.

While I did interview others between 4:00 am and 8:00 am there was one other family of six living in their car who caught my attention.

The 17-year-old white daughter was walking the family puppy while her parents and siblings slept in the mini-van with all of their belongings. She, too, was willing to respond to my survey at 4:45am. The family lived in the Inland Empire (Riverside?) prior to her dad getting injured and partially disabled at work. While they now live off of his monthly disability check she explained that like many working poor, they had enough for food and shelter but there was no way they could afford a \$2,000 per month apartment in North San Diego County; so the vehicle was their shelter. Her younger brother has cerebral palsy and they continue to have health insurance through her dad's employment. I didn't ask about the children's schooling because it wasn't one of the survey questions. (23,000 public school students in San Diego County are homeless)

Perhaps I was just lucky but no one on my team encountered psychotic, drug-addicted alcoholics - the common perceived face of homelessness in Oceanside. No one reacted badly to me knocking on their car window or my invitation to respond to a survey from within their camping tent.

I would suggest this was a very emotional experience more than an important clerical task of tallying homeless citizens in order to get funding that would translate into services for this ever-increasing population in our country.

We had a speaker earlier this week at our Oceanside League of Women Voters meeting who told us her work as a non-profit CEO had previously been all about poverty. However, she told us that after the Great Recession of 2008, many poor families lost their homes, had their credit scores dinged, and could not buy property if they wanted to—with many forced into rental markets overheated by investors. Unemployment, she said, is at record lows and yet people with jobs are facing the loss of those rental units because of unforeseen circumstances such as family emergencies and rental rates exceeding working families ability to pay. *Something for all of us to think about.*

Guns in Our Community Forum on January 22, 2019

by Norelynn Pion-Goureau

Close to a hundred participants came to the community discussion moderated by LWV President Anne Omsted on “Guns in our Community.” The tone and manner of discourse were set immediately and the audience was polite and attentive, with one exception.

San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan and her colleague Fiona Dunleavy prosecuted the Kelly Elementary (Carlsbad) shooting and learned from it that there are many facets to the gun issue and “guns are part of that concern.” Stephan and colleague Fiona Dunleavy shared that what has emerged from the data is the clear relationship between school shooters and stalking/domestic violence. 44% of domestic violence reports involve guns. The San Diego County DA’s Office has started a program called Threat Assessment Protocol Systems (TAPS) to counteract these threats, with San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott’s office spearheading the civil aspect. Family members can have guns removed from a family member by filing a Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO), which is issued immediately, lasts for three weeks, and can be renewed if needed. Proposed AB61 allows school and company officers to apply for a restraining order if they feel a member shows signs of mental illness.

Representing Palomar Hospital Trauma Care Director Melinda Case detailed the preventive programs Palomar hospital runs on the safe storage and use of guns, as well as their training on how to stop bleeding and pack wounds. She stated that the majority of the gun wounds Palomar treats are from suicides and that having access to mental health professionals facilitates action to prevent them.

San Diego County Office of Education Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Mendiola stated gun violence is a systems issue in schools and the community; schools must not only be prepared, they must put the preparation into action, which

University of San Diego
Joan B. Krock Institute for Peace and Justice
Bergman Memorial Lecture:
Freedom of Speech in Schools
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 5:30 PM
Free to attend
Event info & registration:
law.sandiego.edu/bergman

was the problem at Parkland. “Parkland school had good systems in place but didn’t use them.”

Finally, gun store owner Greg Gunther of Gunther Guns in Carlsbad said that the 2nd Amendment protects the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, and expounded that we need guns not to protect ourselves from each other but from our government, citing Nazi Germany, Communist Russia and other authoritarian societies where the population was in thrall to an armed government. He said that for 90 years we had virtually no school shootings, until suddenly in the 1990’s we saw a rise in school shootings—at the time when young people began to be prescribed anti-depressants and other mood and behavior-changing drugs. This causes depression and homicides, especially SSRI drugs. According to Gunther, guns in our society are a symptom, not a cause.

As you can see, provocative and interesting views as well as data were put forth, with questions for the participants requesting them to elaborate on their information.

This was a successful beginning to our three-part series. Member Jennifer Lonbom spearheads the Gun Violence group which put on the discussion held Tuesday evening at the Schulman Auditorium of Dove Library.



Left to to Right:
DA Summer Stephan, Fiona Dunleavy, Melinda Case, Dr. Rebecca Mendiola, and Greg Gunther.

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: www.lwvncsd.org/join.html

Dues:

_____ \$30 First Year member

_____ \$60/year renewal

_____ \$30/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